

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

Places to Eat?

In conversations with several of our Maple Grove members, the talk turned to good places to eat and conduct a meeting. Our unit has met several times at the Decatur Club. We have been pleased with the food and service. Please let me know if your unit has discovered a good place to eat and have a meeting! I will print your suggestions in the next newsletter. Contact me at lindaaustin48@gmail.com. Thank you for your help!!

State Conference

If you are thinking about going to the STATE CONFERENCE this year in Effingham from March 15 -17, please let Bonnie Lanham know as soon as possible. Our members have been sharing rides in past years. I was able to attend the Conference two times and I really enjoyed it. I hope many of you will be able to attend.

Spring Meeting Menu

PLEASE CHOOSE BETWEEN CHICKEN CORDON BLUE WITH CHICKEN GRAVY OR PARMESAN CRUSTED CHICKEN WITH ROASTED TOMATO SAUCE.

We will have au gratin potatoes, country green beans, and peach cobbler or strawberry shortcake. We will do our own drinks, and the rolls and butter.

Please let Bonnie Lanham, 217-428-7404, know your choice of chicken entrees as soon as possible. Reservations of \$15.00 are due by April 20th to Sally Dennis. Your check should be made out to MCHCE. We hope to see you all there!!

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Upcoming Events

Monday, March 14 HCE Board Meeting 10:00 a.m. Extension Office Clover Room

March 15-17 IAHCE Conference Effingham, IL

Monday, March 28

Pillowcase Sewing Day 9:30 a.m.. - 3:30 p.m. Extension Office Clover Room

Wednesday, March 30

Healthy Desserts 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Extension Office Clover Room

Monday, April 11

HCE Board Meeting 10:00 a.m. Extension Office Clover Room Newsletter items due to Linda Austin @ lindaaustin48@gmail.com

Wednesday, April 20

Salt and All Its Varieties 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Extension Office Clover Room

<u>Tuesday, April 26</u>

Set up for Spring Meeting 1:00 p.m. Extension Office Clover and Illini Rooms

Wednesday, April 27 Spring Meeting 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Extension Office Clover and Illini Rooms



Laughter is Good for the Soul

A TEACHER'S JOB IS NOT JUST 9-5

I handed my sleeping boyfriend, John, an imaginary worksheet. I was just a little irritated that he was sleeping through class. I gave him a good shake. I made sure he was awake.

It was time to start teaching my class. I climbed out of bed and went to our pale green bedroom wall that held an imaginary whiteboard. I picked up an imaginary marker and wrote in big, bold letters "Adjective Clauses." I turned around and began with "Let's recap what we have learned. What is an adjective?"

I was greeted by the all too familiar silence. In college, we had learned to allow students at least 30 seconds more than we thought they should need to process the question and come up with their best answers. But there was still silence. So I asked, "Can anyone give me an example of an adjective?"

Finally, one of the students responded. John's sleepy voice asked, "Jane, what are you doing?

I rubbed my eyes. I wondered what I was doing and what was John doing in MY class? There was no school, no whiteboard, no class. This was the bedroom, it was dark outside and the alarm clock said it was 3:30am.

Chagrined, I told him, "I'm sleep teaching."

YUMMY RECIPES

Several members have submitted recipes for this newsletter. Please feel free to give me your yummy recipes for future newsletters.

SUGARLESS APPLE BARS submitted by Lois Miller from her mom's recipe box

1 c.water	1/4 tsp. salt.	1 c. flour
1 c. brown Sugartwin.	1/2 c. raisins	
2 c. apples	1 egg	
1/4 tsp. cinnamon.	1 tsp. vanilla	
1/4 tsp. nutmeg.	1 tsp. soda	

Mix the water, Sugartwin, raisins, apples, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt.

Boil 5 minutes, let cool. Add egg, flour, and vanilla to the apple mixture. Stir until well mixed. Pour into a greased 8 by 8 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes.

MARINATED RED CABAGE SALAD submitted by Lois Miller

4 cups finely shredded cabbage
1 large onion, thinly sliced
1/4 c. white sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
Combine in a large bowl.
1/4 c. white vinegar
1/2 tsp. dry mustard
2 Tbsp. white sugar
1 1/2 tsp. celery seed
Combine in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Add 1/4 c. oil and return to a boil immediately. Pour over cabbage. Mix well. Chill overnight.

Macon County Board Meeting

December 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Bonnie Lanham

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Bonnie Lanham

HOMEMAKERS' AIM: Bonnie Lanham

JOKE: Bonnie Lanham

ROLL CALL: Elaine Hamm, incoming Secretary in 2022, in absence of Carol Flitz

Units represented: Hickory Point; Maple Grove; Patchwork; Oakley-Pleasant Grove; Mt. Zion; Rock Springs

Total in attendance: 12 (Linda Austin, Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Karen Halicki, Elaine Hamm, Bonnie Lanham, Beth Miglin, Mary Ann Platt, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Lyn Stevens, Vicki Wooten)

SECRETARY: Minutes of last meeting submitted by Carol Flitz were reviewed by all present. Karen Cahill moved that same minutes be approved; Karen Halicki seconded, and motion carried.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis went through the list of members with outstanding dues for 2022. She will deposit a \$813.39 check Bonnie just received from the Farm Progress Show. Karen Cahill inquired if money had been received for providing the Master Naturalist breakfast. It has not and this matter will be looked into. The current bank balance is \$6,358.94.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President: Bonnie Lanham - no report.

1st Vice President: Karen Halicki advised that "**Friday, September 2** - RSVP for the September lesson" needs to be added to the 2022 program book on page 17. Karen voiced a thank you to all who worked on the program book.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens, incoming 2nd Vice President for 2022 - No report in Lois Miller's absence.

Community & Family Issues & CVH: Mary Ann Platt had to leave early, so Linda Austin read Mary Ann's report: On November 29, 2021, eleven ladies made over 450 flannel hearts for St. John's Hospital NICU. Parents who are staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield wear these hearts against their skin and then when they are away from the NICU, their baby wears the heart(s) to continue their bonding.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample is focusing on getting more people to bring craft items to the spring and fall meetings. Cheryl and Karen Halicki plan to visit unit meetings and present a small list of what craft categories there are to hopefully increase interest and participation. **Historian:** Carol Ropp – absent.

International: Vicki Wooten – She has a potential accordion player for International Day. Georgette Merrifield is to give a speech.

Public Relations: Linda Austin – Newsletter items are due today, with only four units' reports received. Some recipes from our lunch today, plus a lemon recipe (to go along with our fall International Day theme), will be included in the newsletter. In the future, Linda plans to spotlight units, including new members and upcoming events, as well as future programs available from other counties. Karen Halicki suggested perusing DeWitt and Piatt County program books for lessons our members may be interested in attending. Karen Halicki suggested that Linda include the emergency contact information form in the newsletter for members to complete and return to the HCE office no later than Monday, January 31, 2022.

Extension Program Coordinator: Beth Miglin – Merry Christmas greetings – no report.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: There was discussion that not everyone has received the latest state newsletter, which includes important information regarding the IAHCE Conference in Effingham on March 15-17. Karen Cahill moved that the Board pay for the state newsletter for Elaine Hamm, Sandy Severe and Lyn Stevens. Linda Austin seconded the motion. Sally Dennis is to double check as Linda Austin and Mary Ann Platt are included on the list of nine that Sally sent in with the newsletter subscription payment but who have not yet received their copies.

Regarding conference papers, Bonnie and Karen Cahill will work on projects completed. As to voting delegates, Board members are to think about who will go and stay overnight to vote at the business meeting. Sally plans to attend all three days.

Bonnie Lanham and Cheryl Sample went to Imboden Creek Assisted Living and made Christmas ornaments with 10-12 residents, who enjoyed themselves. The first Wednesday of every month, for approximately 45 minutes, Bonnie will be going and needs one other volunteer each month. Cathy Gipson will assist in January. A note will be put in the newsletter that anyone wishing to volunteer or suggest a craft idea should call Bonnie.

Reminder: Volunteer hours need to be given to Karen Cahill ASAP.

Karen Cahill moved to give \$100 to Mary Ann Platt, as she has donated a ton of expensive fabric multiple times and the use of her die cutter for county sewing projects. Cheryl Sample seconded. Approved. Sally will mail a check with a thank you card.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Hamm

Macon County Board Meeting

January 10, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Bonnie Lanham

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Bonnie Lanham

HOMEMAKERS' AIM: Sandy Severe

JOKE: Bonnie Lanham

ROLL CALL: Elaine Hamm

Units represented: Hickory Point; Maple Grove; Patchwork; Oakley-Pleasant Grove; Mt. Zion; Rock Springs

Total in attendance: 10 (Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Elaine Hamm, Bonnie Lanham, Beth Miglin, Lois Miller, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Lyn Stevens, Vicki Wooten)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the December 13, 2021 Board meeting were reviewed by all present. Lyn Stevens moved that same minutes be approved; Karen Cahill seconded, and motion carried.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis passed the HCE budget spreadsheet 2021 to each Board member, which was reviewed and discussed. The December 31, 2021 bank balance was \$5,619.55. Sally will be paying the IAHCE yearly dues, which consist of \$5 times 141 members. The current bank balance is \$5,956.64. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank you notes have been received from Peggy Fear, Beth Miglin, Operating Enduring Support and Northeast Community Fund and were shared around the table.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President: Bonnie Lanham received Champaign County HCE lesson descriptions of U of I webinars, which Beth Miglin acknowledged are open to all online. Lyn Stevens suggested this information be added to the newsletter.

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe reminded all interested in attending the annual conference to RSVP.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens has organized the papers for her office of 2nd Vice President and advised that membership pins will be given out at the spring meeting. She asked if anyone would be interested in a copy of the Monthly Membership Report that she uses for her unit each month to track attendance. All were interested and received same. The newly-combined Oakley/Pleasant Grove unit is being recognized as "OPG."

Community & Family Issues & CVH: Mary Ann Platt was absent but known to be thrilled with the number of flannel hearts made for St. John's Hospital NICU.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample reported that she and Karen Halicki are not currently going to unit meetings due to Covid. **Historian:** Carol Ropp – absent.

Co-International: Vicki Wooten and Lois Miller – Vicki passed out copies of the History of the Vatican to those who had not yet received same. **Public Relations:** Linda Austin – absent; no report.

Extension Program Coordinator: Beth Miglin reminded everyone of the Tri-County meeting to be held at 9:30 a.m. on February 7, 2022 here at the Extension office. She needs an updated Board member list from each county. The host county is responsible for breakfast and lunch. Bonnie Lanham led the discussion of planning meals for that meeting.

Karen Cahill, Lois Miller and Sandy Severe will serve breakfast. The following food will be provided: Karen Cahill - banana muffins; Cheryl Sample blueberry muffins; Elaine Hamm - hashbrown breakfast casserole; Lois Miller - breakfast casserole; and Vicki Wooten – fruit, plus coffee, hot water and tea.

Lunch will be served by Bonnie Lanham, Lyn Stevens and Vicki Wooten. Karen Cahill will make pumpkin sloppy joes. Bonnie Lanham will pick up the hamburger buns and individual bags of chips. Sally Dennis will make two cherry dump cakes, and Lyn Stevens will bring brownies.

Unfinished Business: Cheryl Sample raised a question about hours; HCE/Other hours are to be reported separately.

New Business: Bonnie Lanham welcomed our new Board members. There was discussion regarding purchasing an ad in the state conference book. The 2022 conference theme is "Aspire to Inspire." Roxy Waterhouse will be asked to assist with the ad design. Sally Dennis and Karen Cahill indicated they will attend the IAHCE annual conference in Effingham all three days, March 15-17, 2022. They will serve as Macon County's voting conference delegates. Bonnie Lanham, Lois Miller and Cheryl Sample plan to attend for the day on Wednesday of the conference. Bonnie Lanham reminded all Board members planning to attend the conference to send in their RSVP before January 31, 2022. Karen Cahill and Lyn Stevens are working with Roxy Waterhouse on updating the membership list. Bonnie Lanham reported the Imboden Creek residents are enjoying the monthly craft sessions and helpers are still needed. In January, refrigerator magnets were made, with approximately 24 residents participating. Sally Dennis will help Bonnie Lanham in February, making a binder clip craft. Karen Cahill advised of the IAHCE Bylaws change: New counties joining another county used to be counted as new members; whereas, now new counties can only be counted as transfers. Sally Dennis had a question regarding filing the annual report for non-profit corporations with the Secretary of State at a cost of \$10. The filing agent is currently listed as Sharon Middleton and needs to be changed now to Sally Dennis. Board approval was given to do so. Lyn Stevens has updated the Guide Book for Officers and offered to make copies if she could receive reimbursement for her paper and ink. Sandy Severe moved that her request be granted. Cheryl Sample seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully_submitted,_Elaine Hamm

Unit News

Center Unit

Mary Lou Poor

We met on Monday, February 7, at the Christian County Extension office. There were seven members and two guests present. For lunch, we enjoyed four varieties of pizza, Valentine candy and delicious desserts. The table was decorated with a valentines' theme. Our members exchanged beautiful homemade valentines.

After socializing, we filled out the Macon County HCE program books. Members discussed the programs that interested them and made plans to attend the meetings at the Macon County Extension Office.

Community Outreach/ Family Issues

Mary Ann Platt

On November 29, eleven lovely ladies met at the Extension Office and made 411 bonding hearts for St. John's NICU. Parents wear these hearts when their parents cannot be with them allowing the bonding to continue. I delivered these hearts to Katie on January 3rd. She was thrilled!

This adds to our current and past outreach to Ronald McDonald House Charities. We have been guest chefs, provided aprons, hundreds of pillowcases, hundreds of pounds of pop tabs, cleaning and kitchen supplies as well as monetary donations. You continue to make me so proud.

Hickory Point

Louise Wickline

We met for lunch at Richland Culinary School on February 8th. We were very happy to visit with everyone for we had missed our January meeting because of Covid and bad weather.

Ou last meeting in December had been at the Decatur Club for a Christmas luncheon. We had exchanged gifts with each other but we also had brought gifts for God's Shelter of Love. Barb Reed, Elaine Hamm, and Janet Feller visited the Home, then shopped for the families there at Christmas time. With the help of the Pepsi Company, they had six hundred dollars to share. It was a very welcome gift.

After our delicious lunch at Richland, Chef Tucker spoke to us about the culinary program. Students are taught the many skills needed to successfully run a restaurant, not just the cooking.

We plan to meet at the Wildflower restaurant in March. Marge Kaufman gave the closing thought: "Turning vegan would be a big missed-steak!"

International

Vicki Wooten

If anyone has any ideas for the International program in September, please let me know. Our country of study is Italy. I have the program done but you never know when someone may not be able to come. It's great to have some back-up ideas if that should happen. Thank you!

Mt. Zion

Barb Brandt

Our Mt. Zion unit had our Christmas party at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Church. Nine members were in attendance. We had a white elephant gift exchange.

Our unit filled out the form for the MCHCE survey. We also planned out the yearly monthly meeting agenda for our unit. Vicki Wooten was the hostess and she provided delicious refreshments for us. Our next meeting will be February 23rd.

Oakley-Pleasant Grove

Mary Ann Platt

Our newly combined group met February 8th at Cox's in Mt. Zion. We made tentative plans for the year, received updates about MCHCE activities and enjoyed each other's company. It was nice to see each other face to face. Our next meeting is February 1 at 11:00 a.m. at Cox's in Mt. Zion.

Rock Springs

Louis Miller

Our December Christmas party was held at the Wharf restaurant in South Shores with 11 members present. We had a short meeting and received our new program booklets, discussed the upcoming lessons and decided the lesson and the hostess for the year. We then had a gift exchange and a game led by Vanessa Vanzant, Lois Miller, and Lyn Stevens. The next meeting of our unit will be held at Crawford's Restaurant in Mt. Zion. Lyn Stevens will be the hostess.

Our January meeting was held at Crawford's Restaurant in Mt. Zion. Our meeting was held before we ate a delicious lunch. We received a very nice thank you note from Rosemary Knap on the death of her sister and former member of our unit. Bonnie and Cathy delivered crafts to Imboden residents for the month of January. We then listened to Lyn Stevens about the upcoming events happening in Decatur. The next meeting of our unit will be held on Wednesday, February 9 at Napoli's Restaurant in downtown Decatur at 11:00.

The February 9th meeting was held at Napoli's in Decatur. Eight members were present. Two of our members couldn't be with us because their brother and sister passed away. We determined that our three new members wouldn't have to pay for lunch at the Spring Meeting. Our new members, whom we are very glad to welcome are: Penny Barry, Vanessa Vanzant, and Liz King.

We were reminded to save any and all of our plastic lids (medicine lids, peanut butter lids, coffee can lids, etc.). They can be used for a multitude of activities, such as playground equipment.

Lyn Stevens read the upcoming happenings in the Decatur area such as the Valentine Bake Sale at the Mt. Zion Lutheran Church on Saturday, February 12 from 9 till noon; Theatre Seven's production of Nana's Naughty Knickers on February 11-13 and February 18-20; the Argenta Ice Fest on Saturday, February 12 from 11 till 8 and the Pancake and Biscuit and Gravy breakfast at the Hickory Point Maple Syrup programs. Register online February 18 at Rock Springs and it's free!

Unit News Cont.

<u>Pana Unit</u>

Nina Elvers

We meet the first Monday of the month at the United in Faith Church in Pana. Our December meeting was a joint catered lunch with the quilters from the United in Faith Church. These has become a tradition the last few years for both groups. Our unit collects donations for local charities at this meetings. We collected \$720.00 at the December meeting. We are small in membership but we have caring and generous members for our community organizations.

Our January roll call was "What are your winter plans?" During the meeting, we filled out our new program books and discussed our plans for the coming year.

Our February roll call was "What do you remember about flour and feed sacks?" Our lesson was presented by Charlene Hunter about the history of feed sacks. It was a very interesting lesson and several members participated with comments.

We collect hygiene items three times a year to give to recipients at the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Pana. March will be our time to do this again.

In April, we will be celebrating our 55th anniversary. Final plans will be made at the March meeting. Our goal is to gain new members in the future.

<u>CVH</u>

Karen Cahi

"You may not always see the results of your kindness but every bit of positive energy you contribute to the world makes it a better place for all of us." Lisa Currie

With that thought in mind, I want to congratulate the Macon County members for a job well done. You submitted **14,865** volunteer hours for 2021. That was with 60% of the membership reporting. Since 2021 was such a "crazy world", I am impressed with the amount of volunteering you were able to contribute. Congratulations and Thank You!

We are off and running in 2022. I hope that we can have a better percentage of participation next year. PLEASE remember to log your volunteer hours as they occur, not try to remember what you did at the end of the year. You can use sticky notes, your calendar, or better yet, use the chart in the front of the program book. I'll be glad to answer any questions that you may have about volunteer hours.

Officer's Reports

President

Bonnie Lanham

Boy, this may be the only snowstorm that we have, but it was a good one!!! We had to postpone the Tri-County until March 7th. Remember to sign up for the upcoming lessons. It helps us to set up the room as well as have the correct amount of hand -outs. Thank you for your help!!

Craft sessions at Imboden Creek are going well. I need to have some helpers for the March 2nd and the April 6th craft lessons. On March 2nd, we will be making coasters from Ball jar rings and flats. April 6th, we will be making bookmarks from scrapbook papers, ribbons and embellishments. If you have any ideas or you can help, please call me at 217-428-7404.

Late fees for the state conference in Effingham have been waived until March 1st. You don't have to stay all three days. You can go for any one of those days. More information can be found on the state website or the state newsletter. Go to www. IAHCE.org.

We don't have a menu for the Spring Meeting yet. I am working with Chef Tucker. ALL new members who attend the Spring Meeting will get their lunch paid for. Let Sally Dennis know when you make your reservation. Her phone number is 217-864-2792 or 217-433-0605.

I hope to see many of you at the lessons and the Spring Meeting. We are going to have a lady from our group, who is a clown, speak and entertain us. See you there! Stay safe and warm! SPRING is on the way!!!!

First Vice President

Sandy Severe

Greetings ladies! Have we all had enough fun in the snow the past few weeks? Personally, I am ready for warm weather and constant sun!

Upcoming events include the State Conference March 15-17 in Effingham. Pillowcase sewing day is March 28, from 9:30 to 3:30. If you haven't attended these in the past, you are missing a really fun day! We need ladies to sew, as well as iron, cut, sort fabric and tag. Think about coming. I know that you will find it to be lots of fun!

Don't forget to RSVP for the lesson on "Healthy Desserts " on March 30th at 1:00 p.m.

Stay safe and healthy and I hope to see you soon!

Second Vice President

Lyn Stevens

I hope everyone enjoyed our early February snow. I am glad that I could enjoy it all from my big window, looking out and seeing all of the animal tracks in my backyard. My yard adjoins the woods. I didn't have to get out in it, and that made me happy.

I have been updating the MCHCE membership list for 2022. The majority of last year's members have paid their dues and we have several new members already for 2022. That is so exciting! Welcome to those ladies!

REMINDER:

In the January-February newsletter, there was a contact information sheet inside the back cover. If you haven't filled it in and sent it to the Extension Office, please do so as soon as possible. I am updating all of the information that we have on file. We have done similar forms in the past. Many forms have incorrect information and there are many that are missing. This is the reason for filling them out again. Thank you for doing this for HCE.

Macon, Piatt, & DeWitt HCE Membership

Home Phone:	Cell Ph	one:	
Current Address:			
City:	_State:		Zip code:
Email Address:	_ Membership Start Date:		Amount Paid:
	COUNTY & UNIT INFOR	MATION	
County Joining: (Please Circle)	DeWitt	Macon	Piatt
Unit Joining:			
New Member:	Returning Member:		Member who is returning but belonged
			previously, left, and is now returning
		Death	
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CONTACT INFORMATION

Please fill out the contact information sheet above and either mail it to the Macon County Extension Office at 3351 N. President Howard Brown Blvd., Decatur, Illinois 62521, or bring it to Roxy at the office as soon as possible. Thank you. **THIS IS IMPORTANT, WE ASK THAT EVERY MEMBER FILLS THIS OUT AND RETURN IT.** It has been many years since this information has been updated and we have many new members.



Macon County Association for Home & Community Education 3351 N. Pres. Howard Brown Blvd. Decatur, Illinois 62521

President

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2nd Vice President

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