

THE IAHCE CHRONICLE

VOLUME 90 ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2026

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ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR HOME & COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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IAHCE

PRESIDENT -ANGELA HICKS

Dear Fellow HCE Members and Friends,

“Experience the Magic of ...” could be applied to any facet of HCE! The June Board Meeting had many magical experiences, from new officers experiencing their first Board meeting and working on committees; experiencing the fun, relaxed atmosphere of a three-story mansion; to experiencing the many ways to make a salad; to experiencing how the IAHCE Board members were composed, level-headed, steady, and reassuring during the weather chaos around us. They were the calm in the middle of the storm that was happening around us in Petersburg. We are all grateful that no one was hurt, and the mansion and carriage house escaped harm as well. Only some of our cars were damaged, and as everyone knows, a car can be replaced or fixed!

The June Board meeting was successful. Cheri Burcham, U of I Extension Liaison, gave a presentation on Communication after a lunch that was provided by Fulton County. Yes, Cathy Eathington headed up the committee, and we enjoyed seeing her and the Fulton County HCE Committee. Many committees carried out the work of IAHCE, including Programs, Scholarships, Nominations, Membership, Budgets, August Workshops, the August skit, and the 2027 Conference, to name a few! All of this before the storms!

April 26 – May 1, a delegation of 13 from IAHCE attended the ACWW 31st Triennial World Conference in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Five IAHCE delegates represented IAHCE, and seven of the 13 IAHCE delegates represented other NVON states as well as other countries that could not send delegates! Thirty-four delegates from the USA were in attendance, with a total of 350 members from 23 countries. Many reports were given about the accomplishments of ACWW over the past three years, including six projects that were funded and the work that is being done in each area. All of the reports can be found on the ACWW website under Triennial Report of Work. We had a number of resolutions to vote on—13 were bylaw related; others were specific issues of international importance. The USA delegation presented two of these resolutions (#14 Childcare Desserts and #20 Reducing Digital Harms via Social Media), and both were approved! Each resolution was carefully reviewed and discussed by those for and against. We elected a new USA Area President, Jane Chapman. Outgoing USA Area President Bonnie Teeples was elected as Board Lead for the Advocacy Working Group. Marie Kenney from Canada was elected ACWW World President. The next ACWW Triennial World Conference will be held in Killarney, Ireland, and will be celebrating ACWW’s 100th!



As we are preparing the newsletter, about 25-30 IAHCE members will be attending the NVON Conference in the Dells Wisconsin on July 14-16. As the IAHCE President, I am proud so many of our members support this conference. As you know, Carol Harms, former IAHCE District 4 Director is the NVON Secretary. We have two IAHCE members running for two open positions on the NVON Board – Melissa Chitwood is running for NVON Treasurer and I am running for NVON Vice President.

The August District Workshops are attended by many of the HCE members throughout the state. Each IAHCE Officer contributed information for a packet to be given to every attendee. The packet also includes a lesson. The exception is the International Director gives one copy per county the new Country of Study information in the International Workshop. We encourage each County Board to share the information with not only the rest of your Board but also with the members. We encourage you to set aside time at your next County Board meeting to share the information and plan for the upcoming year. Communication and sharing information in a timely manner is the key to participation in each of your counties. Continue to aspire to inspire each other and those around you!



Special Announcement

On Thursday, July 16, 2026, twenty delegates from 10 States and the Board of the National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON) voted to elect Angela Hicks as NVON Vice President and Melissa Chitwood as NVON Treasurer beginning in January 2027! Congratulations to both of you!





SECRETARY- CARLA MEYER

Thank you to all the county secretaries who have updated your officers' information from your Spring Annual Meeting. District meetings will be held August 4, 5, & 6 this year. We will begin with District 1 this year. Please plan to attend to receive the latest information. We will also be announcing the Theme for 2027. State Officers to be elected at our Annual Conference on March 16-18, 2027, in Effingham are President, International, District 1 Director, and District 3 Director. I look forward to seeing you in August.

TREASURER– DARLENE CURRY



I have had my initiation to the state board. We recently met in Petersburg, and it was really a joy to sit around the table and become acquainted with all the other board members. Everyone serves on two or more committees, so we were constantly working to improve your experiences as members of the IAHCE. As your new treasurer, I am constantly learning, so please be patient.

Keep in mind that your Friendship Projects Fund donations are to be postmarked no later than November 20th; the form for State Membership dues and the dues must be mailed by January 5th; and newsletter subscriptions are due March 31st. If any of this changes, you will be updated at your August district meetings.

On a personal note, this June meeting was a true initiation for me. Some of you may recall that I was running for an office at the 2025 annual meeting but withdrew my name from the ballot. I had several household issues—my clothes dryer quit, my dishwasher leaked, etc.—but most of all, automobile issues. It seems I had a rodent in my garage who liked to chew on the hoses in my car. Three separate times in the repair shop! The rodent is dead. I bought a new car in April 2025. Then, I went to our board meeting this past June, and on our last afternoon there, we went outside to find that a giant tree had fallen on my car and totaled it. The insurance company was great, so now I have a new car. All is good; no one was injured. So much for my initiation to the state board!

I am looking forward to a great year, and I hope you all stay healthy and have a good summer!



EVERYONE HAVE A SAFE SUMMER !





EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT- BECKY BELCHER

Always crafting something
magical for HCE



There is a special kind of magic that arrives with summer. It sparkles in the twilight as fireflies dance across the yard, drifts through the air with the sweet scent of freshly cut grass, and lingers in the laughter of family and friends gathered for picnics and backyard cookouts. Summer magic tastes like icy cold lemonade on a hot afternoon and sounds like the creak of a porch swing gently swaying in the evening breeze. It is found in afternoons at the pool, spirited games of baseball, and carefree bike rides down country roads with the sun on your face and nowhere in particular to be. Summer invites us to slow down, savor simple pleasures, and make memories that warm our hearts long after the season has passed. Yes, sweet summertime magic—I hope you all are experiencing some!

I'm sure you all have been having fun in your county meetings and events with the "Experience the Magic of HCE" theme. I look forward to seeing all of you at the IAHCe August District Workshop where the HCE magic will continue as we enjoy fellowship, unveil the exciting 2027 theme, and share lots of valuable information. We'll also have time to share and inspire one another during our Cultural Enrichment breakout session. It promises to be a day filled with learning, laughter, and a little summer magic.

"Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August." —Jenny Han



Ladies from Fulton County HCE group who took time out of their day to bring us a wonderful lunch.



IAHCe board members working on art project in the carriage house.



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ISSUES

VIIVAN GERRIETTS

Semiquincentennial greetings to HCE members everywhere and particularly the Family and Community Issues education directors!



Our summer newsletter articles are due on July 1, and that means they are being written amidst the 250th birthday celebrations. All the various festivities are making it easy to feel that “proud to be an American” spirit. I play or sing in several musical organizations, and three of them are currently working on the “Battle Hymn of the Republic” in various arrangements. I enjoy that tune, so it’s fun to compare and contrast the three different versions. It’s said to have been Abraham Lincoln’s favorite song.

During our June board retreat, we engaged in a fun activity: painting a patriotic scene. Angela, our president, and Becky, the Cultural Arts Education Director, guided us with an example. We had blue, red, white, and black paint colors to use. The variety of paintings we created was impressive, with no two alike or resembling the example provided for inspiration. We were enjoying ourselves in the carriage house on the Three Pines property in Petersburg when a storm suddenly hit. The rain was so heavy that we decided to stay put, despite the lack of protection. Walking in the downpour on unfamiliar terrain didn’t seem like a better option. Once the rain subsided, the bed and breakfast caretaker led us into the main house to wait out the rest of the storm. That’s when we discovered the next part of our adventure: a massive oak tree had fallen near the house in the main parking area, damaging 3 of our cars. The “fun” continued the following morning as a tree service arrived early to extricate the cars. What a mess! Perhaps we’ll share some photos at the March state conference.

Fortunately, most of our business was concluded, which was a relief. The Membership team, consisting of the 2nd Vice (Alice) and the three district directors (Karen, Karen, Donna, and Cindy), still had to assemble the District Newsletters. This task required a lot of focus, especially since one of their cars was likely out of commission.

JOIN US

For those interested in running for a position on this board or learning about the process, I’d like to share more observations from the June Board Retreat. Check last year’s summer Chronicle for part one of my first-year observations. The series of committee meetings on Monday and Tuesday of this retreat can feel endless! However, when we reach the full board session on Tuesday evening or Wednesday, it becomes a smooth and productive experience, almost miraculous! Our Extension liaison, Cheri Burcham, joined us on Tuesday for a communication lesson, adding value to the retreat and ensuring our organization remains well-organized.

The guideline I want to highlight for this issue of the Chronicle is #2 (found on page 30 of the big Guidebook, available online if you can’t find it locally). It states that we are part of the Education committee, led by the 1st Vice, who oversees programming. We advocate for programming in Family and Community Living, Health, Food & Nutrition, Citizenship, and 4-H and Youth. You might recall when we had an Education Director for each of these areas! There has been some downsizing. Returning from the international meeting in Ottawa, Canada, Angela shared resolutions from the business meeting and other sessions. Our state, IAHCE Education, continues to celebrate our country’s 250th birthday. If you celebrate as a county or unit, be sure to take photos and fill out a report on your activities. These should be sent to Kathy Peterson, our 1st Vice, for special one-time recognition!

The committee has decided to use the resolution “Reducing Digital Harm” as our focus. Other new resolutions include “Childcare Deserts,” “Equitable Access to Vaccines,” and “Iodine Deficiency Disorders.” We can all begin collecting information and articles on these issues. By the way, that goes along with guidelines 10 and 16!

There will be more about “Reducing Digital Harm” at our August District Meetings. I hope many of our county board team partners will attend to share and discuss at our breakout share shops. These meetings are scheduled for the first week in August again this year. I enjoyed meeting so many of you last year.

I’m not sure how many familiar faces we’ll have this year, as some of you may have moved to another position on your local boards or perhaps rotated out for a year. Unit members are certainly welcome to come to these training sessions, too. The more the merrier usually works for our area.

Continue to celebrate our country’s 250th birthday. If you do so as a county or a unit, be sure to get photos and fill out a report on what you’ve done.

Those reports should be sent to Kathy Peterson, our 1st Vice for special one-time recognition!

– Vivian Gerrietts, IAHCE Family and Community Issues Director

*Happy
Birthday
America*



Artwork from State Board meeting in June .
Thank you Angela Hicks for bringing such a
fun activity for us all to enjoy after all are
Board work was done .



CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER HOURS / SALES



Carol Meffert

Hello all!

I am so excited to be serving for IAHCE Sales/Certified Volunteer Hours!

My first couple of months have been magical for sure!

A little about me – I grew up in rural Bond County close to Pocahontas. I am from a family of 11 kids (7 brothers and 3 sisters) and still have my mother, who just turned 100 years young. I grew up as a 4-H member and tagged along with my aunt to her “Home Extension” meetings and events for many years. I remember attending a flower arranging class at a very young age and took my first sewing project to the state fair at the age of 9. I am married to Bob Meffert who served as a local Country Insurance and Investments Agent for 39 years. We live near Grantfork and have three grown sons with families of their own. I recently retired from my second career with 10 years as a construction estimator for The Korte Company in Highland. I retired in 2015 from my first career with 20 years as an administrative assistant at Highland Community Schools. I have always liked to keep busy and I know IAHCE will help to fill a void left by my retirement.

The IAHCE state board meet for our June board meeting. I was welcomed with open arms and enjoyed getting to know my fellow board members. We worked on the August District Meeting details, started planning for conference, picked state scholarship winners, picked the international country of study and many other things! We also had a few laughs in between the work! It was a great week!

We made a small change to the CVH awards effective immediately. The following awards will be given for Highest Hours: Grand, 2nd, and 3rd for Highest HCE and Highest Other. We have eliminated the Grand, 2nd, and 3rd for Highest Total Hours since this duplicates the previous two categories.

I know it has been mentioned many times the importance of keeping track of your volunteer hours. I am asking again to please take time to record and submit your hours. Volunteering is a magical way to share your talents with other. Please download and print the CVH sheet from the guidebook on page 45 and have it turned in to your county in a timely manner. Please check your county to see when it is due.

Be sure to stop by the IAHCE Sales table at the August workshops to check out new items and pick up your 2026 ‘Experience the Magic’ Conference Pin for only \$6.00. If you have other items you need and wish to pick them up in August, please let me know so I have the inventory with me. You will save the shipping cost and the risk of not getting your items.

Make some magical memories with the rest of your summer and I hope to see you in August!

MAGIC



INTERNATIONAL

JANEL KASSING



I'm sure you've heard about our exciting (scary) experience at the June State Board in Petersburg. Does anyone truly like storms- not me? The house we stay in was once a funeral parlor. The first afternoon we were there, Becky was sitting next to me and patted my shoulder. "I see you are in the Spruce room". Well, yes I was. We're assigned rooms. She proceeded to tell me that room is haunted (is the whole house?). Oh great! I'm not a good sleeper anyway, but ...Fortunately, I did not enjoy the same encounter she apparently had once in that room when ghosts surrounded her bed. Thank God! Ghosts- fallen trees-- I was ready to go home at week's end.

The 2027 International Country of Study has been chosen and will be announced at District Meetings. It is a country we've never done before according to my records. Those of you planning and hosting an International event will be thrilled by the ease of planning this one! Looking forward to announcing it. The lesson is written as of this afternoon.

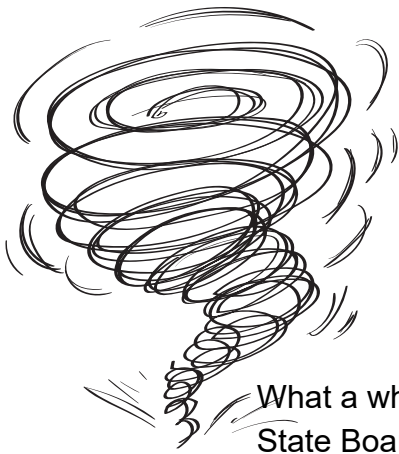
I did attend the Triennial in Canada and had a great time. A new ACWW President was elected. Marie Kenney of Canada will succeed Magdie. Our own Jane Chapman is now the ACWW USA Area President. She has 1 meeting with us under her belt and will represent us well, as always. Good luck Jane. I loved the trip to the textile mill and the maple syrup farm as part of the Conference. We took a 5 day train trip post conference from Ottawa to Montreal and Quebec City. Their landscape wasn't as green there at the time- tulips were just starting to bloom. We took day trips in Montreal and Quebec and enjoyed great food. A wonderful trip with new and "old" friends.

In October we will again distribute the Friendship Projects Fund monies you have so generously contributed. Thank you for your collections to greatly aid children and families being served at the Ronald McDonald Houses International and to enhance the lives of women in underdeveloped countries around the world. We are truly blessed.

This is my last term as your International Director. If you'd like to run for the position, please apply by October 1, using the form on the website. I'd be glad to talk to you about it, call if you have questions. Have a wonderful summer. I think we'll be thankful for air conditioning. Thanks for attending August Workshops and I'll see you all again in March.

Janel





PUBLIC RELATIONS, NEWSLETTER EDITOR - AMY KERR



What a whirlwind the past few months have been! In June, I attended my second IAHCE State Board Meeting, and what an experience it was. We shared many laughs, accomplished a great deal of work as we prepared for our August District Meetings, and continued planning for the 2027 State Conference. Our meeting also came with some unexpected excitement. We experienced a tornado warning and a power outage, and unfortunately, several board members had their vehicles damaged during the storm. We were all very grateful that no one was injured, and it certainly reminded us how quickly things can change.

After returning home, the following week I attended the District 4 Mini Meeting in Benton, Illinois. The meeting was led by our new District 4 Director, Cindy Henderson of Olmsted. Cindy and I have become good friends and travel buddies since we both live in the southernmost part of Illinois. We are also proud members of the same Pulaski/Alexander HCE Unit. It was wonderful to spend time with our District 4 members and see the enthusiasm and dedication they bring to HCE.

It's hard to believe how quickly time has passed since I was elected State Public Relations and Newsletter Director at our March Conference. I want to thank each of you again for the confidence you placed in me and for giving me the opportunity to serve in this position.

Putting together my first Chronicle newsletter felt like a speed round! There was a lot to learn in a short amount of time as I worked to get organized and produce a newsletter that everyone would enjoy reading. I hope each issue continues to improve now that I have a better understanding of what our readers enjoy. If I made a few mistakes along the way, I appreciate your patience—we're all human, and every experience is an opportunity to learn.

I have also enjoyed reading the county newsletters many of you have shared with me. They are informative, creative, and filled with wonderful ideas. Don't be surprised if you see one of your articles, recipes, or ideas featured in a future issue of the Chronicle! I love highlighting the great things happening across our state. I look forward to meeting many of you at the August District Meetings and again at our State Conference. I'll be sharing ideas to help counties promote HCE in their communities, along with newsletter tips and article ideas that can make your publications even more engaging.

As a reminder, HCE Week is October 12–18. Let's work together to celebrate HCE throughout our communities and showcase the wonderful programs, friendships, and service that make our organization so special.

This year is also an exciting time as our nation celebrates our country's 250th birthday. I hope this milestone inspires your counties to plan patriotic activities, educational programs, community displays, and service projects during HCE Week. There are countless ways to celebrate both our nation's history and the impact HCE continues to make across Illinois.

Finally, I have one small favor to ask. This will be my first time presenting on my own at the District Meetings, so please be kind—I promise to do my best! I'm looking forward to meeting all of our Public Relations and Newsletter Officers and sharing ideas with each of you.

Wishing everyone a safe, relaxing, and wonderful summer!

DISTRICT 1 NEWS

KAREN DAVIS - DIRECTOR



Are you yearning for fall (as I am) during our sweltering summer days? I can't imagine how hot it is in our southern counties. Where I live is only 30 minutes from the Wisconsin border and are experiencing heat advisories with predicted heat indexes in excess of 100°F! When our house on the prairie begins to overheat, I get cranky. So, I go to work in my shop where the landlord is faced with the electric bill, not me. I am bathed in coolness for the hours I spend here. That's why I compose much of my IAHCE business while I am "at work". This time last year, I confessed my discovery of and enjoyment of cold brew coffee. I still do! This year I have the little Blue Bunny ice cream cones. Three flavors: vanilla, vanilla caramel, and vanilla fudge. At only 2.25 ounces, they are a simple, cool, light treat, perfect for a summer evening as the sun sinks over the horizon. We are gearing up for August District Workshops.

District 1 meets again in Sycamore. Same place as last year: Sycamore United Methodist Church, 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore. Much news will be shared and all attendees will get to meet our state board hear the latest on what the state board is doing for you. Join us if you are able. Registration forms are available on the website and from me! Tuesday, August 4, 2026. Gather with us at 9:00am for a great day. Lunch is included in your registration fee.

CARROLL

Carroll County enjoyed a very special guest at their Annual Meeting in April this year. Marc Kelly Smith told our members the history of the "Poetry Slam". Marc is internationally known and is credited with being the creator of this genre of performance poetry. Google "Poetry Slam" and you will be surprised that such a popular performer came to little Carroll County's HCE Annual Meeting. What a treat! HCE members from Stephenson and Jo Daviess counties also attended. Freedom Unit saw some living history at History in the Making in Kent, Illinois. Demonstrations of life in the past, entertainment, old-fashioned game-playing for children, and more were enjoyed by three members of Freedom Unit and one guest.



We are looking forward to a year of discovering and sharing the magic of HCE.
Karen Davis, Carroll County President



We finished 2025 with our Holiday Tea on December 17th at the Extension Office, instead just talking and sharing cookies at Mary Lambert's house, the sixteen of us had games with, decorated cranberry candles as prizes, and video show of Christmas Scenes.

Our Lunch Bunch visited Maggiano's in Naperville on November 20th, Carol's Garden in Carol Stream on January 22nd, The Seven Dwarfs in Wheaton on February 26th, Quigley's Irish Pub in Naperville on March 26th, Rainbow Cafe'

in Elmhurst on May 28th, and Omega in Downers Grove on June 25th.

Pat Quetsch and her daughter represented DuPage County at the IAHCE Conference in March. Her daughter had read the newsletter on the internet and has joined DuPage County HCE.

We attended the following Lessons for Living: "What's in My Food" on February 10th, "Gardening on a Budget" on April 14th, and "Fur Real Companions" on May 14th, The Community Service Workshop was held on April 16th and June 18th found us at Herrick Lake for our "Morning in the Park".

Our Annual Meeting on April 23rd featured the Wayne Township Community Chorus (of Seniors) and we celebrated the "retirement" of Mary Lambert who served as DuPage County HCE Chairman for 23 years.

Mylon Fisher, Jr. Public Information

GRUNDY



Hello from Grundy County,

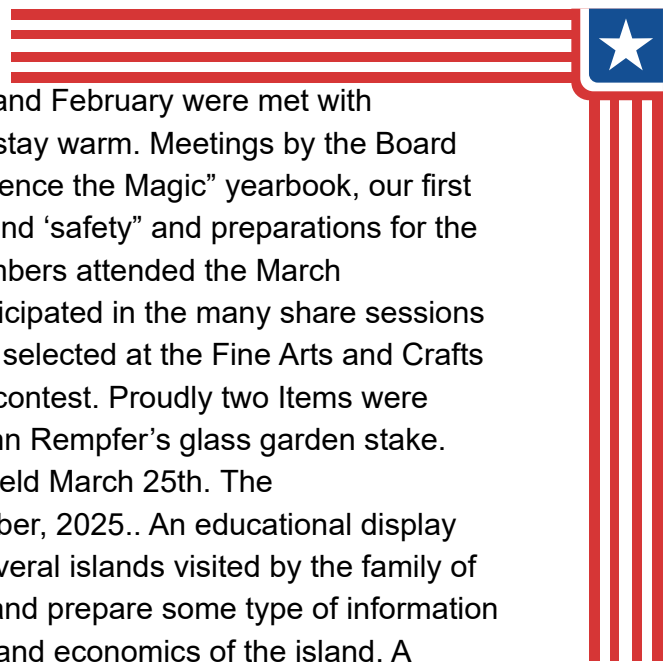
I am hoping that the weather makes up its mind quickly. These up and down temperatures are driving my plants and trees crazy.

We had two men come from "Canines for Veterans, nfp". They brought their dogs with them and proceeded to tell us about the program. They get the dogs from shelters and train them to see if they will fit in with the program, then they are brought together with the veteran who will have the pet for its lifetime. The training program is for approx. 13 weeks to make sure that both are compatible and to teach them both. The veterans do not pay anything for food or Vet services. This is all taken care of by the program. If for some reason the vet and dog do not seem compatible the dog is returned back and is not put back in a shelter, but will be taken to one of there facilities to fit in with another vet.

Three of us went to the 102nd state conference in Effingham. What fun it was, the share shops, cultural crafts, silent auction, the puzzles, cozy couch, the vendors, the band and of course meeting up with old and new friends. The scavenger hunt was fun and learned some things.

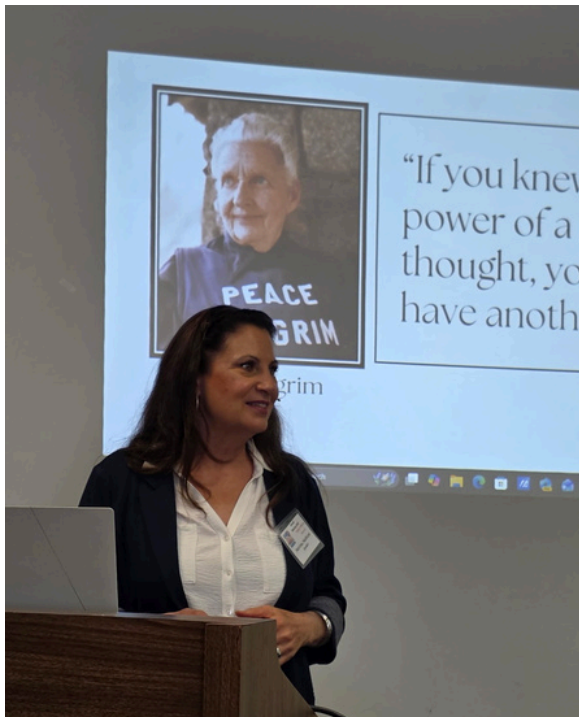
Our book club has been reading the following The Book Woman's Daughter, The Secret Book and Scone Society, The Martha's Vineyard Beach & Book Club. This coming month we will be reading, A walk along the beach.





As Northern Illinois residents know, the months of January and February were met with “severe weather” warnings and it was a time to stay in and stay warm. Meetings by the Board continued as the 2026 year commenced with a new “Experience the Magic” yearbook, our first County lesson, “What’s in my Food? Decoding Chemicals and ‘safety’ and preparations for the first county event of the year - “International Day”. Two members attended the March State Conference, contributing silent auction items and participated in the many share sessions presented, Kane County sent eight creations that had been selected at the Fine Arts and Crafts Competition last October for the State Cultural Enrichment contest. Proudly two Items were chosen as Superior ; Dee Kellen’s crocheted afghan and Ann Rempfer’s glass garden stake. An International Program Day prepared by the Board was held March 25th. The Caribbean Island Lesson was distributed to Units in November, 2025.. An educational display was prepared by the Plato Center Unit, using pictures of several islands visited by the family of a HCE member. Each Unit was asked to select one Island and prepare some type of information regarding the area - whether people, geography, or culture and economics of the island. A representative from each Unit talked about their research and some direct “magical” experiences in the islands they visited, Shirley Hapl, guest speaker told of her visits in the Caribbean and of Cayman Island delights.

President Naomi Redman has promoted the NVON theme of “Bees and Pollination” enthusiastically over the last three years. We have had bee keepers lectures, many foods made with honey, displays and samples of different varieties of honey, and creative items as a bee bathe and a bird feeder made with a china cup and saucer with all five county Units participating in the various activities. Now we are on to the increase awareness of Mental Health and Well Being theme and disseminating current information to the Units. Lessons from the University that we will study during the 2026 year include “Fur - Real Companionship” and Become a Dementia Friend”. Units also seek resources to expand the theme and relate to experiences occurring in their areas. Reservations to attend the NVON Conference in Wisconsin Dells have been made.



The 4-H Foundation annual fundraiser, an April activity was supported with dinner purchases, silent auction contributions from the Board, Units and individual members. Individuals are solicited to be sponsors and donate to the live action. Proceeds from this very successful program support all the work of the Extension in Kane County including the KCAHCE..

Exciting events across our county especially Annual Meeting, May 20th with Martina Mathisen's "talk designed to revive your spirit and lighten your heart - filled with meaningful stories, smiles and reminders of the strength already inside you." What a perfect fit with a "Mental Health and Well Being" theme. We were especially pleased to have Alice Grooms with us to install officers, inform of state business and exhibit some of the memorialabilia she has collected in her travels with IAHCE.

More exploration of the Caribbean Islands is a presentation by Amanda Anderson who has been a youth volunteer in the Dominican Republic this summer. In July she will tell us of her two trips and the study of this country from a youth point of view and the services she rendered in her experience there.

Later in August the Units will join in a county wide picnic encouraging new membership at a social event. We have a full calendar.

Submitted by Nancy Haire, Public Relations

June 25, 2026



STEPHENSON

Once again, it is time to update everyone on what our HCE members have been involved with so far this year. On April 2, Stephenson County HCE hosted a multi-county meeting at the Farm Bureau in Freeport. HCE members from Carroll, JoDaviess, Winnebago and Stephenson counties were invited to the morning meeting. It's a great opportunity for everyone to share what's been happening in their counties and exchange ideas and concerns.

On Saturday morning, April 18, Stephenson County 4-H Super Saturday was held at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau. HCE had two sessions on "Snack Time Fun". This was a hands-on class, with Janice Fryer instructing and assisting with making both an owl and a penguin out of candy. Diana Ethridge had the kids decorate cupcakes which were baked in an ice cream cone. Carla Meyer finished the session with the creation of taco snacks. All the participants left with a packet of recipes for treats and snacks they could make and enjoy at home. By the way, no one left this class hungry!

The 172nd Stephenson County Fair will run from July 21-25 at the Stephenson County Fairgrounds in Freeport. The theme for the fair this year is "See Ewe at the Fair". For the second year, our organization will have a designated area in the 4-H building. The HCE board is presently working on what crafts and demonstrations will be offered from Tuesday thru Saturday during the afternoon..

Several Stephenson County HCE members are planning to attend the IAHCE District 1 Meeting on Tuesday, August 4 at the Sycamore United Methodist Church.

ENJOY THE REST OF THE SUMMER!



Stephenson County HCE
Public Relations Director



All photos are from the 4-H Super
Saturday Event



Will County

This past year, the WCHCE was truly fortunate to receive a stipend from the Joliet Township Board to help with our activities this spring. Last year, we saw a significant drop in our membership. We were down to four units and had less than 30 members. The WCHCE Board decided to apply for a Senior stipend last fall, provided by our Joliet Township. and we were rewarded. Our objectives were to keep present members engaged, entice new members to join, and have fun!

Our first activity , April 28th, was a trip to the Wild Birds Store. One of the owners provided us with a highly informative talk regarding the birds in our area. Our WCHCE provided two gift cards to the Wild Birds, which were won by two of our members. Elaine Czajkoski, our Community Director, made the arrangements and everyone attending loved the event. We learned so much about our local birds.

Our Annual meeting followed on May 12th, at the Will County Farm Bureau. Our members and guests were treated to a delicious meal catered by Rosati's Pizza consisting of Baked Chicken, potatoes, green beans, mostaccioli, and salad. The Board provided the drinks and also a delicious chocolate cake. Carolyn Yoeman, our 1st VP, secured a magician for the entertainment as a tie-in to our state theme, "Experience the Magic," We were all mesmerized with the magician's tricks. He was so impressive! After lunch, Kim Byrne, Carolyn's daughter and a local chiropractor, led us into a discussion regarding diets. This event was so over the top. We had four guests, all who became members.



On June 9th, we also held a craft event for members. Judy Maier and Lou Ann Kinsella primed 25 bird houses for our members, who then had a marvelous time painting them. This was such a fun event for all. We loved seeing the members' creativity in choosing color and design,



Each year, our WCHCE holds 3 Bunco parties. Our next one occurs on July 14th, at the Black Road Library. Members bring their lunches and our WCHCE provides drinks and the dessert, too. There is no cost to members or guests. We even provide the cash awards. We sell 50/50 chances which help with the costs. This is such a nice time for all. Great way to get prospective members to join our organization, too!

Our Board will be meeting in August to plan more activities for our members, including our Annual Cultural Arts Event, which takes place on October 13th.

DISRICT 2 NEWS



KAREN CAHILL- DIRECTOR

Greetings District 2 members! I hope you are finding ways to keep cool during our recent HEAT wave – air conditioning, cool beverages, ice cream... ❖❖

We just had our summer mini meeting, and I appreciate having so many of you join us. Please share information you gained with your county members. I'm starting to notice a very positive atmosphere when you gather together. I think you are becoming more comfortable with each other and becoming friends. YEA! Therefore, more sharing of ideas is taking place. If you weren't able to be with us this time, hopefully you can come on Thursday, November 5 at 11:00 for the next mini meeting. ALL District 2 members are invited.

I've enjoyed visiting your counties as you show how you are Experiencing the Magic of HCE. I'm looking forward to sharing your magic at the remaining annual meetings. You do a wonderful job encouraging each other and contributing to your communities. Remember to take time each day to express some gratitude. You are definitely on my grateful list.

Feel free to contact me if I can be of help.



Waiting for dinner



Morning coffee conversations

CHAMPAIGN



What a wet, stormy spring and early summer! We hope everyone fared well through the storms and tornadoes. And all followed by a heatwave!

Our Mayview Unit celebrated 100 years of continuous membership on April 19th. There was an interesting display of old minutes, program books, and newsletters. We learned about some of the activities they had done at earlier meetings, including a banana eating contest. A slide show of the history of the unit was included as was a fashion show of "haute couture" made of newspapers! The clothing was well made and "newsworthy."

Spring Membership Day was held April 27th which included a presentation by Pat Milchuck, owner of Simply Pat's Hats and Original Designs in Paxton. There were 34 members present. Everyone had the opportunity to try on hats and purchase them if they were so inclined. A salad luncheon was provided.

On May 2nd we had "Tea Time." Many ladies wore their Kentucky Derby hats as it was also Kentucky Derby day. We had fingerfoods and a variety of teas. Several ladies brought tea cups and shared stories about their cups. We also learned about the Boston Tea Party as we kept in mind the 250th Birthday of the United States of America. We had 44 ladies in attendance.

May 1st and 16th was our Spring Craft and Plant Sale. We had many lovely creations for sale. We netted \$1645.66 which was donated to the Veteran's Hospital in Danville for the Healing Garden Project.

We celebrated the 250th Birthday of the USA on June 24th with a "picnic" of hot dogs, baked beans, salads, and chips. Several readings were shared about some of the women who played a role in the history of the USA. We also played some games from those earlier times that children would have played including the opportunity to show off their hoola hoop skills, drop the clothespin in the milk jug, and Simon Says followed by an ice cream social. We had 29 ladies in attendance who enjoyed the day.



Upcoming Events

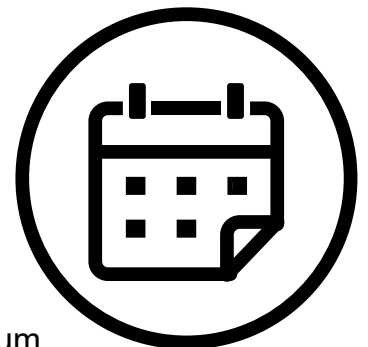
July 24. Garage Sale 4-7pm

July 25'. Garage Sale 8am-3pm

August 12: International Event

September 21: Cultural Arts Show 8:30am-3pm

All events will be held at The Farm Bureau Auditorium



801 Country Fair Drive
Champaign, IL.

America's
Birthday



DEWITT



We started April with Tammy Buse passing out info on her 2026 Adult Programs. Our program for the day was on Garden and Weed Identification, our speaker could not make the meeting so our First Vice, Nancy Sprague handed out flyers with pictures of the weeds and how to identify them! Hostess Linda Long served us some delicious refreshments. Eight of us went to the Mackinaw Tea Room in April, everyone had a great time and a delicious lunch!

In May we had a very interesting meeting at the 'Leading Men Fiber Arts' on the square in Clinton. If you are interested in any craft like knitting or crochet you should try to see this store if possible!

The men that run the store are very knowledgeable

and they dye their own yarn! Everyone enjoyed the tour of the business!

For May Day Nancy Wikoff, Our

Community & Family Issues person, had several members help her and she made May Baskets for the residents of the Assisted Living in the nursing home. They really enjoyed receiving them!

June 1st we attended our Tri-County Board meeting in Piatt county. This is DeWitt, Macon and Piatt counties, the meetings are a good way to stay in touch with what the other counties are doing.

June 4th eight members and one guest traveled to Sullivan to see the play "Guys and Dolls". The play was enjoyed by all, some more than others! We stopped in Decatur for supper on the way home.

Our lesson in June was given by Caitlin Mellendorf on small appliances in the kitchen. She showed us an electric pressure and an air fryer and explained how to use them. Hostess Linda Charlett served very good strawberry shortcakes!

We will be attending the Mini District meeting in Decatur June 30th.

Thanks to Nancy Wikoff we now have shirts with our name on them for us to wear as a group, we have talked about getting them for a long time so we will be wearing them!

Have a wonderful summer!

Linda Riva

DeWitt County"



Leading Men's Fiber Shop



Supper after guys and Dolls



Ladies at the Mackinaw Tea Room



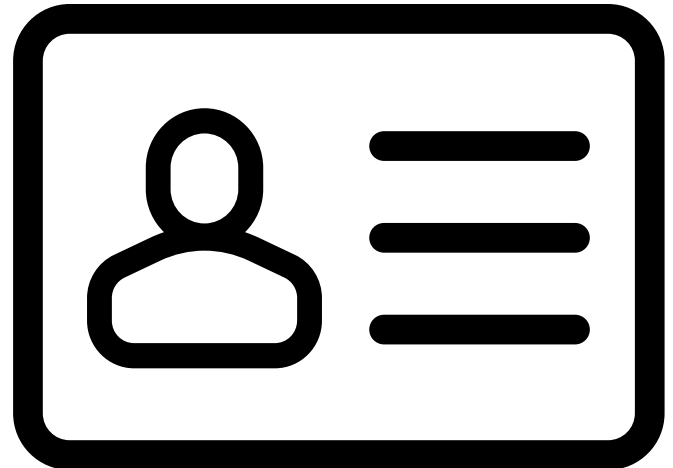
Macon County has certainly been busy this year. We have had some interesting and fun lessons. There has been a representative from Tillamook with delicious samples to try, and a visit to Mari Mann Herbs presented by our own president, Liz King. Future programs will be at the Amish Heritage Museum just east of Arthur, Illinois, and a lesson about "What's in my Food" at the First Baptist Church in Decatur, Illinois. Our sewing group is still producing many pillowcases. We are so proud of the work that they are doing!!!

Our clubs are doing so well. We have gained several new members through their club participation. Our clubs are: the Gamers, the Lunch Bunch, the Crafters, the Needle Arts, and the Day Trippers. Each club has a chairman that plans the activities.

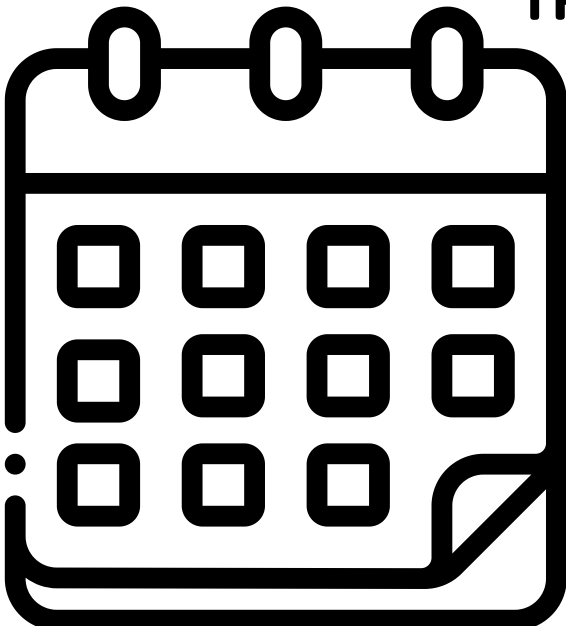
Karen Cahill, our District Two Director, planned a very interesting, informative mini-district meeting. She provided news from the State Board, as well as her experience at the ACWW conference. The Macon County group prepared delicious salads and desserts.

Linda Austin

**DONT
FORGET!**



**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR AD INFO FOR
THE STATE CONFERENCE BOOKS FOR
MARCH 2027**



TO:

AMY KERR
264 WESSENBERG RD.
VILLA RIDGE, IL 62996

Contact - Becky Belcher for more info
beckybelcher75@gmail.com

McLean



Greetings from McLean County! Summer has arrived and we are appreciating some rain. McLean County HCE learned about “Altering Recipes”, “Food Labels and Food Storage”, “Where to Start: Declutter Your Home and Financial Information”, “Enjoying Gardening as We Age” and “Weathering the Storm” major lessons. Minor lessons focused on the Caribbean Islands and Dominican Republic - history, geography, climate, agriculture, economy, people, demographics and culture.

The Membership/Friendship Tea had 44 attendees (8 guests) intrigued by Beverly Keller’s program “The Making of Miniatures”. Cultural enrichment found members and guests “Sharing of the Greens” where we had wonderful “Irish” foods and drinks, 50/50 raffle, sharing “green” elephant items, and games. There was a cultural enrichment trip to Arthur, IL and the IL Amish Heritage Center with lunch at Yoder’s Kitchen. Sixteen members and 3 guests did “Build your own pot of flowers” with Bill Inks of AB Hatchery Nursery of Bloomington. In June, thirteen members and 3 guests enjoyed traveling to Busy Corners Restaurant in Goodfield followed by shopping in Eureka. Also, in June, each unit had a “grand adventure” to have fun, increase knowledge and experience new things.

Community Service Day took place each month and many valuable items were made to aid and help the community - walker bags, fidget blankets, seat belt covers, clothing protectors, greeting and string art cards, children’s blankets, and pillowcases. Our units collected items each month for the Humane Society of Central Illinois for our Community Outreach Project.

The books read by the Read and Share group were The Clover Girls by Viola Shipman and The Woman They Could Not Silence by Kate Moore plus “The Book Club for Troublesome Women” by Marie Bostwick.

Six members attended the 102nd IAHCE Annual Conference in Effingham to “Experience the Magic”. Time, classes, and meals with others around the state were a treasured experience. The day after convention found HCE members manning the Fannie May store as a fundraiser for HCE to help fund activities and HCE scholarships. Booths at Downs Farmers Market this summer will boost our treasury funds also. Several attended the District 2 meeting in June. Cindy Kelley, Kathleen Emery and Pat Pulokas travelled to the 27 th Annual NVON Conference in Wisconsin Dells, July 14-16.

Our 108 th Annual Meeting “Experience the Magic,” and our Cultural Enrichment and Fine Arts Show was held on July 7 at Christ Lutheran Church in Normal. Christopher Bontjes of Danville presented the program on magic. We expect to award HCE scholarship(s) at this meeting but do not have information of the recipient(s) at the time of this article submission. We look forward to the McLean County 4-H Fair & Show, held July 29-August 2. McLean County HCE sponsors the Young at Heart Day at the fair. This free event, held on July 30 with refreshments and lively entertainment by Terry Lee Ridley, had 17 educational booths of organizations serving seniors. We expected up to 400 seniors to attend and get well informed about the potential choices in their future.

For updated information, HCE newsletters and more details, visit our media sites - Website: www.mcleanhce.org and LIKE our Facebook page at: McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education.

See you in McLean County! Come visit!

Barb Jurgens, McLean County PR Committee

SUMMER

MORGAN

Members of the Morgan County Association of Home and Community Education celebrated 90 years of serving the community as they experienced “The Magic of HCE” at their Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 18, at the Morgan County Extension Office. On March 5, 1936, a meeting was held at the old Farm Bureau Hall in Jacksonville to begin organizing “Home Bureau” in Morgan County. By September 25, 1936, the group had 345 members in 21 units. In the early 1960s, the name was changed to the Morgan County Homemakers Extension Association and eventually to the Morgan County Association for Home and Community Education. HCE enhances the lives of individuals and families through educational programs and experiences, encouraging responsible leadership, and providing service to the community.

Aaron Dufelmeier welcomed everyone and shared memories of working with HCE over the years. During the business meeting, the group approved an updated version of their constitution. Members with perfect attendance, 50-year-plus members, and volunteers were recognized. Three members—Linda Griffin, Leona Masey, and Nancy Wynn—were recognized for 60 years of membership. Long-time members who had died since the last annual meeting were remembered. They were Arlene Smith, Kay Sorrill, and Linda Settles. Each of them was active in their local units and had served on the county board.

Karen Cahill, IAHCE District 2 Director, installed the new officers and gave an update on IAHCE. The newly elected officers are President & Public Relations, Martha Vaché; 1st Vice President, Charlotte Cave; 2nd Vice President, Barbara Baptist; Secretary, Leona Massey; Treasurer, Mary Jo Sparrow; International, Joyce Ginder; and Family and Community Issues, Pat Pennell.

Susan Dodsworth, Linda Griffin, Nancy Wynn, Jane Janes, and Martha Vaché shared memories of former members and HCE activities. Pat Pennell narrated a style show featuring fashions through the decades. Several members of the Franklin Unit shared some of their “historical” clothing and that of their family members. Following the meeting, everyone enjoyed a finger food luncheon.



For the past six months, the two units in Piatt County AHCE have been immersed in a study of the Dominican Republic through their monthly newsletter. The journey began in January with an introduction to the location of this small island country. February brought a focus on the geography of the Dominican Republic, while March delved into the plant and animal life. By April, readers were virtually touring the top two cities: Santo Domingo and Santiago. In May, discussions shifted to the history of the Dominican Republic and its traditional foods. The June newsletter explored the vibrant culture, including music and dance, Christmas traditions, party etiquette, and expressive language. With two more newsletters scheduled for July and August, the study is nearly complete. The Piatt Co. AHCE newsletter has been enriched with numerous pictures and informative YouTube links to enhance the presentations.

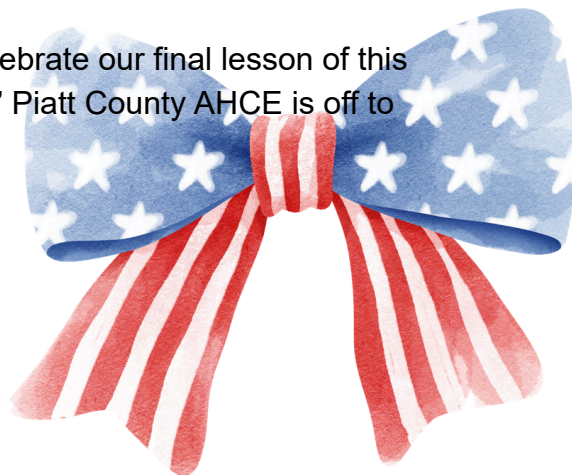
The 102nd IAHCE State Annual Conference, themed "Experience the Magic," was held from March 17 to 19, 2026, at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham, Illinois. Five local Piatt County board members—Kathleen Glenn, Martha Lynch, Carol Drayton, Elaine Ginalick, and Frances Kurr—attended the three-day event. Martha and Elaine, as appointed delegates, officially represented Piatt County during the annual business meeting on Wednesday morning. Throughout the conference, members engaged in various Educational Share Shops, including sessions on becoming a Dementia Friend, addressing volunteer burnout, and learning about pickleball, among others. The event also featured a compelling presentation by Dawn Morris, Executive Director of the American Red Cross for the South Central Illinois area, who shared insights from her experiences as a first responder. Additionally, three local members—Carol Drayton, Carol Kussart, and Ginnie Reynolds—submitted beautifully crafted projects, earning one Best of Show ribbon and two People's Choice awards. The State Convention was indeed a fun and enriching experience.

Elaine Ginalick, the Family and Community Issues director, introduced a new Long-Term Service Project for 2026: supporting the Monticello Christian Church's Food Pantry. This pantry, affiliated with the Eastern Illinois Food Bank, not only accepts donations but also operates a food distribution service on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. On the first Tuesday, volunteers are needed for inventory and organizing the shelves, as fewer families visit. The third Tuesday sees an influx of families—over 40—and a delivery from the Eastern Illinois Food Bank truck at 9:30 am, bringing pantry staples, produce, bakery goods, and meats. Assistance is crucial for unloading and organizing these supplies, with additional help needed during food distribution from 10:30 am. The project offers a meaningful opportunity to support the community by ensuring families have access to necessary resources.

We have also presented the following programs: Exercise and Arthritis, Balance and Coordination, Positivity and Purpose Later in Life, The Art of Afternoon Tea, Fur Real Companionship, and Become a Dementia Friend. Our favorite program was The Art of Afternoon Tea.

“The Art of Afternoon Tea” was enjoyed by joining both the AHCE Cerro Gordo and CMV units together on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at the Hope-Welty Library in Cerro Gordo at 1:00 p.m. for our pre-planned light lunch and hot tea. This light lunch included savory cucumber dill sandwiches, both chicken and ham salad sandwiches, three types of scones with two choices of sauces (perfect lemon curd and the traditional Devonshire cream), two types of homemade cookies (including the Swedish ring cookies from the lesson), and some delicious bite-size chocolate brownies. Needless to say, hot tea in a variety of flavors was also served. We all had a great time!

We are now planning to work together with both local units to celebrate our final lesson of this year: “Christmas: Cookies History and Sharing of Baked Goods.” Piatt County AHCE is off to an exciting start in the year 2026!



SANGAMON

Welcome Spring! Let's hope Mother Nature begins to be a little kinder to our state. It has been reported that Illinois has had more tornadoes this Spring than any other state.

Debbie Yeaman, Family Issues Director, continues to provide us with informative insights at our monthly meetings. She recently discussed the importance of sunlight for our well-being. Just a few minutes outside watching the morning sunrise can reset your Circadian rhythm, which is our body's internal twenty-four-hour clock. Another lesson focused on brain health. There are various ways to improve cognitive health besides using medication. One of the most interesting points she mentioned was the use of our hands to help improve our aging process. This includes activities like knitting, crafting, and sewing, which are a big focus during our project days. Many of us continue these activities at home as well.

We had a "Lesson for Living" presented by a representative from Compass for Kids. This organization provides after-school activities for low-income students in the Springfield School District. Their program is designed to offer students social-academic support, life skills, and a safe place to learn and grow. There are many volunteer opportunities where our organization could lend a hand.

Our first Vice-President, Josie Anderson, continually finds interesting day trips that remind us we never stop learning. This month, we toured a little-known place called Starhill Forest Arboretum, led by world-renowned arborist Guy Sternberg. We learned a lot about different tree and plant species.

Our newest outreach project, currently in the planning stages, is adopting an elementary school in Springfield. Next school year, we will plan a couple of fun days for 3rd and 5th grade classes. Members are busy making pillowcases and crocheting fidget balls. There will be gift bags and books given to each child. The school has also requested donations of baby wipes and sweatpants. Other sewing projects include making receiving blankets and burp cloths for The Pregnancy Care Center.

The crafty corners group made teabag holders to be added to gift bags for guests at our annual July picnic. Each member is encouraged to bring guests, and hopefully, they will see how much fun our group is and want to join.

Looks like the first week in July is going to be a scorcher. What's that saying—the dog days of Summer? Google says it typically refers to the weeks spanning July 3rd to August 11th. Stay cool and enjoy!

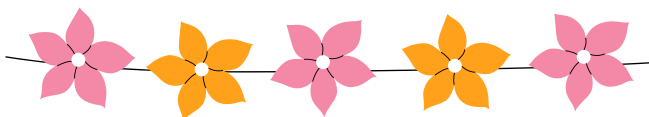


Selling woven rugs at
Champaign Craft Days



Pauline Denzer celebrating her 98th birthday with HCE friends





I'm playing a bit of catch-up here due to a kerfuffle with our county's article for June. December through February tends to be a slower period for many of our units in Tazewell County. During December, we focus on holiday celebrations and support charitable organizations with our time and donations. In March, our units resume their monthly meetings. The board uses these winter months to prepare for several events: our winter annual event, Cabin Fever Day; the IAHCE annual conference in March; and our county's annual meeting in May.

In February, we experienced the sad passing of Jan Busche, our 2nd Vice President. Her HCE friends will dearly miss her quiet nature, sunny smile, and passion for learning. Due to a scheduling conflict, we held Cabin Fever Day on March 2nd instead of President's Day. Nonetheless, we enjoyed a lesson on another First Lady, Dolley Madison. Since it was Casimir Pulaski Day, two of the three soups for lunch were potato and sausage-based. Activities included a Wits Workout lesson, playing card bingo, completing two jigsaw puzzles, and a craft lesson on decorating gift bags.

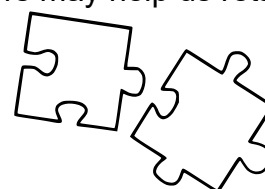
Two weeks later, all our board members attended the IAHCE annual conference in Effingham. Highlights included watching Kate Schmitgall accept the District 2 Member of the Year award, the election of our own Darlene Curry as IAHCE Treasurer, and seeing Darlene and Vivian Gerrietts installed as state officers on the IAHCE board. Congratulations to Kate, Darlene, and Vivian! We're excited to support Darlene and Vivian in their responsibilities on the IAHCE state board. Over the three days, we had many opportunities to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones, attend various share sessions, and enjoy meals and activities. Two of us joined the inaugural meeting of the Cozy Couch Club to discuss books and found the jigsaw puzzles in the hospitality room particularly enjoyable.

Our county's annual meeting was held on May 11th. Highlights included welcoming Ellen Allesandrini, an 80-year member, along with three of her daughters and a son-in-law; Karen Cahill sharing insights from the 2026 ACWW Triennial Conference in Ottawa, Canada; awarding the 2nd annual county member of the year to Lela Sandrock, who boasts 65 consecutive years of perfect attendance; unveiling a plaque for 4-H leaders and supporters inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame in memory of Judy McFarland, a dedicated volunteer and Tazewell County HCE board member; and installing the Tazewell County HCE board for 2026-27.

At the annual meeting, we distributed signup sheets for 2026-27 lessons, thanks to Diane Scott, our 1st Vice President, who diligently reviewed, compiled, and presented them for board approval. We're now planning this year's 4-H Fair Food Stand, our major fundraising event, for July 27th-29th at the Tazewell County 4-H Fair. Four board members attended the District 2 mini-meeting in Decatur on June 30th. Our next project is organizing the 2026-27 kickoff event, Wacky Wednesday, on August 26th, followed by our International Luncheon in October. The rest of the summer promises to be busy.

Lastly, with so many jigsaw puzzle enthusiasts in our units, we initiated a jigsaw puzzle exchange at the Cabin Fever event. This simple yet effective idea from one of our members may help us retain members and encourage participation in county events.

Until December,
Denise Jatho, Tazewell County Public Relations Director





VERMILION

Hello from Eastern Illinois, Vermilion County HCE! Our county membership is twenty-four ladies and one man. Despite our small size, VC HCE stays highly active!

I missed sending the county news for the May IAHCE Chronicle, so I am going to report past events now. In March, our county had only one member attend the IAHCE Conference. The member was Mary Stampini. Mary stated that the three days of IAHCE were jam-packed with events, including meeting and greeting old friends, sharing learning shops, and attending lunch and dinner events, among many other activities.

April brought genuinely nice weather, perfect for gathering at Danville Gardens. We enjoyed an educational talk given by a representative of Danville Gardens, followed by a self-guided tour of the flower beds, hanging baskets, and other displays.

On Tuesday, May 5, 2026, fifteen members attended the Vermilion County HCE Ninth Annual Women Walk the World Picnic. The lesson focused on Gardening on a Budget. Everyone enjoyed a word scramble game that involved naming plants. At each place setting, there was an idiom with a missing word, and guessing some of the missing words was easy while a few meanings required help from a neighbor.

The menu served included BBQ sandwiches, a fruit tray, a vegetable tray with dip, chips, cheese and crackers, cupcakes, and cookies. We offered water, coffee, and sweet tea for lunch. Additionally, we collected a money offering for the Special Projects Fund. The event was a fun day and a great opportunity to get together and visit!

On June 30th, Vermilion County will be attending the Mini District meeting. See District 2 there!

Diane Reddy, PR/CVH
Mary Stampini, International & Cultural Enrichment

DISTRICT NEWS 3

DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR – DONNA RICHARDS



Happy Summer, District 3!

I hope you are staying cool and have had a safe summer so far. After the District 3 & 4 Workshops, please make plans to attend our next District 3 Mini Meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, November 2nd. Registration will start at 11:30 a.m., and the meeting will commence at 12:30 p.m. at the Unity Baptist Church in Vandalia. In late September, I will email invitations to the District 3 County Presidents.

Mark your calendars! Come celebrate the 103rd Annual Conference, taking place from March 16–18, 2027, at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham. Becky Belcher, our Conference Chair, and Karen Cahill, Conference Co-Chair, are working diligently on the conference preparations.

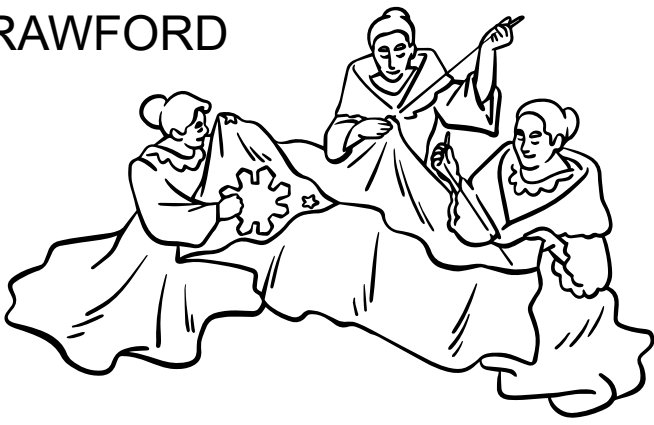
County Presidents, around December 1st, please be on the lookout for the President's Packet, which will include the March 2027 103rd Annual Conference information. Share this information with your Board and membership, or watch for the pullout in the December 2026 Newsletter or online at the iahce.org website after December.

See you at the August 2026 District 3 & 4 Workshops!

Donna Richards,
District 3 Director



CRAWFORD



HCE ladies made bibs for local nursing home residents.
Pictured are Donna Newbold and Sandy Bryans



Members Donna Newbold and Susan Allison are
making bowl cozies to sell for a fundraiser.



An Illinois Extension horticulturist presented a hands-on container-pot workshop for 15 HCE members.
Shown here are Hope Dennis and Marcia Elder

MACOUPIN



Happy summer from Macoupin County! This spring has been particularly busy for the county, filled with planning and a variety of activities. In May, the county held its Annual Meeting, which was well attended and featured the annual business meeting, a delicious catered lunch, entertainment by tenor Thomas Taylor, and a silent auction.

During the meeting, volunteer hour awards were presented. Linda Eades was honored with a framed certificate for placing second in the "Most Other Hours" category at the state conference. Additionally, there was a drawing for Dairy Queen gift cards to reward members who submitted their volunteer hours in 2025.

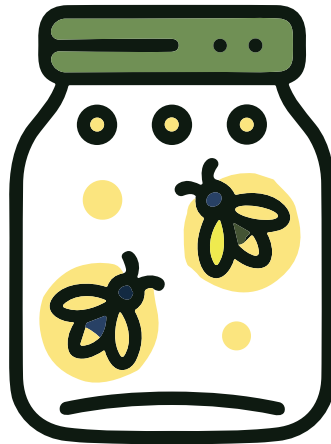
This year, Macoupin County is actively collecting pillows, blankets, mattress pads, and mattresses for the Carlinville chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This organization builds and delivers beds to children in need. The attached photos showcase the generous donations received so far, including a monetary contribution.

Vickie Laughlin, our cultural arts chairperson, has been busy organizing classes. This spring, members had the opportunity to create a beautifully decorated wall or door hanger, with the base of the project made from straws. Pictures are attached. In July, she is planning crafts with a patriotic theme.

Most of the units in Macoupin County will be incorporating America's 250th Birthday into their activities. They plan to make or gather 250 items to donate to a group in their community. One unit has already donated treats to a VBS program as part of their goal.



Patriotic wall hanging workshop



CVH AWARDS PRESENTATION



Donations to Heavenly Peace



We hosted our first Spring Fling event on May 2nd honoring and recognizing our new members from 2025. We also had a speaker and learned about the importance of using Illinois Native flowers in our gardens. May was a busy month for us as it also brought our annual county trip on May 20th. This year we went to Union Station in St. Louis and experienced the Big Wheel, along with dining on The Hill at Guido's. We finished out the day at the Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum, where we learned about the tragic period of history and how important it is to remember the past.

Our Ethnic Supper Club has continued on our exciting journeys. In May we went to the French Creperie and learned how to make sweet and savory Crepes, Then we enjoyed tasting our creations. In June, we went to a Turkish restaurant that specialized in Uyghur Cuisine, which is a Chinese Muslim cuisine. It was spicy, but delicious. In July we are going to an Authentic Mexican restaurant in Fairmont City. That is our local area where a lot of people from Mexico reside. In August we are going to try out Japanese cuisine. We cannot wait to try more exciting places and broaden our horizons and culture.

In July we will participate in our County Fair, having a booth and spreading the word about HCE. In August we continue with our tradition of our Annual Children's Tea. We encourage members to bring their children, grandchildren, nieces, neighbors, etc. It is always a fun day learning proper etiquette and a great time of fellowship. We also have our International Night coming up in September. Eleanor always does a spectacular job teaching us about other cultures and we can't wait to go to the Carribean together. We also continue our monthly crafting nights and encourage people to learn a new technique or to experience a new craft that they have not done before.



ANNUAL MEETING



ETHNIC SUPPER CLUB



DAISY CRAFT



AFANDI KITCHEN

RICHLAND

The Richland County Homemakers Education Association recently held their annual meeting at the Presbyterian Church in Olney. The purpose of the annual meeting was to conclude the previous year and begin the next with planning programs, approving budgets, and electing officers. Of course, no business meeting is complete without food and entertainment. The meeting began with Board members providing a delicious meal of meatballs, salads, and desserts. Members expressed their approval by eating most of the food and asking for recipes. The business meeting included summarizing successful activities and introducing planned programs, budget issues, and community service projects.

Local attorney and humorist Jeff Fleming entertained the group with his many jokes and stories while stressing the importance of solid education for all ages. Jeff also described how he created new songs using an AI program and played several of them for us – providing a little education for the audience.

Officers were elected with installation then conducted by acting District Director Ashley Davis. Officers for the 2026 year are President Bonita Balding, 1 st Vice President Mary Ochs, 2 nd Vice President Lynita Arteberry, Secretary Janet Jones, Treasurer and CVH Chairman Debbie Geier, Cultural Enrichment Dorothy Weidner, Ways & Means Pat Foust, Family and Community Issues Carol Diel, International Chairman Donna Russell, and Public Information Julie Oesch. Officers encourage all members to attend, participate, and give feedback so that the group continues to grow and meet the interests of its members. Board officers and HEA members encourage others who might be interested in our organization to contact any one of us for more information. New members are always welcome. Julie Oesch, Public Information





Richland County Homemakers Education Association annually awards a scholarship to a Richland County High School graduate who is interested in a Family Consumer Science or related college degree. HEA board member Debbie Geier presented this year's scholarship to Brooklyn Diel. Her plans are to attend Lake Land College in Mattoon, IL as an Ag Transfer student and will be on the Livestock Judging team. She will then transfer to a university and major in Ag Communications with a minor in Ag Business. Brooklyn has a passion for the livestock industry with a focus on swine. Her favorite activity/hobby is "by far showing pigs across the state of Illinois at national, state, county and local levels." Her dream is to become an advocate for the livestock industry by developing an organization that enables the youth to focus on animal nutrition, daily care, and showing techniques initially, eventually expanding to include genetics, breeding, and anatomy.

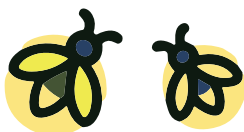
While 4-H, the Illinois Pig Club, and the National Junior Swine Association have provided a variety of experiences, Brooklyn credits FFA, her mom, and her grandfather with being instrumental in developing her passion.

Through her involvement in FFA, she has gained confidence, communication skills, leadership skills, and the ability to work with others, just to list a few. Her mom, Jennifer Diel, has been major influence on Brooklyn. Brooklyn comments, "No matter what challenges come her way, she manages them with determination and a positive attitude, showing me the importance of perseverance and resilience." She has also exemplified a strong work ethic, integrity, and respect for others. Finally, her grandfather has been a particularly important person to her as well. His guidance on the farm has helped her learn the "importance of responsibility, hard work, and dedication." Those early mornings, late nights, and daily commitment "Taught me that success doesn't come without effort."

Community service has been important to Brooklyn as well. She has been involved in her church's stewardship committee and church council, the Wynoose community chowder, the Fall Kids Mall, the Farm Bureau Ag Safety Day, and Vacation Bible School. Additionally, she has been a weekend babysitter, farm and livestock worker, and an employee at Big R

Rural King Supply. She admits that time management has been a challenge. "There have been times when managing school assignments, preparing for competitions, caring for my animals, and meeting other commitments, I have felt overwhelmed." Learning how to prioritize and manage her time have helped her to become "more organized, disciplined, and resilient."

Besides being a determined and self-reliant individual, Brooklyn possesses the ability to relate to people of all ages, from little kids to adults. The elementary school students she mentors as well as their parents find her easy to talk with. Adults comment that she relates to their interests and ideas as well. One of her relatives comments that Brooklyn can visit with them as an adult and can carry on a mature conversation, calling her a "mature chatterbox." Undoubtedly, she will use this in her efforts to meet her goals. HEA wishes the best of luck to Brooklyn in all her future endeavors.



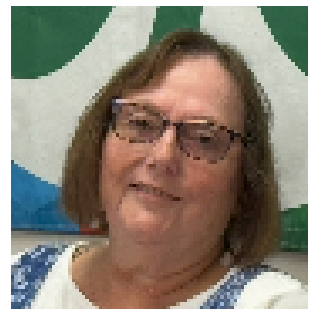
MAGIC CAN BE FOUND IN THE LITTLE THINGS



DISTRICT 4 NEWS



CINDY HENDERSON - DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR



Spring has passed quickly, and summer is already well underway. I hope each of you is enjoying the season while continuing the outstanding work you do in your counties. Over the past few months, I have had the pleasure of visiting many of the counties throughout District 4. Everywhere I have traveled, I have been welcomed with warmth and hospitality. I continue to be inspired by the dedication, creativity, and accomplishments of our members. Thank you for sharing your ideas, successful programs, and enthusiasm. Your commitment to your communities is what makes District 4 so exceptional.

One of the highlights of the season was attending the presentation honoring Ruth Norris of White County as the District 4 Member of the Year. This recognition is truly well deserved. Ruth, thank you for your years of dedicated service, your leadership, and the example you set for all of us. Congratulations on this well-earned honor.

Our Mini District Meeting, graciously hosted by Franklin County, was another wonderful opportunity to gather and fellowship. The beautiful decorations created a welcoming atmosphere, and the delicious food reflected the generosity of everyone who contributed. Thank you to the Franklin County members for your hospitality and to everyone who helped make the day so enjoyable.

As we look ahead, I am excited about our August Workshop and the opportunity to learn, share ideas, and spend time together. I also hope many of you are already planning your talent performances for the Conference in March. I look forward to seeing the many talents that make District 4 such a special organization.

Thank you for all you do to support your counties, your communities, and District 4. Wishing you a safe, enjoyable, and productive summer. I look forward to seeing you soon.



Ruth Norris



My first solo mini-district
meeting in Benton, IL

JEFFERSON



Hello from Jefferson County. Rhonda Riley PR reporting on our busy year.

We have logged over 100 volunteer hours at the Herb and Garden Show. We distributed 104 Valentines to two local nursing facilities and crafted 30 bookmarks for Mt. Vernon Library. Hygiene products were donated to Family Life Ministry. We actively participated in Ag In The Classroom, their Breakfast Fundraiser, and the 4H BBQ. During Easter/Spring, we gave 50 lollipop flowers to a local county school and a Children's Church group, along with Easter eggs donated to Opdyke/BR. Educational activities and handouts included making dragonflies from kitchen whisks and beads, presented by a current HCE member. We hosted a speaker from DAR who described its origin and membership qualifications, another speaker presented on the historical importance of Feed Sacks, and a speaker from School District 80 explained the 11-week Summer School Food Program.

Several members participated in the Summer Food Program by bagging food at the BR School, while others delivered Meals on Wheels to the elderly in our county. Our fundraisers, including selling flowers and waiting tables at Culver's, were very successful. We celebrated a 250 Year Birthday at our Semi-Annual meeting with 51 members attending. Quilts were given to representatives of The Amy Center, baby blankets and layettes to Holy Sews, nonperishable food to Epworth Food Pantry, and quarters to representatives of Hope and Soap. Our president proudly announced that Abby Newell won the CVH Grand Award for her 3,197 volunteer hours, and Jefferson County was awarded 3rd Place for 356,360 volunteer hours. We are honored by Abby and our dedicated county members.

Scholarships were awarded to four deserving students of Jefferson County this year. In April, we toured the Rend Lake Manufacturing Academy, a remarkable addition to our local community college.

On June 25, the District 4 Meeting was held in Benton, IL, with 10 members attending. We also planned a river cruise and arch museum trip for October.

Jefferson County members eagerly anticipate future workshops, meetings, and conferences. We are devoted to spending our time and resources on the betterment of our communities.





The major event and only fundraiser this year was the annual Mothers' Day Luncheon, held on May 2, 11am to 1:30pm, at the Community of Christ Church.

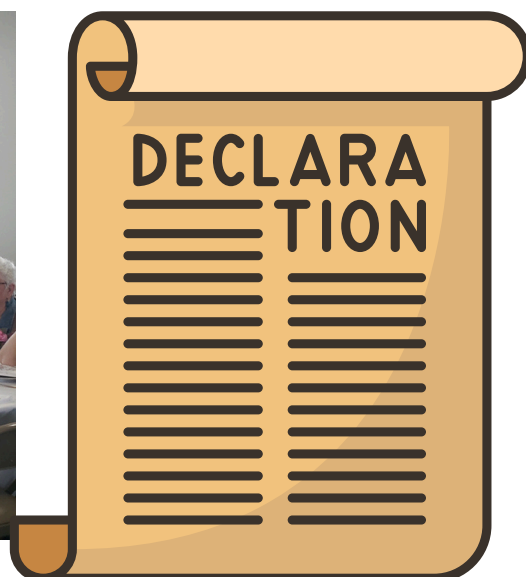
The tablescapes were created by HCE members, using their own place settings. The centerpieces of potted plants were also used as door prizes. Each of the nine tables seated eight guests, who were served Poppy Seed Chicken, Glazed Carrots, Summertime Salad, Rolls, and Layered Desserts in four flavors, along with water, iced tea, and coffee.

A Silent Auction, with a selection of great merchandise, was underway throughout the event, with top bidders announced at the finale. The merchandise was donated by many generous businesses and individuals.

Nice door prizes were also taken home by many lucky guests, in a drawing.

The guest speaker was Doda Starkey, Regent of the local Daniel Chapman Chapter

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). She provided an interesting program on



MONROE



Monroe County HCE 2026 Scholarships

Pictured (L-R) Ali Eschmann was awarded the \$500 Memorial Scholarship, the granddaughter of Judy Eschmann of the Evening Homemakers Unit.

Molly Mehrtens was awarded the \$1000 Education Scholarship, the granddaughter of Janese Sondag of the New Hanover Unit. Congratulations!



FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROJECT

Monroe County HCE donated 275 non perishable food items plus monetary gifts for the Monroe County House of Neighborly Service "Free Summer Lunch Program". Recipients of these free meals are students in need (age 18 and under) from Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer, Hecker, and Prairie Du Rocher. Children who qualify for free school breakfast and lunch don't have access to these meals during summer break. L-R: HCE Board members: Sandy Patrick, Dorothy Kohler, Lucille Ohms, and Sharon Scherer. Heartfelt thanks to HCE members!



PULASKI / ALEXANDER

Hello everyone,

Well, our unit has certainly been a busy one over the last several months. Having two new state board members in our group has really brought a lot of new and helpful information to us. Cindy Henderson, our 1st Vice, is now the new District 4 Director, and she has been doing a wonderful job at it. Cindy has also reported back to us the events and activities in the other units are doing, giving us a lot of good ideas.

Amy Kerr is our Unit President and P/R person, she is also the newly elected state P/R and Newsletter Editor for the Chronicle.

In July, our unit plans to celebrate the 250th birthday of our nation by creating a patriotic float for our county fair parade. Also, we are planning a road trip and stopping by a small town called America, Illinois, on the banks of the Ohio River for a photo op, then visit some historical markers along the way.

We have not done our country of study as of yet but did have a fun time holding a hometown luau at our local extension office while studying the 50th state in the Union, Hawaii. The food was awesome, the history was amazing, but the best part was our hula contest. Let's just say it's a show we won't soon forget.

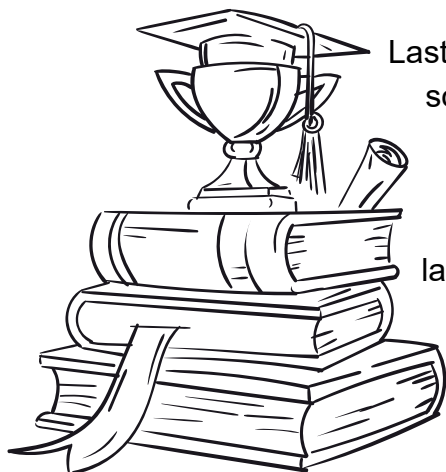
The unit has also started to collect personal items to be donated to the schools in our area, called the Hygiene Project. These items include toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, as well as underwear and socks for those who may be in need of such things which may not be available at home.

Memorial Day weekend, President Amy Kerr dropped off our donations of snack items to our nearest veteran's home. The residents were happy to receive the items. Upon her visit, she spoke to several of the residents about their hobbies and upcoming plans for Cruise Week in June put on by the staff. Amy returned with another donation of decorations from their Hawaiian party and from her own home puzzles and a large turning puzzle board for them to enjoy and a bean bag shuffleboard game to use for their Cruise Week. Not only were the residents excited, but so was the staff.



Members Cindy Henderson, Pam Morris, Amy Kerr,
Lucille Bierbaum, Martha McMunn and Mary Jo King





Last but not least, we were proud to give away three \$500 scholarships this year to some outstanding high school seniors to help them fulfill their plans for further education.

Every year, our unit organizes various fundraising events to support our scholarship program. This year, we are delighted to award these three young ladies with additional assistance to help them achieve their life goals. Best of luck to you all!



Karissa Fitzgerald

Karissa plans on pursuing a career in family medicine after completing college.



Aaliya Rentfro

Aaliya intends to pursue a career as a behavioral analyst within the justice system after obtaining her bachelor's degree in psychology.



Hayden Anderson

Hayden is aiming to obtain a bachelor's degree in radiation therapy while seeking to work near home.



New county board from left to right: President Amy Kerr, 1st Vice President Cindy Henderson, 2nd Vice President Pam Morris, Secretary Martha McMunn, CVH Lucille Bierbaum.

Have a safe and wonderful summer.
Amy Kerr, Pulaski/Alexander Public Relations

WHITE

Our H.C.E. Members have an opportunity more than any year in our past. In our own White County Members we have survived many hard times this past year. But as always our District Meetings are always an inspiration to me and others. I saw a lot of heroes, champions, and many inspirational H.C.E. Members who gave more than they were able. They must have read the message Don't Give Up.

I say congratulations to each of you for your dedication and involvement in your communities. I always leave our District Meetings with Positive encouragement. seeing how we all stood together through difficult times, as well as we did when we were stronger. Strong communities are built from a diversity of Strengths, Talents, and Competencies. So we can do this and more for all of us in the 2026 2027 year for our own community, so each of us need to stay positive and continue to build new membership in A growing strong H.C.E. Community for many needs that will be needed in years to come.

Thank our Illinois Association Home Community Education State Officers for the time they take to help us keep learning how we can help our own Communities to have a better and safer place to raise our Children.

Thank Those Who Take The Time To Care.
Fran Matheny White County Public Relations
And from Our Dedicated Members



We can make magic with HCE all year long . Get those articles and photos in and show us your work and fun we have in HCE. Thank you to all who have contributed to this summer issue of our IAHCE newsletter . Let's Keep up the good work . Hope to have a article from all counties in next issue.

WILLIAMSON

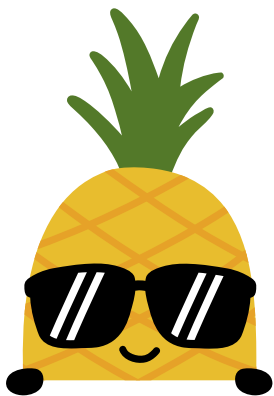
Greetings from Williamson County! We are happy to report a successful year and a wonderful Annual Meeting just this past month. We decided to celebrate America's 250th birthday with a cake and by singing "God Bless America" rather than "Happy Birthday," which went well. We had our usual reports on finances and membership. The treasurer reported nearly \$500 in earnings from a Luau where we featured dishes from various islands, including The Dominican Republic—our country of study this year. The menu included pigeon peas and empanadas, which are quite popular there, along with lovely fruit trays, cupcakes, pulled pork, and more.

Our newsletter editor, Deb Ryals, who lived on the island of Samoa for 10 years as a missionary, brought some beautiful tablecloths that are traditionally worn as skirts there, which she offered for decorations. She also contributed palms from her collection at home and church. We charged \$10 per ticket, and each board member sold some to their unit and friends, resulting in 43 attendees. They enjoyed a wonderful buffet, a pineapple cutting demonstration, and a charming performance by a young lady from SIU playing her ukulele, a common form of entertainment in "the islands."

At our annual meeting, we had prizes for those who had been to the most states—two people actually boasted visiting all 50, woo hoo! We also held a raffle with mystery-wrapped birthday presents for America as prizes, raising funds to sponsor a couple of delegates to the state conference next year. The three delegates who attended this year—Debbie Ryals, Marie Samuel, and Oleta Massie—truly enjoyed all the meals, breakout lessons, and mingling with both old and new friends. We also hope to undertake a large community project, yet to be determined, involving all three units.

Our Care and Share unit has been the most active in the community this year, donating diapers and other baby needs to the church they meet in, as well as personal care and special treat items to veterans.

May God bless all you do in your counties as well!





Country Women's Council USA

2026 Ruth B Sayre \$500 scholarship winner

Cassandra Braun



Cassandra Braun is from Pinckneyville, Illinois and is seeking a Bachelors of Science degree in Biochemistry with a concentration in pre-med. She currently works as a CNA at Pinckneyville

Community Hospital and plans to continue to work as a CNA throughout college to earn clinical hours needed to attend medical school. She was involved with her high school golf team, serving as team captain for three years. Academically, she is a member of the school's book club and the Panthers with a Purpose Club, focusing on positivity, honesty, responsibility, encouragement and school pride. Outside of school, she wraps Christmas presents for the local nursing homes, assists with 4-H events and volunteers as a golf coach for junior high students in the school district.

HCE AND OUR SISTER ORGANIZATIONS

HCE Membership Connects You to a Global Network Many Home and Community Education (HCE) members may not realize that their membership reaches far beyond the local club. Through the Illinois Association for Home and Community Education (IAHCE) and the National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON), HCE members are also affiliated with the Country Women's Council USA (CWC). CWC is the United States member organization of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), one of the world's largest international organizations for women. This connection links HCE members with women in communities across the globe who share a commitment to education, leadership, family well-being, and community service. Through ACWW, members support projects that improve the lives of women and families worldwide while promoting friendship and cultural understanding. Being an HCE member means being part of a local organization with a global impact.





IAHCE 2026 Scholarship Winners

Ella Eathington

My educational goal is to attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and major in Animal Sciences, where I can build a strong foundation in animal health, nutrition, and production. After completing my bachelor's degree, I plan to continue my education by attending veterinary school to earn my Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM). Throughout my academic journey, I hope to gain hands-on experience through internships and clinical opportunities that will prepare me for the demands of veterinary medicine.

My career goal is to become a large-animal veterinarian, focusing on livestock care, particularly in urgent and critical situations. I am passionate about working with farmers and ensuring their animals receive high-quality medical attention when it is needed most. In the long term, I plan to return to my home community in Fulton County to practice and serve local agricultural operations.

Additionally, I aspire to open my own veterinary clinic that offers specialized embryology and reproductive services. I have a strong interest in cattle genetics and reproductive science, and I hope to provide advanced technologies that improve herd health, genetic quality, and productivity. By offering these services in a rural area, I aim to support farmers and strengthen the agricultural foundation of my community.

Madison Rimer

Pursuing an education in the medical field has been a lifelong dream of mine. Ever since I was a child, I have wanted to follow in the footsteps of my mom, aunts, uncles, and grandpa to dedicate myself to help others. The high costs of higher education is overwhelming to say the least. Receiving this scholarship would help ease that burden and allow me to focus more on my education and development, rather than the financial burden that awaits me after graduation.

Beyond academics, I am passionate about giving back to my community. I have been involved in church, where I assist the Sunday school teachers with the small children. Here, I have learned the value of service and truly feel good being able to give back to a church that means so much to me. After graduation, I plan to continue serving at my church on the weekends that I'm home from school.





IAHCE 2026 Scholarship Winners

Eliza Heisner

I have been accepted into the nursing program at SIUC. I plan to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a minor in healthcare management. Higher education is important in my family. There was never a doubt that I would attend college at SIUC. I was lucky to get a jump on my nursing education while still in high school. Gaining my CNA certificate and taking dual credit college courses at the discounted price available to PCHS students has been a great start to my college experience. College is expensive so I have taken advantage of all the free and discounted courses that have been available. This along with all of the extracurricular and community activities that I am involved in has kept me very busy, but I am so proud that I have maintained a 4.0 GPA through it all.

I am choosing to attend a 4-year university so that I can further my education while also getting the college experience. Scholarships like this one will allow me to be able to afford to live on campus and get that full experience. I know that the skills I learn in the classroom and in clinical practice at SIUC will set me up for a fulfilling career as a pediatric oncology nurse. While I am excited about my nursing career, I am even more excited about the experiences and skills that I will get at college.



Lauryn Peterson

Throughout my life, I have always felt a strong connection to animals and have deeply cared for them. Hence, for my education, I plan on attending Eastern Illinois University and studying Biology. In this way, I can prepare myself for veterinary school and continue working toward becoming a veterinarian.

With my experiences, after college I hope to enter a pre-veterinary track and, with Eastern's positive connections to the University of Illinois veterinary school, I hope to attend graduate school there. After graduating from the University of Illinois veterinary program, I hope to work at an animal hospital as a veterinarian while also providing part-time service to an animal shelter. I would be grateful to serve in this way, whether through community service or part-time employment, in whatever capacity I can help. Serving animals and the people who care for them is my primary goal and a vital, self-fulfilling part of my life.



The Haunted Mansion Meeting

By Amy Kerr

The day began under a dark and gloomy sky in central Illinois, with thick gray clouds stretching across the horizon. The air was heavy and eerily still, making it difficult to discern the time without the old clock's ticking. Nestled on a quiet hill, an old Victorian mansion surrounded by dense forest was the setting for the annual board retreat of thirteen adventurous ladies from the Illinois Association of Home and Community Education (IAHCE).



Despite the whispers of hauntings, they remained unfazed. Angela, holding a tray of homemade cookies, chuckled, "Ghosts or not, we have an agenda to address."

Before long, the kitchen island was laden with salads and cookies, ensuring that no meeting would start on an empty stomach.

After lunch, the women gathered around the oak conference table to share reports and brainstorm strategies to enhance HCE throughout Illinois. They then transitioned to the carriage house for some crafting activities, just as a gentle rain began to fall. By the time they sought refuge, the rain had intensified into a downpour, with thunder shaking the floorboards and wind forcefully flinging open the barn doors.

The caretaker urgently called with news of nearby tornadoes, prompting a hurried return to the mansion. As they entered, the massive oak door creaked open, and the chandelier swayed ominously. The group gathered in the hallway beneath the grand staircase, sharing flashlight beams and recounting tales of past storms.



Suddenly, three knocks resonated through the air. Angela's flashlight illuminated nothing, but a gentle voice inquired, "Did... anyone... save... me... a cookie?" Laughter erupted, and someone joked about the mansion's ghost having a sweet tooth.

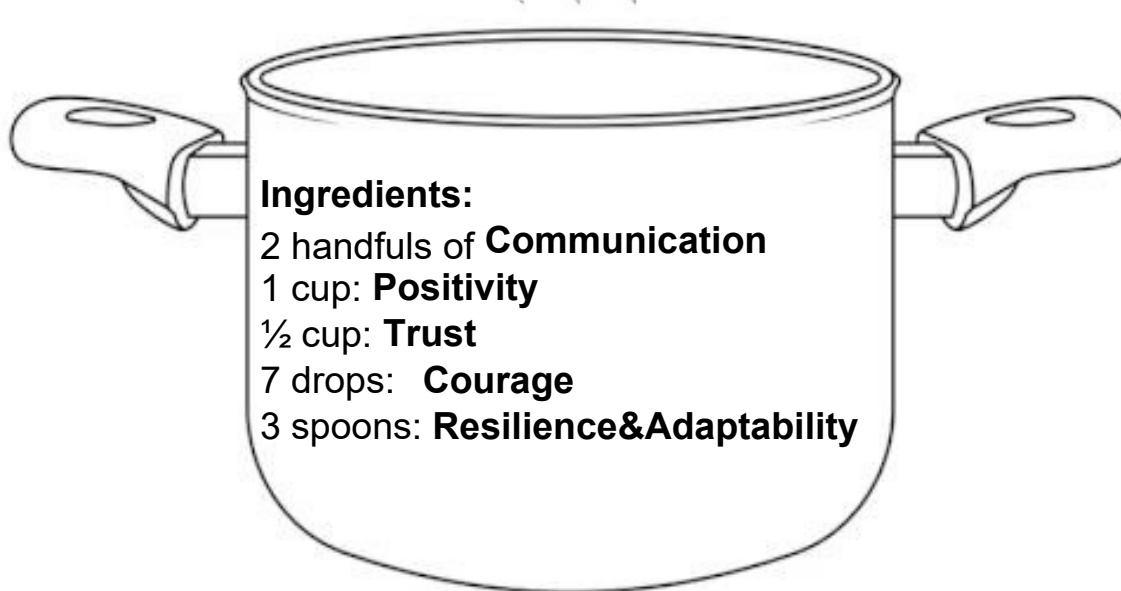


Once the storm passed, the ladies discovered fallen trees and debris outside, yet the mansion remained untouched. As power was restored, the chandelier glowed warmly. On the meeting table, they found a note that read: "Thank you for visiting. Please come back next summer... and bring more cookies." With smiles, the ladies packed their belongings, secured the mansion, and departed, ensuring that future gatherings would always include an extra cookie... just in case.

The end for now..

IAHCE MAGIC POTION FOR LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

Magic Potion Recipe



1. Pour in Communication and Positivity, mix well. Everyone help mix at the table, like this – large stirring motions.
2. Add the $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of Trust and 7 drops of Courage and stir.
3. Throw in the 3 spoonfuls of Resilience and Adaptability.
4. Do a quick stir.
5. Say the magic words: **Learn, Listen, Teamwork**.
6. Now taste it. It's missing something!
7. Hmm, here's some "Think Outside the Box" let's add a dash. Stir, Taste, nope that isn't "just right" yet.
8. Ask a new leader what the recipe needs? A dash of Enthusiasm and a dash of Collaboration!
9. Ask another new leader if it needs a dash of something? A Dash of Empathy and an extra dash of Communication!
10. Let's give it a final stir, come on every one help us!
11. One more time, the magic words are: "**Learn, Listen, Teamwork!**" Imagine the steam rising! Now we're cookin'! Taste it a final time!

This Magic Potion for Leadership and Membership tastes great served with a generous serving of Organization and Patience!

The "POTION" will be available upon request! This recipe serves everyone in your county association, so follow the recipe carefully!

Thank you, Members, for stirring up the right ingredients for the "Magic Potion for Leadership and Membership"! Bon appetite, Mes Amis, for a successful year!

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR
HOME & COMMUNITY EDUCATION
AMY KERR 264 WESSENBERG RD
VILLA RIDGE, IL 62996

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