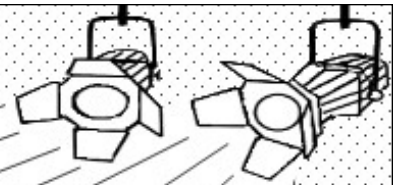


Macon County

March-April 2023



HCE HIGHLIGHTS

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

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER

BEE-CAUSE POLLINATORS FEED THE WORLD

HOPE YOU HAVE BEEN FILLING THOSE HONEYBEAR JARS WITH LOTS OF MONEY! AS YOU MAY REMEMBER, THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM SPONSORED BY NVON AND ACWW, OF WHICH WE ARE ALL MEMBERS.

ANOTHER INTERESTING BEE FACT—A HONEY BEE WORKER ONLY MAKES AN AVERAGE OF 1/12 OF A TEASPOON IN HER LIFETIME.

PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!!

MARCH 22, 1 to 2:30. THESE FIRST LADIES WILL BE JOINING US!! HARRIET LANE, JULIA GRANT, ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, MARTHA WASHINGTON, AND LOU HOOVER. SPECIAL REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED!! DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!!!

A NEW IDEA!!

Some people like to do crafts, some people sew, and for the people who are wonderful bakers, we have a new idea for our Spring Meeting. For our sales table at our meeting, we would like to have baked goods such as cookies, brownies, rice crispy treats, Texas sheet cake, coffee cakes, angel food cake, regular cake with frosting, breads, mini muffins, pies, cereal mix, puppy mix, trail mix, and fudge. Baked goods need to be packaged. In the next newsletter, I will publish more information.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER!

The RSVP date for the Spring Meeting (Wednesday, May 3rd), is Wednesday, April 26. Mail your check for \$15.00 to Sally Dennis, 7562 Bonnie Rd., Dalton City, Illinois 61925 by April 26th. **Please make checks payable to MCHCE. If you miss the RSVP date for the Spring Meeting, a \$5.00 charge will be added.** Thank you!

*****Ladies be sure to wear your pearls to the Spring meeting and please bring a pearl of wisdom such as one by Oscar Wilde "Be yourself everyone else is taken" *****

Inside This Issue

- Upcoming Events
- Laughter is Good for the Soul
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- Volunteer Hours Record Sheet



DeWitt, Macon and Piatt County
Home and Community Education



The West was Won with a Needle and Thread

Featuring : Melissa Gouty
Award Winning Teacher, Speaker and Entrepreneur

Saturday | April 29 | 1 - 3 pm | \$10
(Tickets are non-refundable)

University of Illinois Extension 3351 N. President
Howard Brown Blvd.
Decatur, IL 62521
(For questions call 217.877.6042)



Upcoming Events

Monday, March 13

HCE Board Meeting
10:00 am

Macon County Extension
Office-Clover Room

March 14-16

IHCE Conference
Effingham, IL

Friday, March 17

RSVP for March Lesson

Wednesday, March 22

1st Ladies of the U.S.
1:00 - 2:30 pm

Macon County Extension
Office-Clover Room

Monday, March 27

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

Macon County Extension
Office

Monday, April 10

HCE Board Meeting
10:00 am

Macon County Extension
Office-Clover Room

Newsletter items due to
Linda Austin @

lindaaustin48@gmail.com

Friday, April 14

RSVP for April Lesson

Wednesday, April 19

Lewis & Clark/Sacajewea

9:30 am - 11:00 am

Macon County Extension
Office-Clover Room

Wednesday, April 26

RSVP to Sally Dennis for
Spring Meeting

(late fee of \$5 charged)

Friday, April 28

Set up for The West was
Won with Needle and
Thread

1:00 pm

Macon County Extension
Office-Clover and Illini
Rooms

Saturday, April 29

The West was Won with
Needle and Thread

1:00-3:00pm

Macon County Extension
Office-Clover and Illini
Rooms



Laughter is Good for the Soul

Carol Ropp sent these jokes to me. I bet many of you could relate to these!

At dinner with young grandkids, we decided that they were old enough to try a spicy jalapeño pepper. Each one picked one up and apprehensively stared at it before they took a bite. Very quickly they were squealing as their mouths were hot. As soon as they doused their mouths with pop, our grandson said, "These are angry pickles!"

A baby on a airplane was singing the ABC's out of order when someone shouted, "Yes, girl, remix!"

A three year old child watched a lot of the funeral procession for Queen Elizabeth. The 96 gun salute included cannon fire. He looked concerned and asked after it was over, "Is that how she died?"

Kids say the darndest things, as Art Linkletter loved to say!!!

Community Outreach/Family Issues

Mary Ann Platt and Linda Hooge

Please mark March 27th on your calendar to help make pillowcases from 9:30 to 3:30 PM. If you have a sewing machine, bring it. If you don't sew, we need ladies to cut fabric, match up fabric, iron finished pillowcases, etc. We always have a good time.

Mary Ann had 120 pillowcases that needed to be delivered. Karen Cahill made up a sheet for us that will be easier for us to donate them. It has a place for us to enter the number of pillowcases to be donated and the date. My husband, Mike and I delivered the following:

(30) New Life Pregnancy Center

(20) The Salvation Army

(20) Decatur Children and Family Services

(20) Dove

(20) Homeward Bound

(10) Webster Cantrell Hall

Everyone was very grateful and indicated they would like more in the future. Mary Ann is going to take the pillowcases we have for children to The Ronald McDonald House in Springfield, IL and also the pop tabs. Please continue to save your pop tabs. The Ronald McDonald House benefits from the sale of these. Also, if you have fabric or know someone who would like to donate fabric that can be used for pillowcases, we sure would appreciate it.

Last of all, please continue to bring items for Operation Enduring Support to the Home Extension Office, Mary Ann, or me (Linda Hooge). We will take it to Grace United Methodist Church.

Activities That May Interest You

ENJOY!!!

Lyn Stevens

- Saturday, March 7, 7:30 p.m. Kirkland Fine Arts Centre, Symphonic Dances and Young Artists, \$15 to \$25
- Saturday, March 11, 7:30 p.m. Kirkland Fine Arts Centre, Bluegrass and member of the Grand Ole Opry
- Sunday, March 12, 4 p.m. Central Christian Church, Johann Johansson Drone Mass presented by the MU Choir in the Magnum Opus, free admission.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

PIATT COUNTY

- March 2, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Fuel to Fight Cancer, Caitlin Mellendorf, presenter
- April 26, 10 a.m. Package lesson, De Stress in the Garden

DEWITT COUNTY

- March 7, 1:30. Native Pollinators and Mason Bees, taught by Kent McFarland, DeWitt County Master Gardener
- April 18, 1:30, the Vault Youth Center, taught by Tammy Wilson, the Vault Director

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

Elaine Hamm
December 12, 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; Maple Grove; Patchwork; Oakley-Pleasant Grove; Mt. Zion; Rock Springs

Total in attendance: 12 (Linda Austin, Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Karen Halicki, Elaine Hamm, Linda Hooge, Bonnie Lanham, Beth Miglin, Lois Miller, Cheryl Sample, Lyn Stevens, Vicky Wooten)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the November 14, 2022 Board meeting were reviewed by all present. Linda Hooge moved to approve said minutes as read. Vicky Wooten seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$5,591.12. Each Board member received a copy of the up-to-date budget spreadsheet. Sally informed each unit who still needs to pay 2023 dues. Karen Cahill mentioned that the DeWitt County HCE appreciated receiving half of the International Day profit. In the newsletter, Linda Austin will note that any overpayments for dues or meals will be added to the General Scholarship Fund, along with a reminder that annual dues are \$18 a year. Also, a late reservation after the deadline date for meals for the spring or fall meeting will result in an additional \$5 charge. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

CORRESPONDENCE: Sally read a thank you note from Operation Enduring Support for the \$124, which will be used for the Christmas mailing. Thank you notes were passed around from 2022 scholarship winners, Brianna Austin and Caleb White.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe – absent.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens has the year-end membership report, which she will again review with Sally to make sure their numbers align. Currently, she shows 128 members for 2022. Roxy Waterhouse has created a new Macon County HCE organizational chart, a copy of which each Board member received. Copies of same will be available at the spring and fall meetings. Details for acquiring a name badge will be outlined in the next newsletter.

Community & Family Issues & CVH: Mary Ann (absent) and Linda Hooge – nothing new to report.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample will complete the form for items going to state. There was discussion about November 29, 2023 being Cultural Enrichment Day, with guest judges. (This would be in place of items being judged at the fall meeting.) The public will be allowed to vote for the "Public's Choice" award. This will also serve as a membership drive day.

Historian: Carol Ropp – absent.

Co-International: Vicky Wooten and Lois Miller – Prior to International Day, each unit is to share, at the respective unit meetings, the information previously passed out on Egypt. A few facts about Egypt will be included in each newsletter.

Public Relations: Linda Austin reminded everyone that the newsletter is due today.

Extension Program Coordinator: Beth Miglin reported that the Macon County Extension office will be closed from December 23, 2022 through January 2, 2023. The next Farm Progress Show will be August 29-31, 2023.

Unfinished Business: The program books are being compiled.

New Business: Annual conference dates for 2023 are March 14-16. Several Board members shared notes from the respective officer breakout sessions at the August district meeting. Bonnie advised us of the Bee-Cause Pollinators Feed the World challenge, which is an international program sponsored by NVON and ACWW. She then distributed empty honey bear bottles for each unit to use to collect coins for this cause.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. and was followed by a delicious Christmas potluck. Ninety dollars was collected for Oasis Day Center, in lieu of a Board gift exchange.

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

Elaine Hamm
January 9, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Bonnie Lanham

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Bonnie Lanham

HOMEMAKERS' AIM: Linda Hooge

JOKE: Bonnie Lanham

ROLL CALL: Elaine Hamm

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

Total in attendance: 12 (Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Karen Halicki, Elaine Hamm, Linda Hooge, Bonnie Lanham, Beth Miglin, Lois Miller, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Lyn Stevens, Vicky Wooten)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the December 12, 2022 Board meeting were reviewed by all present. Karen Cahill moved to approve said minutes as read. Linda Hooge seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$4,762.30. Each Board member received a copy of the up-to-date budget spreadsheet. The treasurer's report was filed for audit. Later in the meeting, Sally requested permission to order more checks, which was given.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you notes were passed around from Abby Foley, Peggy Fear, Jamie Boas and Beth Miglin for Christmas gifts. Bonnie shared a newspaper article about the Meridian Ag Foundation that included major donor and HCE member, Roberta Gorden. This will be given to Carol Ropp to add to the scrapbook. The Good Samaritan Inn is celebrating 40 years of service. After discussion, Linda Hooge moved to donate a one-time gift of \$40 for their 40 years. Lyn Stevens seconded the motion, which unanimously passed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President: Bonnie Lanham pointed out two corrections in the 2023 program book: The lesson on July 19 (p. 15) will be from 1-2:30 p.m. The IAHC district meeting will be on August 9 (p. 16). We will provide a baked potato bar and dessert for the JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) luncheon on March 1 to be held at the Macon County Extension office. Seventy-five to one hundred attendees are expected.

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe reminded everyone of the Tri-County meeting on February 6; sewing day/conference favors on February 27; and annual conference in March.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens, along with Sally Dennis and Karen Cahill, went over the membership numbers and reported as follows: 141 members started in 2022; we gained 17 new members, 3 members passed away; 27 members didn't renew (mostly from Christian County); 1 member moved out of state, for a total of 127 current members. Lyn wants to change the mailbox membership designation to members at large, who may want to participate in county events but not belong to a unit. She read the By-Laws section regarding automatic suspension of membership if dues are not paid by February 1.

Community & Family Issues & CVH: Mary Ann (absent). Linda Hooge reported that Mary Ann has two bags of pillowcases and recipient suggestions are needed. She will check with God's Shelter of Love, the Careage House, Grace House, Oasis Day Center and Webster-Cantrell Hall.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample shared a news item from Agri News on Brain Health Advice: "Headstrong – It's a No Brainer." This is a program to be given on January 12 in Williamson County, which Cheryl wonders if we could get for our members. Karen Cahill noted that Cheri Burcham used to lead a monthly seminar of a similar nature in Sullivan and would be a good contact. Cheryl will collect and transport the cultural enrichment items going to annual conference.

At this point in the meeting, it was decided that Sally Dennis and Cheryl Sample will serve as our voting delegates at annual conference this year.

Historian: Carol Ropp – absent, but always accepting articles for the scrapbook.

Co-International: Vicky Wooten and Lois Miller – Since Piatt County is in charge of International Day, the only reminder is to share the Egypt information at unit meetings.

Public Relations: Linda Austin – absent, but always accepting articles for the newsletter.

Extension Program Coordinator: Beth Miglin passed around a list of live Lessons for Living webinars, for which anyone can register. She noted there are also recorded lessons, of which Beth will later provide a list. These could be used for future lessons or shared in a newsletter.

Unfinished Business: The program books are being compiled.

New Business: Karen Cahill shared that the term limits for State President are being proposed to change. Angie Hicks, current State President, is recommending that the term be changed to one four-year term, with the following requirements for candidates: Service on the State Executive Board for one full three-year term and one full three-year term as Education Director or District Director. Karen recommends that our two annual conference delegates vote in favor of same.

The Tri-County Board meeting will be held at the Macon County Extension office on February 6. Mt. Zion unit will furnish the breakfast of mini cinnamon rolls and fruit. Coffee, hot tea and water will be served. Salad bar ingredients will be provided as follows: Iceberg lettuce and spring greens – Lois Miller; Spinach and shredded purple cabbage – Cheryl Sample; Mexican-style cheese and cherry tomatoes – Sally Dennis; Ham – Sandy Severe; Turkey – Karen Cahill; Ritz crackers – Linda Hooge; and dressings – Bonnie Lanham. Elaine Hamm will make chocolate chip cookies and brownies for dessert.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Unit News

Hickory Point

Louise Wickline

We met for lunch at Cracker Barrel Restaurant on February 8. Louise Wickline's daughter, Phyllis McFadden from Fairfield, California, was a guest. Along with other conversations, we shared memories from past Valentine's Days. Marge Kaufman gave each of us a Valentine gift of candy kisses, our favorite candy of the day. Mary Beth Wickline was absent as she was off on a cruise, and we know she was not missing our winter weather.

Mt. Zion

Barb Brandt

Our December meeting was held December 28th at Crawford's Restaurant in Mt. Zion. Eight members attended. We made the schedule for the first six months in 2023. Our president, Vicky Wooten, read about the history of Christmas carols. We all enjoyed the lunch. We had a white elephant gift exchange. Our next meeting will be January 25th.

Our unit met at the Decatur Airport Restaurant for our January meeting. Eight members were present.

We voted to give money to the BeeCause Pollinators Feed the World program. We also discussed the Tri-County meeting to be held on February 6th at our Extension office. Sue Jones, Carol Flitz, and Vicky Wooten volunteered to help with breakfast items for this meeting.

Our next meeting will be February 22nd.

Oakley Pleasant Grove

Patty Lovekamp

We met on February 7th at Coz's with just five people attending. We didn't meet in January so it was nice to see each other again. We discussed upcoming HCE events, and filled out several months of hostess and meeting dates in our program books. We won't be collecting bottle caps and plastic lids anymore but we have several to pass on if anyone would like them.

Rock Springs

Lois Miller

The January meeting of our unit was held at Benny's Restaurant. Ten members were present. Our president, Bonnie Lanham, was absent so our 1st Vice President, Lois Miller, conducted the meeting with the help of our members. We discussed items about the Good Samaritan Inn and the fact that anybody could order donuts from them on Fridays but you need to call them. We also assigned hostesses for 2023 and decided that we would select officers in February when more members could attend. Lyn Stevens handed out a list of upcoming events for Decatur. Our next meeting will be on February 8th at Lyn Steven's home. We will get to see the pictures of their trip to Alaska.

The February meeting of our unit was held at Lyn Stevens home. Twelve members were present. President Bonnie Lanham opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Homemaker's Aim. We then selected officers for 2023. We also discussed the upcoming State Conference on March 14th in Effingham and the District Workshop in August in Springfield. We hope to have a good representation from Macon County.

The special program on April 29th will be presented by Melissa Gouty. Her presentation will be "How the West was Won with Needle and Thread."

Officer's Reports

President

Bonnie Lanham

Is everyone ready for spring? I am. Lots of things are coming up. Be sure to sign up for the lessons you want to attend. Get your tickets now for Melissa Gouty's program, "The West was Won by Needle and Thread" on April 29th. You will notice that we are now posting lessons for Piatt and DeWitt counties. It would be nice to support these counties.

Remember, if you do not sign up by the deadline, the RSVP time that is listed in your program book, for the Spring and Fall Meetings, it will cost you \$5.00 more. As always, if you have any concerns, questions or problems, let me know. My number is 217-428-7404.

Officer's Reports Cont.

First Vice President

Sandy Severe

Good day ladies! Hope you are all holding up with this crazy Illinois weather we have been having. It's a struggle sometimes, but we have some lessons planned that will brighten your day.

We have the conference in Effingham coming up March 14-16th. I hope you have signed up to join us. On March 22, the First Ladies of the United States will be presented from 1 to 2:30. April 19th from 9:30 to 11 will be Don Chamberlain's program about Lewis Clark/Sacajawea. Saturday, April 29, from 1:00 to 3:00 will be a very special event. Melissa Gouty, award winning teacher, speaker and entrepreneur, will be presenting "The West was Won with Needle and Thread." Tickets are \$10.00 and are non-refundable. They can be purchased through the Extension Office or contact your unit presidents. I hope you will get tickets for this wonderful event. See you all real soon.

Second Vice President

Lyn Stevens

Our membership ending on December 31st, 2022, was 127 members. During 2022, we had three members pass away and one member who moved away. However, we had seventeen wonderful, new ladies join in the fun of HCE.

As of the time I am writing this, our membership for 2023 stands at 116. That includes everyone who rejoined and three brand new members already in the current year.

HCE MEMBERS...LET'S GET BUSY TALKING UP HCE TO OUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS. INVITE THEM TO YOUR UNIT MEETINGS, HCE LESSONS, THE SPRING MEETING, ETC. LET'S BEAT THE COUNT OF 17 NEW MEMBERS FROM LAST YEAR FOR THIS NEW YEAR OF 2023.

REMINDER....If you want to order a name badge, send a check for five dollars, made payable to HCE and a note with how you want your name to appear on the badge and the name of your unit to Lyn Stevens, 960 Kirk Drive, Mt Zion, Illinois, 62549. I need your order by March 15. I will place the order as soon thereafter as I can assemble all of the information.

CVH Director

Karen Cahill

Congratulations to Macon County HCE members for turning in 19,142 volunteer hours for 2022. THANK YOU to those who submitted hours. I'm hoping even more of you will participate next year. It's easy if you start accumulating your hours **now**. Following is a list of **some** of the ways we earned volunteer hours last year. I'm hoping this might give you some other ideas of possible volunteer opportunities or the realization of hours you can count that you may not have thought about.

*HCE lessons and meetings, funeral dinners, looming hats, Theatre 7, Meals on Wheels, taking friends to doctor appointments, handbell choir/choir, Rock Springs, Toys for Tots, Volunteering at nursing homes/assisted living, baking/cooking for various non-profits, Project Linus, Good Samaritan, DOVE, ushering, making Cancer Care bears, sewing for nuns, hospital, scouts, Vacation Bible School, Farm Bureau, food pantry, helping Veterans, Lion's Club, libraries, God's Shelter of Love, schools, Cunningham Children's Home, animal rescue, genealogy center, 4-H, Lady Landowners, raising an Amish barn

MACON COUNTY TOTALS - 4958 HCE + 14,184 OTHER = 19,142 HOURS

International

Vicky Wooten and Lois Miller

Egypt: Our Country of Study this Year: Egypt is known for the giant pyramids. They help us know about the Egyptians' religious beliefs and funeral practices. Inside and under the pyramids were many chambers and corridors. Some were the actual burial places of pharaohs or other nobles. Other chambers were galleries or chapels. Most historians think the pyramids were built by the Egyptians, though it is not known for certain HOW they were built. It has been suggested that they used ramps, ropes, and many, many people to build the massive structures.



Jamie Boas

County Extension Director

DeWitt, Macon and Piatt Counties

I'm excited to get to know you all and work with you!

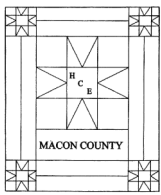
Jamie Boas is the County Extension Director for University of Illinois Extension in the DeWitt, Macon and Piatt Counties unit. Boas joined University of Illinois Extension in 2007 and served as a 4-H youth development educator for 12 years before becoming county director.

Boas graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in health studies and from St. Louis University with a master's degree in public health with an emphasis in behavior science and health education. She is a Real Colors® Certified Facilitator sponsored by the National Curriculum and Training Institute (NCTI).

She is a native of Champaign County, where she was a 10-year 4-H member of the Philo 4-H Friends Club. Her husband Tom and two daughters, Aubrey and Mackenzie, enjoy living in the country with their chickens, goats, dogs and cats. Her personal hobbies include vegetable gardening, traveling, especially to Florida, and playing board and card games with family.

Melissa Gouty Event, Saturday, April 29

We hope you will join us for a fun, historically factual talk about women's roles in settling the west. You can also look forward to refreshments and door prizes! Get your tickets ASAP since there are a limited number. Remember this is a Tri-County fundraising event. We are giving HCE members first chance at the tickets until April 1, then we will advertise to the general public. YES, you can buy one or two for a friend or relative now. You can get your tickets in a variety of ways: Stop by the Extension Office, send a self-addressed envelope to the Extension Office with a check made out to MCHCE, order your ticket by mail with a check enclosed, but plan to pick it up on the day of the event, or contact Karen Cahill or Roxy at the office with questions. We are looking forward to this great event!!!



Macon County Association for
Home & Community Education
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Decatur, Illinois 62521

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Check out our Websites!

Macon County HCE at

www.mchce.org

IAHCE at

www.iahce.org