

# Macon County

## September-October 2022

# HCE HIGHLIGHTS

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

### SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

We are pleased to announce the scholarship winners this year. Both of the winners are grandchildren of Linda Austin: **Brianna Austin** is a junior at Cedarville College in Cedarville, Ohio. She is working toward a double major in elementary education and special education. **Caleb White** is a freshmen at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky. Right now, he plans to major in the conservation area. Congratulations to these two students!! They both received five hundred dollars to be used for any college expense.

### DEER DONATION PROGRAM

One in 10 people in Illinois struggle with hunger every day. This includes one in eight children. The Illinois Deer Donation Program is one way to expand community access to lean protein throughout the East-Central Illinois area.

#### **The local contacts are:**

Caitlin Mellendorf for DeWitt, Macon, and Piatt counties. Her email address is [chuth2@illinois.edu](mailto:chuth2@illinois.edu) or 217-877-6042.

Meredith Probst for Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie, and Shelby counties. The email address is [maepley@illinois.edu](mailto:maepley@illinois.edu) or 217-345-7034.

Michelle Fombelle for Clay, Effingham, Fayette, and Jasper counties. Her email is [mfombelle@illinois.edu](mailto:mfombelle@illinois.edu) or 217-347-7773.

There is an email on a state website: [go.illinois.edu/DeerDonation](http://go.illinois.edu/DeerDonation). Please contact a representative for this important information or check out the website. If you have family members or friends who are hunters, pass this very worthwhile information on to them. Thank you for your help!!!

### BALLOT REMINDER!

Your unit presidents have the list of programs to be voted on for next year. You may return them to the Extension Office or to your president by October 14. Thank you for your help!

#### Inside This Issue

- Upcoming Events
- Laughter is Good for the Soul
- Great Recipes
- Beautiful Butterfly
- Meeting Minutes
- Cultural Art Categories
- Facts About Italy
- Community Outreach
- Unit News
- Officer Reports

#### International Day

You are cordially invited to attend our Tri-County International Day program!

**Wednesday, September 21**

**9:00 am - 2 pm**

**University of Illinois Extension Office | Macon County  
3351 N. President Howard Brown Blvd, Decatur, IL**

**Cost is \$15 / includes lunch**

The delicious menu will be catered by Richland and Chef Tucker. It will include parmesan chicken, linguine with garlic sauce, Greek salad, focaccia bread, tiramisu and a drink.

Reservations are due to Sally Dennis by September 12. Send your check payable to MCHCE to Sally at: 7562 Bonnie Road, Dalton City, IL 61925.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at this wonderful event.

#### **REMINDER!!**

Pillowcase Sewing  
Day on September 26.

## Upcoming Events

### Wednesday, September 7

Decorate for Christmas  
9:30 - 11:00 am

Macon County Extension Office  
Clover Room

### Monday, September 12

HCE Board Meeting  
10:00 am

Macon County Extension Office  
Clover Room

### Tuesday, September 20

Set Up for International Day  
1:00 pm

Macon County Extension Office  
Illini Room

### Wednesday, September 21

International Day - Italy  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Macon County Extension Office  
Illini Room

### Monday, September 26

Pillowcase Sewing Day  
9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Macon County Extension Office  
Clover Room

### Monday, October 3

*RSVP for all Lessons and  
Lunches*

Tri-County Meeting  
9:30 am - 1:00 pm

DeWitt County Extension Office

### Monday, October 10

HCE Board Meeting  
10:00 am

Macon County Extension Office  
Clover Room

*Newsletter items due to Linda*

*Austin @  
lindaaustin48@gmail.com*

### August 10 - 14

HCE Week

### Wednesday, October 19

RSVP to Sally Dennis for Fall  
Meeting

### Tuesday, October 25

Set Up for Fall Meeting  
1:00 pm

Macon County Extension Office  
Illini Room

### Wednesday, October 26

Fall Meeting  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Macon County Extension Office  
Illini and Clover Rooms  
*50/50 to the Operation Enduring  
Support*



# Laughter is Good for the Soul

Sally Dennis sent this to me because I asked for "clean" jokes for the newsletter. Good job, Sally!

A little boy fell into a mud puddle! (She just had to be silly to give thanks to the welcome rain!)

As I look through my many resources for this article, I try to find things that I can relate to. I found a bunch this time! Indulge me, please!! Linda

As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, one thing I am sure of.....it will be misspelled and have no punctuation! (Former teachers will know what I am talking about!)

I am sorry that I have not got much done today, but I have been at the store in the produce department trying to open the stupid plastic bag! (I learned a trick during Covid because I always licked my fingers to open that stupid bag, and that really wasn't a good idea during the virus. So, I put my fingers on the freshly washed produce and got the moisture I needed to open that stupid bag! I still do that!!)

I am on two diets. I wasn't getting enough on one! (I wonder why I can't lose weight! Hmmmm.....)

My mind is like an internet browser. I have at least 15 tabs open, 3 of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from!

(I live with this every day. I start something and I may get back to it eventually that day, but.....probably not!!)

## Great Recipes

### Zucchini Bread Bonnie Lanham

Bonnie says that she hopes everyone enjoys this recipe. It is the only recipe that she likes for zucchini bread!!!!

- In a bowl, place 3 eggs, 2 cups sugar, 1 cup vegetable oil and 1 tablespoon of vanilla. Beat till thick and lemon colored.
- Stir in 2 cups of grated, loosely packed zucchini.
- In another bowl, place 2 cups of flour, 1 tablespoon of cinnamon, 2 teaspoons baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon of baking powder.
- Mix the contents of both bowls together. Pour the mixture into 2 oiled and floured loaf pans.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to 1 hour. You may want to add 1 cup of chopped walnuts to the batter before pouring the batter into the pans.

In keeping with the theme of Italy for International Day, I discovered a recipe from Johnson County that sounds delicious! Italy is well known for lemons. So, here is the recipe for lemon yogurt bread .

### Lemon Yogurt Bread Loaf

1 c. plain yogurt  
1 c. sugar  
3 eggs  
1/2 tsp. vanilla  
1/2 c. oil

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a loaf pan or a small bundt pan.

In a medium bowl, place yogurt, sugar, vanilla, oil and eggs and whisk. Slowly add the following ingredients: 1 1/2 c. flour, 2 tsp. baking powder, and 1/2 tsp. salt. Mix well using a mixer. Pour into a prepared pan and bake about 50 minutes for the loaf pan and about 35 minutes for the bundt pan. While this is baking, cook 1/3 c. lemon juice with 1/3 c. sugar in a saucepan till the sugar dissolves and the mixture is clear, set aside. When the loaf comes out of the oven, cool for 10 minutes. Pour the cooked lemon mixture over the bread and allow it to soak in.

When the loaf is cooled, remove it from the pan. You may also want to glaze it with a mixture of 1 cup powdered sugar combined with 2 tbsp. of lemon juice. Yummy!!! Enjoy!!!

## Beautiful Butterfly

At the Spring Meeting, someone left a beautiful yellow butterfly with green and pink polka dots. If this belongs to you, please let Bonnie Lanham know at 217-428-7404. Thank you!!



# Home & Community Education Tri-County Board Meeting

Elaine Hamm  
June 13, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER:** Bonnie Lanham

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Bonnie Lanham

**HOMEMAKERS' AIM:** Bonnie Lanham

**JOKE AND THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:** Bonnie Lanham

**ROLL CALL:** Elaine Hamm

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

Total in attendance: 8 (Sally Dennis, Karen Halicki, Elaine Hamm, Bonnie Lanham, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Lyn Stevens, Vicky Wooten)

**SECRETARY:** Minutes of the May 9, 2022 Board meeting were reviewed by all present. Sandy Severe moved to accept them as corrected, and Cheryl Sample seconded. Motion carried.

**TREASURER:** Sally Dennis reported a June 6, 2022 bank balance of \$4,992.52. Each Board member received a copy of the budget spreadsheet. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

## **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

**President:** Bonnie announced that nominations are coming up for President (which could be Co-Presidents), Treasurer, Cultural Enrichment, and Community Outreach/Family Issues. (Bonnie is considering whether or not she wishes to continue as President. At the end of our meeting, Sally shared that she would like to remain as Treasurer.)

Bonnie stated that Karen Cahill has discussed with her the fact that Sangamon County has committees for everything, i.e., fall meeting, rather than the Board doing everything. Karen Halicki added that having unit members responsible for table décor at the fall/spring meetings or serving lunch would be a better alternative than trying to get volunteers for committees.

Also, Bonnie asked, "What is for lunch on pillowcase sewing day?" Lyn Stevens' response was to plan to have a salad luncheon each time.

At the Tri-County Board meeting, Piatt and DeWitt Counties requested to be on our Macon County newsletter mailing list and to be sent an email with October-February activities. Karen Halicki proposed that we three counties exchange program books on International Day, which would alleviate the need for sending an email of our activities. Program books will be requested from Piatt and DeWitt Counties.

**1st Vice President:** Sandy Severe reminded everyone of the Day Trips lesson on Wednesday, pillowcase sewing day, July program planning, the Food & Drug Interactions lesson in July, and August craft day.

**2nd Vice President:** Lyn Stevens had nothing new to report.

**Community & Family Issues & CVH:** Mary Ann Platt - absent

**Cultural Enrichment:** Cheryl Sample wants to promote county fairs. She has written a book report for the newsletter on [The Fly Girls](#).

**Historian:** Carol Ropp – absent

**International:** Vicky Wooten advised that Lois Miller is now in charge of decorating tables for International Day, using green, white and red tablecloths and appropriate décor.

**Public Relations:** Linda Austin – absent

**Extension Program Coordinator:** Beth Miglin - absent

**Unfinished Business:** After discussion, it was agreed to hold an ice cream social from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, August 6, if the pavilion at Rock Springs Nature Center is available. Bonnie will check this afternoon. This will be for HCE members, families and guests. At our July Board meeting, it will be decided what ice cream topping each respective unit will provide. Vicky Wooten suggested we include cookies.

**New Business:** Cheryl Sample moved that \$50 be given to Good Samaritan Inn in memory of Jane Gucker, wife of Doug Gucker, who is a U of I Extension educator. Lyn Stevens seconded the motion, and it passed.

The menu was chosen for the 2022 HCE fall meeting:

Grilled pork chop with apple chutney

Country green beans

Oven roasted potatoes

A choice of ultimate chocolate cake or lemon berry mascarpone cake

At our July Board meeting, First Responder baskets will be further discussed. Current thinking is to bring assorted pre-packaged snacks to the fall meeting. November would be a good time to distribute the baskets to the seven Decatur Fire departments, as well as the Sheriff and Police departments.

On July 21, fidget blocks will be made at the home of Miriam Seevers of Piatt County. Participants are to bring their own lunch, and Miriam will serve ice cream.

On October 14, the final day of HCE Week, the Board will showcase Leading Ladies, deciding at the July Board meeting who will represent which lady. Coffee, tea and cookies will also be provided.

A 50/50 drawing will be added to International Day, with Macon County 4-H International as the recipient. Karen Halicki or Bonnie will discuss with Ben Steele, 4-H Youth Development Educator.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

# Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

Elaine Hamm

July 11, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER:** Bonnie Lanham

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Bonnie Lanham

**HOMEMAKERS' AIM:** Bonnie Lanham

**JOKE:** Bonnie Lanham

**ROLL CALL:** Elaine Hamm

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

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

**SECRETARY:** Minutes of the June 13, 2022 Board meeting were reviewed by all present and approved as read. Two corrections were made to the Tri-County Board meeting minutes of March 7, 2022.

**TREASURER:** Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$4,910.57. Each Board member received a copy of the budget spreadsheet. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Sally read a thank you note from the Macon County Honor Guard for the \$73 donation from the spring meeting. Bonnie read a thank you for the deer processing fee HCE paid to the U of I Foundation.

## **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

**President:** A sale table will be set up at International Day. There will also be a Chinese auction that day.

**1st Vice President:** Sandy Severe reminded everyone of the July 20 lesson on Food & Drug Interactions, August 6 Rock Springs Conservation Center ice cream social, August 10 IAHCE District 3 meeting, August 17 Five Flavors lesson, and August 27 craft day.

**2nd Vice President:** Lyn Stevens - absent

**Community & Family Issues & CVH:** Mary Ann Platt - absent

**Cultural Enrichment:** Cheryl Sample reported doing her part to attend and promote the county fairs and shared her 4-H judging experiences.

**Historian:** Carol Ropp is keeping track of obituaries and HCE articles in the newspaper.

**International:** Vicky Wooten has previewed the movies to be shown on International Day and has had a 20-page booklet of states, etc. run off for every person attending that day to receive. She read us the agenda details. Lois Miller will compile Italian pictures on a poster board and provide an Italian cookbook for perusal.

**Public Relations:** Linda Austin – absent

**Extension Program Coordinator:** Beth Miglin announced that Ben Steele is the new 4-H Youth Development Educator and Eric Eickmeier is the 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator. The 4-H Program Coordinator for Macon County and Master Gardener for Macon County positions are in the hiring process. For anyone interested in volunteering to help with 4-H at the Illinois State Fair August 12-14, the website is [go.illinois.edu/statefairhelp](http://go.illinois.edu/statefairhelp). Cheryl Sample is now serving on the Extension Council.

There was discussion about who now compiles the HCE program books that Sharon Middleton used to do. Can Roxie Waterhouse continue this year? Is she willing? The Board will start program planning this afternoon and be finished by December. The folding and mailing of newsletters, as well as affixing stamps, address labels and two adhesive closing tabs, will be handled by units rotating this responsibility.

**Unfinished Business:** The Craft Day flier was passed around for review. Some suggestions for added clarity were made. Carol Ropp will discuss with Roxie.

Regarding the ice cream social on August 6 from 1-3 p.m. at the Rock Springs Pavilion, HCE will purchase the ice cream. Several Board members will provide cookies. Families, friends and neighbors are invited, with donations accepted. Board members will inquire of their respective unit members who plans to attend and will RSVP to Bonnie.

Eight Board members plan to attend the IAHCE District 3 meeting in Springfield on August 10. It was agreed to carpool at 7:30 a.m. from the Decatur Hotel & Conference Center. Macon County HCE is in charge of registration. We were reminded to wear our name tags.

The craft on August 3 at Imboden Creek will be butterflies. Only three residents participated last month.

**New Business:** There were only two applicants for scholarships. Sally will write \$500 checks to Linda Austin's grandchildren: Brianna Austin, who plans to double major in elementary education/special education, and Caleb White, who plans to become a conservation officer. Congratulations!

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

## Cultural Arts Show Categories

**Be sure to check these categories out if you plan to enter the Cultural Arts competition.**

- 100 Artwork (charcoal, oil acrylic or watercolor)
- 200 Counted cross stitch
- 300 Crafts (wood and rugs included)
- 400 Crochet Afghans
- 500 Crochet, other
- 600 Hand embroidery
- 700 Quilt, hand or machine pieced, and hand quilted by HCE member
- 800 Heritage needlework (silk ribbon, hardanger, tatting)
- 900 Jewelry (handmade)
- 1000 Knit Afghans
- 1100 Knit (other)
- 1200 Machine embroidery
- 1300 Quilt machine pieced, and machine 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 and quilted by a non HCE member
- 1700 Quilted. Other, anything quilted that isn't a quilt
- 1800 Recycled
- 1900 Scrapbooking. Up to 4 pages total, front and back, in 2 plastic sleeves, card making
- 2000 Table runners and covers
- 2100 Wearable art. (Any technique applied to purchased or self-made item)
- 2200 Wall hangings
- 2300 Current annual conference theme or country of study
- 2400 Sewing

NOTE. Above size maximums 24" including matting and frame or it can be folded to 24" except quilts

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## FACTS ABOUT ITALY

Rome is over 2000 years old. Italy was ruled for 20 years( 1925 to 1945) by Mussolini. Italy's last king ruled for only 36 days. Tourists throw over a million dollars each year in the Trivi Fountain. Italians who came to America in the early 1900's brought with them a way with tomato sauce and pasta that has had a great impact on American food choices. A few of the dishes they brought, spaghetti and pizza, have become standard American food. Yet these tomato-rich foods do not really typify Italy, as most Americans think. They only represent the cooking in the southern and central provinces from which many "first generation" Italian-Americans came from. Italian foods have an infinite variety and every region has its own dishes. This is determined in part by climate and terrain.

Be sure to come to International Day on Wednesday, September 21, from 9 to 2, at the Extension Office. You will have wonderful food and learn much more about Italy. See you there!!

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## Welcome New Members

I asked for a list of any new members this year. If your unit's new members are not on this list, please let me know.

We welcome to MCHCE:  
Mary Jane McVey, Center HCE Unit  
Brenda Nolan, Mt Zion Unit  
Mary Ann Beck, Mt Zion Unit  
Sue Jones, Mt Zion Unit  
Judy Tipton, Maple Grove Unit  
Linda Zion, Maple Grove Unit  
Karen Seefeldt, Maple Grove Unit

We are so glad that you have joined our group! We learn a lot and we have a great time together!!!

## Unit News

### Maple Grove

Mary Kay Ennis

On **June 23**, twelve members and three guests attended our meeting at the home of Kris Batchelder. Two of our guests had 2 legs and one had 4 legs. Karen Seefeldt's daughter, Melinda, was present, as was Judy Tilton, and Oscar, Kris's sweet dog, who sat quietly through the short meeting we had. The meeting was at 1 :00, as planned. No lunch was served, only delicious pie after our tour. The short business meeting consisted of reading the May meeting minutes, with no corrections. Then our treasurer gave her report. Our next meeting will be at Sharon Methodist Church, again at 1 :00. Dessert will be served at this meeting, not a full lunch. Under announcements: The Warrensburg-Latham Firemen will be having a drive-thru fried chicken dinner on June 25.

I can't begin to tell you about Kris's beautiful flower gardens, but I know Carol Ropp took some pictures. Kris is very creative, and she featured her favorite colors, dark blue and yellow, in her garden creations. We were accompanied by Oscar, who ended our tour by doing " his trick". When Kris commanded, Oscar stepped into his swimming pool to wipe his paws off before going into the house. As I mentioned, before, three choices of pies were served. They were so refreshing. Thanks so much to Kris for sharing her garden creation with us. It was a very relaxing afternoon. If you ever have an opportunity to tour Kris's garden, be sure to take your camera!

We met at Sharon Methodist Church at 1 :00 on **July 28**, Our hostesses were Pat Bales and Bev Carmean. We began our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and then our Homemakers' aim. Roll call was answered by telling the group their hometown. There were 12 members present and one guest, Karen Halicki. The June minutes were read and accepted with no corrections. Gloria Lowery gave the treasurer's report. It was suggested that the unit give our hostesses a donation for the dessert they provided. Both Pat and Bev suggested making that donation to the church. A motion by Gini Smith to donate \$25 to Sharon Methodist Church passed. Upon receiving a letter from the 4H Foundation, Bev Carmean made a motion to donate \$50, as we have done in the past. Motion was seconded by Karen Cahill and passed unanimously.

Karen Halicki spoke about the list of items that could be entered in the Fine Arts Cultural Enrichment Category. Thank you, Karen, for your attendance and input in this area. Carol Ropp then passed out the list of lesson choices for 2023. She commented on the choices to help us, as members, decide on which 18 lessons to pick as our topics for the coming year. The choices are due by Oct. 10.

Our next meeting will be August 25 at La-Tea- Da at 11 :30. Under announcements: Carol mentioned the health concerns for several of our members. Karen Cahill reminded us of the Ice Cream Social at Rock Springs on August 6, and our Craft Day.

### Mt. Zion

Barb Brandt

Our June meeting was held June 22nd at the La Tea Da tearoom in Clinton. Eight members attended and everyone enjoyed the lunch. The desserts were outstanding.

Our next meeting will be July 27 and we will visit a unit member in Pana.

### Oakley-Pleasant Grove

Patty Lovekamp

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Carol Bork in June. She was a member of the Oakley unit for many years. She was a past County President, and very active through the years at the county level. She will be missed.

Members and guests enjoyed an outing to Mari-Mann's on July 2nd. Mike King gave an interesting talk about vitamins and their uses. Lunch was served using several herbs that were grown on the farm.

We met on August 2nd at Coz's with Alice Bray as hostess. We discussed several upcoming events. The next meeting will also be at Coz's on September 6.

### Community Outreach/Family Issues

Mary Ann Platt

I am delivering 97 pillowcases and 17 hearts on Monday, August 15 to the Ronald McDonald House. We also collected many pounds of pop tabs that I will also be taking to Springfield.

Keep saving those pop tabs. We will have another pillowcase sewing day on Monday, September 26 from 9:30 to 3:30. Anyone can come. We need assemblers, cutters, ironers, and sewers. There is a place for everyone. Please call the Extension Office at 217-877-6042 to sign up to help. It is a great fun-filled day and you are helping those parents and children at the Ronald McDonald house.

## **Officer's Reports**

### **President**

Bonnie Lanham

Well, summer is on its way out—we welcome fall pretty soon! I hope all of you are going to attend our Craft Day/Membership Drive and bring a friend (potential member). It will be a fun day! Be sure you get your reservations in for this event as well as future lessons, International Day, and our Fall Meeting ! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call me. All calls are confidential. Be careful out there, it can be scary!!

### **First Vice President**

Sandy Severe

I hope you all signed up for the Craft Day on August 27. It's 9 to 2 with a salad lunch included for \$10.00. It will be a very enjoyable day! You should have received a flier about this fun day!!

Wednesday, September 7, our local weatherman, Anthony Peoples, will give a lesson about decorating for Christmas. RSVP to the Extension Office by September 2.

International Day is September 21 with the focus on Italy. RSVP by September 12 to Sally Dennis at 217-864-2792 or her email at [sjdfeline@one-eleven.net](mailto:sjdfeline@one-eleven.net). You can also mail your fifteen dollar check made payable to MCHCE to her at 7562 Bonnie Road, Dalton City, Illinois.

HCE Week activities sound like an entertaining and educational time.

October 10, 1:00 p.m. "Cooking with Honey."

October 11, 9:30 to 11:00 "Fixins and Nibblins". Lunch will be provided, donations will be accepted.

October 11, 1:00 to 2:30. "Meet the Spice Girls"

October 13, 9:30 to 11:00, The program will be about making the best of "Leftovers". Lunch provided, donations accepted.

October 13, 1:00 to 2:30 "Intermodal System in Decatur".

October 14, 9:30 to 11:00, "Comparing Cookware". Lunch

October 14, 1 to 2:30, "Leading Ladies" with an ice cream social included

The Fall Meeting is October 26 from 9:00 to 2:00. Jamie Sims from the Taylorville HCE group, will be our speaker. The menu will be grilled pork chop with apple chutney, country style green beans, oven roasted potatoes, lemon -berry mascarpone or ultimate chocolate cake, drink. The cost will be \$15.00.

Please come join us for these lessons and events. I am sure you will be glad that you came. See you there!

### **Second Vice President**

Lyn Stevens

The Macon County HCE Membership form was printed in this newsletter a number of times at the beginning of the year. We really need EVERYONE to fill it out. If you have not done so yet, please see me at either the International Day on September 21st or at the Fall Meeting on October 26th. Thank you!

### **Cultural Enrichment**

Cheryl Sample

Greetings! I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer, before the furnace gets turned up. June was pleasant but I think we all agree July and August have been HOT! But life goes on—we enjoyed two family reunions for both sides. We hosted my side and the big hit was a big metal tub filled with lots of ice. But the best part of family gatherings is the generations coming together and making memories. I love setting out old family pictures. Those always lead to great stories.

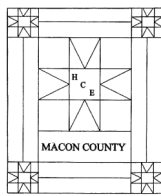
I attended a couple of county fairs as a judge. While the numbers were down, I was encouraged by the enthusiasm of the 4 H members as they shared their experiences while explaining their projects. Thank anyone that you know who is a leader and continue to encourage our youth.

Remember how I suggested attending any local small town events earlier this year? I enjoyed the Blue Mound Fall Festival. I love parades. Our own Roberta Gordon was the Grand Marshall! We had good food, good fun and a car show! My husband loved the day too.

And for us—Craft Day/Membership Drive is coming Saturday, August 27th. I have been privileged to attend the planning meetings and I can tell you there are some fun projects planned for this day. Be thinking about who you might be able to bring as a prospective member.

I am looking ahead on our calendar to an exciting fall schedule. International Day is coming in September. It is the very best way to travel without a passport.

Enjoy the end of summer and all of the delicious food from our gardens in our county and be sure to spend time with family and friends.



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

#### **President**

Bonnie Lanham 2018-2022  
Rock Springs Unit  
384 Dawson Rd.  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217-428-7404 (Home)  
217-454-8746 (Cell)  
randb74@comcast.net

#### **1st Vice President**

Sandy Severe 2022-2024  
Oakley Pleasant Grove Unit  
3147 Maryland St.  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217-422-9889 (Home)  
217-972-2870 (Cell)  
severesandean@comcast.net

#### **2nd Vice President**

Lyn Stevens 2022-2024  
Rock Springs Unit  
960 Kirk Drive  
Mt. Zion, IL 62549  
217-972-5192  
jstev62524@yahoo.com

#### **Secretary**

Elaine Hamm 2022-2024  
Hickory Point Unit  
1222 Pineview Ct.  
Decatur, IL 62526  
217-972-6575

#### **Treasurer**

Sally Dennis 2018-2022  
Pleasant Grove Unit  
7562 Bonnie Road  
Dalton City, IL 61925  
217-864-2792  
sjdfeline@one-eleven.net

#### **Historian**

Carol Ropp 2020-2022  
Maple Grove Unit  
3620 South Taylor Road  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217-855-3339  
one4thetrees@comcast.net

#### **Community Outreach/ Family Issues**

Mary Ann Platt 2018-2022  
Pleasant Grove Unit  
3614 Harryland Road  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217-864-2716 (Home)  
maryannia@aol.com

#### **Cultural Enrichment**

Cheryl Sample 2018-2022  
Patchwork Unit  
10630 Greenswitch Road  
Maroa, IL 61756  
765-426-1420  
erskc@aol.com

#### **Co-Internationals**

Vicky Wooten 2019-2021  
Mt. Zion Unit  
945 Mintler  
Mt. Zion, IL 62549  
217-864-3454  
vfwooten@earthlink.net

#### **Lois Miller 2022-2024**

Rock Springs Unit  
1770 Dipper Ln.  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217-429-9660  
dipplerlane@gmail.com

#### **Public Relations**

Linda Austin  
Maple Grove Unit  
50 Hickory Point Ct  
Forsyth, IL 62535  
217-521-0401 (Cell)  
lindaaustin48@gmail.com

#### **CVH**

Karen Cahill  
Maple Grove Unit  
2517 Burgener Drive  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217-520-2683 (Cell)  
217-428-0037 (Home)  
karencahill@outlook.com

#### **Webmaster**

Sharon Middleton 2021  
1190 Chelsea Way  
Decatur, IL 62526  
217-620-0484 (Cell)  
tolepainter2@gmail.com

