

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

VOLUME 79, ISSUE 1

MAY 2016



NEWSLETTER



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ROLLIN' ON THE RIVER WITH IAHCE

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

May 2016



Happy spring!

Rollin', Rollin'..... I do not know about anyone else but I have not stopped rolling since I returned from conference! I hope everyone had a safe trip home from conference and a very Happy Easter!

It has been rather hectic at the home front since the return from conference. My family and I were blessed with being able to host Ene and Rutt, our Estonian visitors! My oldest daughter, too, decided to come home for Easter and bring two of her children along for the visit and the two grandchildren stayed for the week! I am not sure that Ene and Rutt will ever agree to visit my home again as it was like Grand Central station here with all the grandchildren (6 of them ages 3 to 15)! We dyed Easter eggs, had Easter egg hunts, went fishing, played basketball, and did some walking! It was topped off by Ene and Rutt attending Easter Sunrise services at 6:30 in morning! The sunrise services were held at a quaint little Lutheran in the middle of nowhere and upon returning from there they attended a non-denominational service in a school gym with a praise band!

I hope all that attended conference returned with some new ideas and a lot of enthusiasm! And, I hope you plan on sharing all of this with your membership, remember you are the IAHCE boards link to the membership. You must help us out with the communication! I also want to reinforce my challenge to all of the membership to achieve the goal of maintaining or increasing your membership this year! You can do it and you will do it, I have faith in all of you.

608,457 volunteer hours were turned in this past year by only a fraction of the membership. I cannot imagine how many hours it would be if every member turned in their volunteer hours. I shared this quote at the business meeting from an unknown author, "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote everyday about the kind of community you want to live in." The vast number of volunteer hours you contribute to educating and improving the community's you live in exemplify the socially responsible people that belong to HCE.

I congratulate each of you on your community involvement and dedication! Together everyone achieves more and that is why we need to work as a team to prosper and grow this organization. It is not just for the IAHCE board to do this but the entire membership! I shared a video at conference entitled "Pulling Together" and it can be found on the following website, <http://play.simpletruths.com/movie/pulling-together>, much like how the geese help each other in their existence, we ,too, must pull together, make our honking positive encouragement, and stand together in difficult times as well as when we are strong! Allow others to take the lead when we are tired but stay in formation to aid those who might need your experienced help! Let's keep on Rollin', rollin', rollin' on the river with IAHCE!



Later,

Jane Chapman

IAHCE President

EXECUTIVE BOARD



1st VICE PRESIDENT Norma Korte

Wow! The 92nd State Conference was fantastic!

Thank you to Conference Co-chairs, Mary Eustace and Janel Kassing, along with Share Shop Coordinator, Angela Hicks, for organizing many of

the logistics for the conference. Additionally, congratulations to all the Education Award winners! Several outstanding applications made it challenging for the Education Directors to select the winners. Keep up the great work on your programs and applications! It was an exciting and, admittedly, a very busy week!

During the conference, Caitlin Huff worked with the First Vice Presidents to select the educator lessons for 2017. I appreciate your support in this selection process. The lessons you picked for 2017 were:

Consumer Economics

“Lighting choices for your home” and
“Storm Restoration for your home”

Family Life

“Aging-Everyone’s Doing it!” and
“How to be more optimistic verses pessimistic”

Nutrition & Wellness

“Modern Food Trends” and
“In’s and Out’s of Grilling” or “Eggs”.

Some of the presenters provided a copy of the Share Shop lessons. If you would like to have a share shop lesson from the conference, please email or call me to arrange for a copy. I included two lessons from some of your newsletters with my packet, be sure to check it out.

The Education Awards are an important part of the conference. I hope the PowerPoint I presented will help give you some suggestions on ways to improve your applications. You are doing wonderful work coordinating programs to help others in your community!

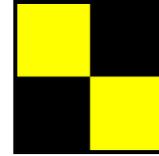
The nominating committee report is included in this newsletter. Be sure to check it out! We have 4 offices that will need candidates for 2017. Personally asking someone to run for an office is the most effective approach. Don’t be scared to reach out and encourage someone to run for an office!

This will be my last year serving as your First Vice President. It has been a great experience and I have met so many wonderful people through IAHCe.

I came home from the conference to a very busy time of year for my family. We have started preparing equipment, receiving seed, and fertilizing the last fields for planting.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you at the August Workshops.

Thank you again for your support!



Norma Korte

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We just elected a new 2nd Vice President, Family/Community Issues, Cultural Enrichment Director and District 2/3 & 4 Directors in March. Now it is time to think of members who would like to serve a three year term with the present IAHCe Board.

For 2017, we will need:

1st Vice President, *must have served a full three-year term on the IAHCe Board, be qualified to assume duties of President in their absence, and Chair the Education committee.*

Treasurer, *responsible for all funds of IAHCe, keep accurate records of financial affairs, and prepare financial report.*

Public Relations, *promote subscriptions, prepares the IAHCe newsletter, and train county Public Relations chairs.*

Certified Volunteer Hours Director, *encourages volunteer activities, compiles the county summary sheets, records of volunteer hours submitted, and manager of IAHCe sales.*

It is a special honor to serve on the state IAHCe Board. We need qualified, enthusiastic, and energetic members to apply for any of these positions. Send your application to Norma Korte (address below), postmarked by October 1, 2016. The application can be found on pages 54-55 of the guidebook.

I look forward to receiving your application!

Norma Korte
Nominating Committee Chair
3532 Mermet Rd.
Belknap, IL 62908

Nominating Committee:

Kathleen Emery, Marilyn Schaefer,
Pat Weitzmann, and Donna Richards

EXECUTIVE BOARD



2nd VICE PRESIDENT Angela Hicks

Thank you to all of you who voted for me to be your IAHCE 2nd Vice President! As I stated in my nomination speech, I am willing to wear crazy hats. I am willing to dance a little jig I am willing to sing a little song that ain't too long. I plan to abolish

the long held notion HCE is the best kept secret I plan to build excitement and membership in HCE. So let's work together to uncover the hidden treasures in our county!

The hidden treasures in your county are new members! Growing means we are alive! I would like to encourage each of you to concentrate on the positive gains rather than on the losses. We all know that we will have losses from time to time and we do need to prevent losses wherever we can. Building excitement and membership in HCE is everyone's goal! Encourage smiles and a friendly attitude among your membership! Wherever you go, share HCE's mission "to enhance the lives of individuals and families

through quality educational programs and experiences. To encourage responsible leadership and service to the community." Tell your story about how HCE has impacted you and your family over the years!

Just in case you haven't heard my story here it is: My family and I moved to Illinois 26 years ago. We didn't know a soul in Illinois; family and friends were in the deep south, Louisiana. My very first friend was, YC Crow! She invited me to attend a Mes Amis Unit meeting in Lake County HCE. Well the rest is history... I became a member and have learned so much from the many women I have encountered over the years! They became (and still are) the extended family/friends we needed to make our transition smooth. Today, my husband and I have a large family consisting of 4 grown children with spouses and children of their own --- 8 grandchildren in total. Five of the grandchildren live nearby and there is lots of activity surrounding us!

So it is with great pleasure that I will be serving as your elected 2nd Vice President! Let's work together to build excitement and uncover the hidden treasure in your county!

Angela Hicks

Let's Build Enthusiasm & Membership in HCE!

Challenge for 2nd Vice Presidents

Find the Hidden Treasures in Your County!

*Add-a-New Member
Add-a-Pearl!*

During 2016, for every new member your county gains, a pearl will be added to a necklace which will be drawn for at the 2017 IAHCE Annual Conference - 2nd Vice President Share Shop! Main requirement to be eligible is the 2nd VP Membership Report must agree with the Treasurer's Report when dues are paid and of course you have gains (new members). So keep careful records of your gains and losses for the year and make sure you and the Treasurer agree on the final count. Then ask yourself, do I want a matinee or opera length necklace! The more "hidden treasures" you discover, the more pearls added to the necklace! I also want to encourage all 2nd Vice Presidents to attend the District Workshops to hear more about this challenge and to attend the 2017 Conference to see just how well each of you responded to this challenge! Good Luck!

Angela Hicks
IAHCE 2nd Vice President

EXECUTIVE BOARD



SECRETARY
Donna Richards

Hope you had great fun, enjoyed the entertainment, and found the 2016 annual conference very informative while IAHCCE went "Rollin' on the River". It was great to see, speak, and visit with many of you.

Reminder: After your County's Annual Meeting, send your county officer information to both IAHCCE Secretary and your IAHCCE District Director. Fill form (guidebook page 21) completely out, include your full Board, not just the Executive Officers. We would prefer to have email addresses, but some people do not want to divulge this information. Our IAHCCE First Vice President sends many e-mail messages across the state.

These lists are needed every year to keep our mailing lists up to date. We understand that sometimes the officers do not change, but a list lets us know that there were no changes. If you send a copied version, please check your copy to see whether you have copied the sheet fully.

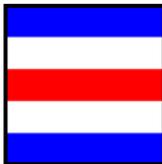
If you want to submit your filled out form via email, my email address is dsrichards001@hotmail.com.

I look forward to seeing you at the Secretary training during District Workshops in August 2016. Feel free to drop me an email or call me at 618-554-1790 any time with your questions.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise the process for picking up packets when your county is attending the annual conference or the District workshops. If your county does not have someone in an officer share shop or District training workshop, those packets are available at your District meetings. Counties not picked up, the District Directors will see that the packets get to the counties.

Thank you,

Donna Richards



TREASURER
Beverly Combs



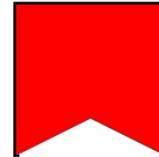
If you were not in East Peoria for the Annual Conference in March you missed a terrific conference.

Kudos to Mary Eustace and Janel Kassing in the planning of such an enjoyable and educational event as well as to the rest of the Board for all their efforts to make this conference such a success!

I really enjoyed seeing many of you again that I had met during the past couple of years as well as meeting lots of "new" people. As chair of the Silent Auction, thanks to all the counties and individuals who contributed so many great items. The total proceeds of the auction was \$2326 thanks to the many generous bidders. The 50/50 winner took home \$509!

Here's hoping you have a great spring and summer. I look forward to seeing many of you again at the August District Meetings.

Bev Combs



SUPPORT FUND GRANTS

REMINDER - June 1, 2016, **Deadline**

Are you planning an activity that could possibly be used by other counties as a learning tool? Will you be reaching a lot of people with your activity? Could you use some financial support for this activity?

If the answer is yes to any/all of the above, consider applying for a grant from the IAHCCE Support Fund. The guidelines and application can be found in the Guidebook at www.iahce.org. The guidelines are on pages 63a and 63b. Read them to see if one of your county/multi-county programs will qualify. Then fill out the application form on pages 64 & 65 and submit it to me. It must be postmarked by June 1, 2016.

The applications will be discussed by the Support Fund Advisory Committee in August and counties will be notified of their decisions before September 1, 2016.

Bev Combs, Support Fund Chairman

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS



CVH/SALES Joan Stanley

Looking forward to a GREAT summer! How about you? Feel free to contact me on ANY questions about Sales or Volunteer Hours.

The website will have current information for you. Go to

iahce.org guidebook sales pp.67 and 68 volunteer hours pp. 71-76. PLEASE use the new forms. My address and email is on page 2 in this newsletter.

Our GRAND WINNER-JOAN McEACHERN- holds local and county offices in HCE, attends our conferences (State, NVON, CWC), works with the Arts, 4-H, church, senior organizations, and volunteers in many other ways. I know many of you do the same.

Would you like to turn in your hours? All together we do a tremendous service and thank you for your contribution to that..



Joan Stanley

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT Peggy Long

Hi People. What a great conference we had this year, the hotel and conference center was so nice, and the food was good. Sorry if you missed it. As a Cub fan I am used to saying "wait until next year". It will be the same place in East Peoria, so try to come join us.

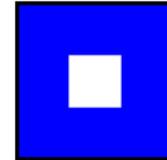


I would like to thank everyone that sent in items for the Cultural Arts Show. It was a fantastic year for that also. We sure have some talented members. I am always amazed at the time and work put into all of the items. I kept hoping some people would lose their tags, because I tell them if they don't have the tags they can't pick up the items, and they go home with me, but everyone held on to their tags. Darn it.

This year we had 44 counties send in 144 items, up by 45 items over last year. I think I had a typo on my Cultural Enrichment report in my workshop. We had

237 people vote, number also up. I hope you liked the way we voted this year, just "wait until next year" and see what we plan to do.

I would also like to thank all the helpers I had in the Cultural Arts room, and my ladies that voted on the categories. Without you I couldn't do it. And, a huge thanks to my co-worker, Mary Beth, who always shows up when I need her most. It is a lot of work, but together, we, the team, can do it. I can't wait until district workshops to see you people again.



Peggy Long

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ISSUES Sharon Davis



Hello Ladies,

Have you stopped rollin' on the river yet?

What a GREAT conference.

A huge THANK YOU to Mary Eustace - Chair, Janel Kassing - Co-Chair and Embassy Suites for all the hard work they did.

In our business meeting on Wednesday morning, I was elected to serve on Family & Community Issues for the next 3 years and I thank you for that opportunity.

In the share shop, I was given some GREAT ideas for topics to start doing some research on. Besides working on the quilt, I'm ready to start working on what I can bring to the August District workshops. So I hope to see you there and next year at the conference.

Thank You.



Sharon Davis

Facebook: State iahce

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS



INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR Pat Weitzmann

New Year, New Conference Site, New Energy

IAHCE's Year 2016 theme "Rollin' on the River" was mirrored in the movements and attitudes of attendees at the Annual Conference in East Peoria in March. 'Happy' and its cousin, 'Impressed', seemed to be working overtime.

At the conference center main entrance 'Mrs. Japan', aka Eleanor Gregory of Madison County, in Japanese costume greeted conference attendees with a big smile and a Thank You. Some of the Pennies for Friendship retained in Illinois have been donated to the IFYE and LABO Youth Programs for many years. Bill Million, U of I Extension State 4-H Office Specialist in 4-H Development, advises that the International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) has 5 outbounders this year. [One to Japan on the Nihongo program (7-weeks, 3 attending Japanese school in the Tokyo region then onto a 4 week homestay). One to the Japan 4-week homestay. Two to Korea on a 4-week homestay. One to Costa Rica for a 4-week homestay.] Miriam Rosenbohm, States' 4-H International Exchange, Illinois coordinator, gave an update at the Conference on the placement for 4 weeks this summer with Illinois host families of approximately 60 youth ages 12-14. It's an American culture immersion program with the Japanese Youth organization LABO.



The "Fun Walk" at the beginning of IAHCE's 2016 Annual Conference provided opportunity for the 60+ walkers to learn something about a country with ACWW member societies. Walkers took a path over 'glistening blue' Niagara Falls and then listened to country representatives at each of the 6 continent stops. Thank you to the walk volunteers from Lake, McLean, Stephenson, Rock Island, Kankakee and Douglas counties. Discussions are underway for changes to the 'walk' next year.

April 29 is Women Walk the World Day; but walks can be scheduled on other days if desired. I encourage counties to participate in a Walk this year, either again or for the first time. This is an ACWW inspired activity and the deadline for submitting pictures and articles to ACWW for the Best Photo Contest plus possible inclusion in their Countrywoman magazine is May 16.

Congratulations to the Winners of International Education Awards. Thank you to all the International directors who sent me award submissions. Every page turned in review was an affirmation of the creativity and

resourcefulness of our County International Directors. Nineteen International Special Event mini-stipends were given to our county organizations. And, a special thanks to all IAHCE counties for your efforts that led to collection of \$14,186.38 for Pennies for Friendship (PFF) in year 2015. Plus there was \$1,068.83 donated for specific projects and ACWW Funds, topped off by \$2,104 collected for Women Walk the World. At the 2016 IAHCE Conference, attendees generously gave \$585.92 for Pennies for Friendship. It's exciting that early this year ACWW announced its 1,000th funded project is underway. That's PFF at work!

Check with your County International Director for information on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and how ACWW works toward their achievement. She also has information about the UN's 2016 International Year of the Pulses and AHCE's 'Pulses' cookbook. Each county is asked to submit one recipe for the cookbook by July 1.

Team IAHCE stepped up their efforts to keep IAHCE members informed and connected throughout the Conference. One of the ways was placement of brochures and flyers on the dining tables during conference. Attendees could take home the newest ACWW brochures, 'All About ACWW' and 'Associated Country Women of the World & the United Nations', NVON explained flyer, and the 'You are a member of a Worldwide Organization' artist created mini-poster. [Thanks for the poster idea Lake County.] Each County President received a 'Pennies for Friendship – Where they Go' brochure in their Share Shop package.

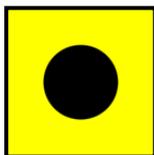


The 2016 IAHCE Annual Conference had a very exciting element this year. We did an International Homemaker Exchange with the Puhja Countrywomen Society from Estonia. Rutt Tuvike and Ene Paks from the Tartu region of Estonia attended the Conference and traveled to each District in Illinois to stay at host homes and connect with members there. They were welcomed, guided and engaged in discussions with conference attendees and members during the District visits. See a separate article in this newsletter for more information.

Many counties are already involved in educating their members and member prospects about our year 2016 Country of Study, Ecuador. At the August IAHCE District Meetings I'll be interested in your 'sharing' about this country of study and other things on your mind. I will attend the 28th Associated Country Women of the World Triennial Conference in Coventry, England August 17 – 23. So, look to the December issue of this IAHCE Newsletter for a summary.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Keep that Energy and Enthusiasm I saw and felt at the IAHCE Conference going. **We are our own best hope for success.** Please contact me for any questions or comments you might have relating to all things international. Just ask at pweitzmann5@gmail.com or 847-395-6255.



Pat Weitzmann



PUBLIC RELATIONS Pat Hildebrand

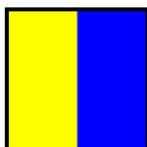
Congratulations to all the award winners at Annual Conference! You all amaze me with the variety of programs you do and the number of people you reach.

Congratulations to one of our Public Relations team members. From District 1—Mercer County,

Marcia Duncan and her husband David were named Great American Family of the Year at the Elsie Meis Banquet. Quite an honor for a very, very active family. (See Mercer County—page 14 for their story.)

You all do marvelous programs and are involved in so many different activities. Remember to tell all the media around what you are going to do, then tell them what you did. (That way you get a couple of shots at publicity for the same program.) There are always your friends and members of other clubs and organizations you belong to—tell them about what HCE has to offer. We’ve been around for a long time and need to toot our horn. You don’t have to be a PR Director on your county HCE Board or Unit to promote HCE. It takes everyone working together.

I’m still working on our goal to have a master list of Illinois newspapers so that announcements of statewide events can be made with one click. Would you please help and send me a list of the newspapers in your county — address and e-mail. Or, bring it to the August District Workshop? Thanks!



Pat Hildebrand

U OF I EXTENSION LIAISON Caitlin Huth



Our whole office is filled with the delicate fragrance of flowers after we got extras from the Illinois Florist Association Conference. Ahhh!!! A great way to kick off spring.

A big thank you to the board and the members who attended the IAHCE Annual Conference in March. I am glad that three of our Family and Consumer Sciences educators got to present Share Shops, and I got to spend lunch with the guests from Estonia.

Lessons from our FCS team are still going on for the 2016 year. Talk with your local University of Illinois Extension offices to learn more about both educator-taught (in-person or webinar) and package lessons. We will be working on lessons and schedules for the 2017 year soon (how is that possible already!).

If you have suggestions or comments on FCS lessons through UI Extension, feel free to contact me: 217-877-6042 or chuth2@illinois.edu.

Enjoy the sunshine and the spring to come!

Caitlin Huth

Nutrition & Wellness Educator,
Extension Liaison

IAHCE BOARD INSTALLATION NAUTICAL FLAGS

The purpose of the International Code of Signals is to provide ways and means of communication in situations related essentially to safety of navigation and persons.

Individual flags have specific and standard meanings. Janel Kassing, Region 7 Director, wrote the script to designate the meaning of the responsibility of each of the officers and directors.

Flag meanings range from “I’m on fire” (Let’s help HCE grow) to “Follow me” to “I need your assistance”.

HCE will get on fire to gain new members through communications and assistance of the entire membership.



DISTRICT NEWS



DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR Cara Ausmus

Greetings from District 1! Need we say more? I certainly enjoyed our state conference and must say from where I viewed it, it went very fast and very well. I hope everyone went home with some new ideas for their county and unit.

I want to congratulate ALL the participants and winners in EVERY category and contest. HCE Women Rock and ROLL!! The only way to win is to have thrown your hat in! Then listening at the meal tables and our district meeting I hear great tried and true and new ideas that have gone well for others and would work at "home" too. That's what I go to conference for to learn what is working and take it home to work here too. Hope you got pumped up on at least one idea or program you learned about! I also enjoyed meeting our homemaker exchanges and learning more about Estonia. I can't imagine trying to tell them about my country in their language!

Next week I start my district tour of county annual meetings and look forward to the success stories, programs, speakers and variety of menus and venues. As we settle in to more continuous spring weather I hope you can enjoy the great outdoors and some of the wonderful fresh and local foods!! I have had several wonderful meals with my spring favorite- asparagus.

Take care and invite a friend to enjoy HCE with you. We want to be the best SHARED secret not the best kept!



Cara Ausmus

JO DAVIESS.....

About Us:

Jo Daviess County HCE, was established in 1935. We currently have 73 Units and County (mailbox) members. Our community projects include making book bags for preschoolers; saving tabs for Ronald McDonald House; and scholarships awarded for graduating high school seniors and 4-H National Congress attendees.

Upcoming Lessons for 2016-17

March	Live Your Bucket List
April	New Ways to cut Electricity
May	Eating Well as You Age
June	Simplify Your Life by Cleaning Clutter

July, August	Unit's Choice
September	Fall Projects
October	Homemade Cleaners
November	Hold the Thought: Brain Health
December	Unit's Choice

Location of County Lessons:

UI Extension Office, 204 Vine St., Elizabeth, IL 61028

Events:

Heritage Arts Make & Take Workshop - April
Annual meeting day - April
Jo Daviess County 4-H Fair - July
PTO Craft Fair, food booth - October
Friendship Day - October

Jo Daviess's HCE Units and Meeting Dates are:

Derinda	1st Wednesday of the month
Eureka	3rd Thursday of the month
Hills	3rd Thursday of the month
Meridian Homemakers	
	2nd Thursday of month
Willow Willing Workers	
	4th Monday of month
Woodbine	Second Monday of the month

Contact:

Carrie J. Haug, HCE President
Phone: (815) 266-9714
Email Address: chaug62@gmail.com or jodaviesshce@gmail.com.

Marcella Arnold
Public Relations, Jo Daviess County



KNOX.....

Spring is becoming close to being all the way here with us. We had to mow this week, so I think this is going to be a long season. Each season makes us glad to see the next one.

The last Saturday in February is our annual "Class Day". This year it was February 27th. This is a lot of work for the committees, but it is worth it. The profits from this event go to provide scholarships for a couple of 4H students to attend our local junior college, Carl Sandburg College. It is fun to see 4-H students, who are in 4-H for at least 5 years and have at least a B average receive a grant to help them with their education. Soon we should have all the applications in and the recipients will be picked.

Our county cultural arts project was making credit card covers. These covers prevent those technical thieves from stealing information from credit cards that are carried in purses or in pockets. We made enough to be given to everyone that attended Annual Conference.

DISTRICT NEWS

We regrettably lost a long time member to KCAHCE, Joyce Hagerty. She was Secretary on the Knox County board for a long time and headed up the Class Day project. She is and will be greatly missed by us.

Enjoy the spring and be safe,

Sue Ryder
Public Relations, Knox County



LEE.....

The Lee County Homemakers Education Association hosted the Heritage Arts Make It Take It Day in April 2015, at the Lee County Council on Aging facility in Dixon. Our Soaring Eagles 4-Hers served a delicious lunch. This year Stephenson County HCE is hosting the event in Stockton, Illinois. The sessions include Herbal Vinegars, Wheat Weaving, Quilling, Picture Frame Succulents, Fondant Cake Decorating, Necktie Angel, Handkerchief Angel, Scarf Art, Plastic Canvas Earrings and Fairy Gardens. Originally the event was sponsored by Carroll, Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties. They were gracious to include Lee as we are a part of U. I. Extension Unit 4.

We participated in the Sauk Valley Child Fair on April 25, 2015, and distributed 80 book bags to the child attendees who successfully completed the bean bag game. It also provided us the opportunity to distribute our HCE brochure and invite adult attendees to join our group. Our Family Issues Director, Mary Jane Meyers, also brought some information regarding Autism and Alzheimer's for distribution.

We enjoyed having Cara Ausmus, District I Director, attend our annual meeting in May and install officers with a meaningful service related to a cookie recipe.

July and December are our fund raising months. We have a bake sale booth at the 4-H Fair featuring pies, cookies, quick breads, mixed fruit dish and garden salads. We offer the latter two in order to try to teach some health concepts. A couple of our members make wonderful sugar-free cookies and pies. The December Cookie Walk is held in Dixon in conjunction with the city's Christmas Walk. We had an unusual amount of Peanut Butter Blossoms this year, but in 4 hours they were all gone. I was amazed. The members are very generous and make more than the requested 8 dozen cookies. Some are decorated and the rest are just yummy.

In September, we toured the Nachusa Grasslands. We were very fortunate to have a Master Naturalist as our tour guide.

October was highlighted by our International Director, Tatjana Kazan, presenting an interesting power point

program featuring Lithuania. We prepared and sampled foods of the region. Several non-members attended.

We are looking forward to participating in many of the same events again this year.

Frances Eccher & Shirley Rees,
Public Relations Directors, Lee County



ROCK ISLAND.....

In July both the retiring and incoming board members attended a luncheon after which the new board started planning the 2015-2016 year. In August, 6 members of the Rock Island County HCE Unit attended the District workshop at Oglesby, IL. They returned with new ideas and information, which was passed along at the Leadership Training session held in late August. Our first lesson was given in late August as well, Summer/Fall Landscape, to get the fall off to a good start.

In September, we were fortunate to have Nutrition and Wellness Educator, Kristin Bogdonas, attend each local unit to give the October lesson, "Healthy Snacks".

The "Stand Down Days", for homeless vets is held in this area in September. Many of our HCE members worked many hours to collect and provide needed items for the event. We were pleased to learn one of our local units has spent much time making baby blankets from a members donated material. All was given to a local baby pantry.

October was a busy month preparing for Cultural Arts Day held on October 10th. Following an inviting brunch, time was allowed to view the items HCE members had entered, and selections were made to be presented at the State Conference. Following, we were honored with a speaker from a local museum who gave an interesting talk, historical information about the Underground Railroad of Civil War days. The talk centered on the use of (as stories are told) the "Quilt Code" used during that time.

Later in October, International Day was held and information about the Baltic States of Europe was presented to those attending. A local lady of Lithuanian background provided us with her family history along with samplings of foods of that heritage which their family enjoyed. Our lesson for October was quite informative, given by a local Pharmacist on "Shingles Vaccine (what you need to know) and Unused and Expired Medicines (what to do with them).

Continued on next page 

DISTRICT NEWS

Rock Island County, continued

November proved to be a busy month as well. Since there was a waiting list at the last Barn Board Painting class, another class was scheduled for the first Saturday of the month, another fun day was had. One of our main fundraisers is held at the local Playcrafters Barn Theater.

In November our HCE sponsored a mystery, "The Games Afoot", also serving the guests preshow appetizers and drinks. Another very timely lesson was given later in the month, " Sugar Substitutes".

December found our members relaxing and planning for the holidays. Several HCE members with friends enjoyed an activity of an English High Tea given by the local Geneseo Historical Museum. The attendees wore a favorite hat to get in the spirit of the day, and were given information on the etiquette of such an occasion. Teas were served in three courses.

After celebrating new year 2016, our Unit members turned their minds toward our big fundraiser, selling of Geranium plants in five available colors. The local units and 4-H groups have been very successful in selling to satisfied customers. With the months of January and February to sell, we are hoping to exceed last year's sales. In January a new Unit, "Homespun" had their first meeting with nine members. A great way to start the new year.

After the success with last year's Pyanskys Egg Decorating class another was planned for February. This art is an Ukrainian tradition during the last week of Lent. The coloring is done using dyes and wax. The response was such that two sessions was needed. February also brought two Lessons for Living, " Super Foods to the Rescue" and "New Ways to Cut Your Electric Bill".

March was just around the corner and the IAHCCE Conference in Peoria, IL. Seven of our Board and local unit members attended. They returned with new ideas and enthusiasm for increasing interest and membership in our Rock Island County HCE.

In April our minds turn toward working with recycled items for use in the HCE booth at the Rock Island County Fair, held in July. The local units collect and use recycled material to make items for the booth. Many unique items are produced. We could tell our year was winding down as our last lesson for the year was presented, "Hold That Thought: Brain Health"

Plans are in the works for another bus trip to the White Pines Theater. Last year's trip of a reasonable drive, lovely lunch and an enjoyable play was well received. The trip is planned for an August date with a larger bus. In May a lesson will be given for use in the fall to start the next year. Plans are in place for the 95th Annual

Meeting, following along with this year's theme of "Rollin' on the River, thus following the business meeting, those who desire and are registered will have lunch and a cruise on the Celebration Belle on the Mississippi River.

We are looking forward to a pleasant spring and a great summer and to you as well.

LaRue Fraser & Mary Ecker
Public Relations, Rock Island County



STEPHENSON.....

Greetings from Stephenson County!

In December, the Freeport Health Network (FHN) sponsored the Community Festival of Trees at the Freeport Public Library. SCAHCE and other non-profit organizations were invited to participate in their tree decorating contest. The theme FHN picked for 2015 was "Christmas in the Country is a Different Sorta Thing, A Quiet Peaceful Solitude That Nature Seems to Bring" by Samuel Jackson.



*L-R: Front row: Diana Ethridge and Janice Fryer
Back Row: Sandra Kubatzke, Lynn Lott, Ann Runkle and
Arlene Holmes*

SCAHCE members gathered at the Freeport Public Library to decorate our tree. We chose the title of "A Country Christmas with HCE" and we made a banner with those words to string on the tree. Our tree was also decorated with homemade gingerbread men, cookie cutters, snowmen, etc. Lace was used on the tree as garland. Several fidget quilts were used to make a tree skirt and pamphlets with information on HCE were placed under the tree for anyone who wanted more information on our organization.

DISTRICT NEWS

On the morning of December 16, the county board held its monthly meeting at the home of Sandra Kubatzke. Following the business meeting, we enjoyed a delicious Christmas potluck and of lively conversation.

In January, 51 Stephenson County HCE members turned in their volunteer hours for 2015--14,371 hours!

Nancy Albrecht, Public Affairs Director, arranged for a fidget quilt work day on February 18 at the Farm Bureau Building in Freeport. Several units from throughout the county had members at the work day. Some members brought along their sewing machines. This work day focused on making the quilts for children, whereas the fidget quilts at previous sessions were primarily made for dementia patients.

Twelve members from Stephenson County attended the IAHC 92nd Annual Conference (March 15-17) in East Peoria. Our days and evenings were filled with meetings, informative share shops, eating (breakfasts, luncheons, banquets), shopping (vendors and silent auction) and visiting with HCE members from other Illinois counties. Several of our members volunteered at conference. Some helped at silent auction and others were facilitators.

Our county entered six articles in the Cultural Enrichment competition and we received two Best-of-Show ribbons--one for Hand Embroidery (pillow) and the other for Photography (bald eagle).

Stephenson County received five education awards at the Awards Banquet. Our county also received the District 1 Certified Volunteer Hour Award for the highest number of members participating in the program (51 members).

However, the best part of the evening came when it was announced that Stephenson County was the 3rd place winner for County of the Year!



Stephenson County—3rd Place County of the Year

HAVE A GREAT SPRING!

Janice Fryer
Public Relations, Stephenson County



WARREN.....

Warren County HCE works closely with our 4-H clubs in the county. HCE members provide planning, supervision, and support for 4-Hers and their families. After all, our 4-Hers are our future HCEers!



4-Hers worked at cake and cupcake decoration. HCEers helped set up and assist during the workshop.

The Family Fun Night 4-Hers and their families enjoyed the YMCA with activities, pizza, and swimming. It was an exceptional time for youth and adults.

HCE members are using the LINK lessons to bring new topics of interest back to the units. The U of I Extension office has been an invaluable aid to provide and distribute programs for the units. Two All-County events are in preparation.....the first will be coming in April.....Service Animals is exciting in the variety of Service animals we have in our own community....we are impatiently looking forward to the program.

Warren County HCE Board members attended the "Rollin' on the River" coming home with enthusiasm and new ideas to share with the local units. They were very impressed with the organization and attention to detail of the State HCE Conference!

Warren County HCE hosted our exchange ladies from Estonia. Our members looked forward to showing them our local farming area....it's a bit early for corn and soy beans to be planted but the new calves are joyfully sporting around the fields.



Estonian visitors with Lois Brechbeil and Diane Carlson at the John Deere Pavilion Center.

The HCE members met the ladies at the Warren County History Museum in Monmouth for a tour and reception in their honor.

Barbara Pearson
Public Relations, Warren County

DISTRICT NEWS

MERCER.....

GREAT AMERICAN FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Mercer County is honored to have the Great American Family of the Year as an active member of their Community — David and Marcia Duncan, Alexis, IL



David and Marcia have been involved in educational and service organizations, such as Association Home and Community Education, Mercer County Historical Society, and Rotary for many years, building on the legacy and involvement of their parents, who were life long extension supporters and volunteers.

Throughout their lives, the Duncan's took time to travel locally and globally for service and leisure.

Teamwork and love also have been nurtured in the home through work and play. Parents and children worked together and from a young age everyone was involved in housework, gardening, and farm work.

The activities became more complex and provided teaching opportunities as the children got older, progressing from mowing the yard and taking care of pets to fieldwork and taking care of livestock. The Duncan farm is a longstanding, multi-generational family business, so daily activities included working together.

Though farm work is never done, rainy days were fondly remembered as days off to explore parks, museums, art galleries, and more together. The Duncan family also took time off in nice weather to play a variety of team sports and games, indoors and out, and to camp, boat, and vacation together.

The Duncan family extends friendship and service to others as individuals and a couple who prioritize community activities. From the family and friends on their "block" to people around the world, from delivering local food baskets to playing games with

orphans in Romania, the family extends friendship and service to people of all ages locally and globally. Two examples of lifelong service include their involvement with Rotary club of Aledo and its many service projects in the community and leading a local 4-H club.

The Duncans' circle of friendship and service ripples outward to touch many areas.



David, Marcia and their family were honored at the 2016 LAHCE Annual Conference in E. Peoria in March. They have three children and four grandchildren.



DISTRICT 2/3 DIRECTOR Kathy Peterson

My name is Kathy Peterson from Morris IL (Grundy County). I love to read, bake, garden, walk and meet new people.

I am looking forward to meeting and participating with the chapters in District 2/3 and other members in the State of Illinois..



Kathy Peterson

DISTRICE NEWS

DU PAGE.....

It's hard to believe winter is behind us because we had a rather milk winter and we were waiting for "the other shoe to drop"!

In November, our Holiday craft day was well attended. Members returned home with creative Christmas items to display. Our county had an International Tea at the Extension Office. Members enjoyed photos and guest speaker, Mary Hafentepe, who visited the Baltic States. Dessert and coffee were served.

December, members enjoyed the Holiday Tea and donated can goods to the needy.

In January, our budget meeting was well attended followed by the Lunch Bunch.

February, we had two lessons from Extension - "Super Foods to the Rescue" and "New Ways to Cut Your Electric Bill".

We also participated in the annual 4-H International event at the DuPage County Fair Grounds. We featured the "Baltic States", handing out rye bread with jam for the reward when they answered a question about the Baltic states. It was a fun night and it was amazing how many participants knew people living here who came from the Baltic States.

Eight DuPage County members attended the IAHCCE conference in Peoria. We were very pleased with our lessons, workshops, meals, and accommodations.

The Quilting group continues to meet monthly as well as Community service and Lunch bunch. Some continue to volunteer at churches or community groups.

Mary Lambert
Public Relations, DuPage County



GRUNDY.....

I am happy to report that 7 members of our county attended the IAHCCE State Conference in East Peoria. We are proud that Kathy Peterson was installed as 2/3 District Director.

The cruise down the river was a great way to end our stay, and we look forward to coming again next year.

The biggest thing that our county did this past year was to make a float for the Grundy County Corn Festival. Our oldest members, 94 year old Bessie Hextall, and Yvonne Canik, our chairman, rode while several members walked along to hand out fliers and emery boards. It was great fun.

Membership numbers are down considerably, but we keep trying. The book club is still active, trips to local theaters and museums and other places of interest are enjoyed.

All three of our Units met recently to learn about GMOs. The concept of genetically modified crops is quite complicated, and misunderstood by many. It has been going on for a long time.

Fixing lunch for students and local officials on Government Day is next followed by our Annual meeting.

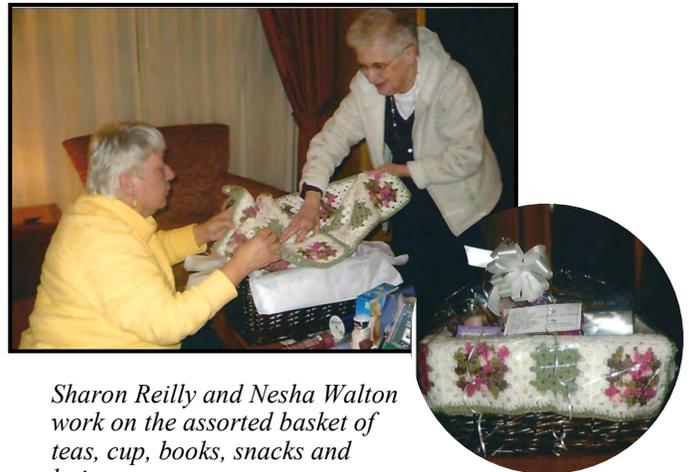
Ruth O'Hara
Public Relations, Grundy County



KANKAKEE.....

Thirty-two attended the International Luncheon on November 11th. Everyone enjoyed our speaker on the Baltic States.

The ladies have been busy sewing and have made 500 clothing protectors for the veterans and nursing homes.



Sharon Reilly and Nesha Walton work on the assorted basket of teas, cup, books, snacks and lotions.

Mary Noble and Nesha Walton have made 8 autism blankets by request. Parents are grateful for the blankets.



Left: Kankakee County Fannie May tin and lap robe for silent auction.

Continued on next page

DISTRICT NEWS

Kankakee County, continued

Annual Conference was fun and a wonderful experience.



Conference was enjoyed by Nesha Walton, Rita Overacker, sitting, Rebecca Gatewood, Susan Lamb, Linda Byrnes and Sharon Reilly.

Linda Byrnes
Public Relations, Kankakee County



KENDALL.....

Kendall County Association for Home and Community Education (HCE) donated "Little Dresses" and boys shorts to Ethiopia. Over 1700 items have been donated around the world by Kendall County HCE, mostly made by HCE member, Maggie Bowers from Oswego. The donations to Dr. Hodes will be given to Mother Theresa's Ethiopian mission. This is the second largest after her mission in India.

It was while working at Mother Teresa's mission in 1991 that Dr. Hodes found the first two abandoned, "Unadoptable" orphan boys with TB of the spine. He adopted them in order to put them under his medical insurance, and took them to the Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas, Texas, because of its reputation for the best spinal care. Surgeries for these boys were successful. Soon a third orphan boy with spinal TB went to Dallas. By 2006, Dr. Hodes was working regularly with Dr. Boachie in Ghana, and learning spinal care techniques. The special ambulatory traction, invented at the Scottish Rite Hospital, is attached to the patient's skull. Currently 25 of his young patients are in traction preparatory to spinal surgeries. Group medical teams visit from Dallas and Chicago. Medical students from Rochester, Minnesota do their internships with Dr. Hodes. More information, especially about his foundation, is in the book "This Is A Soul: An American Doctor's Remarkable Mission in Ethiopia" by Marilyn Berger (2010), Harper Perennial, NYC, NY.

AWIU (American Women for International Understanding) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in 1968 to promote women-to-women interaction and understanding worldwide. McEachern is a member of the Chicago Chapter of AWIU.

In the first 2 days in Ethiopia, Dr. Hodes and the delegation met with three other groups, including the Organization for the Development of Women and Children--Ethiopia (ODWaCE). Objectives are (1) to eradicate Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs) that are detrimental to the health of society, particularly to women and children, and (2) to promote beneficial Traditional Practices (BHTPs) that have positive effects on the health of women and children; They next met with WISE (Women in Self-Employment). The three basic needs of disadvantaged / low-income women, to be addressed by WISE are (1) lack of business knowledge and skills, (2) lack of capital to start a business, and (3) lack of work place. As of 2016, 32,500 Ethiopian women have been directly helped by this program. WISE also works with Ghana and Zambia.



Dr. Rick Hodes receiving dresses and boys shorts from AWIU delegate, Joan McEachern, Yorkville

The delegation met the Hosanna House Orphanage for Teen Girls, where Buzenesh Meseret, Deputy Minister of Women and Children greeted them. Before leaving Addis Ababa, the Ethiopia capital, the group visited the Ethiopian National Museum where they viewed the bones of "Lucy," which had been found in 1974.

For more information about AWIU, or the educational and outreach programs of HCE, contact Joan McEachern at 630-567-6407. HCE is also looking for people going on missions that they can donate dresses and shorts to them to take.



Kendall County HCE
18th Annual Victorian Tea
Sunday, October 16, 2016
2:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Program: 4-H Fashion Review:
Through the Years
(some starting in the 1950s)

Reservations: Beverly Scott, 630-554-1530 \$15

DISTRICT NEWS

2016 IAHCE Annual Conference



L-R: Naomi Redman, a newer Kane County HCE member (who was a member in the 1970s), Kendall County HCE Board members: JoAnn Thom, Cultural Enrichment, Joan McEachern, President, Marge Vollman, International and Beverly Scott, Community Outreach.

Joan McEachern
President, Kendall County



LAKE.....

Greetings & Happy Spring from Lake County!

Now that Old Man Winter is behind us and Spring has officially arrived, it is that time once again to report what has been happening in Lake County. I will get started by telling you about two events that took place in November.

On November 10, 2015, Angela Hicks, President and Sandy Henke, Treasurer, gave a presentation called "Pine Cone Creations." Angela and Sandy each brought in their own beautiful creations to show the HCE members. They also talked about the history of pinecones and gave helpful tips on how treat or use pinecones before using them for projects. Each member got to paint their own Pine Cone Pin.



LCAHCE had their Annual International Day, November 19, 2015 at the University of Illinois Extension Auditorium. International Day was a very enjoyable event. Our guest speaker was, Dr. Siim Soot, Honorary Vice Consul of Estonia, Vice President of the Estonian House of Chicago gave a very enjoyable presentation on life in Estonia. He shared his many



pictures and it gave us a glimpse of life in this small nation. The International Committee supplied a beautiful array of food. Dr. Soot remarked that it was very typical of foods from that part of the world.

Margaret Hilliard, International Director and the International Committee, ((Marie Worth, Jane Ellen Keroson, Angela Hicks, Alva Thompson, Lois Elsbury and Pat Weitzmann) and Linda Heller, American Unit, did a fantastic job putting this together. Everyone had an enjoyable day!

LCAHCE held its 23rd Annual Christmas Cookie Sale on December 12, 2015 at the University of Illinois Extension Office. All of the Units participated in baking an assortment of beautiful cookies. We were able raise around \$1,375 and our regular customers were very happy and gave nice compliments about our cookies. The Ways & Means Committee thanked everyone in the January Close-Ups for participating and for the cookie donations.

In January and February, three Lessons for Living were given at the University of Illinois Extension Office. January 21, "How to Spot a Scam" was presented by Sedrik Newbern, Lake County Extension Foundation President. February 11th, "Superfoods to the Rescue" and February 23rd, "New Ways to Cut Your Electricity Bill." HCE members attended these lessons but attendance was very minimal.

On March 3rd, everyone from the Units got together to sew Book Bags for Family & Community Issues. 32 bags were completed and each one was done beautifully! 211 children's books and 52 stuffed animals were collected. The next project will be making gardening aprons for a Youth Gardening Program. This will take place at the University of Illinois Extension Auditorium on May 5th.

Five LCAHCE Board Members attended the IAHCE Annual Conference, the Embassy Suites in East Peoria, IL.



Left to right: Betty Wertke (2nd Vice President), Sandy Henke (Treasurer), Angela Hicks (President), Jane Ellen Keroson ((1st Vice President) and Margaret Hilliard (International Director).

Continued on next page

DISTRICT NEWS

Lake County, continued

While at the IAHCE Conference, Angela Hicks, President from Lake County, was installed as 2nd Vice President. Margaret Hilliard, International Director, was presented with the 2015 Grand Award in International for an Outstanding Program in the category of the Country of Study for Lake County. Congratulations to Angela and Margaret!!!”

An Open House Tea was held for the 2 Estonian ladies as a farewell and safe trip back to Estonia, April 5th at the Lake County Extension Office.

April 7th, Lesson for Living, “Brain Health: Hold that Thought.” April 22nd, LCAHCE 84th Annual Business Meeting being held at Maravela’s Banquets in Fox Lake, IL.

I will have more information on these events in the August Newsletter.

Ene and Rutt left at 9 p.m., April 7 for their homes in Estonia. They needed an extra suitcase for all the cookbooks, brochures, books, other gifts they got from our generous HCE ladies. So, they got a suitcase at Goodwill.

That’s all I have for now. I hope everyone will have a good summer. Enjoy the beautiful weather that is coming our way. Until then in August!

Dianne Glozier
Public Relations, Lake County



Pictures from the Open House “Good-Bye” Tea



Pictured above, L-R: Lake County HCE President, Angela Hicks with Estonian guests, Ene Paks and Rutt Tuvike



*Pictured below:
Tea table*



Pictured above, L-R: Rutt and Ene show the original artwork gift from Joan McEachern,



*Pictured right:
Rutt Tuvike, Margaret Hilliard (International Director) and Ene Paks*



Pictured above, L-R: Lake County centenarian member Margaret Sneesby, her caregiver, Ene and Rutt at the “Good Bye” Tea.



Pictured above: Passing the Pennies for Friendship basket at the “Good Bye” Tea.



DISTRICT NEWS

LA SALLE.....

Happy Spring to all! Hope you all had a beautiful Easter with family & friends.

In November, we had our lesson on the Baltic States. We were fortunate to have Ieva Pipyne share with us her personal & emotional account of her life in Lithuania. She left in 1941 when the Soviet Union invaded & occupied the country. In 1950, she immigrated to the United States. She talked about her experiences in a camp for a foreigner. There was not a dry eye in the room. This story can be shared with everyone in her autobiography "Half a Slice of Bread".

February 15th, we held our Advisory Luncheon & Board Meeting at Sunfield Restaurant in Ottawa. We shared our ideas & concerns about our declining membership in LaSalle County. As of the present we have gotten 6 new members bringing our total to 81 members.

February 27th, we held a Community Service Sewing Workshop. The 4-H members & mothers were invited to attend. There were 15 participants. We made 24 "Ouch Pouches". These pouches provide comfort & protection to breast cancer patients during their journey. Sandy Martin brought this idea to us from last years' State Conference. Linda Miller, cultural enrichment, delivered these ouch pouches to the Susan B. Komen Center in Peoria.



Ouch Pouch participants at the sewing work shop with 4-H

March 10th, we attended the 4-H International Night at IVCC. We shared our Baltic States (Lithuania, Estonia & Latvia) lesson. Our booth recreated the Hill of Crosses, a pilgrimage site in Lithuania.

There were 6 LaSalle County members that attended the State Conference in Peoria –Sandy Martin, Becky Kendall, Linda Miller, Carol Elmore, Darlene Hettel & Paula Freepartner. They all had a great time & enjoyed

the share shops and have returned with some new & great ideas for us in LaSalle County.



We are proud to announce that we won a 2015 Education award for our International Event held in November.

Sandy Martin made a video tape of Ieva Pipyne speaking at our Baltic States lesson. This tape was shared with the State of Illinois directors at the State Conference.

LaSalle County Board has received several applications for the scholarships we give out. The winners will be announced in June at our annual meeting.

April 4th is our County Units Meeting & Cultural Arts Contest. Program will be presented by William Ferguson on garden gourds. We will learn how to turn a gourd into a work of art. Program is titled "Lord of the Gourds".

A spring trip has been planned for members. We will be going to Starved Rock Lodge in Utica for a buffet/ matinee performance of Fabulous Vegas Guys.

Penny Carter
PR, LaSalle County



How Smart is Your Right Foot? You have to try this.

- *While sitting in a chair, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.
- *Now, while doing that draw the number '6' in the air with your right hand.

You foot will change.

DISTRICT NEWS

LIVINGSTON.....

Livingston County has been keeping busy with their continuing project to make fleece blankets for the residents at Salem Ranch a school for boys in the county. Many of the units as well as the board have been there for a tour. The tour includes visits to the classrooms, residence halls, horse stables and gardens. The ranch also has invited those on the tour for a lovely lunch with the boys.

This spring one of the board members presented a class on garden ornaments made from dishes, plates, cups, vases, costume jewelry and even silverware. The class explained how to make decorative lawn decorations and some even useful items like bird feeders from items that are often discarded. Items may also be arranged to be used indoors for such uses as cake plates and candle holders. The class included 4-H, HCE members, and the general public.

April is time for our annual meeting. Board members will be hosting a brunch of breakfast casseroles cinnamon buns and fruit cups. Dorothy Patterson will present a program on the "Doughnut Dollies" a group of ladies that handed out doughnuts and would talk to the soldiers in Vietnam. The program came highly recommended by others who have seen it.

Six board members attended the conference in East Peoria and came home enthusiastic about the coming year.



A few of those joining in on the fun of making garden ornaments were, left to right: Joan Haren, Lucy Wiechmann, Shirley Meenen, Ida Belle Weichman, Jordan Crutcher, Nancy Waschle

Connie Kostelc
Public Relations/CVH Sales
Livingston County



MC HENRY.....

HCE day was held October 7, 2015 at the University of Illinois Extension Office. Carol Zarnstorff, Master Crafter, instructed us how to make five unique Christmas cards. Each participant purchased a kit containing five blank cards and all the unique decorations that glued or sew on each card.

After the workshop, there was "Show & Tell" where the members showed off their newest handmade creation.

We had many interesting programs!

- "Birds of McHenry County" presented by McHenry County Conservation
- "Barns of McHenry County" presented by Dean Rowe, head of McHenry County Barn Association
- "What Programs are Available for Senior Citizens" presented by Julie McFarland Senior Service Association
- "Stress Free Holiday Tips and Tricks"
- "Cleaning Closets and Storage"

All of our programs are free to the public and advertised in our local paper.

Each Christmas, we make mini quilted Christmas Stockings. Some are filled with candy depending on what each nursing home prefers. This year we made over 150 stockings which may be used as a tray favor or ornament.

One unit made single layered fleece tied red, white, and blue themed quilts for T.A.P.S. which means Therapeutic Assistance Program for Survivors. There is a 5-day camp for surviving children who have lost a military parent. At the end of the camp, each of the 1,200 kids receive a red, white, blue blanket which they take with them when they visit the grave site at Arlington Cemetery. Project Linus is how the local unit found out about this project.

One of our members, Leona Rinn, was honored at the University of Illinois Extension, McHenry County Annual Hall of Fame. Leona was born on her families dairy farm in Crystal Lake, IL. She started with 4-H when she was ten years old, her project was sewing. She later went on to show beef cattle with her brothers.

She is married for 57 years to her husband, Bill, and they have 4 children and 7 grandchildren. She has been a member of HCE for over 40 years and has been President of the County for 6 years. She also is involved with the Crystal Lake Food Pantry, Treasurer

DISTRICT NEWS

of St. Thomas Women’s Club, head of the Women’s St. Thomas funeral luncheons, St. Anthony’s Church Guild & Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Club Town. In her spare time, she enjoys sewing, knitting, crocheting while watching her favorite Chicago sport teams.



Leona Rinn was named to University of Illinois Extension, McHenry County Hall of Fame.

Congratulations, Leona and “ Thank You” for all that you do for HCE and your community.

Wishing you all a Happy Spring!

Florence Spesard
Public Relations, McHenry County



A Doctor was addressing a large audience in Tampa. “The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here years ago. Red meat is awful. Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. High fat diets can be disastrous and none of us realizes the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water. However, there is one thing that is the most dangerous of all and we all have eaten, or will eat it. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?”

After several seconds of quiet, a 75-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said, “Wedding Cake.”

DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR Mary Eustace



Spring is here! Just back from our annual IAHCE conference in E. Peoria and feeling so pumped with new ideas. So proud to be a member of this awesome organization. I am so happy that my District 4 members were represented at our conference so greatly.

Thank you so much to Woodford County for the creative "Rollin on the River" centerpieces we used to decorate our tables. Loved the way you used recycled cardboard to make the paddle wheels for our Riverboat theme.

Tazewell County sold ads, stuffed goody bags and brought the "Sail Boat Regatta" to our conference. So much fun! Your support is awesome.

Sangamon County made 800 wine coasters for all of us. Beautiful sewing project! Well done and thank you. Sangamon also extended that extra 100% to help us locate a beautiful facility for our August Workshops. Your support is so appreciated.

My Pike County gals have made me proud with their support—that real "I have your back" kind of support. I love the fun & challenges with Adams County. They are always good sports to go "Rollin’ on the River" and always support our District 4 activities.

Our District 4 Counties of Hancock, Cass, Fulton & Morgan complete my territory. I feel very blessed to have this responsibility to encourage HCE in central Illinois.

I thank all of you ladies for your tireless efforts to help HCE continue.

We had a wonderful program at conference called "The Penguin Project". They were so inspiring and they left us singing their theme song "Don't Stop Believing".

Keep that thought every day and don't stop believing that anything is possible.

Mary Eustace



DISTRICT NEWS

ADAMS.....

First issue of 2016 ... spring is under way, Easter Sunday is over, and thoughts are turning to outdoor activities. I don't know about you but my lawn has been cut once and I have begun preparations in my garden. The ladies of HCE have been busy since the last newsletter.

During the last couple of months of 2015, we had two county wide events plus individual unit Christmas parties. On November 4th, there was a Cultural Arts lesson on making silk scarves.



*(F-L-R) Barb Higley and Sara Husemann
(R-L-R) Rhonda Fugate, Sandy McKelvie, Judy Milfs,
Heather Ator, Linda Duncan, and Juanita Moss*

In addition, on December 5th, we held our 27th Annual Kiddie Bazaar (pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade children). The bazaar was actually held in three different locations simultaneously – Salem Evangelical United Church of Christ Hall, Payson Seymour Elementary School, and Camp Point United Methodist Church. HCE members donated hundreds of gifts from 50 cents to \$4 that children could purchase for family members.

December 8th, the ACHCE Board held a Christmas Party at Tony's Too. Everyone in attendance was asked to bring hygiene products for donation to the Illinois Veteran's Home. The decoration committee did an awesome job on making the atmosphere very festive, we even had a visit from Santa Claus.



*Pictured right:
Attendees were
Board members
and past presidents*

What has our county been doing in 2016? On February 27th, we held our 2nd Annual Adams County HCE Flapjack Fund Raiser at Applebee's in Quincy, IL. Applebee's employees cooked the food and our ladies became waiters. There were approximately 200 people who enjoyed a delicious breakfast of pancakes, bacon, and beverage. The successful event raised \$1,046. We already have a date reserved for 2017!

*Pictured right:
Fund Raiser Supporters
being served by Sharon
Reinberg and Camie
Hempelmann (Quincy
Tumbleweeds)*



On March 5th, a 5 H Fun Day (Adams County 4-H & Adams County HCE) was held at the Adams County Extension office in Quincy, Illinois. Free to all youth from ages 8-18, not just 4-H members ... 26 youth registered. Each of the attendees were grouped into one of five different color groups and were able to rotate through five various workshops for hands-on educational activities that included ... making your garden grow, sewing basics, skin care 101, fun in the kitchen, and setting it up right. When the youth completed all five of the workshops, it was time to eat. The foods that they consumed (cut up fruit/vegetables, ranch dip, fruit kabobs, dump brownies, and/or a dump meatball casserole) were in part prepared while they were enjoying the workshop, fun in the kitchen.



*Pictured left:
5 H Fun Day
Run in the Kitchen
(Dump Meatball
Casserole)*

Adams County had eight representatives attended the 92nd Annual IAHC State Conference held March 15-17 at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. The theme, "Rollin' on The River with IAHC".

During the awards presentations, we took 4th Place as 2015 County of the Year. In addition, took 3rd place for Certified Volunteer Hours.

DISTRICT NEWS



(L-R) Barb Higley, Linda Lavery, Rhonda Fugate, Sandy McKelvie, Leslie Geschwandner, Linda Duncan, Melba Funk, and Heather Ator

Inquiring Minds Who Want to Know? If you attended the 92nd Annual IAHCE State Conference and participated in the silent auction ... and wanted to know what was in the wrapped package donated by Kathy Peterson District, marked with tags ... "Mystery Item, ?, Overnight, Relax, and Joliet." Wait no longer, the content was a V.I.P. Guest Pass for accommodations at a Raymond Location (i.e. Hampton Inn's or Marriott's) before Dec. 30, 2016 and is not valid during race season or special events.

A county-wide Lesson for Living, HCE Fashion Show, was held on March 22nd, in the Farm Bureau Basement. Tickets were available in advance or at the door for \$3. There were approximately 70 people in attendance. Attendees got the opportunity to hear about hair care and newest styles for ladies from Gretchen McDonald, owner of Designer's Edge Day Spa Salon in Quincy, IL.

Jeanna Loos, Independent Beauty Consultant, provided a hands on demonstration of multiple ways to tie scarves. Last but not least was a style show with our own HCE models wearing fashions from local Quincy businesses -- the Dress Barn, Eighth Avenue Villager, and Wal-Mart. Plus, there was an opportunity to make-your-own-sundae bar for dessert.

The Higley Family (Barb Higley, Chatton Unit member) hosted Rutt Tuvike and Ene Paks, our International Homemaker Exchange visitors from Estonia. Rutt and Ene arrived on Wednesday afternoon (Mar 30th). During an HCE Continental Breakfast held Thursday in their honor at 10:00 a.m., Quincy Mayor Kyle A. Moore conducted an official proclamation presentation. He stated, "I, Mayor Kyle A. Moore do hereby proclaim today, March 31, 2016 as Rutt Tuvike and Ene Paks Day and urge all the citizens of Quincy and Adams County to welcome them to the City of Quincy and the County of Adams during their visit."



(L-R) Ene Paks, Rutt Tuvike, and Quincy Mayor Kyle Moore

The Book Club meets on 3rd Wednesday of the month. The following books were discussed since the last newsletter: November – "2nd Chance" by James Patterson; December – "The Apple Orchard" by Susan Wiggs; January – "Still Life" by Louise Penny; February – "My Beloved World" by Sonia Sotomayor; and March – "Save Me" by Lisa Scottoline. Scheduled before summer break we have in April - "The Dressmaker" by Kate Alcott and May – "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls.

The Quilt League meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. They completed blocks for one Quilt of Valor and continue to compile blocks for another Quilt of Valor. In addition, they are also making clothing protectors for the Illinois Veteran's Home.

Enjoy your spring and summer! The HCE year is quickly coming to a close. We are looking forward to our HCE Annual Meeting at the Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center on April 26th and also the new programs and activities for 2016-2017.

Leslie Geschwandner
Public Relations Director, Adams County



MORGAN.....

Home and Community Education Day was held in February at the Morgan County Extension office. Kathy English explained the project aims to give information about the importance of raising a reader, to each parent of a child born at Passavant Hospital in Jacksonville, IL.

Jacquie Barringer of the Morgan County Health Department gave an informative talk on immunization needs for children and adults.

A meal of soup, sandwiches, fruit tray, cookies, and cupcakes was served. Door prizes were awarded to everyone in attendance.

Continued on next page 

DISTRICT NEWS

Morgan County, continued

*Pictured right:
HCE member Martha
Vache and Kathy
English, holding
materials used in the
"Raising a Reader"
project funded by
Illinois College,
Alpha Pi Delta
Kappa Gamma.*



There will be a craft day in April at the Extension Office. Participants will be making a satin rose to wear or use for decoration. Annette Kilver will host the event and provide all the materials.

Annette Kilver
Morgan County HCE Treasurer



SANGAMON.....

Greetings from Sangamon County HCE! Spring has arrived with all of the lovely daffodils, crocus, hyacinths and tulips. Flowers and forsythia always dim my memory of the gray days of winter. Our members have been busy over the winter with several projects, meetings and plans for the year.

Our Christmas party was fun and we had great entertainment with a group playing Christmas carols and funny songs. Members brought non-perishable food items that were donated to St. John's breadline and warm hats, gloves and coats for the Harvard Park School. Juanita Yoswig knitted over 60 hats in beautiful colors for the school. Several Units meet after a lunch and had a guided tour of the famous Dana-Thomas house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The house was decorated for Christmas and the tour was fun and fact-filled.

The Capitol Unit, spearheaded by Sue Chamberlain, got busy and made 800 wine coasters to be put in the goodie bags at State Conference. Several members helped with cutting, pressing, folding and sewing. Beautiful different designs was used from fabrics donated.

Members turned in their CVH hours which was sent to the State and our donations to the Pennies for Friendship was forwarded also. Thanks to all of our members who

participated. Everyone's teamwork in these categories is vital to our organization.

Over the winter we had Units who did wonderful things. The Capitol Unit donated 108 children's blankets and six pillows to Contact Ministries. They also made 67 quilts for handicapped children that attend the Bright Star Equestrian Center. Also, Capitol Unit made layettes for newborns and donated those to the Beerlahai Roi Women's Ministries. Jerome-Lincoln Trail Unit during their Christmas luncheon collected and donated \$101 to the Senior Center. Lucille Michels of the Jerome-Lincoln Trail Unit, made 82 baby quilts and donated them to the Mini O'Brierne Crisis Nursery and the Early Childhood Learning Center.

Auburn/Chatham Unit sent a Christmas box to a soldier overseas and donated gifts to the Sojour Center for the ladies and children on their Angel Tree. During January, February & March monies was collected for two local Food Pantries. Then, they sold butter braids to raise funds for Special Education classes in local schools. Kudos to those members that give of their time, money, and other ways to help all kinds of organizations in need.

Seven County Board members attended the State IAHCE Conference in East Peoria. Also, three members attended one day which is a good turn out for our County. We were awarded two Education Awards for the quilts donated to the Contact Ministries and the quilts donated to Bright Star. Also, a mini-stipend was received for our booklet on the International Day done by Debbie Richards, International Director. The Conference was fun and informative plus being very well organized.

The Capitol Unit is growing with six more new members. Other Units are trying to attract new members too. We did have a loss of one member, Ruth Piper. She was a past President and a member for 35 years. Condolences to all her family and friends

Meetings have been held and preparations underway for the County Annual Meeting with installation of officers. Jane Chapman and Mary Eustace will be our guest speakers and also, a few Presidential wives will be making guests appearances. Also, our Fall Festival meetings have been held and work has begun on that. Membership Day is scheduled for May 5th and two ladies will be giving a skit on the "Tale of the Two Mary's" from the Abraham Lincoln era. HCE week is being planned for October.

*My guiding principles in life are to be honest, genuine,
thoughtful and caring." by Prince William*

Jody Harden
Second Vice President,/Newsletter Editor/
Public Information Officer, Sangamon County



DISTRICT NEWS

TAZEWELL.....

Greetings from Tazewell County!

Tazewell County HCE Cultural Enrichment Director, Kate Schmitgall held her annual quilt workshop in February. Her "sold out" crowd had an enjoyable day sewing, visiting, and sharing their ideas and projects.

In early March we held "Super Saturday". Specialists taught lessons on Edible Flowers, Ten Natural Places to Visit in our Area, and Super Soybean Products. Those attending felt well-prepared to return to their local units and teach the lesson.

We were very excited to participate in the state conference held in East Peoria. On Monday, the Tazewell County HCE Board traveled to the conference site and helped fill the "goody bags."

When the conference began on Tuesday, we sponsored the Raingutter Regatta and had a lot of fun with the participants.



*Pictured left:
Jan Busche and
Judy McFarland
compete in the
Raingutter
Regatta*

At the awards banquet Kate Schmitgall received an award for Cultural Enrichment and Jan Busche received a Membership Award.



*Pictured right:
Jan Busche and
Kate Schmitgall
at the Annual
Conference
Awards Banquet*

Members who attended the Annual Conference learned a lot a lot at the many workshops and are anxious to share the knowledge in the county.



Darlene Curry
Public Relations, Tazewell County



PIKE.....

All is well in Pike County these days.

Enjoyed our trip to the 92nd Annual IAHCE Conference in E. Peoria, Il. One of our own, Rebecca De Long received a Blue Ribbon for "Best of Show" in the tatting division of Cultural Enrichment entries for our annual conference. Her entry was a intricate tatted necklace. This is the second year that she has achieved this level of excellence. Very proud of this accomplishment.

We also had a beautiful quilt by Kay Sanderson and beautiful recycled items entered into competition. Pike County has some very talented women in our HCE groups. Heritage skills seem to be lost to older generation but with sharing our knowledge in local HCE Units, young women can learn this art. Please continue to invite a friend to your meetings.

Membership is very important to the growth of Pike County HCE.

Mary Eustace
President, Pike County



DISTRICT NEWS



DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR Kathleen Emery

District 5 Members, By the time you get your newsletter spring will have finally sprung. The flowers make our world look so colorful and alive.

We had a wonderful time “Rollin’ on the River” at our annual conference at East Peoria in March. I hope you were able to attend. District 5 had 12 of our 13 counties represented. How great! If you weren’t able to join in this year’s conference we will be back in East Peoria next year on March 14-16, 2017.

The National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON) is an 8 state traveling conference and will be held in Illinois on July 19-21 in Normal. As a member of HCE you are also a member of NVON. We are very excited to have it here. If you haven’t been to one of their conferences this is a wonderful opportunity for you to attend.

Another important date on your calendar is our District 4/5 meeting on August 10 at the Southern View Chapel, 4500 S Second St, Springfield. I hope to see you there also. *You do not have to be an officer to attend – come join us.*

Thank you for the invitations I have received to travel to your counties. It is a great experience to meet your members. We can all learn so much from each other.

**Unlock the Mystery of Membership –
Share our wonderful organization with your friends**



Kathleen Emery

PARAPROSKOKIANS

(figures of speech with a surprise ending)

- 1 Where there’s a will, I want to be in it.
- 2 If I agreed with you, we’d both be wrong.
- 3 War does not determine who is right—only who is left.
4. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
5. In filling out an application, where it says, “In case of emergency, Notify:..” I put DOCTOR.



CHAMPAIGN.....

Champaign County Home and Community Education sponsored an event, “*Holiday Trees and Craft Sale*” show on November 7, 2015 at the Farm Bureau auditorium. Each of our 16 HCE Units entered a beautifully decorated Christmas trees with a theme. The sale of the trees were by silent auction with the profit of the sale belonging to the individual unit. There were several vendors with handcrafted items for sale. Also, Holiday baked goods were available for purchase. The Auditorium, hallways and outside the Farm Bureau/Extension office was beautifully decorated with wreaths, Christmas decoration and lights. Very successful event and enjoyed by our members. Plans for our next “*Holiday Trees and Craft Show*” are being made for November 12, 2016.



*Pictured at Left:
Snowman Tree by CCHCE
Mayview Unit*

Our *International Luncheon* “Walking all over the ‘Baltic States’ 2015” was held on November 16, 2015 with 90 members attending. We had a potluck with dishes from the Baltic States for us to taste. Our guest speakers were Father John Flattery, who wrote a book about the Lithuanian’s Settlement in Westville, IL. Guest speaker, Carole Mitchell, told about her “Family Heritage” from Lithuania. Our entertainment was Logan Kirby, Guitarist/Singer/Songwriter, from Westville, IL. Four State Board members attended— Jane Chapman, IAHCE President; Kathleen Emery, District 5 Director; Kathryn McNeely, IAHCE Second Vice President and Joan Stanley, CVS. Those attending enjoyed the day of food, song, guest speakers and entertainment.

On December 9th – 43 members traveled to the Myers Dinner Theater for their Christmas Show “Sander Family Christmas”. Our special activity chairman, Dorothy Rogers, planned the event and was enjoyed by all.

On January 6th, 2016 – we held a *Fellowship Conference for Unit Officers Training*. All new and continuing Unit officers for 2016 were in attendance. Board officers went over the duties of unit officers and shared ideas for the office. Coffee & donuts were served.

DISTRICT NEWS

January 2016, our county organized the *Jean Swaim Craft Club*, which meets each month after the Extension Educators lesson at the Farm Bureau Auditorium.

Members have enjoyed making crafts: *January*: variety of valentine crafts; *February* Confetti eggs, decorative magnets, braided bookmark, *March* variety of sizes of cloth flowers made as broaches, hair bows, decorations, and *April* will be decorative flower pots and chimes.

Community Outreach Chairman, Elizabeth Michael, reported that the County HCE members continue to keep busy making *weighted blankets* for autistic children and *Linus blankets*. For 2015, 75 weighted blankets were completed and given away and Carolyn Phelps, Rantoul Unit, made 25 Linus blankets. Elizabeth will be going off the County Board but will continue the weighted blanket project for the County. She has received donations from several organization in our community that will help support this project. On April 24th is the Champaign County Autistic Walk and we will have a booth with handouts about the weighted blankets and a display of blankets that have been made by our members. We will be giving away several weighted blankets to families in need.

We had 13 members attending the IAHCE State Conference in Peoria. Champaign County received 2015 Education Award in Public Relations for Outstanding Program, 2015 Education Award in International for outstanding program in special international event and 2015 Certified Volunteer Award for the county with the highest number of volunteer hours (37,085) in District 5. Thank you to all our volunteers. We also had two members win “*Best of Show*” for their projects for the Cultural Arts Show, Dorothy Weber, Staley Unit, beautiful wooden bowl and Leatrice Helbling, Dewey/Fisher Unit, for her baby quilt.



L-R: Carol Froeschl, Education Award for Public Relations
Elizabeth Michael, Highest Volunteer hours for District 5
Karen Moon, Education Award for International

We are planning our 98th Annual meeting luncheon and installation of officers on April 28th, 2016 at the Savoy Methodist Church. The ladies of the Methodist Church

will prepare our lunch. Guest speaker will be the Prairie Dragon Paddlers, whose mission is to inspire hope and contribute to health and well-being of breast cancer survivors. Prairie Dragon Paddlers is Illinois’ first Breast Cancer Survivor Dragon Boat team. Also speaking, will be U of I students Basic Technology Senior Learning Network - provides older adults education for and access to computer technologies.

We are also planning our Spring Membership Event which will be on June 11th with TV channel WCIA ciLiving guest chef Lisa Lewey Shields demonstrating “Easy non-cooking Meals” and “Easy One/Two Person Meals”. Also, speaking will be our Homer Nights Unit on “Meals in a Jar”. Our 5th Annual Garage Sale will be on July 29th and 30th.



2016 IAHCE Annual Conference —Champaign County

Have a great Spring and Summer!

Carol Froeschl
Public Relations, Champaign County



CUMBERLAND.....

Thelma Bishop was recognized at the Cumberland County Annual Meeting as a 66-year HCE member. Thelma has served as President as well as in many other offices in her local unit.

She is recently retired from the County HCE Board of Directors where she led the Community Outreach Committee and the County newsletter.



66-Year member
Thelma Bishop

Continued on next page

DISTRICT NEWS

Cumberland County, continued

Meet the newly installed officers of the Cumberland County HCE board.



L-R: Winona Saathoff, president/Community Outreach; Anita Thomas, 2nd Vice President; Beverly Kuhn, Secretary; Phyllis Sowers, Co-Treasurer; Sandy McElravy, Family/Youth Family Issues/Co-Treasurer; Lynn Graves, Ways & Means; Judy Flake, Public Relations; Evelyn Sue Icenogle, Cultural Enrichment, and Kathleen Emery, IAHCE District Director installing officer. Not present: Vivian Hallett, 1st Vice President/International/Newsletter editor.



CHRISTIAN.....

Christian County sends best wishes to all and hopes everyone had a lovely Easter.

There has been flooding of roads and property damage here in Christian County. CCHCEA and 4-H came together and made no-sew fleece throws for flood victims in Kincaid, IL.

Prayers are being sent out to several of our members who are having some serious health issues right now.

Our President Julie Pearson and International Director Ann Bandy are Rollin' on the River at conference as I write. They say they're having a great time and promise pictures.

We here at Christian County are so honored that our Illinois President Jane is planning on attending our Annual Meeting March 29. We will have the Welcome Flags out for her.

Spring and Retreat now those are two cheery sounding words. Hope we see some of you at the Spring Retreat in Hillsboro, IL on April 21.

You are all invited to CCHCEA's Wide World of Sports Table Setting Luncheon on Saturday, May 7th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch will start at 11:00 a.m.. The cost is \$6.50. There will be some really neat table displays to vote on and lots of beautiful plants to purchase. Try to come early—they go fast. Remember Mother's Day is the 8th.

This is my last article for IAHCEA Newsletters. I know the new office will do a great job. Be sure to check out our new Facebook, I'm sure I will have a few pictures now and then. To all the new CCHCEA board here is wishing you all a boat load of fun and success.

Sharon Turner
Public Information Director, Christian County



DE WITT.....

Our joint fundraiser with Macon & Piatt counties will be over by the time this goes to press since it is taking April 16, 2016. The Breadmonk will make his demonstrations of a couple of his own recipes: Breads with Meaning. We served his recipes as refreshments, and had a table with his cookbooks. He has 6 of them. He gave door prizes too and we had a 50/50 and a little extra money is always welcome.

We were happy to get to know Rutt and Ene from Estonia. Thanks to Alice Grooms for hosting. She took them to a Alpaca farm, to Lincoln College, to her quilt club one night, to a regular farm (too bad the corn and beans were not planted or up), to Jimtown 4-H meeting and finally to her church on Sunday morning before she arranged transportation to their next hostess in Southern Illinois. She made them a CD with pictures and passed it to the next hostess to add more pictures of places they will see from that part of Illinois.



*Pictured left:
Ene,
Alice Grooms
and
Rutt holding
boxes of some
Mementos
of Illinois*

We pray they have safe travels home.

Rosalie Summers
DeWitt Co. PR/Editor of News & Do's

DISTRICT NEWS

EDGAR.....

The kickoff event for our Edgar County 2015 HCE Week was our “An Afternoon of Tea in Paris”. This tea was held on Saturday, October 10, 2015, at Café France for members, friends and the community. The Mayo school Leadership Club participated in this event. The event included traditional English tea pastries, cookie and crafting demonstrations and, of course, tea. Participants dressed for a tea party or came just as they were. Prizes were given for special events.



IAHCE Annual Conference participants from Edgar County gathered for a photo opportunity.

Kate Morecraft
Public Relations, Edgar County



Each year, ECHCE’s International Committee selects a country to study during this week. This year, the country of Haiti was chosen. A local minister and his wife have served in Haiti and presented a program about Haiti and their experiences. Each unit of ECHCE prepared food and decorations representing Haiti. Our International Night was held on Tuesday, October 13th, at the 4-H Multipurpose Building on the 4-H Fairgrounds in Paris. Members and interested community residents were encouraged to attend.

To close out our week, the event “Women Walk the World” was held on Thursday October 15th, from 4-6 p.m. at the Edgar County Fairgrounds. We walked laps on the fairgrounds to bring awareness to a sister organization, Associated Country Women of the World, and its goal of connecting and supporting women worldwide. Donations were given by HCE local units and the community to help with the goals of ACWW.



Another event for ECHCE was a sewing day November 7th. We sewed Christmas stockings for Operation Care Package. These stockings were filled with donated hygiene, entertainment and snack items before being packaged up and mailed to members of our military stationed overseas. We also asked for donations of Christmas fabrics for these stockings.



MACON.....

2016 is off to a great start in Macon County! Our units are already busy, busy, busy with meetings, lessons and projects. We’ve already had some great lessons so far this year! We started off in January with a program on Clearing the Clutter...this seemed like a great way to start the new year...now if we can just follow through!



*Sgt. Kris Thompson,
Macon Co. Sheriff's
Office*

February had us learning self-defense tactics, both physical ways to protect ourselves, as well as some advice about phone and computer scams. Very timely!

March and April were just as interesting – a Zentangle pin/pendant that we made ourselves and a Bucket Garden, just in time for the growing season.

We are excited to have been co-sponsor, along with DeWitt and Piatt County HCEs, of a wonderful presentation by the Bread Monk, Father Dominic, in April. What a fantastic program that was! We also sponsored a booth in April at the Decatur Mini Maker Faire, where we taught kids (and adults) how to sew on a button while they put together a pinwheel! Both events were lots of work, but lots of fun, too! Our units also prepared and served lunch for the Master Gardener Training Workshops and Gardening Insights at the Extension Office in February and March.

DISTRICT NEWS

Macon County, continued



Making a Zentangle pin/pendant — Example above right

Eleven members from Macon County enjoyed their three days in East Peoria at this year's conference. It was good to meet up with old friends and make some new friends as well. We enjoyed interesting speakers, learned a lot from the Share Shops, had plenty to eat, and came home healthier from all the laughter.

We were so pleased to win ten awards including second place as County of the Year. Several of us "rolled down the river" on the Spirit of Peoria before heading home. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at next year's conference!

Macon County at 2016 Conference



Our Spring Meeting is in early May this year, a event that brings most of our county members together for food, fun and fellowship. We all look forward to that! Upcoming lessons will include "superfoods" and backyard landscaping. We will also be celebrating "Christmas in July" this year with a lesson given by two of our members. Wonder what that will be! As a county, we continue to meet occasionally to sew pillowcases for the children served by the Ronald McDonald House and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). Lots to do – so good to be a part of such a wonderful organization!

Ann Adkesson and Linda Austin
Co-Public Relation, Macon County

PIATT.....

Cultural Enrichment Director, Martha Lynch, organized a wonderful Cultural Enrichment Day for 18 Piatt County HCE members on January 27, 2016. Besides our craft items, we brought in food, such as slow cooker recipes for a main dish, and cranberry as an ingredient in salads, breads, or desserts. While we all enjoyed a program on Neighbor House in Monticello by Rachel LeJeune, judges from Macon County – Karen Cahill and Sally Dennis were looking over all the homemade items, including the foods. After deciding what should go to the state convention, we got to eat the delicious foods. Of course, the recipes were put in our next month's newsletter and shared with all our members. What a great day of sharing our talents, gathering together and eating in fellowship with other HCE members and our friends from Macon County.

CRAFT ITEMS

Wall Hangings

12 month basket – Carol Kussart

Cardinal – Kathy Gentry

Dimensional Sunflowers – Carol Kussart

Knitting

Baby afghan – Carol Drayton

Scarf – Janet Crandall

Stocking cap (multi-colored blue) – Carol Drayton

Table Runner

Christmas Tree Skirt – Kathy Gentry

Swirl Table Runner – Kathy Gentry

Red & Gray Table Runner – Carol Kussart

Hooking

Table Mat – Vivian Faulkner-King

Wearable Art

Wallet – Norma Reck

Purse with removable liner – Norma Reck

Quilt

Sunburst Tie (machine done) – Linda Swett

Photography

Lake & Mountain Scene in Frame – Evelyn Eads

Boats at Anchor – Janet Crandall

Palm Trees – Janet Crandall

Jewelry

Black/dark gray Earrings – Janet Crandall

Light Tan Bracelet and Earrings – Janet Crandall

Hand Embroidery

Nativity Scene Red work – Janet Crandall

Pillowcase – Janet Crandall

Scrapbooking

Mount Rushmore – Evelyn Eads

Miscellaneous

Fabric Picture of House & Lawn – Evelyn Eads

Ceramic Star Shaped – Judy Sochor

FOOD ITEMS

Breads

Cranberry Nut – Vivian Faulkner-King

Cranberry Poppyseed Ring – Martha Lynch

DISTRICT NEWS

Desserts

- Cranberry Cheesecake Bar – Linda Swett
- Chocolate Cranberry Cheesecake Pie – Martha Lynch
- Cranberry Pecan Cookies – Kathy Gentry

Slow Cooker

- Kielbasa with Pineapple – Kathy Gentry
- Cranberry Meatballs – Martha Lynch
- Bean & Ham Casserole – Jo Bauer

Salads

- Cranberry Cheesecake Salad – Jo Bauer
- Cranberry Sour Cream Swirl – Martha Lynch
- Hot Cranberry Salad – Carol Drayton

Carol Drayton
Public Relations, Piatt County



MC LEAN.....

McLean County HCE has enjoyed many activities since the fall of 2015. The HCE holiday party in December at The Ozark House in Bloomington was enjoyed by many and hosted by Downs, Dale and Lexington HCE Units with great food, entertainment by Ray Prince on his guitar and make it/take it crafts.

The Night Owls Unit hosted the Membership/Friendship Tea in February at the Mennonite Church in Normal with 117 in attendance, 46 of them guests! 2015 1st year members were honored.

*Pictured below:
The Tea Ladies, sisters
Nancy Perzo and Karen
Patton, presented
"Treasure Thy Friend"*



*Pictured above:
Barb Lay received
1st Year Member Award*

This showed us the many ways women have maintained friendships over the years, especially in the 1800's.

Ongoing workshops, classes and events occurred monthly with arm knitting, ribbon wreaths and attendance at a "theater" production by the Downs Tri-Valley School teachers called "The Devine Stella Devine." Monthly Community Service Day projects included seat belt covers, bags for walkers, and other crafts. Books read and

discussed were *The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom; *The Rosie Project* by Graime Simsion; and *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova. Some topics shared at HCE unit meetings were: Pass the Pink Packet; History/Mysteries of McLean County Agriculture; Straw Bale Gardening; and Hold That Thought.

This year at Super Saturday Tri-county event with Woodford and Livingston county HCE groups, three different classes were presented to local leaders. There was a scarf demonstration where we learned new ways to accent our attire with scarves.

Nineteen McLean County HCE members attended the 92nd Annual Conference of the IAHCE in East Peoria, IL. What a wonderful opportunity to meet people, learn lots and have so much fun! McLean County HCE was honored to get the County of the Year award for a 3rd year in a row.

We look ahead to our HCE Spring Trip to Springfield, IL, May 26; MCHCE Annual Meeting on July 12; NVON Conference in Normal, July 19-21; and Young at Heart Day (August 4) and the McLean County Fair, August 3-7.

McLean County HCE website is: www.mcleanhce.org. Pictures of many events are posted on our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education>. Take a look at some of the photos. You just might see yourself, or someone you know!

See you in McLean County – come visit.

Ruth Hood
McLean County Public Relations Team



*Annual
Conference
2016*



DISTRICT NEWS

VERMILION.....

Well ... We Meet Again ... in the IAHCE Newsletter! Hope and Pray all is Well with You! Not much to report but there is some interesting events in our small County Units! At this date there is only 46 paid members for Vermilion County.

Several members and guests met at the Extension Office on November 10 with representatives from the Women's Care Center. At this tea, we learned more about the various services available at the Center. The work at their new location on Bowman Ave. is ongoing.

Another Nominating Committee has been appointed. About half of the county officers are to be elected each year, on a rotating schedule, and this requires a months-long nominating process. Are YOU interested in serving on the county board? Do you know anything ABOUT serving on the county board? Do you WANT to know anything about serving on this board? If so, just call me or any other County officer and ask for the details. Better yet, come and visit a monthly board meeting, which is listed inside your program books. Most of the time, we have more fun than is legally allowed in Robert's Rules of Order. Come and see us in action!

I mentioned program books. Do you know who writes up our program book each year? None other than Jo Anne Gerard. She does it all by herself, printing and assembling the entire book. That's a lot of work, and we certainly appreciate her dedication. THANK YOU, JO ANNE!!!

Furthermore, do you know who gathers the lessons, coordinates with our educators, and gives THIS information to Jo Anne, who then prints the books each year? Yes, it's 1st Vice President, Pat Bailey. THANK YOU, PAT!!!

In 2016, we began meeting in the 2nd floor conference room of the Danville Public Library for lesson leader training. February 11, two guests from Danville came in to share the lesson, and we hope they return and bring more friends. It's in a nice room, and we have much better parking facilities. Let's continue to have at least two people from each unit at each training session. Check your next training dates, and bring as many people as you can.

This new year also brought a new member to us, from McLean County. Actually, this is just a former Vermilion County gal who has returned to us! Anna Marie Chrisman and her husband, Richard, have sort of retired and moved to Danville from Bloomington. We're so glad to have them back in the area. Anna Marie is now part of the Bismarck Unit, as well as the "East Siders" of Bloomington-Normal.

Please mark Wednesday, June 8th as Vermilion County HCE's Annual Meeting Date. Luncheon will be held at Crossroads Christian Church, North Vermilion Street, Danville, Illinois. For Reservations please call: Eleanor White 217-759-7237.

Three officers attended the 2016 IAHCE State Conference. They went Rollin' on the River" The Report was... The 2016 Annual Conference was a Huge Success!



Judith Diane Reddy
VC HCE Public Relations

DISTRICT 6 DIRECTOR Marilyn Schaefer



Hello District 6 Members: Spring is here, I hope you all had a great Easter!

Wow!! Just returned home from a wonderful IAHCE State Conference in East Peoria, met lots of new people and made great friends. Want to thank Mary and Janel for working so hard on the conference along with the other board members. Great job gals!

We had great make it- take it projects to work on. I did the one Sharon Middleton taught—it was great.

Now it is time for the Districts to have their annual meetings. I have most of the dates, I think I am short a couple of counties. I will be calling to get those dates. We, as directors, are looking forward to installing your new officers, while we are "Rollin' on the River".

I hope you have all received your district newsletter that went out after conference. There is a lot of information in that newsletter. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

It was such an honor to meet the two ladies from Estonia, I had the honor of setting with them during the dinner on Wednesday evening. They are such great ladies, I hope you all got the honor of meeting and visiting with them.

Now it is time for us to begin planning for the District meetings. District 6/7 will be held in Effingham again this year. We hope that everyone will attend we are working on a great program again this year. You do not have to be on your HCE Board, you are welcome to come also. Hopefully we will have a workshop for those that do not have any office to attend.

Congratulations to the counties that won awards, I think that is great.

Everyone have a great summer, please bring a friend to your next meeting, lets grow our membership this year. District 6 continue the good work on membership but District 5 is catching up with us. Go!! Go!!

If you ever need anything please let me know, I may not have the answer but will find out.

See you soon.



Marilyn Schaefer

DISTRICT NEWS

BOND.....

Welcome SPRING from Bond County!

We ended the year, 2015 with many Bond County unit members helping at the annual Greenville Hospital Bazaar held the first weekend of December. Come join the fun and excitement next year! Some helped at the various booths, or worked in the kitchen, or served the delicious lunch, or had worked on a quilt to benefit the hospital.

Our board celebrated with our Christmas meeting at a new "Family Winery" in the Greenville area.

January 2016, found Bond County IAHCE members helping the area Pregnancy Crisis Center with a monetary gift plus many baby items for their clientele.

The American Red Cross Blood Drive was hosted by the Bond County IAHCE "Family Living" committee at the First Christian Church in Greenville. Several HCE members donated blood, registered in the donors and served a snack to all coming to donate blood. Seventeen units of whole blood and 4 units of red blood cells were collected. Several of our unit members have given, not just units but gallons thru the years. Blood is always needed and is a good way of helping your neighbor here or even in an extended surrounding area. You can donate blood every 56 days - must be 18 years old or have a parents' consent, and be in good health. Help your community - give blood the next time the American Red Cross or Central Ill. Blood Bank is in your area !

On March 18, the Bond County IAHCE participated in the yearly "Health Fair" sponsored by the area Greenville Hospital by having a resource center manned by members passing out literature on the activities of HCE. Over 1300 people attended the Health Fair - giving our organization much exposure.

Some of our favorite lessons pertaining to food have been on our lesson agenda - "Eating Well as You Age" in November, "Quick & Easy Recipes-Refrigerated Breads and Rolls" (many samples) in February, March winds blew in information on ABC's of GMO's" with taste samples of GMO and Non-GMO foods. "Pros and Cons of Organic" foods was also discussed. Coming in April - "Edible Flowers".

Bond County had four members attending the "Rollin' On the River" IAHCE conference in E. Peoria March 15-18...all coming away with new ideas for lessons, updated information for our board and unit officers, plus good share shops. New respect for the weather even if we only had a momentary fright!

Shirley Volentine
Public Relations, Bond County

CLAY.....

As I sit watching the wind blow and the temperature drop, it is truly March in Illinois. I'm going to be positive and believe that if March comes in like a lion and it will go out like a lamb.

We appreciate the great work Brenda Ruckman did in creating our block for the IAHCE Conference. County board members Joann Stanford and Margie Dettmer attended the conference. We look forward to hearing a report about the fun and informative conference.

With the 2016 focus on patriotism, Joann Stanford, HCE board member, family and community issues director, organized a project to provide veterans who live in our assisted living and nursing homes with a patriotic garment protector. County 4-H members sewed over 29 garment protectors at a workshop on February 29. Board members will finish the remaining garments and plans are being made to enlist the help of local boy scouts, girl scouts and 4-H members to present the garments to our veterans in a special ceremony this summer.

We are also doing a fundraiser in March and April. Members have had successful sales of Show Me Dough Fundraising in past years, with butter braids being the favorite, we hope to have a great fundraiser this time.

Surely Spring will soon be here!

Beth Fancher
Public Relations, Clay County



CRAWFORD.....



Membership Luncheon & Program

Attending, pictured above: Jeannie Adams, Coretta Sparks, Velda Eubank, LaDonna Harris, Phyllis Adams, Mary Stampini, Eva Miller, Nina Rodrick, Beulah Inboden, Margaret Inboden, Jo Carter, Bonnie Finn, Phyllis Neeley, Norma Thompson, Barbara Gotts, Rose Michl, Sandy Bryans and Madeline Harris.

Continued on next page 

DISTRICT NEWS

Crawford County, continued

Members were asked to invite a friend or relative to the Membership Luncheon to get acquainted with HCE. It was a "pizza party" with an informative program regarding "dates" on food items given by Mary Liz Wright (U of I Extension Nutrition and Wellness educator). The two new members got their 2016 dues for FREE! 18 people attended the luncheon.

Valentine Making Day

Fourteen ladies made 209 Valentine cards to be given to local nursing home residents and the men and women in a veterans home.



Attending, pictured above: Bonnie Finn, Norma Thompson, Carolyn Coleman, Marge Shipman, Eva Miller, Beulah Inboden, Nina Rodrick, LaDonna Harris, Martha Holt, Phyllis Adams, Madeline Harris, Dorothy Osborne, Jeannie Adams, and Susan Allison.

Crawford County HCE ladies sent in \$217.83 in "friendship pennies" which was almost double the prior year of \$123.18.

Hope Dennis
Public Relations, Crawford County



EFFINGHAM.....

With all the warm weather we have been having, it puts us in the mood to get outside and start yard work. However, the rains we have been getting will put a halt to outside work for a while.

On November 12, we had our International Luncheon put together by Bev Elving, our International Director. We had a noon luncheon with unit member preparing favorite dishes associated with the Baltic States. Linda Schmidt gave a slide presentation of her travels to the Baltics. She was assisted by Linda Soltwedel who have traveled with Linda Schmidt to this area. There were 34 ladies attending. Bev always does a good job!

Saturday, December 19, the U of I Extension Center sponsored "Candy Cane Shuffle". Youth from the area with ages 8-18 were invited to come and make Christmas crafts. HCE members were on hand to help some of the younger kids who needed assistance. Didn't know that one craft project could turn out so many different ways.

Our Family Issues Director, Ruth Abell, had an ongoing project of collecting school supplies for area schools. Many times students run out of supplies the first of the year. With this donation, teachers can give students items as they are needed. All the schools are very appreciative.

The new year started off by selling butter braid pastries and frozen cookie dough. This has been a fundraiser for many years. The items were delivered in time for Easter.

Monday, January 25 was Sewing With Seniors at the Effingham Senior Center. This month's project was a six pocket apron.

U of I offered "4-H Food Smart Families" on February 1-10. There were five classes where area youth learned about the various food groups, basic cooking techniques, and then prepared some recipes. HCE members helped 4-H teen leaders prepare the food each evening.

On Monday, February 22, we were back to the Effingham Senior Center with Sewing With Seniors. This month we made wristband pincushions and sewing machine pincushions. This was a fun and easy project.

Some of our board members and regular members attended the state conference. State board members did a terrific job putting this conference together. Everyone learned something new and are eager to share with our county members.

Upcoming events that the board is working on:
April 12, Quilt Show, Extension Center, 1-7:00 p.m.
May 3, Sewing Day, Extension Center starting at 9 a.m.

Wishing everyone a busy spring; be careful and be safe.

Mary Beth Hoene
Acting Public Relations Director, Effingham County



A blonde man shouts frantically into the phone, "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only 2 minutes apart!" "Is this her first child?" asks the Doctor. "No!" he shouts, "This is her husband!"

DISTRICT NEWS

FAYETTE.....

The Fayette County Home and Community Education gals have been busy with various projects and causes. It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words, so I'm sending a few photos this month.

Some of our ladies could easily be a challenger for the pink "Energizer Bunny!" Departing from the regular FCHCE report form, I am recognizing one of the HCE members who didn't join our organization until she had retired from 42 years of a nursing career-in fact from working as an aide during high school, then attending college and receiving her "cap", until retirement age, all those years in the Fayette County Hospital and Long Term Care.

"DeeDee" Diveley belongs to our Sefton Unit and is a "doer", sometimes in a rather unorthodox fashion, but she gets things done for others, and in a respectable, highly-energized, but acceptable, (sometimes a bit unusual) way. Her quest for the collections has earned her the title locally of, "The Dumpster Diva".

In a very condensed form, she has collected bottle caps, plastic lids, and whatever objects needed for a project, often raiding trash dumpsters with a "reach-in and down", she designed herself.

She promoted the causes, such as the Eden's Glory collections to help the human trafficking survivors, by collecting Prairie farm Dairy products lids. Through her efforts, she has channeled hundreds of dollars to Eden's Glory.

Likewise with other collections for projects and causes, such as the durable and attractive park benches, which now are seen in the local nursing homes, assisted living, facilities and churches. The benches are guaranteed for 125 years, because of the durable materials they are made of. At one time she had collected 111 20-lb. dog food sacks full of the plastic lids, which she stored in an abandoned church near her home.



Pictured above: Dee Dee with the dog food stored on church benches in an abandoned church.

Not only does DeeDee become enthused about various causes, she inspires neighbors, friends, neighbor kids, and fellow church members to join in the effort. Strangers have dropped off lids they have collected for her after hearing about her quests to help others.

DeDee, a country gal through and through, who lived with and cared for her now deceased mother, is a busy gal...helping others. Although she officially is retired, the only time she sits in a rocking chair is when she rocks her cats, as she is a single caretaker of her two cats, "Sister" & "Brother". She also walks the neighbors' dogs in the rural area near her home, takes the neighborhood kids to the movies, takes friends to their doctor's appointments when needed, was mowing the country cemetery near her home, cuts toenails in the assisted living home, serves as vice-president in the local Golden Years Seniors club, and does her share in any of the fund-raising activities, besides always willing to tell a humorous story at the bi-monthly potluck dinners.

A unique and caring person, she also is famous for her homemade "Tiger Butter" candy, which is also a sure-seller in any fundraiser effort.

The IAHCE Conference... was much enjoyed by our delegates, Vice-president Debbie Segrist and Culture Enrichment officer, Ashley Davis and Family Issues/Community outreach officer, Donna Blair and Phyllis Pryor, former vice-president (pictured below).



The delegates reported: Debbie Segrist- "enjoyed the classes this year, especially the one Jane Chapman taught" and Ashley commented on the "remarkable energy the IAHCE ladies showed as they presented and worked at the conference".

The icing on the cake (for Fayette County gals) was when Fayette County HCE Cultural Enrichment was given the coveted award for their presentation of the Human Trafficking informational program for the public. We are very grateful and proud of this achievement and really inspires us all on to more public informational programs in the future.

We are looking forward to our annual "Get Acquainted Day" and our Fayette County Annual Meeting.

Panzi Blackwell,
Public Relations, Fayette County HCE

DISTRICT NEWS

JERSEY.....

After a lull, following our Christmas activities which also included collecting funds and shopping for the local Salvation Army Food Pantry and our Annual Brunch and Countywide Christmas party we started the new year off with a bang when Lisa Peterson, District 18 Nutrition & Wellness Educator brought her rescheduled program to the county, "Maximizing Your Slow Cooker" with 23 members and guests attended.

Then in February, we had a most interesting lesson "All About Chocolate" which was presented by the members of our local HCE Board. We had over 17 different chocolate recipes for attendees to "taste test" and everyone went home feeling rather full – most of the recipes were simply "to die for". There were 30 people in attendance for this outstanding program, which proves there is a lot of interest about chocolate. There was also much interest in the program in which the HCE board had gathered facts about the history of chocolate.

In March, Donna Russell of Garden Gems Greenhouse presented a lesson on "What's New in Gardening". She brought several containers of various sizes, etc. in which she had planted a variety of succulents, which she tells us is a new trend in gardening. Afterward several of us purchased these beautiful arrangements and we all feel like we learned a lot about this kind of gardening, which you can enjoy in your home without too much trouble! She also tells us she is now stocking a more extensive selection of herbs, which is a new trend in cooking. She also has expanded her selection of perennials and has one called "Chocolate Flower" that is supposed to smell like chocolate. You might like to check this one out with your local florist!

We also are continuing both our Craft Club and the Once-A-Month Quilting Club under the direction of our Cultural Enrichment Director, Joann Kuebrich. Joann also made the quilt block for Jersey County, which went into the quilt for the Annual IAHCE Conference and also Jersey County's donation to the Silent Auction at the Conference. It is a table runner featuring boats on the river which we feel ties in very well with this year's conference theme, "Rollin' on the River".

Five of our members attended the Annual IAHCE Conference in Peoria and really enjoyed themselves and learned a lot, as always. Jersey County was named 5th place County of the Year.

Keep up with us on our Facebook page – Jersey County Association for Home and Community Education.

Elizabeth A. Schwab
Publicity Director, Jersey County

MADISON.....

Happy Spring to everyone. The year is flying by. After another successful Christmas In November, we had a little down time and began 2016 with our Winter Warm Up on February 1st. Many artistic projects were accomplished that day as well as our selection of cultural arts items to take to the IAHCE conference.

On March 12th we had a Free Make It and Take It for elementary age children. We had ten stations for the children to make various craft projects from lighted Easter eggs made like bugs, to Twinkie bunny cars, tissue paper flowers, decorative bags to hold their goodies and much more. We had at least 35 kids and their parents or grandparents come that afternoon. Refreshments were served as well. It's one of the ways we give back to our community and HCE members.

Our ladies enjoyed a wonderful 3-4 days at the IAHCE conference. They appreciated the activities and workshops and enjoyed the facilities. Thanks to the IAHCE planning committee on a job well done. Congratulations to Eleanor Gregory and getting the Grand Award for International!



Madison County members at Annual Conference

Eleanor Gregory, International Director, hosted our two Estonian ladies--Rutt Tuvike and Ene Paks for 3 days with a whirlwind tour of the St. Louis Botanical Gardens, historic sites of Alton, a day in Springfield visiting Lincoln sites and a trip to Arthur. It makes me tired just to think of all of those places. We had a Meet and Greet for them and they got to visit the Alhambra/Leef Unit meeting. Thanks to Eleanor for being such a great hostess and for Rutt and Ene visiting with us.

Our Annual Meeting is on April 25th at the LeClare Christian Church. Our membership tea is May 10th and Priscilla Plocher and her 2nd Vice are busy planning the event. On May 26th, we will be "Rollin' on the River" as we take our County Tour to St. Genevieve, MO.

We wish everyone a pleasant Spring as we enjoy the blooms, greening of nature and smells so familiar with Spring.

Gloria Hartmann
Public Information, Madison County

DISTRICT NEWS

MACOUPIN.....

The Macoupin County Newsletter, "Lines From the Vine", is sent out monthly and has articles by all the board members and gives all the information of what is happening.

Our county has had many great lessons in the past few months. Among them "How to Use Your Local Library". One group met at the library and had a tour and received information of services available. Very informational. Had a lesson on Heart Healthy Eating, Superfoods to the Rescue and Ways to Cut your Electric Bill. The local leaders have been very faithful in attending the leader training sessions.

We studied the flag in our county, proper etiquette, how to display and respect for the flag. Ecuador was our international study and now Estonia. It was interesting to meet the ladies from Estonia at the Convention.

Each year our county has retreats with neighboring counties of Christian and Jersey. The last one had a presentation on Barn Quilts which was quite interesting. These meetings are great as you also get to see familiar faces and meet new HCE members.

The county has monthly quilting meetings. Cultural Arts always had new ideas how to use things you have on hand to make something beautiful! Some were decorated hand mirrors, pin cushion on a tea cup, pine cone trees, and rose angels.

Units have been busy with projects. Some of these are cancer caps, fleece blankets for nursing homes and homebound, and pillow case dresses for Africa and Haiti. Some groups collect money for food for local food pantries. Each year one group fills book bags with books, coloring book and crayons for the children in Head Start to take home for the summer when school ends.

Carol Pollo, Terry Jameson, Donna Greenslade and Joyce Duelm from the Macoupin County Board attended the IAHCE Annual Convention "Rollin' on the River" in East Peoria on March 15-17. It was very interesting and informational. Also a first for some! Tornado warning and our group was locked in for 45 minutes! The committee did a great job of keeping us calm and entertained! We had two members who have been members for 50 and plus years, also a first timer at a convention and a lost tooth! But all went well and was enjoyed by all. The Embassy Suites & Convention Center was very helpful and a great place for the convention. We took a basket of products from



Macoupin County (\$90 value) for the silent auction. Vicki Laughlin entered a stained glass table top in the Craft Division and received "Best of Show" award!

Our County annual meeting will be May 26 at the Carlinville Methodist Church. We will have a speaker on "Support Dogs". There will also be a silent auction which always is a lot of fun to see what we can find!

Joyce Duelm
Public Relations, Macoupin County



MARION.....

Upcoming Events in Marion County
Marion County Extension Office
1404 E Main Street Salem, IL 62881.
For more information call 618-548-1446.

- Friday, April 22, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Marion County HCE Annual Book Sale to benefit Marion County HCE Scholarship Fund
- Saturday, April 23, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Marion County HCE Annual Book Sale to benefit Marion County HCE Scholarship Fund
- Thursday, April 28, 1:30 pm
Marion County HCE Annual Meeting; Steve Smith of Steve's Care Packages: *Care Packages for Heroes* will be our speaker.
- Saturday, June 25, 7:00 pm
Marion County HCE presents "George Portz and the Friends of Bluegrass" at the Salem Community Theater and Cultural Center; 119 S Broadway. Salem, Illinois. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$3 for children and may be purchased at the door or by calling the Marion County Extension Office at 618-548-1446 for more information.

At the October meeting, the Marion County HCE Board selected the recipient and provided the gift card for the Annual HCE award presented at the 4-H Achievement Night held in November at the Marion County Fairgrounds. The Recipient of the \$1,000.00 HCE Scholarship, working toward his degree to be a Family Nurse Practitioner was also announced. Working two jobs with a young family to support, the help was most appreciated.

The County Training presented at the Marion County Extension Office in November was "How to Buy and Sell Things Online". Chris Apgar of This N That Online Consignment explained the vocabulary used on the various sites and showed how to navigate them. She

Continued on next page 

DISTRICT NEWS

Marion County, continued

shared posts she has made of items to sell and found items we could purchase. Better understanding the time and information needed to post and maintain updates as well as navigating the variety of payment and shipping arrangements available helped us appreciate the consignment fee she charges for her services. We certainly were well informed by this lesson!

No County Training was held in December, but members enjoyed Christmas gatherings with their Units. A speedy recovery was wished to long-time Marion County HCE member, Freda Chasteen, who fell and rehabilitated for less than a week at Centralia Manor. Freda's resignation from the Marion County Board was announced at the January meeting as she has moved to Tennessee for full-time residence with her daughter. She remains a Mail Box Member. She was a great asset and committed worker for HCE, the County Board, and the Scholarship Committee. We love you, Freda – your presence here in Illinois will be greatly missed!

Troy Reed, Certified Reflexologist, presented the County Training in January. Reflexology is a science that deals with the principle that there are reflex areas in the feet, hands, and face which correspond to all of the glands, organs and parts of the body. By skilled manipulation, Reflexologists can relieve symptoms in other parts of the body. Troy has grown his business with help from the Kaskaskia College Incubator Program and maintains an office at the Salem Center. Attendees enjoyed the charts, equipment, and personal demonstrations he shared.

60-year HCE member Margaret Parsons presented the County Training on Interior Decorating in February.



*February Training:
60-year HCE member
Margaret Parsons
presenting a lesson*

For 50 years, Margaret has worked in many local homes and businesses and in the St. Louis area on jobs including the Powell Symphony Hall Reception Area.

She encouraged us “not to play it safe” with color and “don’t follow fads”. She taught that a good way to begin decorating a room is to pick an inspiration piece such as a picture or other item we love and pick up colors to paint and accent the room, being generous with different textures, patterns, and shapes throughout the room. She shared that At Home, Home Goods, and Hobby Lobby are her “go to” places for fabric, flowers, accent pieces and more.

Connie Williams
Public Relations, Marion County



MONROE.....

A first for Monroe County HCE—an autumn Annual Meeting! Over fifty members and guests gathered at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Waterloo, Illinois on rainy, cold Thursday, November 5. Great food and great fellowship was enjoyed, and attendees could do a little early Christmas shopping during our silent auction.

Our featured speaker was Adam Stumpf, founder and co-owner of “Stumpy’s Spirits,” a new, local vodka distillery. During his very interesting talk he explained how each small step helped him toward his goals...and that the HCE scholarship he received ten years ago helped to bring him to where he is today.

Louetta Wilson, a 47-year member was named our “2015 Distinguished Member” and JoAnn Roider, Dorothy Steingrubey and Freda Woodrome each received their 50-year-membership certificate and pin.

We were honored to have IAHC president Jane Chapman attend the dinner. She give a rousing talk about teamwork, then followed up with a very fun and silly installation ceremony for our new officers.

Our official HCE year now starts on January 1, and we jumped right into lessons on “Superfoods to the Rescue,” “New Ways to Cut Your Electric Bill,” and the very well attended, “What is Available for YOU at the Monroe County Courthouse,” presented by County Commission Delbert Wittenauer.

Gracia Schlafly
President/Public Relations Monroe County



DISTRICT NEWS

RICHLAND.....

Marlene Steber, Community Outreach Chair reports that it has been another busy year with 10 workshops and 242 blankets taken to Richland Memorial Hospital as of March 8, 2016. That makes a total of 3,814 blankets delivered to RMH for sick or needy babies, children who are sick or having surgery.

Nurses in Same Day Surgery, Pediatric Department, OB Department and Emergency Department give out these blankets. Sometimes we get blankets from someone who made them and asks that they be taken to the Long Term Care Department. Thank you to the Ladies with long arm quilting machines for donating their time and talent to quilt the blankets. All donations of fabric, monetary donations, your time, and willingness to share your skills are much appreciated.

We took eight things again this year to the State Conference. Two of our ladies took top honors in their categories. Bonita Balding with her knitted afghan and Nell Cokley with her crocheted afghan.



Jane Kocher, president; Nancy Pitts, 1st vice-president; Debbie Geier, 2nd vice-president; Loretta Steber, secretary, Nell Cokley, treasurer, Eleanor Steber, Family issues/ international & youth; Amber Totten, Ways and Means; Marlene Steber, community outreach; Lisa Weiler, cultural enrichment and Marilyn Schaefer, IAHCE District 6 Director. Marie Wagner, Public Information, not pictured.



Left: Bonnie Balding, Knitted Afghan

Below: Nell Cokley, Crocheted Afghan



Left: L-R Lisa Weiler and Nell Cokley attended Annual Conference representing Richland County.

Lisa Weiler
Public Relations, Richland County



Congratulations to these two ladies and to everyone who worked on those project all year!

The Cultural Enrichment Chair, Lisa Weiler is working on getting the Make-it-Take-It projects going again at the Bazaar and the monthly Craft Club.

Marilyn Schaefer, District 6 Director, installed the newly elected officers at the Richland County Annual meeting.



Annual Conference 2016 Centerpiece

DISTRICT NEWS

DISTRICT 7 DIRECTOR Janel Kassing



Ladies,

Conference 2016 is history and it was very successful. I am reading and recording all of the evaluations. We received lots of positive comments and many suggestions of things we need to improve. The boat ride was fantastic! If you were there, I hope you enjoyed as much as I did. As soon as I gain some lost sleep and lose some gained pounds, I should be back to normal (???)

Now it is on to Annual Meetings. I so thoroughly enjoy them. A chance to see how various counties celebrate their special events. If I wasn't able to come to yours, I hope you'll invite me to another event. I love meeting your membership. I can come to one event in each county per year at state expense. Thanks for all the invitations! Then it's off to Florida for a couple of weeks of sunshine.

In June the board will be going to Galesburg to continue working on District meetings in August. We have a great program planned for you. Information will be out with June letters. See you there - ours will be in Effingham.

So glad Spring has sprung. My spring flowers are up and blooming all around the house. The green is so vibrant. I enjoy all the seasons, but Spring is so beautiful! Enjoy the blooms.



Janel Kassing

HAMILTON.....

It's hard to believe that winter will soon be over and it will be time to start planning spring and summer activities.

Our 2015 fall activity was a holiday bazaar and bake sale. We had several vendors and attendance was good. The day ended with our annual quilt raffle. Our November lesson was presented by "Do-Over Décor," who shared their expertise with re-purposing furniture and other items.

On December 4, our town held their annual Christmas parade and other activities in the downtown area. Our HEA ladies served free hot chocolate and cookies following the parade.

Our Board members were happy to have a special guest, State President Jane Chapman, at our December board Meeting and Christmas party.

We had great lessons in February and March. The March lesson was given by Karen Rapp on Landscaping.

Our annual Cabin Fever workshop co-sponsored by HEA and 4-H was enjoyed by several young people who took part in various projects.



Cabin Fever Days with HCE and 4-H

Our Community Outreach Director, Karol Brown, continues to do a fantastic job. We as usual collect items for the veterans at the VA hospital in Marion, and she delivered those items on February 12th, just in time for Valentine's Day.



WOW, I'm rich!
Silver in the hair,
Gold in the teeth,
Crystals in the kidney,
Sugar in the blood,
Lead in the butt,
Iron in the arteries,
and an inexhaustible supply of natural gas!

I never thought I would accumulate such wealth!

POSTED BY THE FIGHT LIKE A GIRL CLUB™ -Unknown Author

DISTRICT NEWS



The 4-Hers had made more than 250 valentines for veterans.

We continue to collect stamps, can tabs, “Box Tops for Education”, labels for education, and hard plastic lids. We have begun collecting medicine bottles with lids which we give to neighboring counties in exchange for hard plastic lids. It is really rewarding to be able to help each other out with outreach projects.

Three board members attended State Conference in March.

Our annual Taco Lunch and Bake Sale is being planned for March 24th.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer!

Bernadine Drone
Hamilton County Public Relations
(Teamwork with Karol Brown and Becky Belcher)



JACKSON.....

As always, the ladies of Jackson County stay busy. We have had several interesting programs this winter season.

- In January we attended a lesson on Nutritional Cooking.
- In February we learned to make home made soap. Our soap 101 lesson was well attended by other nearby counties and by two people from Missouri.
- In March we hosted a fashion show and luncheon. decorated with a Spring theme and were host to many HCE members and nonmembers as well.

We have had two meetings this year for our new bereavement group which was formally name Honoring Children Eternally in January. We are sewing many items to assist our local hospital in supporting parents who have lost a child through miscarriage and/or still birth. We have been collecting fabric, yarn, thread and many other items for this endeavor.

We began a Face Book page entitled Honoring Children Eternally. Go to that page and like it. We plan on having a next meeting in May for even more organization.

We are currently getting ready for our Annual Meeting and Luncheon later this month. Our programs for the next few months are just as exciting; Yoga Returns and Peaches in Southern Illinois.

We have an exciting Spring and Summer underway and hope to see many of you.

Enjoy your summer. We hope to see many of you at the District meeting!

Jean Conrod
Newsletter Editor, Jackson County



JEFFERSON.....

Greetings Shipmates, 60 degrees today, snow tomorrow, must be March in Illinois.

In December, JCHCE had a lesson on How to Stretch the Dollar. We were given several ideas on ways to improve spending habits. We ended the year with new program books, hanging up our shoes, and Rollin’ down the river for 2016.

We set sail in January on a healthy note with a lesson on Tai-Chi. Tai Chi...a low-impact, relaxing form of exercise that only requires about 20 minutes. Tai Chi is an exercise that can help maintain strength, flexibility, and balance. A bit difficult, but once mastered it can have a positive impact on your overall health.

We started a fundraiser selling Streak-less microfiber cloths. We have had great results; we are going to continue with this fundraiser.

We paddled into February and held our third annual Soup and Game night / Membership drive. Participants appeared to have a great time eating, playing games, and friendship with other guests and members. We requested monetary or non-perishable food items. We were able to support our local food pantries with a tote full of foods. The Mt. Vernon Sentinel covered the event and placed a nice article in the paper.

Our lesson for February was Superfoods to the Rescue – We were given a list of the healthiest foods, which provide the best benefits and may reduce the risk of disease. We learned how to put together meals that were appealing and healthy. We received recipes to incorporate into our family meals.

DISTRICT NEWS

Jefferson County, continued

We blew into March (literally, the wind was terrible) with an Important and very informative lesson on How to Avoid Identify Theft. Presented by Ella York, Community Outreach Liaison, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General for Jefferson County, she gave an outstanding presentation, answered all our questions, and put together a useful information packet to use at the Unit lessons. Statistics show over 15 million victims a year and over \$50 billion in damages, it is the fastest growing crime. It is wise to know the steps to secure your identity, and know what to do if you become a victim.

We held our spring advisory meeting and heard about the events from IAHCE Annual Conference. Jefferson County proudly came home with awards in Community Outreach, Cultural Enrichment, and HCE week.

On March 28, 2016, District 7 had a "Meet & Greet" for two women from Estonia. Rutt Tuvike, retired biology teacher, current bed & breakfast operator and head of a community-focused organization, and Ene Paks who is a English professor at a vocational college.

The event was hosted by Jefferson County at the Mt. Vernon Extension Office. There was a nice variety of finger foods and drinks, donated by six counties from district 7. Rutt and Ene, members of The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) gave a presentation on their country, and answered group questions as well as individual questions. It was nice to catch up with friends from the other districts, make new friends, and share recipes from some of the delicious finger foods HCE members had made.



We are now making plans for our Annual Meeting in April. It is hard to believe we are this far into the year already.

We wish all of you a blooming good spring. If you get a chance, maybe take, the advice in this quote, and "Sit by a river. Find peace and meaning in the rhythm of the lifeblood of the Earth." — (Anonymous)



MASSAC.....



Massac County HCE Annual Meeting – "Honoring the American Flag"

The **Annual Meeting** was held on Sunday, March 6, 2016, 2:00 P.M. at St. John's Church. The theme was "Honoring the American Flag." The program incorporated the history of the American Flag, how we are to display it with respect, care for it, what each fold means, and remembering all those who have given their lives for the freedoms we have in this country. We want to thank Sharon Davis, IAHCE Family & Community Issues Director for her time & presentation. Tables were all decorated patriotically.



The Unit award was presented to Volleville Unit. Best Attendance was George's Creek, & Best Table Decoration was Volleville. The new members were recognized and those who passed

away in 2015, Flora Sullivan and Jane Williams, were honored.

A Certificate was presented to Anita McConnell for 1,012 Volunteer Hours given to the community in 2015.



Others with over 500 hours were: Rozann Wilkins, Joyce Taylor, Judy Duckworth, Mickey Georger, Norma Korte & Dorothy Holt.

Community Issues

Massac County HCE and 4-H members will work together during a workshop on April 30, 9:00 a.m. at the Extension Office. The purpose of the workshop is to help improve 4-H members' sewing skills and make personal bags with a zipper. Anyone interested in improving their own sewing skills or helping the 4-H members are encouraged to come! Please sign up by April 20 to make sure we have enough material and zippers on hand for everyone to make a bag.

DISTRICT NEWS



HCE Scholarships Congratulations to the 2016 Scholarship Winners!

Student who will receive HCE scholarships are: Tanner Weatherbee, son of Linda Weatherbee; Jay Benard, son of Jno & Tina Benard; Elizabeth Hicks, daughter of Michael & Beverly Hicks; Gabriel Wrye, daughter of Mary Wrye. We are happy to offer scholarships to these four students and wish them the best in their future educational opportunities.

Norma Korte
Public Information, Massac County



RANDOLPH.....



This year our Cabin Fever was changed to a Leap Year Party held on February 29.

Various crafts were introduced, and those in attendance learned how to make them. Among them were: putting fabric on the back of a clear glass plate; making zipper bracelets; a unique scarf, ideas to make with men's ties and handouts.

The ladies also assembled 350 favors for the State Conference. They were tea bags stuck inside an envelope and tied with a ribbon. There was a saying "Have a cup of tea with Randolph County HCE."

Seven members of the board attended the conference in East Peoria in March. They came back with a lot of ideas that will be presented to the units.

We were honored to have District 7 Director Janel Kassing who is on our board, as co-chairperson of the 2016 conference.

Our annual meeting was April 28, and the theme was on the Baltic States. A local couple who adopted children from Latvia was asked to be the speaker.

Jane Lucht
Public Relations, Randolph County



SALINE.....

Homemakers started the Saline County Historical Society Mayor's Christmas Tree lighting. This annual event in Harrisburg brings together the community to start the Holiday season with treats, music, Mayor Fowler lighting the tree and a visit from Santa. The Saline County Historical Society hosted the event at the Saline Creek Pioneer Village grounds.



Saline County Board President Jody Moore, 2nd Vice Kay Long, Secretary Barb Lambert and Board Delegate Jeannie Warren are ready to serve cookies.

While we have been watching winter's snowflakes and enduring cold days, we have been fundraising with "That's my Pan" and a "Soup and Sandwich" lunch. These were both new adventures for our Homemakers. We also were able to make a donation to 4-H from the fall Chicken and Dumpling Dinner. We would like to thank all of Saline County for supporting our efforts.

We would like to take a few minutes to brag on Saline County. Have you seen the new Illinois quarter? The National Parks series quarter features Camel Rock.

Camel Rock is located at Garden of the Gods in the Shawnee National Forest. We invite everyone to come to Saline County and visit Garden of the Gods in person. It's a beautiful scenic area with hiking trails and picnic areas. Be sure to bring a camera because you'll want to remember your trip to Southern Illinois.

Barbara Lambert
Public Relations, Saline County



DISTRICT NEWS

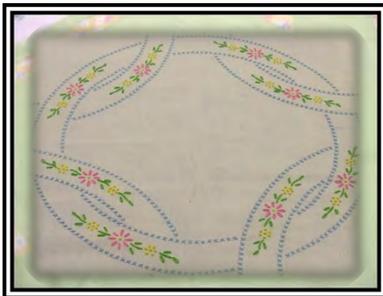
UNION.....

These are the projects Union County has been working on in January, February and March 2016.



2016 4-H Quilt

Deb Rossberg embroidered the blocks and Suzie Kessler assembled the quilt. The quilt is done in pastel colors and set together with mint green.



Quilters are now working on a Wedding Ring consignment quilt.



Jane Bauer
Public Relations, Union County

“Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work.” – Aristotle



WASHINGTON.....

Spring is in the air, the trees are leafing out, beautiful flowers and bushes are blooming. Birds are singing, it is absolutely beautiful outside. It rained on Easter Sunday, so I believe my Aunt said we would have 7 more Sundays of rain. I have already planted my potatoes and onions and can't wait to plant the remainder of my garden, so a short Sunday rain would be welcome.

Our Ways & Means Chairman reported that the quilt is quilted and she will do the hemming, it is a beautiful pattern quilt. Many hours of helpful hands put their stitches into this quilt. It is a very time consuming process to put a quilt together and any help is welcome.

Our Annual meeting will be at the Nashville American Legion on Monday, April 25, 2016. Each unit is asked to bring two \$10.00 items for the auction, and each board member will supply one also. The menu will be smoked pork chops, scalloped potatoes, vegetables and slaw. We have a very fun program planned...see you there.

The Facebook page is up. I have been updating it on a regular basis. If you are a Facebook user, search Washington County Illinois iahce and you will find our page and updates on what is going on in our local HCE.

Audrey Ostendorf
Public Relations, Washington County



WHITE.....

Happy spring everyone from HCE White County. Spring has sprung. Birds are singing and flowers are up. Time for us to rise and shine and make a difference in our communities.

I think it is members taking responsibility to make HCE better. We should all try to get at least 1 or 2 new members this year. White county HCE has made a difference in the lives of others by having a bingo fundraiser for White County Relay for Life Cancer Crusade. We donated \$1,330.

Each of us has much to offer as we walk through this life. Be it small or large disasters, I feel blessed to know I have helped make a difference in the lives of others in the past year. If I have helped one person then I have not lived my life in vain.

DISTRICT NEWS

Heritage Skill Day was a great fun day. We all brought butter churns, butter molds, and butter dishes. This brought back many memories. We all had wonderful stories of those memories to share. We had a wonderful lunch, as always.



Pictured right: Heritage Skill Day display



We are now busy with our upcoming style show and salad luncheon and Annual Day.



Four members attended the 2016 IAHCE Annual Conference. Fun was had by all. We had some wonderful resource information to help us build our membership and become better in community activities that make HCE a wonderful organization.

Pictured left: Ludene Taylor, Cultural Enrichment, Ruth Norris, Chairman, Doris Stinson, 1st Vice and Fran Matheny, Public Relations.

We also donated \$750 and many books to the Veterans Hospital in Marion, IL

Pictured right: White County Chairman, Ruth Norris and 2nd Vice Bonnie Remley delivering packages to the Veterans Hospital, Marion, IL



Fran Matheny
Public Relations, White County

WILLIAMSON.....

HCE in Williamson Co. donated an art award for the Annual H. A . Art Show at Little Egypt Art Association February 7 reception and awards program. Shown presenting the award on the right is president Charlene Morris and left is Lyla Miller of Zeigler-Royalton whose diorama "better Places" was chosen by HCE member and co- juror, Marie Samuel .



Left: Lyla Miller receiving an award from HCE president Charlene Morris.

Our county is hoping to award a scholarship to a worthy student , and a committee has been formed. Other community projects include donations for homeless vets, the Shriners , Gumdrops (a program to help students with easily stored and prepared food over week- ends) and other projects such as collecting empty pill bottles for other HCE counties.

We also still serve lunch to the homeless at the Lighthouse Shelter in months with a fifth Saturday

We had a craft day on Feb.16 to create snowmen out of socks. This is a possible idea for our annual bazaar which features handmade craft items.



Sock Snowmen →



← *Craft Day*

Our international luncheon is April 21, and we will learn more about Ecuador and their foods and recipes.

We had 4 members attending the State HCE Conference this year and 3 entries for the Cultural Enrichment Show.

Marie Samuel
Public Relations, Williamson County



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Homemaker Exchange a Success

March 7 through April 7, 2016 various members of IAHCE were hosts or participants otherwise who made the visit by Rutt Tuvike and Ene Paks of Estonia a great experience for all. Since the June 2014 recommendation of the Associated Country Women of the World's European Area President, Valerie Stevens, there has been a concerted effort to do this inbound Homemaker Exchange.

Rutt and Ene visited us in Illinois on behalf of the Village Development Society 'Sääniku'. Rutt is the Center's Chairman of the Board and voluntary event organizer. She lives in the village of Mäeselja with 77 residents in the municipality of Puhja. In 2003 she retired after careers as high school biology teacher, ichthyologist and other public service. She is now a farmer with bed & breakfast accommodations and event organizer. Ene is an English language educator at the Tartu Vocational Education Center. Her students are 16 to 50+ years of age. Earlier in her career she was Project Leader for a partnership with a school in Norway, and Principal of a Secondary School in Rõngu, Estonia. She lives in the city of Tartu with 1.4 million residents.

Our visitors from Estonia quickly fell into the rhythm of the IAHCE Annual Conference. They attended share shops, displayed Estonian handmade items in the cultural Enrichment room, talked with any members that approached them, and made an informative presentation to the 345 conference attendees. Their video and slide presentations were very professional and they spoke from the heart at the International Share Shop.

Thanks to these generous hosts and their supportive county organizations, Rutt and Ene visited all six IAHCE Districts, interacted with as many members as possible at meetings and special events, got a glimpse of homelife and visited various sites in Illinois.

Hosts:

Lois Brechbeil (D1 – Warren County),
Pat Weitzmann (D2/3- Lake County),
Barb Higley (D4 – Adams County),
Alice Grooms (D5 – DeWitt County),
Eleanor Gregory (D6- Madison County),
Jane Chapman (D7- Perry County) and
Phyllis Webb (D7 – Johnson County).

During their stays around Illinois Rutt and Ene visited Chicago, Annual Show of the Southport Quilters Guild in Kenosha in WI, Chicago Estonia House cultural

center, Illinois Valley Community College, Eureka College, Lincoln College's Heritage Museum and Center for Environmental Education, Springfield Illinois capitol building and Lincoln sites, Amish Community in Arthur, IL, Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis, Quincy, Hannibal in MO, John Deere Visitor Center and Museum in Moline, Goreville Community School.

They saw some of our magnificent bodies of water in Illinois: Mississippi River, Illinois River, Lake Egypt. A riverboat ride on the Illinois River and pontoon boat ride on Lake Egypt were a real pleasure. Then there were the walks and views in Starved Rock State Park, Tunnel went to county HCE meetings and a 4-H meeting, attended a yoga class and Sweet Adeline chorus practice, attended various church services, visited homes of their hosts' extended family members and visited farms, including ones with cows and alpaca. March 31 was declared 'Rutt and Ene Day' by the mayor of Quincy, IL. IAHCE has been enriched by this Homemaker Exchange.

Thank you to any and all involved.

Look on the IAHCE website www.iahce.org and our Facebook page for pictures of our Estonian visitors in Illinois.

By Pat Weitzmann



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

IAHCE International Homemaker Exchange March 7 - April 7, 2016

Host Home Activities

Affiliated Society: Puhja Countrywomen Society, Member of Associated Countrywomen of the World (ACWW). IAHCE is also a member of ACWW.

March 7 – 13 Pat Weitzmann, Host, Antioch, IL (Lake County)

March 8 - Visited downtown Lake Geneva, WI before attending 'Spirit of the Lakes Chorus of Sweet Adeline's International chorus practice in Lake Geneva, WI with host.

March 9 - Visited Chicago along downtown Lake Michigan shore, Museum Campus, Grant Park, Navy Pier, some stores and sights along the Magnificent Mile on Michigan Avenue. Included view from the Signature Room on the 96th floor of the Hancock Building. Car driver and tour guide was Pat's sister Sharon Gaske of Arlington Heights, IL.

March 10 & 11 - Visited La Salle County including Starved Rock State Park and a full day visit at the Illinois Valley Community College in Ogelsby, IL. College visit planned by Amanda Cook Fesperman, Professor, Political Science/History and Coordinator, International/Multicultural Education.

March 12 - Visited Kenosha, WI along Lake Michigan shore. Included Kenosha Public Museum visit featuring Annual Show of the Southport Quilters Guild. Also Pat's cousin Mary Notter gave an Afternoon Tea at her home in Mundelein, IL;

March 13 - Visited Chicago Estonia House culture center in Riverwoods, courtesy of Siim Sööt PhD, Emeritus, Urban Transportation Center, University of Illinois at Chicago, also Honorary Vice Consul, Republic of Estonia and Vice President Chicago Estonia House.

March 13 - 17 Embassy Suites, E. Peoria, IL - IAHCE Annual Conference
March 14 visited Eureka College, and Eureka and Bloomington, IL area. Their host was Harry E. Fisher, Associate Professor of Business Administration and Chair, Division of Social Science and Business at Eureka College. (He is the brother of IAHCE District 1 Director Cara Ausmus.)

March 15-17 attended 92nd IAHCE Annual Conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel in East Peoria, IL; Rutt and Ene attended share shops including one where they painted a scene on canvas, made a presentation at the Wednesday luncheon, did the Fun Walk and went on Spirit of Peoria Riverboat cruise on the Illinois River.

March 17 – 20 Alice Grooms, Host, Clinton, IL (DeWitt County)

Attended are three group meetings: quilters' guild, 4-H and DeWitt County HCE's International Day in Clinton, IL. Visited Lincoln Heritage Museum and Creekside Center for Environmental Education both part of Lincoln College in Lincoln, IL, also visited two farms: cow and alpaca.



Continued on next page →

IAHCE International Homemaker Exchange, continued



March 20 – 24 Eleanor Gregory, Host, Alhambra, IL (Madison County)
 Attended Yoga class with host. Toured the Lincoln Home, Lincoln Museum, Illinois State Capitol and Tomb of Lincoln in Springfield, IL. Visited Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis, view of the St. Louis Arch (construction activity underway); view of Mississippi River, Audubon Bird Sanctuary and Lewis & Clark Bridge from My Just Desserts Restaurant in Alton, IL; visited Amish Home and many Amish businesses in Arthur, IL with tour guide Josephine Marner, HCE member in Arthur; luncheon at Eleanor Gregory's daughter's newly constructed home in Alhambra, IL



March 24 – 28 Jane Chapman, Host, Coulterville, IL (Perry County)
 Colored Easter Eggs; helped prepare Easter Dinner; celebrated Easter with 25 members of Jane's family; celebrated Jane's birthday with Jane's family and friends; attended Sunrise Easter Service at old Lutheran Church in the countryside



March 28 -- 29 Phyllis Webb, Host, Tunnel Hill, IL (Johnson County)
 Took hike in Tunnel Hill State Park/Trail; visited Ferne Clyffe State Park; toured Lake Egypt, a large reservoir, from a pontoon boat (courtesy of Phyllis' friend) and lunched on the pontoon boat; visited the Goreville Community School (Dr. Steve Webb the tour guide); visited Monty and Gail Webb's recently restored year 1854 home in Anna, IL.

March 30 -- Travel day to connect with next host



March 31 -- April 2 Barb Higley, Host, Golden, IL (Adams County)
 Visited Quincy, IL where mayor Kyle Moore proclaimed March 31 as 'Ene and Rutt Day'; visited Hannibal, MO and the Mark Twain sites there.

April 2 – April 4 Lois Brechbeil, Host, Berwick, IL (Warren County)
 April 2 - Visited sites in Macomb, IL including Amtrak Train Station; dinner with Warren County HCE Board at Barb's home.
 April 3 - 'Meet and Greet' with District HCE members at the Prairie Mills Windmill and Museum, Golden, IL;
 April 4 - visited John Deere Pavilion Visitor Center and Museum in Moline, IL, visited towns and the Mississippi River in the Quad Cities (Rock Island, IL - Moline, IL- Davenport, IA - Bettendorf, IA) and Clinton, IA areas.



April 4 – 7 Pat Weitzmann, Host, Antioch, IL (Lake County)
 April 5 - District wide Goodbye 'Tea' Open House at University of Illinois Extension Office, Grayslake, IL
 April 6 - Spending Day with Siim Sööt and others associated with the Chicago Estonia House
 April 7 - Return flight to Estonia.



Rutt and Ene at Historical Becky Thatcher's home; visiting author Mark Train sites. Hannibal, MO.

AWARDS

CULTURAL ARTS WINNING ENTRIES

Peggy Long

44 counties represented
243 items entered

Category	County	Winner Name
112 Artwork	Will	Regina Harris
201 Baby Quilts	Champaign	Leatrice Helberg
313 Counted Cross Stitch	DuPage	Jean Rae
420 Crafts	Jackson	Phyllis Barnes
506 Crochet Afghan	Richland	Nell Cokley
601 Crochet, other	Monroe	Betty Gross
701 Hand Embroidery	Stephenson	Loretta Hagen
805 Hand Quilt	Perry	Alberta Woodside
902 Heritage Needlework	Pike	Rebecca DeLong
1006 Jewelry	Lake	Angela Hicks
1102 Knitted Afghan	Richland	Bonita Balding
1208 Knit, other	Madison	Claudia Harjie
1304 Machine Embroidery	Tazewell	Judy McFarland
1402 Machine Quilts	Edgar	Marge Houglan
1407 Machine Quilts	DeKalb	Marlene Steimel
1502 Nature Items	McLean	Rosemary Martin
1604 Photography	Stephenson	Janice Fryer
1702 Recycled	Rock Island	Lisa Brothall
1801 Rugs	Livingston	Ellie Bossert
1904 Scrapbooking	DeKalb	Carol Keneway
2004 Table Runners	Macon	Estaleen Earthal
2110 Wearable Art	Piatt	Norma Reck
2205 Wall Hanging	Macon	Sally Dennis
2301 Wood	Champaign	Dorothy Weber
2403 Conference Theme	Mercer	Cara Ausmus

INTERNATIONAL

Pat Weitzmann, IAHCE Director

Country of Study

Lee	District 1
<i>Through education & Pff efforts paid off</i>	
DuPage	District 2/3
<i>International Tea & 4-H International Night</i>	
Macon & Piatt	District 5
<i>Even the Website Homepage got involved</i>	
Washington	District 7
<i>Flyers & Radio publicity, 42% membership at SIE</i>	

Other Country of Study

DeWitt	District 5
<i>Germany-Education & Entertainment combinations</i>	
Bond	District 6
<i>Ecuador-Program Booklet for SIE a Good Touch</i>	
Wayne	District 7
<i>Haiti-Community Outreach aspect & 65% SIE attend</i>	

Special International Event

Stephenson	District 1
<i>Local Lithuanian speaker a good find</i>	
LaSalle	District 2/3
<i>Lithuanian WWII DP speaker-a great find</i>	
Sangamon	District 4
<i>Great speakers; 40% membership attendance</i>	
Champaign	District 5
<i>Two speakers, musician added to impact</i>	
Effingham	District 6
<i>Good plan to keep members informed and interested</i>	
Hamilton	District 7
<i>Lithuania-HCE & 4-H combination</i>	

GRAND AWARD (TIE)

Madison County	District 6
<i>Country of Study—Miss Baltic State Contest, interesting education tools</i>	
Lake County	District 2/3
<i>Country of Study—Goals, Education, Pff efforts</i>	



AWARDS

CVH/SALES

Joan Stanley, IAHCE Director

County with the highest number of hours reported:

District 1:	Jo Daviess	15,144
District 2/3:	Kane	20,478
District 4:	Adams	19,226
District 5:	Champaign	37,085
District 6:	Fayette	25,957
District 7:	Franklin	16,295

County with highest percentage of members participating:

District 1:	Jo Daviess	66%
District 2/3:	Kane	70%
District 4:	Adams	79%
District 5:	Macon	75%
District 6:	Clay	67%
District 7:	Union	97%

County with the highest number of members participating:

District 1:	Stephenson	51
District 2/3:	Kane	95
District 4:	Adams	138
District 5:	McLean	157
District 6:	Fayette	56

GRAND AWARD: Member over 1,000 hours

JOAN MC EACHERN

3,175 Hours



CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Peggy Long, IAHCE Director

Special Activity

Stephenson County	District 1
<i>Guided tour of Galena</i>	
Edgar County	District 5
<i>Tea with history of and proper etiquette</i>	
Jefferson County	District 7
<i>Tour of Charleston, Missouri</i>	

Textiles & Clothing

Tazewell County	District 4
<i>Quilted table runner</i>	
DeWitt County	District 5
<i>Making walker & wheelchair bags</i>	
Effingham County	District 6
<i>HCE & 4-H kids/pillowcases for Kids with Cancer</i>	

Heritage Skills

Macon County	District 5
<i>History of quilts</i>	
Massac County	District 7
<i>Sewing dining scarves with 4-H'ers</i>	

GRAND AWARD

Special Activity

Fayette County	District 6
<i>Human Trafficking</i>	



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ISSUES

Sharon Davis, IAHCE Director

Family Living & Safety

Macon County	District 5
<i>Bullying and Flag Etiquette</i>	

Health, Food & Nutrition

McLean County	District 5
<i>Exercise for Wellness; Silent Killer of Teeth and Varicose Veins</i>	
Jefferson County	District 7
<i>Assisting at the Local Food Banks</i>	

Citizenship, Environment

Sangamon County	District 4
<i>Creating 65 bed sized quilts for residents at care facility</i>	
Jefferson County	District 7
<i>Promoting the 3 R's "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"</i>	

Special Activity

Sangamon County	District 4
<i>Making 100 quilts and 6 pillow cases for Contact Ministries</i>	
Stephenson County	District 1
<i>Sewing for nursing homes; lap quilts for dementia patients</i>	
Macon County	District 5
<i>Assisted at the Ronald McDonald House</i>	

GRAND AWARD

Citizenship

Massac County

District 7

Planned a year's worth of activities to educate members, guests and community



GREAT AMERICAN FAMILY OF THE YEAR:

David and Marcia Duncan
Alexis, IL
Mercer County District 1

GRAND AWARD

Public Relations

McLean County

District 5

PR team utilized all media to promote HCE



MEMBERSHIP

Kathryn McNeely, 2nd Vice-President

Activities

DuPage District 2/3
Membership activities for whole year
Macon District 5
Used events/ activities to gain interest
McLean District 5
Several different activities to promote HCE

Special Activity

Stephenson District 1
Memorial Day Parade/courthouse ceremony
McLean District 5
Membership/Friendship Tea

GRAND AWARD

Membership

DuPage District 2/3

Activities

Net Gain

Lee County	District 1	0%
Kendall	District 2/3	12.8%
Tazewell	District 4	3.9%
Piatt	District 5	12.9%
Effingham	District 6	10.5%
Johnson	District 7	9.8%

GRAND AWARD: LARGEST GAIN

Piatt 12.9%



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Pat Hildebrand, Newsletter/PR Director

HCE Week Activities

DuPage District 2/3
Donated food and clothing to the needy; media informed community DuPage County is active
Macon District 5
Educating the public about value of HCE
Jefferson District 7
"Aim for the Homemaker" put into action

Public Relations Activities

Lee County District 1
Promoted HCE through donations to various organizations
Champaign County District 5
Educating community through media, special events
Massac County District 7
Promoted educational/fun activities

Special Activities

Stephenson County District 1
Festival of Trees: A Country Christmas with HCE"
Madison County District 6
"Hope for Heroes" fundraiser
Randolph County District 7
"Remembering Veterans"

IAHCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE MENNONITE SHARE SHOP RECIPES



Enjoying Mennonite recipes - Elizabeth Michael, Champaign County and Jane Chapman, IAHCE President, Perry County

Julie Hendricks, Manager
 Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center
 Illinois Mennonite Historical & Genealogical Society

Laverne Nafziger

Fruit Cream Pie

Sadie Nafziger enjoyed making pies, and she was an expert. When she made fruit cream pies she made the crusts using lard.

- 1 cup heavy cream 1 cup cream
- 3 Tbsp. flour

Mix and pour over the fresh fruit that was cut up and placed in the pie shell. Bake at 375 degrees for about an hour or until pie is done.

Nut Bread

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 cups flour | 1 ½ cups milk |
| 4 teaspoons baking powder | 1 egg, well beaten |
| ½ cup sugar | 1 cup chopped nuts |
| ½ teaspoon salt | |

Sift flour, measure and add baking powder, salt and sugar. Sift again.
 Beat egg and add to milk.
 Combine liquid with dry ingredients.
 Fold in floured nuts.
 Let stand in loaf pan (5½ x 9½ inches) for 20 minutes.
 Bake at 375 for 1 hour.

Makes 1 loaf.

--Betty Schultz, Milverton, Ont. Can., Mrs. E.S. Garber, Nampa Idaho
 --From *Mennonite Community Cookbook: Favorite Family Recipes* by Mary Emma Showalter

Corn Bread—Take ½ pint of corn meal, ½ pint of wheat flour, 1 pint of sour milk, 1 egg, a piece of butter the size of an egg, ½ teacupful of sugar, salt, and 1 teaspoonful of soda; beat egg, sugar and butter together light; add all the flour, salt and soda, dry. Beat thoroughly and bake in a hot oven.—*Sister Annie R. Stoner, Union Bridge, Md.*

Good Pie Crust—Take 3 cups of flour, 1 cup of lard, ¾ cup of cold water, 1 teaspoonful of salt, and 1 level teaspoonful of baking powder. Sift the flour, salt and baking powder, rub in the lard till well mixed, make into a dough with the cold water and roll quite thin.—*Sister John D. Clear, Rockford, Ill.*

Apple Butter Pie—Take 1 pint of good sweet apple butter, 4 eggs, 2 cups of sugar, 4 heaping tablespoonfuls of flour, 4 pints of milk, and flafor with cinnamon. Bake like custard pies. This will make 4 pies.—*Sister Vinnie A. Weaver, Mound City, Mo.*

--from *Inglenook Cook Book*, New and Revised Edition (1911) Choice Recipes Contributed by Sisters and Friends of the Church of the Brethren., Brethren Publishing House, Elgin, Illinois.

IAHCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS—beginning to end

2016 Annual Conference began with late night paper work, planning, decision-making, and consulting with the hotel staff.



Filling the Goodie Bags



Resting after filling the Goodie Bags



Practicing for Installation



Registration



Silent Auction



Cultural Enrichment



Setting Tables



Make-It-Take-It



Just browsing!



Picking up



Cruisin' on the "Spirit of Peoria"



See you here next year at 2017 IAHCE Annual Conference!



MEMORIAL SERVICE
IAHCE Annual Conference 2016

Presented by:
Dorothy Rogers, Champaign County
Assisted by Melissa Chitwood, Champaign County

When we meet for a convention such as this, we are always saddened because some familiar faces are missing. We need to pay tribute to them for the service, volunteer hours, dedication that helped and kept our organization together and to grow.

- o The table is round to show our everlasting concern.
 - o The tablecloth is white—a symbol of their motives when asked to service in any capacity.
 - o The single red rose displayed in a vase reminds us of each of them who gave of their time and service.
 - o The vase is tied with a red ribbon to remind us to always remember them.
 - o A slice of lemon to remind us of the bitter fate of missing them and be ever appreciative of their service and friendship.
 - o A pinch of salt, the tears when learning of our loss.
 - o The glass is inverted, they cannot be here today.
 - o The chair is empty, they cannot sit and join us as before.
 - o The candle is a light of hope that lives in our heart to reflect the goodness of knowing them.
 - o The Bible for us to gain strength and faith to continue to work together.
- Let not forget them. Keep them in our conversations because they gave so much of themselves when asked to help and be there. We so appreciated them for all they did.
(A bell is rung at the end.)



Hello Crew!

We wanted to thank everyone for "Rollin' Down the River" at the 2016 Annual Conference. So many of you lent a helping hand to us - from Tazewell and Woodford Counties, to the "Goodie Bags" ladies, to the facilitators and volunteers during our programs, and to all of you who attended our 3 day voyage. We've read all the 235 evaluations returned and thank you for your heartfelt comments.

Thanks again to the State Board. Enjoy 2016 with your counties. See you soon! Set sail, Adventures Await!

Mary Eustace, chairman
Janel Kassing, co-chair

THANKS FOR THE GOODIE BAGS

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Arthur Area Tourism | Champaign County HCE |
| Delavan Home Extension | Effingham County HCE |
| Fayette County HCE | Hamilton County HCA |
| Jefferson County HCE | Knox County HCE |
| Massac County HCE | Mercer County HCE |
| Monroe County HCE | #Peoria Area Visitors Bureau |
| Pike County HCE | Prairie Association of HCE |
| Randolph County HCE | Richland County HEA |
| Sangamon County HCE | Tazewell County HCE |
| Tremont HCE | Wayne County HCE |
| Woodford County HCE | Quaker & Vermillion Co HCEA |
| University of Illinois Extension - Macon | |



NEWS AND NOTES



IT'S SOCIAL MEDIA TIME

*Sharon Middleton maintains the IAHCE website:
www.iahce.org

*Sharon Davis has begun a Facebook page:
[State.iahce](https://www.facebook.com/State.iahce)

Please feel free to post any pictures or events concerning HCE that you have done on the **Facebook** page. What a great way of promoting HCE and getting new ideas.

Many counties have started their own county Facebook pages be sure to check those out also.

—Sharon Davis

NVON 2016 CONFERENCE IN ILLINOIS IS NOT FAR AWAY.

Thank you to all the committee chairs, members and for all the volunteers that will be helping at the conference.

What a great line-up is planned for the speakers such as Abraham Lincoln, two great ladies at luncheon on Wednesday and Thursday, tours to Lincoln Museum, seminars and crafts.

Please register to attend the conference in July 19-21st at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Normal, IL. This will be a great chance for you to learn more about NVON. Please check out the website, nvon.org for the conference information and registration form. Or call Sharon Middleton, registrar, for a form. Her number is 217-877-7229 or email itole2@sbcglobal.net

So many wonderful things will be happening in July at conference. You will not want to miss this event. And, you will meet wonderful ladies from 7 other states. It will be a grand week! Please come.

Marilyn Daughhettee
 NVON 2016 Conference Chair
 217-251-4903
marilyn5162@att.net

CONGRATULATIONS COUNTIES OF THE YEAR

1st MC LEAN



2nd MACON



3rd STEPHENSON



4th ADAMS



5th JERSEY



6th MONROE



DATES TO REMEMBER

IAHCE DISTRICT WORKSHOPS

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| Districts 1 and 2/3 | August 9, 2016 |
| Illinois Valley Community College
Oglesby, IL 61348 | |
| Districts 4 and 5 | August 10, 2016 |
| Southern View Chapel
4500 S. Second Street,
Springfield, IL 62703 | |
| Districts 6 and 7 | August 11, 2016 |
| St. Johns Lutheran Church
903 W. Jefferson,
Effingham, IL 62401 | |

2016 NVON CONFERENCE July 19-21, 2016
 Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel
 & Conference Center, Normal, IL

IAHCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE March 14-16, 2017
 Embassy Suites, E. Peoria, IL

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