

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

Spring Meeting

Our Spring Meeting is almost here! It will be at the Extension Office on May 3, 2017. Registration starts at 9 and the meeting begins at 9:30. Our menu will be:

Menu

Honey glazed chicken breast
Cheesy potatoes
Green beans
Lettuce salad
Chocolate chip & snicker doodle cookies
Lemonade and tea

The cost of the luncheon is \$12.00 and a check should be sent to Sharon Middleton by April 27th. Our speaker is Phyllis Bechtold who will tell about her experiences as a cook on the tow boat. She tells a lot of facts as well as the fun she had. She also has written some books that will be available that day. You will thoroughly enjoy this day!!!!



To our own Sharon Middleton who was elected at State Conference to the office of First Vice President!. We are proud of her and we know she will be the best First Vice President ever!!!



Reminder: Maker Fest

We will once again be participating in the Maker Fest which will be held on Saturday, April 29, at the Civic Center from 10-3. We will be

demonstrating some Flour Fun while letting people play with our homemade Moon Sand. The first 100 participants will be able to take home a small bag and everyone will get a copy of the directions. If you are able to help that day, please contact Karen Cahill as soon as possible. If you have never been to the Maker Fest please consider attending, especially with children or grandchildren. There is a wide range of hands-on activities for all to enjoy.



Gardening Insights Lunch!

The Master Gardeners' "Gardening Insights" lunch was another big success this year! We served 160 sack lunches to the attendees. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped prepare, package and serve the lunches. Some also served breakfast items. Those who helped were Joyce Craig, Sue Miller, Gigi Langhauser, Karen Cahill, Linda Hooge, Sharon Middleton, Sandy Severe, Clarence Middleton, Anna Belle Farrell, Barb Wall, Bev Wall and Sally Dennis.

Upcoming Events

April

Saturday, April 29, 2017 Maker Fest

10:00 am to 3:00 pm Decatur Civic Center

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Master Naturalists Annual Program Lunch served by MCHCE Extension Office - Clover Room

May

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Set-up for Spring Meeting 1:00 pm Extension Office - Illini Room

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Spring Meeting 9:00 am Registration 9:30 am - Meeting Begins Extension Office - Illini Room

Monday, May 8, 2017

1:00 pm HCE Board Meeting Extension Office - Clover Room

Friday, May 12, 2017

RSVP for May Lesson

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Staying Young & Fit
Caitlin Huth, U of I, Nutrition & Wellness Educator
9:30 am to 11:00 am
\$5 fee but stay and enjoy lunch.
Extension Office - Clover Room

<u>June</u>

Monday, June 5, 2017

Tri County Meeting
Piatt County Extension Office
9:30 am to 1:00 pm

Monday, June 12, 2017

1:00 pm HCE Board Meeting Extension Office - Clover Room Newsletter Items Due to Linda Austin

Friday, June 16, 2017

RSVP for June Lesson

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Macon County Farm Tour

Maddox Sweet Corn Farm, B & B Beef Farm & Connie's Greenhouse 9:00 am

Carpool on your own or pay \$10 for bus ride Meet in Warrensburg-Latham Campus parking lot.

Monday, June 26, 2017

Pillowcase Sewing Day 9:30 am to 3:30 pm Extension Office - Clover Room

<u>Secretary of State</u> <u>Organ/Tissue Donor Program</u>

Today, Illinois has one of the most successful state registries in the country, with more than six million participants. The Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry is unique in that it utilizes the state's driver's license database at no additional cost to taxpayers. Over 50% of those who visit a driver's license facility join the registry. Every 10 minutes a new person is added to the waiting list. Many of those people will die waiting for organs. Currently, more than 4,700 people in Illinois are on the waiting list for an organ transplant. More than 300 Illinoisans die each year waiting for an organ transplant.

Are YOU an organ/tissue donor? All you have to do is sign up either when you renew your license or online. Your driver's license will show a red "State of Illinois" symbol in the upper right corner. More than likely all of us either know of someone who has had a transplant or is waiting for a donor to come forward. Maple Grove has a member whose husband is on the list for a kidney transplant. Sharon Middleton's grandson, Crosby Hoots, had a liver transplant when he was a baby.

If you haven't already, please add your name to the donor list. You COULD save someone's life!!

Please Remember to RSVP to All Lessons 877-6042

Mother's Day Joke

Mom, how come computers are so smart? Because they listen to their motherboards!



A Summary of Every Kids Vocabulary:

To MOM:	To DAD:
I'm hungry	Where's mom?
I'm cold	Where's mom?
I'm hot	Where's mom?
Can I have?	Where's mom?
Can you help me?	Where's mom?
When are we?	Where's mom?
Why are we?	Where's mom?
Why can't we	

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Co-President

Karen Cahill and Carol Ropp

Thirteen members from Macon County enjoyed their time in East Peoria at this year's conference. It was good to meet up with old friends and make some new friends. 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 several awards including second place as County of the Year. Consider joining the fun next year when we will be in Effingham.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Education book winners -

- *Sandy Severe 2nd Vice President GRAND AWARD for Membership Activity of "Rollin on the River to Christmas in July"
- *Emily Chamberlain International GRAND AWARD shared with Piatt County for our Special International Ioint Event on Ecuador
- *Mary Ann Platt and Mary Kay Ennis Family and Community Issues for the category of Citizenship and Environment for the pillowcases and pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House
- *Sally Dennis Cultural Enrichment for the Special Activity Category presented by the Garden Path owner, Rick Starshak, on how to transform a horse pasture to gardens
- *Ann Adkesson and Linda Austin Co-Public Relations- for the Special Activity Category presenting Christmas in July

Other winners:

- *Carol Myers-knitted afghan in Cultural Enrichment
 *Mary Ann Platt- quilted tote bag in Cultural
 Enrichment
- *Macon County members 2nd place as County of the Year!!!!!

We appreciate the time and effort all of you devote to our organization to make it such a great group! CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL MACON COUNTY MEMBERS!

Co-Vice President

Anna Belle Farrell and Linda Hooge Isn't it great to enjoy all of the beauty around us? Trees and flowers are starting to bloom and the grass is green again. The next couple of months offer some great opportunities to invite friends to join you as we learn new things and have fun together. On April 19th, we will learn what a "Staycation" is. April 24th, we will be making pillowcases. The Maker Fest will be at the

Decatur Civic Center on April 29th from 10:00 – 3:00. Our activity will be called "Flour Fun". May 3rd, will be our Spring Meeting. On May 18th, invite a friend to come with you to the lesson "Staying Young and Fit". There is a \$5.00 fee, so stay for lunch. On June 21st, we will be going on the Macon County Farm Tour. This will include Maddox Sweet Corn Farm, B&B Beef Farm and Connie's Greenhouse. Our final activity for June is another Pillowcase sewing day on June 26th. Come join the fun we have and don't forget to RSVP for each activity and give the name of your guest if you bring one. Let's all try to get some new members to join us.

Second Vice President's Report

Sandy Severe

Happy Spring, at least we're slowly heading that way! Those of you who did not attend the Conference missed a really great time. Lessons, laughter and fun were a part of each day! Again, I would like to reiterate how important it is that each and everyone of us promote our organization and invite people to our unit meetings and lessons. Membership is down and we need those numbers to head upward.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the July 29th membership event and lesson on" Dump Meals." Invite a prospective member to join us that day! Let's get them signed up!!! See you at the Spring Meeting on May 3. Don't forget to turn in your reservations!

International

Emily Chamberlain

Macon, Piatt and DeWitt Counties will be holding our annual Tri-County International Day Event on Wednesday, September 20, 2017, from 11am to 2pm in the Illinois and Clover Rooms at the Macon County Extension Office. Piatt County will be this year's host. Recipes, general information, and suggestions for activities and displays will be distributed to a representative in each unit in May.

Please discuss this at your unit meetings, make your choices, and contact Emily Chamberlain (433-4962) by September 8 th. If you have personal recipes that you would like to prepare and share, please include these in time for Diane to add them to the handouts and have a name tag for the dish the day of the event. We usually have approximately 12 informational presentations. Due to time, we are asking members to come early and view the displays and that all unit presentations be contained to 3-4 minutes.

We are looking forward to a fun and informative event!

Cultural Enrichment

Sally Dennis

Welcome to spring everyone!! This completes our goal of visiting each unit, so we could explain the difference we are trying to make in the judging system of our Cultural Enrichment items at the fall meeting. We are trying to make it more fair by having impartial judges. We hope this will encourage everyone to get their creative ideas flowing so we have a better turn out of entries. Granted, only seven items plus one quilt can go to conference, but we want to see the ideas and beautiful creations that we know you are capable of making.

I want to congratulate Carol Myers and Mary Ann Platt for winning the Best of Show in their respective categories at conference. If you haven't seen their entries, and you have access to a computer, you can see them on the Macon County HCE website. Clarence has a very good picture of each of them. He also has pictures of the Peoples Choice Award winners at conference.

The list of categories is included in this article. Also don't forget, all items must be a maximum size of 24 inches including matting and frame, or can be folded to 24 inches, except quilts. They must also be made by an HCE member and completed in the last two years.

There were twelve Macon County members who attended the State Conference, five of whom were from the Pleasant Grove unit. YAY! I think that this was a pretty good showing! If you weren't able to attend, you missed a good time! Next year's conference will be in Effingham. I hope more of our members will be able to attend.

Happy Creating!!!!

Please note in bold print the changes made to the Applied Arts Categories, for the Annual Conference. The reason was due to the number of complaints about the quilts being made by professionals and not by HCE members. The rules state items must be made by HCE members and completed in the last 2 years. Now there is a category for non-member **quilting**, but the piecing **MUST** be done by an HCE member. The Rug and Wood categories were deleted due to lack of entries, but those items can now be entered in the Craft category.

79	REF	PORTS
	100	Artwork (Charcoal, Oil, Acrylic, or Watercolor)
		Baby Quilts - moved to 1700 Quilted
	200	Counted Cross Stitch
	300	Crafts - Rugs and Wood added & all items
		that do not fit in any other category
	400	Crochet – Afghans
	500	Crochet – Other
	600	Hand Embroidery
	700	Hand Pieced and Hand Quilted. QUILTED
t		BY HCE MEMBER
-	800	Heritage Needlework - (Silk Ribbon,
		Hardanger, Tatting, etc.)
	900	Jewelry (Handmade)
	1000	Knit – Afghans
	1100	Knit – Other
	1200	Machine Embroidery
	1300	Machine pieced and machine quilted.
e		QUILTED BY HCE MEMBER
	1400	Nature Items - (anything made of natural
		things: wheat, corn husk, etc.)
	1500	Photography
	1600	Quilt - hand or machine pieced by HCE
		member, QUILTED BY NON-HCE MEMBER
	1700	Quilted - Other (Baby quilts, Quilted by
ŀ		HCE MEMBER)
	1800	Recycled
	1900	Scrap Booking (4 pages total, front and back, in
		two plastic sleeves)
	2000	Table Runners and covers
	2100	Wearable Art (any technique applied to

2100 Wearable Art (any technique applied to purchased or self made item)

2200 Wall Hangings

Wood - moved to 300 Crafts

2300 Current Annual Conference Theme – "Down by the Riverside""

2400 Craft from current Country of Study -Philippines

Community Outreach/Family Issues

Mary Ann Platt

Ladies, once again you have made me proud. At the 2016 IAHCE state conference, I accepted an award for Macon County for reporting the highest percentage (79) of members turning in volunteer hours. I challenged you to do better this year. You came through for me. We had 100 of our 116 members turn in hours. (I still think that more of you volunteer.) Our percentage this year was 86.9. Thank you. I am sure that you can guess my challenge for this year. I would like a higher percentage. I know you volunteer, just send me the hours.

MACON COUNTY UNIT NEWS

Hickory Point Unit

Hickory Point HCE met on April 11 at the Cancer Care Institute. Our speaker was Leslie Roberts, Oncology Radiation Social Worker. We took a tour of the facility and learned about its services. We all feel very fortunate that this facility is in our community. We welcomed our chairman Barb Reed back from her winter in Texas and thanked Gigi Langhauser for all her help as our leader during Barb's absence. We were happy to have Mary Beth Wickline as a new member of our group. She has already attended a lesson on house plants. Once again we enjoyed visiting with friends.

Louise Wickline, reporting

Oakley Unit

In March we served the Master Gardeners luncheon. Those helping were Sandy, Lucille, Carol and Cheryl. We served chili, vegetable and cheese trays with dip. All members seem to enjoy the luncheon. Cheryl is to attend the lesson on "Indestructible Houseplants". The April meeting was at Carol's on April 7th. Karen Cahill and Sally Dennis joined us to discuss Cultural Enrichment. The Spring Meeting is May 3 and all members plan on attending. We will also be attending the lesson on "Staying Young & Fit" on May 18.

Sandy Severe, reporting

Maple Grove Unit

February: Our February meeting was held at the Sharon Methodist Church. This is the "home" church for two of our members, so they served as hostesses, Bev Carmean and PatBales. Our meal began at 11:30 and was catered by God, Family and Friends caterers. The 16 members present answered roll call by recalling their favorite food that their mother or grandmother was known for.

After reports by the secretary and treasurer, our guest for the day, Sally Dennis, talked to us about the changes in the Cultural Enrichment aspect of HCE. She emphasized that we should have a better turn out of projects, beginning next year. The judging will again be done by ladies of the DeWitt County HCE. November 1st is the deadline for projects to be completed. She answered many questions from our group. We appreciated her taking the time to join us.

Our Co-President, Carol Ropp attended the February lesson on Identity Thefts and Scams, and was kind enough to type notes to share with our group. There were eight items, with subtitles, that were discussed. Several others had attended and were able to add valuable information, as well.

These meetings and hostesses were set up for the next months:

 March-Judy Wilhelm and Bev Carmean location; Sharon Church

- April- Vi Lanum Location Raspberry Room (start at 10:30)
- May- Linda Austin and Jan Doss location; the Clover Room
- June-Peggy Moffett and Kris Batchelder location; Imboden Gardens
- July-Vi Lanum location; Dana Thomas House in Springfield

Our unit gathered at Sharon Methodist Church, as we did the month before. Our Hostesses were Judy Wilhelm and Bev Carmean. Fifteen members were present and answered roll by telling us of their first car. Both co-presidents had a joke to get our meeting started. The secretary's report was read and approved along with the treasurer's report.

The state convention was attended by 13 from our county. Carol and Karen both agreed that the main speaker was very interesting; Karen is trying to persuade her to come to one of our county gatherings. We had many members who received recognition at the convention: Carol Myers knitted afghan took a state award and Sharon Middleton was elected first vice-president of the state. Two workshops that were among Carol and Karen's favorites were a lesson on Organ Donation, and a lesson on Laughing.

Our April meeting will be April 27th at the Raspberry Roomin Elwin. The meeting will begin at 10:30, an hour earlier than usual. We were reminded of the Maker Fare on April 29th and a volunteer sign-up sheet was passed around the group for this occasion.

Among informational notes: April 1 will be the Variety Show at Imboden Gardens, also Helen Kershaw mentioned the Cunningham Children's Home Quilt Show.

Mary Kay Ennis, reporting

Rock Springs Unit

Our unit met Wednesday, March 8th, at the Four Star Diner in Mt. Zion. Six members were present. We discussed the luncheon that our unit served for the Master Gardeners on February 28th. It was a big success. We had vegetable beef soup, pulled pork sandwiches, carrots and celery and chips. Linda Hooge will be attending the State Conference in Peoria on March 14th. Sue Miller reported that the Bread Monk program had a good turn-out on February 25th. The Maker Faire will be April 29th. The next unit meeting will be at Lois Miller's home at 1770 Dipper Lane at 1:00 p.m.

Lois Miller, reporting

FEBRUARY MINUTES

Macon County HCE Board Meeting February 13, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1:15pm by copresidents Carol Ropp and Karen Cahill who led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Homemakers' Aim. Karen read two Valentine-inspired jokes then roll was taken. There were eight units represented and twelve in attendance.

The minutes of January were accepted after corrections with a motion to approve by Sally Dennis and seconded by Linda Hooge. Motion passed.

Sharon Middleton gave the treasurer's report and it was filed for audit. Receipts were submitted for payment. The treasurer's books for 2016 will be audited by Sandy Severe and Linda Austin.

There was no correspondence.

Officers Reports:

Co-Presidents: Karen Cahill and Carol Ropp The co-presidents reported that their annual book had been sent for rating. The IAHCE conference will be on March 14-16, 2017, and several members will be attending.

Co-1st **Vice President:** Linda Hooge urged members to attend the upcoming lessons. She also reminded us that her fellow officer, Anna Belle Farrell, will be celebrating her 92nd

birthday on February 19.

2nd Vice President: Sandy Severe handed out copies of our county membership and made some corrections. She will be recognizing long-term members at the spring meeting and presenting pins to them. We now have 107 members in our county.

Community Outreach and Volunteer Hours and Family Issues: Mary Ann Platt was absent. She had reported that 29,174 volunteer hours had been reported last year.

Cultural Enrichment: Sally Dennis reminded us that the list of categories for crafts had been in our last newsletter, and she is hoping to have many entries this year.

Historian: Karen Halicki has been very busy working on history books beginning with one for 1927 and going through the present year.

International: Emily Chamberlain was absent.

Public Relations: Linda Austin was completing the newsletter being sent out this month.

Unfinished/Old Business: Lunches for Gardening Insights and Master Gardeners have been planned. Nominations for officers to be voted on at conference were discussed.

The Sew Practical lesson was positively received, and suggestions were made for future lessons: Mosquito Abatement, Plant Swap. Our entry for Maker Fest was

discussed and the procedure for entry was read. That will be handled at a future meeting. Master Naturalists luncheon has been planned. Karen Halicki read the proposals for bylaw changes. Sally Dennis moved that these bylaw changes be voted on at the spring meeting. This will be seconded at the spring meeting. Pillowcase sewing day will be February 20 and will include 4-H members who have registered. Our members will bring ingredients for a salad luncheon.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Wickline

****Unit News Continued**** Mt Zion

February: The February meeting of the Mt. Zion unit found 12 members and two guests, Sally Dennis, Cultural Enrichment Chairman, and Co-President Karen Cahill embarking on a new project for our unit. We joined Pat Cirks and Peggy Schnippel at Holy Spirit Catholic Church to learn how to make sleeping mats for the homeless from plastic bags. Pat and Peggy kept everyone busy with the cutting, tying, and crocheting required to complete each mat. Each mat requires about 700 plastic bags and 40 hours of labor to complete. Pat heads up a group on Mondays from 10am to 12pm to work on mats at Holy Spirit church. Anyone is welcome to join them in this most worth while project. Pat, Peggy, and other volunteers are happy to help any group learn to make these mats, which gives some warmth and comfort to those who do not have a bed in which to sleep.

After our mat-making "lesson", President Vicky Wooten conducted a short business meeting. Carol Flitz gave the highlights from the February Macon County Board meeting of HCE. Sally Dennis explained some of the changes that have been made to the judging of Cultural Enrichment items created by HCE members, and urged members to enter their cultural enrichment items this year.

Following the business meeting Vicky served two yummy desserts.

The March Mt. Zion unit meeting will be held at 1pm, March 22nd, 2017, at the Antioch Christian Church. Jeff Gibson will give us valuable information about insurance. Come join us. Jeff has promised to answer all our insurance inquiries.

March: Ruth Gibson, hostess for the March meeting of Mt. Zion unit HCE, welcomed 10 members to Antioch Christian Church at 1pm, March 22nd, 2017.

MARCH MINUTES

Macon County HCE Board Meeting March 13, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1 pm by Co-presidents Carol Ropp and Karen Cahill who led the Pledge of Allegiance and Homemakers' Aim. Karen told some clever St. Patrick's riddles that she had read in the Dewitt County newsletter. Roll call was taken with 7 units represented and 12 members present.

The secretary's report was read. Linda Hooge moved and Sandy Severe seconded the motion to accept as read. Motion passed. The treasurer's report was read and filed for audit. Mary Ann Platt moved and Sally Dennis seconded the motion to pay bills that were presented. Motion passed. The auditing report was completed by Sandy Severe and Linda Austin.

There was no correspondence.

Officers' Reports:

Co-presidents: Karen Cahill and Carol Ropp reports were delayed until later in the meeting.

Co-1st **Vice Presidents:** Anna Belle Farrell and Linda Hooge both felt that the pillowcase sewing day with 4-H members was successful. A suggestion was made that this project be an annual event.

 2^{nd} Vice President: Sandy Severe reported our membership is still at 107. Pins for presentation to longtime members have been ordered.

Community Outreach, Family Issues & CVH: Mary Ann Platt said the number of members reporting volunteer hours has increased. Pam Walker will be asked to attend the session on volunteer hours at the conference, and Linda Hooge will attend the International session.

Cultural Enrichment: Sally Dennis will be taking our county craft entries to the state conference. She has met with various units to encourage their members to enter crafts for next year.

Historian: Karen Halicki is working on scrapbooks and asked for more pictures of unit activities.

International: Emily Chamberlain was absent.

Public Relations: Linda Austin said the due date for the next newsletter will be April 10. She has sent information about our activities to both newspapers.

Beth Allhands, our advisor, commented on the success of the Master Gardener luncheons.

Unfinished/Old Business

Lunches have been served for Gardening Insights and Master Gardener meetings. The Maker Fest on April 29 will be from 10am to 3 pm, and volunteers are needed. The shifts will be two hours. Lunch will be served to Master Naturalists. The proposed bylaw changes were included in our last newsletter.

New Business:

Lesson Hostesses:

- March 29 Indestructible Houseplants—Karen Cahill and Carol Ropp
- April 19 Vacation/Staycation Sally Dennis
- May 18 Staying Young and Fit Linda Hooge
- June 21 Farm Tour Doug Guker

A caterer will have to be chosen for the Spring Meeting luncheon on May 3. Suggestions were given.

The meeting was adjourned at 2 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Wickline

****Unit News continued****

Ruth introduced her youngest son, Jeff Gibson from the Gibson Insurance Agency in Mount Zion. Jeff deals primarily in vehicle and home insurance. Jeff gave a lot of helpful information. Have you heard of Umbrella Insurance? Most of us had not, but some of us were very interested in learning about this less expensive coverage of our homes and cars that pays over and above other insurance policies we may have. Jeff also mentioned the need for checking our policies for the amounts allowed for individual injuries where we are at fault. Another important point that Jeff made was the homeowners insurance deductibles are very expensive now. He encouraged each person to include jewelry, guns, camera equipment, furs, collectibles and many other items in our home owners policy. In case of loss, every item lost must be listed for the insurance company. Pictures of every item in your home, or stored away from your home, are very valuable when settling insurance claims. Jeff's presentation was followed by a time of questions and answers and he even gave each of us small calendars and a candy bar to enjoy. We all appreciated the valuable information Jeff provided.

Vicky Wooten, President conducted the business meeting after the program. She shared the report from the Macon County HCE Board Meeting. Members were reminded of the program to be presented by the Bread Monk April 23rd, at 2pm at the United Methodist Church in Moweaqua.

Ruth served delicious refreshments after the meeting.

The April meeting will be April 26th, 2017, at 1pm at the home of Von Gregory in Moweaqua. Nancy Napier will present the lesson, Vacation/Staycation, which sounds very interesting. What better way to spend an afternoon than getting to visit Moweaqua, and receive some great ideas for your next Vacation/Staycation.

Von Gregory, reporting.



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