

Macon County

January-February 2023

HCE HIGHLIGHTS

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

REMINDER! VOLUNTEER HOURS!

It's that time of year again when you need to count up your volunteer hours and send them to Karen Cahill ASAP. It is important because our volunteering helps to support the U of I Extension with programming and financing. It shows the impact our volunteering has on the community. So don't think it's an unnecessary task. **IT IS NECESSARY** and **YOU ARE IMPORTANT!!** Contact me if you have questions.

"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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DUES FOR 2023 ARE NOW PAST DUE! PLEASE GET THEM PAID IF YOU ARE REJOINING FOR 2023.

BE SURE TO READ THE SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER. IT INCLUDES HOW TO ORDER A NAME BADGE.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Mark your Calendars!! On **SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.**, we are hosting a Tri-County event. Melissa Gouty from Danville, Illinois, will be giving a presentation called, "**THE WEST WAS WON WITH A NEEDLE AND THREAD**". Tickets will be \$10.00 each. This will be a fundraiser for our Tri-County group (DeWitt, Macon and Piatt). So, be thinking of people you can invite to this fun, interesting program. Keep a lookout for more information in the new year.

JUST A REMINDER!

Let's try to invite a family member, a neighbor, a good friend, or a church member to one of our programs or to your small unit meetings. I advertise our programs in the Tribune, but a personal invitation is always better!

BE SURE TO KEEP LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR VENTURE WITH OUR OTHER TWO COUNTIES. MELISSA GOUDY IS A FANTASTIC SPEAKER! MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR APRIL 29! TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

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SOMETHING NEW!

Our board has a new program for next November, 2023, that we are working on. We will still have the Fall Meeting but the Cultural Enrichment judging will be on a separate day, November 29. This will be open to the public too. It will also be a Membership Drive. So, you all have this winter, spring, summer and fall of 2023 to produce some beautiful entries. We are really looking forward to this event!!!

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 2

Extension Office Closed
Happy New Year!

Monday, January 9

HCE Board Meeting
10:00 am
Macon County Extension
Office
Clover Room

Monday, January 16

Extension Office Closed
Martin Luther King Jr Day

Monday, February 6

Tri-County Meeting
9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Macon County Extension
Office

Monday, February 13

HCE Board Meeting
10:00 am
Macon County Extension
Office
Clover Room

Newsletter items due to
Linda Austin @
lindaaustin48@gmail.com

Friday, February 24

Scholarship Applications
Available
Online @
www.mchce.org under
Education tab.
Scholarship Committee
Chairman - Carol Ropp

Monday, February 27

Sewing Day/Conference
Favors
9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Macon County Extension
Office
Clover Room



Laughter is Good for the Soul

Thank you to Sandy Severe for submitting these cute jokes.

What was Santa's favorite subject in school?

CHEMIS-TREE

What is Santa's favorite type of potato chip?

CRISP PRINGLES

According to superstition, what happens to bread baked on Christmas?

IT NEVER BECOMES MOLDY

In the movie, Holiday Inn, what club did Jim Hardy and Linda Mason meet? CLUB

PIERRE OR LE PLAZA CLUB PIERRE

What pie was allowed when Christmas was banned in England?

MINCE MEAT

BEE-CAUSE POLLINATORS FEED THE WORLD

This is an international program sponsored by NVON and ACWW, of which you are a member. We will be collecting funds to help keep bee-keeping organizations and international aid societies that promote the importance of all kinds of pollinators.

Each unit will be given an empty honey bear bottle to collect monies for this worthwhile cause. When you fill it, please give the funds to our treasurer, Sally Dennis. Feel free to fill it again. Hopefully, you will also be inspired to promote more pollinators in your gardens as well.

Here is a little bee humor. Why do bees have sticky hair? Because they use honey combs!

WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE HONEY

Honey treats a lot of health problems such as INSOMNIA, INDIGESTION, COUGHS, COLDS, HEADACHES, FATIGUE, ANEMIA, ACNE, RINGWORM, AND ECZEMA.

HONEY IS RICH IN VITAMIN B6, RIBOFLAVIN, CALCIUM, COPPER, IRON, MAGNESIUM, PHOSPHOROUS, SODIUM, AND ZINC.

I WILL PUBLISH MORE ABOUT HONEY IN UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS.

DON'T FORGET TO FILL THOSE HONEYBEARS. YOUR UNIT PRESIDENT WILL HAVE THE BEARS AT YOUR MEETINGS!

Our Book Reviews

Karen Cahill—If you enjoy reading historical fiction, I would like to recommend Between Earth and Sky by Amanda Skenandore. This story is about the Bureau of Indian Affairs trying to assimilate Indian children into the white society by having them live in boarding schools while taking everything away associated with their Indian way of life. The story goes back and forth in time from the 1880's to 1906. This is a well written book with interesting characters and a powerful message.

Carol Ropp is enjoying books written by Jodi Thomas. She has many, many books. Carol just started reading her books earlier this year.

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

Elaine Hamm
October 10, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Bonnie Lanham

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mary Ann Platt

HOMEMAKERS' AIM: Linda Hooge

JOKE AND THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Bonnie Lanham

ROLL CALL: Elaine Hamm

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

Total in attendance: 13 (Linda Austin, Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Karen Halicki, Elaine Hamm, Linda Hooge, Bonnie Lanham, Mary Ann Platt, Carol Ropp, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Lyn Stevens, Vicky Wooten)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the September 12, 2022 Board meeting were reviewed by all present and approved as corrected.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$4,360.07. Each Board member received a copy of the up-to-date budget spreadsheet. It was noted that the Chinese Auction funds are used to purchase fabric. The treasurer's report was filed for audit. On October 18, Sally, Bonnie and Karen Halicki will meet to work on the proposed budget for 2023. Mary Ann Platt moved to pay \$196 for website charges; Sandy Severe seconded and motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mary Ann Platt received a note from Ronald McDonald House, thanking us for the 36.2 pounds of pop tabs and 40 pillowcases. Bonnie passed around a thank you from Good Samaritan Inn for our \$50 donation in memory of Jane Gucker.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe reminded everyone of the HCE Week lessons, as well as the fall meeting.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens reported nine new members have joined in 2022, for a total of 128 MCHCE members. Pauline O'Dell (a member since 1977) and Wilma Gepford (a member since 1952) recently passed. Lyn will ask Roxy Waterhouse to update the organization chart. Beginning in 2023, membership drives/craft days may be scheduled for libraries in Mt. Zion, Forsyth, Warrensburg, Maroa and Argenta. Librarians could hand a flyer regarding same to ladies as books are checked out. Karen Cahill wonders if the display case near the Decatur Public Library entrance could be used by MCHCE. Lyn will check.

Community & Family Issues & CVH: Mary Ann Platt announced that Linda Hooge has agreed to be her Community & Family Issues & CVH co-chairperson. She asked for ideas as to where 100 adult pillowcases can be given. The following suggestions were made: Imboden Creek and God's Shelter of Love for ladies when they get out on their own. Suggestions for kids' pillowcases were CASA, Child First and Decatur Public Schools. For Operation Enduring Support, needed donations (due by November 17) include the Herald & Review brain teaser section. Sunday School children could write to the soldiers to add to the shipped packages.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample is promoting for more cultural enrichment items at the fall meeting. Items are eligible up to two years from the time they were finished. Mary Johnson, IAHCE Second Vice President, will be one of the judges. Bonnie will ask Linda Long and Linda Riva from DeWitt County to be the other judges. Winners from the designated categories will be chosen. If there are more than eight to be sent to state conference, the fall meeting attendees will choose which will go.

Historian: Carol Ropp continues to save newspaper articles relating to MCHCE.

International: Vicky Wooten requested feedback on International Day, which was positive. Egypt will be the 2023 country of study. Piatt County will be in charge. The Monday before Thanksgiving is Champaign County's International Day. The cost is \$11 for the catered meal from Holly's of Monticello. A travel agent will speak on Italy.

Public Relations: Linda Austin reminded everyone that the newsletter is due by Wednesday. Karen Cahill has a new form for volunteer hours to be added to the newsletter. Linda will ask at the fall meeting if members want the Board minutes to continue to be included in the newsletter.

Extension Program Coordinator: Beth Miglin - absent

Unfinished Business: Fall meeting roles: Mt. Zion will provide a light morning snack; Oakley-Pleasant Grove (Sally Dennis and Mary Ann Platt) will handle registration. Bonnie went over the program order details for the fall meeting. Vicky Wooten will furnish cookies for this week's ice cream social on Friday of HCE Week.

New Business: For the Tour of the States lunch on November 16, Bonnie chose the recipes of swiss apple pie, ham balls and golden corn casserole.

On Friday, October 21, at 9 a.m., the 2023 program books will be compiled by Bonnie Lanham, Sandy Severe, Carol Ropp and Karen Cahill.

Board members indicated which ingredients they would bring for the baked potato bar on Friday of HCE Week.

Mary Ann moved that the Board pay \$50 each to Karen Cahill, Carol Ropp and Gini Smith, who are presenting the Fixin and Nibblins for the Holidays lesson tomorrow, as the cost of ingredients is very high. Linda Hooge seconded the motion, which carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

Elaine Hamm
November 14, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Bonnie Lanham

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Sandy Severe

HOMEMAKERS' AIM: Sandy Severe

JOKE: Bonnie Lanham

ROLL CALL: Elaine Hamm

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

Total in attendance: 10 (Carolyn Barnett – Pana; Sally Dennis, Karen Halicki, Elaine Hamm, Bonnie Lanham, Lois Miller, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Lyn Stevens, Vicky Wooten)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the October 10, 2022 Board meeting were reviewed by all present. Lyn Stevens moved to approve said minutes as corrected. Cheryl Sample seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$5,605.62. Each Board member received a copy of the up-to-date budget spreadsheet. Sally reported sending in \$577.47 for the Friendship Project Fund. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe reminded everyone of the November 16 lesson/lunch/Tour of the States and the December 7 lesson on Living in a Digital World.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens requested clarification of OPG for the organization chart. OPG is now used for the Oakley/Pleasant Grove combined HCE unit name. She will send in the state report of members. Lyn has a list of who has not paid 2023 dues. Bonnie Lanham noted that we may have three new mailbox members.

Community & Family Issues & CVH: Mary Ann – absent.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample – Concerning readying items for the state conference, Cheryl will get a list from the fall meeting and put a reminder in the December newsletter for the respective ladies to contact Cheryl.

Historian: Carol Ropp – absent, but it was noted that she continues to save newspaper articles relating to MCHCE.

Co-International: Vicky Wooten and Lois Miller reminded us that next year's country of study is Egypt. Karen Halicki initiated discussion on sharing with DeWitt County the International Day profit from the meals. Lois Miller moved that we pay \$54 (one-half of the \$108 profit) to DeWitt County; Sandy Severe seconded; motion carried.

Public Relations: Linda Austin reminded everyone that the newsletter is due by Wednesday. Bonnie advised that Karen Cahill has a new form for volunteer hours to be added to the newsletter. Linda will ask at the fall meeting if members want the Board minutes to continue to be included in the newsletter.

Extension Program Coordinator: Beth Miglin reported that the new County Director is Jamie Boas, who will begin in two weeks and who replaces Doug Harlan. She also reminded us that Melissa Gouty will share "The West Was Won by Needle and Thread" for the Tri-County fundraiser.

Unfinished Business: Nineteen have signed up for the Tour of the States lunch – donations accepted. It was agreed that Christmas monetary gifts in the same amounts as last year be given to Beth Miglin, Peggy Fear and Roxy Waterhouse.

New Business: Various ideas were discussed for the Board Christmas at the December Board meeting. It was agreed to collect money for Oasis Day Center rather than have a gift exchange. We will have a potluck and bring two dozen cookies each to swap. We will plan to share our officer training packets at the December meeting. A reminder will be included in the December newsletter that anyone desiring a rectangular, purple name badge should give \$5 to Lyn Stevens, who will place the order the middle of January. Carolyn Barnett is taking Nina Elvers' position in Pana. Bonnie gave an overview of the 2023 lessons and events.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Unit News

Center Unit

Delores Hunt

We held a Christmas party at the home of Delores Hunt on December 5th. Ten members were present. Each member brought a Christmas card and a gift to exchange. We finished the afternoon playing Bingo for prizes. Everyone also brought a nonperishable food item for the Taylorville Food Pantry. The next meeting will be held Monday, January 2, at the Extension Office.

Our Cultural Enrichment and Unit News lady, Mary Lou Poor, is currently in the hospital. All of our prayers and get well wishes for a speedy recovery are sent to her.

Hickory Point

Louise Wickline

We always have a Christmas luncheon in December with a gift for each other and gifts for some needy women's or children's group. We try to do our small part to make someone else's Christmas happy.

Mary Beth and Louise Wickline always attend the Vespers at Millkin for beautiful music is an important part of the holidays. We look forward to being with family from many parts of our country, also an important part of the holidays. Cookie decorating with the little family members is part of the fun too.

International

Vicky Wooten

I hope all of the units will take the time and read through the handout about Egypt. It would be interesting to see a real pyramid or take a cruise on the Nile. It's hard to imagine living in a country that has such a long history.

Fun facts—Egypt is one of the first civilizations to have a written language. About one fourth of the land is desert.

Maple Grove

Mary Kay Ennis

What to say, when you have nothing to report? We did not meet in November due to conflicts with Thanksgiving. In December, our unit had our annual Christmas get-together at the Decatur Club on December 9th. Ten of us gathered to eat and exchange gifts. We played a pass the present game called The Right Family. May all your holiday wishes come true!

Oakley Pleasant Grove

Sandy Severe

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will see you in the New Year.

Officer's Reports

President

Bonnie Lanham

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a nice Christmas. As we venture into 2023, let's make this our best year yet!!

Program books should be available now. Remember to sign up for the lessons you want to attend. If you voted for a lesson and it made it to our schedule, support your vote by attending.

The State Conference is coming up in March in Effingham. Anyone can attend. More information should be on the state website, www.iahce.org.

REMEMBER TO GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN BY THE DEADLINE IN OUR PROGRAM BOOK. LATE RESERVATIONS WHERE FOOD IS INVOLVED WILL COST YOU \$5.00 MORE!

Stay warm this winter! Please call me if you have any questions or concerns!

First Vice President

Sandy Severe

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Where has the year gone?

We should have our 2023 booklets soon. Just a reminder that we will not have any lessons in January and February. The State Conference will be March 14-16th, in Effingham. Pillowcase Sewing Day will be March 27th. I am hoping that you all will enjoy the lessons that are planned for the New Year.

Second Vice President

Lyn Stevens

We have many new members since the last time name badges were ordered. These are the purple badges that you see members wearing at meetings and lessons. I will be placing an order after the first of the year. The cost is \$5.00.

Whether you are a new member, a member who has never had a name badge, or if you have lost your name badge, please make your check payable to MCHCE. Also, include a note with how you want your name to appear on the badge —first or nickname and last name. Please include the name of your unit. Mail all of this to Lyn Stevens, 960 Kirk Drive, Mt Zion, IL 62549.

Cultural Enrichment

Cheryl Sample

Happy Holidays and wishing everyone a blessed New Year. We hear these words often this time of year. What about those resolutions? I see 2023 as a "fresh start" to try some new and different things.

I am going to challenge myself to try one new recipe every couple of weeks, investigate those odd feet that came with my sewing machine, ask for a different genre of book than what I usually read and the list goes on and on. I will call a friend that I haven't talked with in such a long time. I will try to smile at the cranky looking person in the aisle, return someone's shopping cart for them, have some small notecards that will always be available to drop a note to someone, buy a new calendar and keep it handy when I hear about a birthday or event, mark it down and try to attend, and be there for others.

I think we tend to become caught up in our own lives and forget about others. Most of all, just SMILE! Enjoy that piece of cake! As Miss Brown on the Food Network said recently, "Treat yourself, don't cheat yourself!"

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER HOURS RECORD SHEET

IAHCE Individual Volunteer Hour Summary

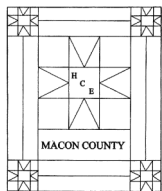
Unit Name _____ Member Name _____ Year _____

| Monthly Hours | HCE Hours | Other Hours | = Total Hours | List Locations Volunteered - PLEASE PRINT |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|---|
| JANUARY | | | | |
| FEBRUARY | | | | |
| MARCH | | | | |
| APRIL | | | | |
| MAY | | | | |
| JUNE | | | | |
| JULY | | | | |
| AUGUST | | | | |
| SEPTEMBER | | | | |
| OCTOBER | | | | |
| NOVEMBER | | | | |
| DECEMBER | | | | |
| TOTALS | | | | <p>The time equation is simple: $(\text{activity time}) + (\text{travel \& preparation time}) = \# \text{ of hours}$</p> |

Total Hours: _____ Signature of Unit CVH Chair _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____



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 60504
217-972-5192
jstev60504@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
217-433-0605
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



Please
Remember to
RSVP for All
Events

Check out our Websites!



Macon County HCE at
www.mchce.org
IAHCE at
www.iahce.org