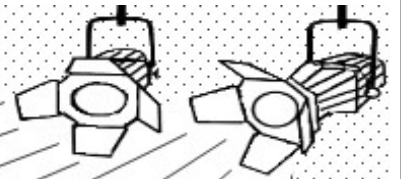


Macon County

July-August 2024

HCE HIGHLIGHTS



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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

We will be having a MINI DISTRICT 3 MEETING at 1 p.m. on June 26th, at the Extension office. ANY IAHCE member can join us. You will visit with many lovely ladies from our district as you share thoughts, ideas, get current information from the State Board, and even enjoy some snacks. Just let Karen Cahill know that you are planning to join us. There is no charge. I hope to see many of you there.

REMINDERS!

BUS TRIP!

We still have a few seats left for the August 28th bus trip to Eureka and Washington, Illinois. Get your reservation in ASAP with a check made out to MCHCE and mailed to Sally Dennis. All reservations are due by July 19. If you have any questions, contact Karen Cahill or any board member. You will be contacted with more details after July 19.

***There's still some seats available. If you have a relative or friend who would like to join us, please let Sally Dennis know right away.

SEWING DAY! June 24, 9:30 am-3:30 pm, Monical's Pizza will be delivered for lunch.

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING! July 8 at 1:30 pm

Inside This Issue

- Upcoming Events
- Laughter is Good for the Soul
- Great Recipes
- Minutes
- Officer's Reports
- Unit News

SURVEY TIME

We are wanting your opinion about having one Annual Meeting in the fall. There would not be a Spring Meeting. Please let your Unit President know your thoughts.



Laughter is Good for the Soul

Karen Cahill, Sandy Severe, and Lyn Stevens sent me these jokes. Enjoy!

Upcoming Events

Monday, July 1

Scholarship Deadline

Thursday, July 4

Extension Office Closed
Happy Independence Day!

Monday, July 8

HCE Board Meeting
10:00 am

Program Planning Meeting
1:30 pm

Macon County Extension Office
Clover Room

Friday, July 12

RSVP for July Lesson

Tuesday, July 16

Decatur Economic
Development Corp.
1:30-3:00 pm

Macon County Extension Office
Clover Room

Friday, July 19

RSVP for August Bus Trip

Monday, July 29

Sewing Day
9:30 am-3:30 pm

Macon County Extension Office
Clover Room

*Newsletter items due to Linda
Austin @*

lindaaustin48@gmail.com

Wednesday, August 7

IAHCE District
Springfield, IL

Monday, August 12

HCE Board Meeting
10:00 am

Macon County Extension Office
Clover Room

Wednesday, August 21

Trip to Eureka and Washington

Monday, August 26

Sewing Day
9:30 am-3:30 pm

Macon County Extension Office
Clover Room

At a couples' counseling meeting, the speaker mentioned that couples are so disconnected that 85% of the husbands didn't even know their wives' favorite flower. Mick turned to his wife and whispered, "It's self rising, isn't it?"

I called the incontinence hotline recently. They asked if I could hold!

An apple a day keeps the doctor away—if you throw it hard enough!

A termite walks into a bar. He says, "So, is the bar tender here?"

What gets wetter the more it dries. A towel

Why aren't koalas considered bears? They don't have the right koala-fixations.

You: What cartoon mouse walks on two feet? Them: Mickey Mouse

You: What duck walks on two feet? Them: Donald Duck

You: No, all ducks do!

Want to hear a joke about a roof? The first one's on the house!

Great Recipes



Pineapple-Coconut Braid

For the bread:

2 pkg dry yeast
1 tsp sugar
1 cup lukewarm pineapple juice*
1 cup milk
2 eggs, slightly beaten

5 Tbsp sugar
2 tsp salt
6 (apprx) cups bread flour (or all-purpose flour)
4 Tbsp butter

*Pineapple juice – use juice drained from canned pineapple (used in the filling), or an 8-oz can of pineapple juice.

Add yeast and 1 tsp sugar to pineapple juice. Stir and let stand 10 minutes. Scald milk; add sugar and salt. Cool to lukewarm. Add to yeast. Add 3 cups flour and beat till perfectly smooth. Add melted butter, eggs and enough of the remaining flour to make easily handled dough. Knead well. Place in greased bowl. Cover and let rise in warm place until doubled, about 1 hour.

While the bread is rising, after about 50 minutes, prepare both fillings:

Coconut filling:

4 Tbsp salted butter
1 ½ cup sweetened flaked coconut
¼ cup sugar
2 Tbsp honey
2 Tbsp milk
¼ - ½ tsp almond extract (adapt to taste)

In a small saucepan, melt butter. Add the shredded coconut, sugar, honey, and milk. Cook for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat and mix in the almond extract. Set aside to cool.

Cream Cheese filling:

1 8-oz. cream cheese, softened
1 8-oz crushed pineapple, drained
¼ cup sugar
1 Tbsp all-purpose flour
1 tsp vanilla extract

Whip together the softened cream cheese, crushed pineapple, sugar, flour and vanilla.

When dough has doubled, punch dough down in bowl.

On a floured surface, use about 2/3 of the dough, and roll into an 8" x 15" rectangle. (Use the remaining dough to make cloverleaf rolls, or whatever your preference.) Cut a piece of parchment paper to fit a jelly roll pan or cookie sheet. Carefully transfer dough to pan or cookie sheet.

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

Elaine Hamm

April 8, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Bonnie Lanham

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mary Ann Platt

HOMEMAKERS' AIM: Bonnie Lanham

JOKE: Bonnie Lanham

ROLL CALL: Elaine Hamm

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

Total in attendance: 14 (Carolyn Barnett, Tammy Buse, Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Karen Halicki, Elaine Hamm, Linda Hooge, Bonnie Lanham, Lois Miller, Mary Ann Platt, Carol Ropp, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Vicky Wooten)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the March 11, 2024 Board meeting were reviewed by all present. Carol Ropp moved to approve said minutes with one date correction. Sandy Severe seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$4,387.81. Each Board member received a copy of the up-to-date budget spreadsheet. There was discussion on how the money set aside for annual conference is to be split among those who attended. The calculation made was \$36 per day times the number of days attended. Sally wrote and distributed such checks. The treasurer's report was filed for audit. Karen Halicki and Sandy Severe will meet with Sally to audit the books.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President: Bonnie has learned that local nursing homes are in need of men's clothing and suggests calling first before taking a clothing donation. Gym bags are needed for foster care children's use through Lutheran Child and Family Service, who is also interested in receiving 25 pillowcases.

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe reminded us that the charcuterie board lesson is on April 17 and April 24 is the RSVP deadline for our spring meeting. Sewing day scheduled for April 29 will be canceled since the following two days are set up and the spring meeting.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens was absent but sent her report: Karen Halicki received the Member of the Year award for District 3! Macon County won the Grand Award for a Special Membership Activity – the Decatur Park District's trash can project. Said trash can is located at Sportsman's Park off Lost Bridge Road. She has made membership list corrections, and we currently have 110 paid members.

Community & Family Issues: Mary Ann Platt and Linda Hooge – Fifteen pillowcases, 123 hearts and pop tabs will be taken to Ronald McDonald House by Mary Ann. Linda has taken pillowcases to Webster Cantrell Youth Advocacy and learned they are in need of school and cleaning supplies, as well as diapers and baby wipes. Any unit is welcome to tour their facility. Money was delivered to Operation Enduring Support at Grace Methodist Church. Carolyn Barnett told us that on an ongoing basis, three or four times a year, the Pana unit makes hygiene bags to be distributed at their local food pantry. Linda shared several ideas of ways HCE units can serve our community. Karen Cahill suggested these be printed in our newsletter.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample reported that attending annual conference all three days provides an HCE member with a real feel for our organization and allows a chance to talk with ladies from other counties. She enjoyed the Family and Community Issues and Cultural Enrichment officer meeting by Eleanor Gregory and Becky Belcher.

Historian: Carol Ropp asked for volunteers to assist in putting together the food items for the Master Naturalists breakfast. Bonnie Lanham and Lois Miller volunteered.

International: Lois Miller – no report.

Public Relations: Linda Austin – absent.

District 3 Director: Karen Cahill was happy that 16 Macon County HCE members attended the 100th annual conference. She is taking Hattie Claire Everywhere (along with her passport) to all officer installations. Each unit is urged to decorate their own Hattie Claire Everywhere and take pictures to forward to Emily McDowell. Mary Ann suggested we send a thank you to Ashley Davis, President of Fayette County HCE, for the incredible conference favors. Bonnie will handle. Karen reported that for District 3, Macon County received the award for most volunteer hours! She reminded us that the Mini District 3 meeting will be held here on June 26.

Extension Program Coordinator: Tammy Buse has received Extension approval for parking accommodations at the back (kitchen) door. Also, for Board meetings and county lessons (if notified in advance), entry can be made at the northwest door around 9:30 a.m. It is imperative that attendees mark the sign-in sheets. Tammy is working on "Cooking with Grandma" in early June – more details to come. By June, DeWitt County Extension is moving their office to The Flower Shop in Clinton.

Tammy is assisting with obtaining our spring meeting speaker – Taylor Ferguson, Senior Life Solutions from Kirby Hospital.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Bonnie announced that our spring meeting theme is "Denim and Diamonds." At 10 a.m. on April 24, jean pockets will be decorated with bling. These will be used as favors at the spring meeting. Mary Kay Ennis will be asked to conduct the memorial service. The menu will be roast beef, au gratin potatoes, green beans, rolls and butter, lemon dessert and strawberry shortcake. Oakley/Pleasant Grove will handle registration, and Hickory Point will provide breakfast.

Karen Cahill notified us that a nominating committee for District 3 Director, effective January 2025, is needed. Linda Hooge moved that Bonnie Lanham be the chair of such committee; Lois Miller seconded. The new District 3 Director will be voted on at the August District 3 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

Elaine Hamm

May 13, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Sandy Severe

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Sandy Severe

HOMEMAKERS' AIM: Sandy Severe

JOKES: Sandy Severe, Sally Dennis, Karen Cahill, Lyn Stevens

ROLL CALL: Elaine Hamm

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

Total in attendance: 8 (Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Elaine Hamm, Mary Ann Platt, Carol Ropp, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Lyn Stevens)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the April 8, 2024 Board meeting were reviewed by all present. Mary Ann Platt moved to approve said minutes as corrected. Cheryl Sample seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$2,451.37. Each Board member received a copy of the up-to-date budget spreadsheet. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President: Sandy Severe served in this capacity in Bonnie Lanham's absence.

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe reminded us of tomorrow's county lesson about The Little Theatre in Sullivan; sewing day on May 20; and the Tri-County Board meeting to be held in Monticello on June 3.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens reported that our membership is still down from 2023. Only 29 MCHCE members attended our spring meeting on May 1. There was discussion of the possibility of having an annual meeting rather than our spring and fall meetings. Our next newsletter will include a survey to see members' preference.

Community & Family Issues & CVH: Mary Ann Platt has cut over 600 flannel hearts from fabric she recently received. She would like to see more participation centered around Operation Enduring Support (OES), as she would like to compile her Community Outreach and Family Issues book for IAHCE about this worthy organization. It was suggested that perhaps interested members could assist OES with packing items. The 50/50 drawing recipient at our fall meeting will be OES, and we will see if Ann Irwin can again share about her work there.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample meets with the Tri-County Advisory Board. She was recently blessed with three bags of material from the DeWitt County office, which she will distribute. One thought is that Cathy Gipson could use the wool fabric for felting and other projects. Cheryl had an opportunity to tour the Michael D. Andreas Agriculture Building on Richland Community College's campus, which could be a possible lesson in 2025. She has also enjoyed participating in various community activities, such as the Argenta tractor show and Finders Spring Market at Progress City.

Historian: Carol Ropp – no report.

International: Lois Miller and Cathy Gipson – absent.

Public Relations: Linda Austin – absent. The next newsletter deadline is June 1.

District 3 Director: Karen Cahill is preparing for the IAHCE Board meeting in June and expects to have a lot of information to share at the Mini District 3 meeting on June 26. Champaign County is in charge of refreshments on the 26th. Karen has framed the awards Macon County received at annual conference, which will be put in the display case here at the Extension office.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Flyers about the August 28 trip will be made available at the Tri-County Board meeting. Bonnie has been checking possible caterers for our future events since Richland Community College has added a \$58 service charge for delivery to us across their parking lot. Several suggestions were made as to other restaurants to consider.

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

Officer's Reports

President

Sandy Severe for Bonnie Lanham

In Bonnie's absence, I filled in at the May board meeting. Mark your calendars for the Mini District workshop June 26. Karen will have state news for us. It will be a fun and interesting afternoon. Bonnie is back from Scotland and I am sure Bonnie will have some stories to tell of her experience in Scotland. See you soon!

First Vice President

Sandy Severe

Happy summer, ladies! On May 14, Therese Kincaid from the Little Theatre in Sullivan gave a great talk about the upcoming shows and the misadventures of working and performing at the theatre. If you have a chance to catch a performance this summer, I think you will be glad you did.

Upcoming in June and July:

- Thursday, June 20, Chef Tucker from Richland, 9:30 to 11:00
- Wednesday, June 26, Mini District workshop at 1:00
- Tuesday, July 16, Decatur Economic Development Corp., Nicole Bateman will be talking about all the new business developments coming to Decatur.
- Friday, July 19, have your reservations in for the August bus trip

Have a wonderful June and July. Maybe the cicadas will be gone by then!

Second Vice President

Lyn Stevens

Hip, hip, hooray! I think warm weather is here to stay! Our next season will be "complaining it's too hot!" And what about that lovely nature song we have all gotten to enjoy? My hubby thinks the cicadas sound like running water. I can't say that I agree with him.

If you missed the Spring Meeting, you missed out on a great meeting. I was thrilled to honor several members for being part of HCE. We welcomed five new members who have joined since our Fall Meeting last October. They received their HCE membership pins. Four members received their five year membership charm, three members received their 10 year certificate, three members received their 15 year charm, and two members received their 40 year charm. The icing on the cake was the fact that Alice Bray from the OPG unit received a certificate and a charm for if these SIXTY (that's 60) years of service to HCE. CONGRATULATIONS to all of these ladies!

Our membership count has stalled at 110 members. This is still down a few from last year. Please be sure to keep promoting your unit and our organization. The more members we have, the merrier! Also, the history of HCE in Illinois shows that as membership drops continue, units and county organizations cease to exist.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/FAMILY ISSUES

Linda Hooge and Mary Ann Platt

You awesome ladies have donated over 200 new greeting cards for our soldiers. Thank you so much! I will deliver 34 pillowcases and 474 hearts to the Ronald McDonald House on June 10th. We will also be delivering 15 pillowcases to New Life Pregnancy Center and 12 to DOVE. I had cut out over 600 hearts on my GO cutter. I will get busy and cut more before our next sewing day. You ladies are amazing!

Cultural Enrichment

Cheryl Sample

It's fair season! As I write this, the Macon County Fair is in full swing. Hopefully you will make time to visit a fair and support our young people. That visit can also be inspiration for a project for you.

I have been fascinated by the book making I am seeing online. The Maroa library did a beginner class on how to make small, gift type books. I hope to use that as an inspiration to try my hand at book making. With any luck, I will enter my "try" in the Cultural Events showcase at our Fall Meeting on October 30.

Please join me in trying something new to you or perfecting a current interest. It keeps our minds active, fingers nimble and it's just fun to share our interests!

Unit News

Center

Mary Lou Poor

We met at the Christian County Extension Office on May 6, 2024. There were 12 members present. We had delicious refreshments—homemade apple and cherry pie. Sandy Sample gave an interesting lesson on dandelions. Personal items were collected and will be given to the Taylorville Food Pantry. We discussed where we would like to go for our Fun Day. This will be decided at our June meeting. We will not meet in July and August.

We met on June 3 and had nine members present. The table was beautifully decorated with butterflies, spring flowers, and a bird cage center piece. Each member received a butterfly and candy.

Our guest speaker was Heather Richards. She demonstrated how to make a flower with beads. She also brought macrame hangers and key rings that she will be selling in her new business venture. Susan Brown sent her a thank you card.

We gave awards to: Carolyn Randall for a new member, Joelynda Conrad for being a five year member, Ann Bandy for being a fifteen year member, and Barbara McKinney received a certificate for her volunteer hours.

Delores Hunt explained the HCE special project about Hattie Claire Everywhere. We made plans to participate in this project. For our Fun Day, we are carpooling to the Village Tea Room in Springfield on July 9th. Our next unit meeting will be September 9, 2024.

Hickory Point

Louise Wickline

Our Vice President, Mary Beth Wickline, has done a very good job arranging interesting meetings for us. Several members have shared information about interesting lessons they have attended. In March, we drove to Monticello to tour unusual businesses there. We stopped in at the Blue Polish Pottery and Gift Shop to view the beautiful china and decorative items. The designs and vivid colors were awesome. After lunch at the Three Ravens, we visited the Prairie Fire Glass Shop to learn some facts about blowing glass. Some months we enjoy lunch together and get caught up on our lives. We can always find topics to talk about. In April, we met at Primrose Home where Merrill Dees and Gigi Langhauser reside. In May, we met at Glenwood in Mt. Zion where Louise Wickline resides. Our two new members, Pam Jarboe and Teresa Chenoweth are great additions to our group.

Maple Grove

Mary Kay Ennis

Our April 26th meeting was held at the Sharon Methodist Church hall at 1 p.m.

Ten members were present. We answered the roll call question with “our favorite grade school memory.” We had some laughs with that one. Our lesson was going to be a report on the charcuterie board program but the presenter for that did not show up at the Extension office. Kris Batchelder saved the day by giving her report on that subject. She happened to attend a Mt. Zion Library presentation earlier in the month. Thanks, Kris!!!

Our May 23rd meeting had 10 members attending. Carol Ropp mentioned that the Sewing Days needed more members to help. She handed out membership pins to those who were not at the Spring Meeting. Gini Smith gave a summation of the lesson presented by a representative for the Little Theatre on the Square. We decided, as a group, that we would like to see the production of “Nonsense” in August. A list was started and about 12 of us wanted to go. Gloria Lowrey and Judy Tilton served their delicious dessert. We are considering that our next lesson may be at Primrose Retirement Community. Carol has asked Toni Strait to correspond about the meetings. The next meeting will be June 27th.

Mt. Zion

Barb Brandt

Our March meeting was at Coz’s in Mt. Zion. We had nine members who attended. We had one guest, Celeste Kohlbecker. After a nice lunch, we visited the Mt. Zion fire station. The fire chief told us all about the building. He also told us what to do to prevent fires. It was very educational.

Our April meeting was at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Church. Eight members attended. We had a visitor, Celeste Kohlbecker. We voted to send \$50 to 4-H and \$25 to the Animal Society in the name of Earline Riley. She passed away this week and will be missed by all of us.

Our speaker was Karen Cahill, our District 3 Director for HCE. She told us about her duties. This year is 100 years old for HCE. The slogan is “Denim and Diamonds.” Vicky Wooten provided the refreshments.

Eight members were present at our May meeting. We went to Fletcher Park in Mt. Zion. We toured the Sulphur Springs schoolhouse.

For the roll call, each member told us about their grandparents.

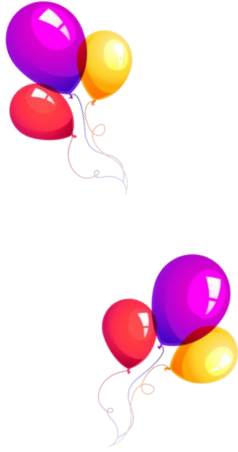
Vicky Wooten and Carol Flitz told us about being in a one room schoolhouse. There were approximately 25 children in school—5 or 6 children in each class. The teacher taught all eight grades, built a fire in the stove, brought in water from the well, and cleaned the school. There were no bathrooms or running water inside.

Unit News (cont.)

Oakley-Pleasant Grove

Sally Dennis

Our unit celebrated Alice Bray's 97th birthday and her 60 years of membership in HCE. Here is a picture of Alice.



Rock Springs

Lois Miller

The April meeting of the Rock Springs unit was held at Benny's Grill i. Decatur. Cathy Burgess was our hostess. Bonnie Lanham shared pictures of MCHCE trash can that is now located at Sportmen's Park on East Lost Bridge Road. We hope everyone will take time to see the trash can. We were given information about the upcoming Spring Meeting. The theme will be "Denim and Diamonds." We were encouraged to wear our denim and lots of bling. Donna Washburn told us about our May meeting...location, meals, etc. Lyn Stevens told us there were a lot of free concerts coming up featuring the Millikan University Singers and musicians. After the meeting was adjourned, we ordered lunch and enjoyed our time together.

May found us at Washington Park in Springfield, Illinois. Donna Washburn was our hostess. She had arranged a behind-the-scene tour of the Botanical Gardens. Charley was our tour guide. She did a great job. It was a wonderful time in a beautiful place. We all received tulip and Asian lily bulbs that were going to be thrown away. We brought our lunches from home. Donna furnished lemon cake and raspberries. Delicious!!! Then, we got down to business with our meeting. We were reminded of the August 28 bus trip. We were encouraged to get our reservations in by May 19 before the trip is opened up to others. We had a discussion about the possibility of changing caterers for our MCHCE meetings. We were reminded that Lyn Stevens is hosting the June meeting at the 1912 Barn in Niantic.

Tri County

Carol Ropp

The Tri County Board met at the Piatt County Extension office on June 3. We discussed "Cooking with Grandma", Hattie Claire Everywhere, the District 3 mini workshops with Karen Cahill, the district meeting in Springfield on August 7. Anyone is welcome to attend. International Day is September 18.

CVH Director

Karen Cahill

Can you believe that the year is half over already??? As you make your summer plans, remember to keep track of any volunteer hours. Now would be a good time to get those first six months up to date. Then you will have less to do in December. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with our community. "To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to care."

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Check out our Websites!

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www.mchce.org

IAHCE at

www.iahce.org