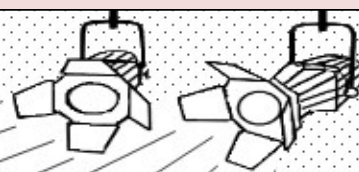


**Macon County**

**HCE  
HIGHLIGHTS**



“Enhancing the lives of individuals and families through quality educational programs and experiences, encouraging responsible leadership and service to the community.”

### **Spring Meeting**

It's almost here! We will have our Spring Meeting on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. We will have our business meeting, a wonderful lunch catered by Cinda Stocks, and speakers, Gini Smith and Tess Whimple giving us a presentation on “Elder Bullying”. This presentation fits right in with our focus in the Family Issue area for this year about bullying. Each unit will be decorating a shoe box that goes along with our theme for the year with IAHCCE, “Come Together, Walk with HCE”. Our “Pennies for Friendship” and the “Honor Guard” donation containers will also be there for your kind contributions. The list of items for the Child Advocacy Center are listed in this newsletter. Please bring what you are able to. This is a new area of concentration for us this year. Be sure to register for the Spring Meeting with Pam Walker by April 27<sup>th</sup>. Her phone numbers are 767-2788 or 972-2524. The cost for the breakfast and lunch this year is \$10.50.

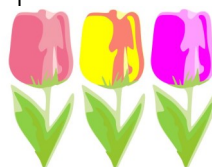
Our menu for this wonderful day is:  
Breakfast items - coffee cakes, donuts, fruit, etc. provided by Maple Grove Unit  
Lunch - catered by Cinda Stocks

- ◆ Fruited chicken salad (no nuts in this salad)
- ◆ Roll
- ◆ Marinated veggie salad
- ◆ Munchies
- ◆ Chocolate or lemon lush dessert
- ◆ Lemonade or iced tea

We hope to see all of you there at the Spring Meeting! Remember to get your reservation in by April 27<sup>th</sup> to Pam Walker!

### **Make-Explore-Share**

Several volunteers from MCHCE volunteered time on Friday and Saturday to prepare the pinwheels that we made from the pie dough, and teach other adults and children how to make and roll pie dough. We had many participants on Saturday, and we all had a great time. It was amazing to watch as both adults and children discovered how simple it was to make your own dough and roll it out to fit the pie pan. After they experienced rolling out the dough, we gave them a pinwheel in a snack bag, and two copies of a pie dough recipe. Thank you to all of the volunteers who gave so freely of their time and energy! It was well worth it!



**Spring Meeting  
Guests are Welcome!!!**

**HCE members please remember that guests are welcome at the Spring Meeting. If you plan on having a guest attend, please make sure to inform Pam Walker of their attendance and forward the payment for their lunch. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Carol or Karen.**

**Spring**

## Upcoming Events

### April

**Monday, April 27, 2015**

RSVP Deadline for Spring Meeting to Pam Walker

### May

**Friday, May 1, 2015**

RSVP to Macon County Extension for May Lesson

**Saturday, May 5, 2015**

Lesson - Hummingbirds, A Beautiful Mystery

Presented by Vernon Kleen

1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Extension Office - Clover Room

**Tuesday, May 5, 2015**

Set-up for Spring Meeting @ 3:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 6, 2015**

### **Spring Meeting**

RSVP's go to Pam Walker by April 27, 2015

9:00 a.m. Registration

9:30 Meeting

Extension Office—Illini Room

**Monday, May 11, 2015**

9:30 a.m. HCE Board

Extension Office - Clover Room

**Monday, May 25, 2015**

Extension Office Closed

### June

**Monday, June 1, 2015**

Tri-County Meeting

Piatt Extension Office

9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Monday, June 1, 2015**

RSVP to Macon County Extension for June Lesson

**Thursday, June 4, 2015**

Lesson - Tombstone Tales, Presented by Lyn Dixon

Meet at front gates of Greenwood Cemetery

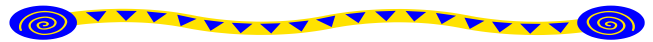
Bring a lawn chair if you like.

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

## **Cleaning Cloth Update**

I bet there are going to be a lot of clean widows in the area this spring! We have sold 190 cleaning cloths with only 20 remaining. THANK YOU to everyone who sold the cloths at the conference in March or bought some from us! Remember, our profits go toward the lunches that we serve at the Ronald McDonald House. Since this will probably be the last time that we have the cloths available (at least for quite a while), you may want to stock up yourself before they are gone. Just let me know if you want any. The cost is \$4.00 each.

Karen Cahill



## **New Opportunities for MCHCE**

**Child Advocacy Center--** Be sure to look at the list that is in this newsletter, and bring what you can to the Spring Meeting. This is a great, new outreach area for us!

**Master Naturalists—**On Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, a new organization, the Master Naturalists, is meeting at Rock Springs Center. About fifty people are expected, and our organization has been asked to prepare a lunch similar to what we did for Master Gardeners at Richland. Our Board discussed this new opportunity and decided that we would enjoy being part of this new venture. We will be needing volunteers to help prepare the food. Please contact Carol Ropp or Karen Cahill if you would be interested in helping us provide another community service!

### **“Wish List” for the Child Advocacy Center**

- Juice Boxes
- Cereal Bars
- Fruit Snacks
- Small bottles of water
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- New or gently used photo frames for the children's artwork
- Hand sanitizers
- Hand Soap
- Tissues
- Office Supplies

Please bring whatever you can to the Spring Meeting. We feel that this is a wonderful local organization to support!

# OFFICERS' REPORTS

## Co-President

Karen Cahill and Carol Ropp

Happy spring! We were so glad to see so many of you in attendance at the IAHCE Conference last month. We had 32 registered MCHCE participants. That is great news! We hope that you had an enjoyable experience and learned some things as well.

Speaking of great news.....MCHCE did it again! We won second place as COUNTY OF THE YEAR! Other awards that we earned were:

1. Grand Award—Family Issues
2. Education Award—Community Outreach
3. Education Award—Cultural Enrichment
4. Education Award—International
5. Certified Volunteer Award for the highest percentage of members participating in District 5
6. Honorable Mention—Membership
7. Cultural Enrichment Award in Woodworking—Tracy Zieber (Maple Grove)

We are very proud of our accomplishments and are already working toward getting County of the Year for 2016! We are counting on YOU to help make it happen!

Some interesting facts about conference were that 354 people attended from 60 counties, and the 2014 IAHCE membership was 7,638 with a loss of 420 members!

The annual Spring Meeting will be May 6<sup>th</sup> this year. Come join us as “We Walk with MCHCE”.

## Co- Vice President

Anna Belle Farrell and Janet Winter

On a cold, windy day in February, Dr. Jennifer Nelson talked about succulents! She had a sampling of different cuttings of them. Each person got to select eight of them and plant them in dirt in a small aluminum chicken feeder. They have roots that can store water and survive in hot, dry environments with ease. They should have as much sun as possible. Succulents naturally grow slowly. During the winter months, water very sparingly. During the summer months, they should be watered thoroughly but the soil should be allowed to dry between waterings. If you want new plants from your old, you can use a stem or leaf cutting. The new cuttings should be left to “callous over” which means that the cuttings need to be left to dry out for a few days before placing them in the soil. Then, you are to water them only when the soil is dry. Test to see if they are rooted by giving them a gentle tug.

The March lesson was “Best of Books” by Ann Adkesson. She has three rules for the books: first, don't judge a book by its cover; second, give the book a chance by reading the first fifty pages to see if you want to keep reading it; third, don't feel bad about not finishing the book. Ann googles the authors before reading a book to check their research, etc. She talked about contemporary and historical fiction by women authors. There were fifty three books of these genres on the book list that she had prepared. She also had eight non-fiction books of easy reading if the topics interested you. The last part of the list was thirteen recent good reads not necessarily by women authors or having female characters. It made you want to curl up with a good book, since it was a cool and rainy day outside!

There was no shortage of opportunities at the State Conference in March concerning the lessons given and learned in HCE. Over 40 workshops were available, with as many different topics covered. The conference theme was “Walk with IAHCE”, and the banquet tables each had a funky decorated shoe centerpiece. About 350 HCE members from around the state attended the conference for a fun time, good food, and fellowship. Hopefully, everybody has made their RSVP's for the upcoming lessons, activities, and the Spring Meeting. The lesson on May 5<sup>th</sup> is “Hummingbirds, a Beautiful Mystery”. The Spring Meeting is Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. June 4<sup>th</sup> is “Tombstone Tales”, and July 9, “Can I Really Eat Out of My Flower Garden”? August 19<sup>th</sup> brings “Sensational Summer Drinks” and after that, would you believe, it's program planning time again!!! We look forward to going to the Piatt County Extension office for the June 1<sup>st</sup> Tri-County meeting. RSVP for that, also to the Macon County Extension office. And don't forget, International Day is September 17. It's always a fun and educational opportunity to learn about another culture!

## Second Vice President's Report

Sandy Severe

Happy belated Easter! I hope everyone had an enjoyable one.

I have been talking with several prospective new members and have sent them brochures. I am hoping to get a commitment from them soon. I am also looking forward to planning some special membership events in the future. All of you lovely ladies need to keep working, as well, on new members. We know what a wonderful organization this is, so let's let other lovely ladies know. Let's grow with friendship!!!

# OFFICERS' REPORTS

## International

Emily Chamberlain

Macon and Piatt County will be holding our International Day event on Thursday, September 17, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Illini and Clover Rooms at the Macon County Extension Office. Piatt County is this year's host. Recipes, general information and suggestions for activities and display topics have been distributed to a representative in each Unit.

Please discuss this at your Unit meetings, make your choices, and contact me at 433-4962 by August 28<sup>th</sup>. If you have personal recipes that you would like to prepare and share, please include these by this time so Diane can add them to the handouts and have a name tag for the dish the day of the event. We usually have approximately twelve great informational presentations. This year, we are asking members to come early and view the displays and that all unit presentations are contained to four minutes. This should be a fun and informative event!!!

## Community Outreach

Mary Ann Platt

Hi, my name is Mary Ann Platt. I grew up in Clinton, Illinois, earned my undergraduate degree at The College of the Ozark, my advanced degree at Southwest Missouri State University, taught in Missouri for five years and then returned to Illinois. I taught at Oak Grove Elementary School in Decatur for 26 years, retiring in 2005. I still miss the kids. After retiring, I joined the Decatur Quilters Guild and began my quilting journey. I have worked part time at Stewart's Sewing Center in Mt. Zion for about nine years. What a fun place to work, wonderful people, wonderful customers, and most of the time, it seems like play. My husband, Charlie, and I have been married 36 years and together, we have two children. Chip is 33 and Jenna is 28. The role of Community Outreach is new to me, so I may need lots of help!

## Family Issues

Mary Kay Ennis

Hello, my name is Mary Kay Ennis, and I have been asked to fill the position of Family Issues. Edna Dean was the representative of this position, and we wish her well on her move to another state. I was asked to tell a little bit about myself as a way of introduction. I am a retired elementary teacher after thirty-three years at Warrensburg-Latham. I was known there as Mrs. Harris. I grew up in Pana, Illinois, but moved to Decatur after my parents bought a business that some of you may remember. They owned Fay Fabrics, a drapery store in

downtown Decatur. (No, I do not know how to sew drapes!) The father of my three children died in 1999. I was blessed with eight grandchildren from that union. After eight years of being a widow, I married Morey Ennis. He is the father of three, and grandfather to seven. So, my family has grown!

One of my reasons for joining HCE is the custom of tradition. In many situations, I'm sure, the membership in our organization was enjoyed by our mothers. I love tradition, and the fact that HCE was and is "bi-generational" meant a lot to me. Thank you, Pat Bales and Carol Ropp!

Our focus, this year, for Family Issues, is "bullying". When I first heard this, I thought, I guess I can talk to my grandchildren and get some ideas from them (not that they are bullies!) But no, this means senior bullying, for people our age. I hope that you are looking forward to some facts and tips about bullying in our generation. Talk to you next issue!

## Cultural Enrichment

Sally Dennis

Congratulations to Tracy Zieber for her beautiful wood burning entry, a portrait of a lady! She took first place in her category at the State Conference. Also, congratulations to Barb Reed for receiving Best Cultural Enrichment Education Award! I was glad to be able to accept the award on her behalf. I hope that I will be able to follow in her footsteps.

I hope everyone was able to attend the conference long enough to at least be able to look through the Cultural Enrichment entries this year. They were displayed much better this year. It is my understanding that the ladies making the arrangements with the hotel this year got the details in the contract, and a more reliable person to work with.

I am looking forward to next year's conference. I encourage all of you to begin working on your projects now, so Macon County will make a good showing at the 2016 conference in East Peoria. Again, congratulations to Tracy and Barb!

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\* Please remember to RSVP \*  
\* for ALL Lessons!! \*  
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# MACON COUNTY UNIT NEWS

## Hickory Point Unit

Our meeting in March had Rev. Stacy Brohard, director of the Good Samaritan Inn, as our speaker. His mother, Barbara Brohard, is a member of the Hickory Point Unit. The mission of the Good Samaritan Inn is to feed hungry, economically disadvantaged persons a hot, nutritious meal. Although I was unable to attend, all of the members had rave reviews of Rev. Brohard's presentation.

As many of the other units are doing, we will be attending the April lesson at the Extension Office, and then have lunch together. This way, we all get the lesson and are able to visit afterwards. We have also been able to have some of our meetings at the Primrose Retirement Community. They have a meeting space, when available, and offer lunch for a minimal fee.

Sharon Middleton, reporting

## Oakley Unit

Our last meeting was held on Friday, April 10, at Cheryl's home. We were very fortunate to have two new prospective members attend, Sharna Reif and Ann Eaton. They are looking forward to attending some of our upcoming events. Our upcoming events include the lesson on hummingbirds, and the Spring Meeting.

Sandy Severe, reporting

## Pleasant Grove Unit

The Pleasant Grove Unit met March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Mt. Zion Library. We had twelve members present. Janet opened the meeting with all of us saying the Homemaker's Aim. We changed members' names, etc. in our books. Sally Dennis showed us some of the entries to be sent to the State Conference. Janet told us of upcoming events. Many of our group showed their Cultural Enrichment projects.

Alice Bray, reporting

## Maple Grove Unit

Maple Grove Unit had a "spot of tea" at the Raspberry Tea Room in Elwin on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Twenty members were present. President Carol Ropp expressed her appreciation for the members who were able to attend the HCE State Conference. One of our members, Tracy Zieber, received the award for her woodworking talents in the Cultural Enrichment area. Gini Smith won a special Education Award for her booklet on Family Issues. Karen Cahill reported a profit of \$350 for the sale of the

cleaning cloths at Conference. This money helps to pay for the meals that we provide at the Ronald McDonald House. She also reported that 46 pillowcases and 28.6 pounds of pop can tabs were delivered to the House in March.

A few public announcements were made: Barclay Library will celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 11, and on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, they will have a Make-and-Bake Sale at the library. Another Kringle sale will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Our next meeting will be April 23rd at the Decatur Club, with a tour of Mueller's Museum to follow.

Mary Kay Ennis, reporting

## Mt. Zion Unit

**February:** We met at Antioch Christian Church on February 25, with Sandy Norris as the hostess and presenter of the lesson. Roll call was answered by 12 members sharing their favorite craft projects. Carol Flitz, President, presided over the business meeting and shared the report from the County Board meeting. Members were reminded about the State Conference, and volunteers were recruited to work at the convention. Plans were made to have lunch at Bistro 537 on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Sandy Norris presented a very interesting lesson on "Sensational Succulents." She and Connie Nicky brought planters that they made when attending the class at the Extension Office. It was interesting to see the differences in the planters because they had each selected different plants. Sandy distributed a lesson sheet with information on specific succulents. Everyone enjoyed this lesson.

Following the lesson, Sandy served two delicious desserts. Some of us sampled both to determine which one we liked better! We all enjoyed the desserts and the conversation with friends.

**March:** Pat Parr, wearing her "hostess hat", welcomed each of us into her beautiful home for the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Roll call was "My Favorite Book or Magazine" and was answered by 13 members. There were very few repetitions in the answers given so apparently, our members have a wide variety of reading tastes. President Carol Flitz presided over the business meeting and Vicky Wooten reported on the March meeting of the County Board. Those who attended the State Conference shared positive feedback on different aspects of the conference. Pat Parr changed hats and wore her

# MACON COUNTY UNIT NEWS

“presenter’s hat” as she gave the lesson for the day. She handed out a copy of the list of books from the lesson, delighting the avid readers in the unit with new ideas for books to read. Many people enjoy book clubs, and technology offers several different ways one can obtain books to read. Pat then turned her hat around and finished the program, sharing much information about the beliefs of those who are Amish or Mennonite. Pat and Bill lived in Lovington for 15 years, so she came to know these people well. Many books have been written with characters who are Amish, and it is very popular with Christian fiction authors. Arthur, Illinois, is the seventh largest Amish settlement in the United States. Ohio has the largest Amish population, followed by Pennsylvania. Switching to her “hostess hat” again, Pat served us a buffet of Amish-type foods, including huge cookies, lemon-zucchini cake with lemon-cream cheese frosting (Yummm!) and sugar-free jello desserts. I think that there was more, but I was too full to remember any more! If you like to eat, come visit the Mt. Zion Unit—you’ll fit right in!

Von Gregory, reporting

## Rock Springs Unit

The **February** meeting of our unit was held at the home of Millie Zanders. We had seven members who attended. Our future meetings will be: March, Linda Hooge home on Dawson Road; April, Nancy Norton on Semor Dr.; May, Rosemary Knapp on Mooney Road close to Niantic; and June, Bonnie Lanham, at the Raspberry Tea Room in Elwin at 10:30. Everyone is welcome at any of our meetings.

The Farm Progress Show is September 1 -3, and we will be helping out at our Macon County HCE booth. It is always a fun time. Margaret Leonard attended the County Board Meeting, where they had a meeting and then a potluck and birthday party for Anna Belle Ferrell, who just turned 90! Our country of study this year for International Day will be the Baltic Countries. We will get recipes at a later date. Karen Cahill will be selling cleaning cloths at the conference on March 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>. She needs help to sell them. In May, our unit will be doing Advocacy for Children donations.

The **March** meeting was held at the home of Linda Hooge with six members in attendance. We corrected our February minutes to show that Macon County units

will have a food booth at the Progress Show. We discussed future meetings. The Spring Meeting will be on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Go online or call Carol Ropp about the scholarships that are available for members’ students for Macon County.

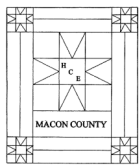
Lois Miller, reporting

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## Cultural Arts Show categories – 2014

It’s that time again to be thinking about Cultural Enrichment items for our Fall Meeting! We can only take seven items to the State Conference in March. Here are the categories that are available for you. If you have any questions, please call Sally Dennis, the chairperson of the Cultural Enrichment area.

- 100 Artwork (Charcoal, Oil, Acrylic, or watercolor)
- 200 Baby Quilts
- 300 Counted Cross Stitch
- 400 Crafts
- 500 Crochet Afghans
- 600 Crochet – Other
- 700 Hand Embroidery
- 800 Hand Quilted Quilts
- 900 Heritage Needlework (Silk Ribbon, Hardanger, Tatting, etc.)
- 1000 Jewelry (Handmade)
- 1100 Knit Afghans
- 1200 Knit – Other
- 1300 Machine Embroidery
- 1400 Machine Quilted Quilts
- 1500 Nature Items (anything made of natural things, wheat, corn husk, etc.)
- 1600 Photography
- 1700 Recycled
- 1800 Rugs
- 1900 Scrap booking (4 pages total, front and back, in two plastic sleeves)
- 2000 Table Runners
- 2100 Wearable Art (any technique applied to purchased or self made item)
- 2200 Wall Hangings
- 2300 Wood
- 2400 Current Annual Conference Theme



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