



Macon County
November– December 2024

HCE HIGHLIGHTS

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

FAMILY JUSTICE PROGRAM

INFORMATIVE & EXCITING LESSON COMING TO US | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

“THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER” | RSVP BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Call the Extension Office at 217-877-6042

Patti Krueger, her husband, Jake, and 3 boys reside in Decatur. Patti is a perfect example of what it means to put Faith Over Fear. You will hear her repeated fights against the devil and how she used her faith and trust in God to make it through life’s storms. She went from making her life right with God to a wife and mother. She became a mom of a medically complex child, which led her to becoming a parent, who was wrongfully accused of medically abusing her son. This resulted in her 3 children being removed from their care for 467 days.

After all of this, you would expect that this is where her story ends, but in 2023 she was diagnosed with high grade bone cancer. She underwent a partial foot amputation and a year of aggressive chemotherapy.

Patti works as the Intake Coordinator for the Family Justice Resource Center. She also is a Family Advocate who uses her own personal and now professional experience in helping families understand their rights and the process that comes within the Child Welfare System.

In April 2021 , during Child Abuse Prevention Month, FJRC honored Patti with the Parent Advocacy Award. She also won the American Bar Association Reunification Hero award for her endless work on child welfare reform by helping reunite 14 families.

Patti hopes to bring awareness and change in child welfare reform and to continue the fight to make not only Illinois but across the United States a safer place to raise a family. She is striving to make sure that all families get fair and equitable treatment in the child welfare system.

CVH

Karen Cahill

It’s that time of year already when you need to record your volunteer hours. Due to changes from the state IAHCCE, I need to submit the hours earlier this year. I am requesting you to PLEASE get your information to me by DECEMBER 5. Remember that I need THREE NUMBERS: HCE volunteer hours PLUS hours from any other areas where you did volunteer work equals the TOTAL number for the year.

I will be glad to answer any questions you may have. You can turn your hours in at the office, or mail them to me at my NEW address: Karen Cahill. 4752 Arbor Ct. Decatur, Illinois 62526. Phone: 217-520-2683.

YES, your hours are IMPORTANT!

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE’S LIFE, YOU DON’T HAVE TO BE BRILLIANT, RICH, BEAUTIFUL, OR PERFECT. YOU JUST HAVE TO CARE. THANK YOU FOR CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY IN SO MANY WAYS.

Inside This Issue

- Upcoming Events
- Laughter is Good for the Soul
- Yummy Recipes
- South Africa report
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- Officer’s Reports
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Upcoming Events

DEADLINE FOR DUES!!

Friday, November 1

Sally Dennis
7562 Bonnie Rd.
Dalton City, IL 61925

Please make checks out to: MCHCE

Wednesday, November 6

Mini District Workshop
1:00 pm
Macon County District Office

Monday, November 11

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

Friday, November 15

RSVP for November Lesson

Wednesday, November 20

The Family Justice Center
1:30—3:00 pm
Macon County Extension Office
Clover Room

EXTENSION OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday and Friday,
November 28 & 29
Happy Thanksgiving!

Monday, December 2

Newsletter Items Due:
Linda Austin
lindaaustin48@gmail.com

Monday, December 9

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

**VOLUNTEER HOURS DUE BY
DECEMBER 5 TO KAREN CAHILL**

Extension Office Closed

Monday, December 23 2024
Thru
Thursday, January 2, 2024

**Happy Holidays to you
and your family and
friends!!**

**Best wishes from your
Macon County Board
for a safe and beautiful
Thanksgiving,
Christmas, and New
Year!**



Laughter is Good for the Soul

Thank you to Lyn Stevens for these "funnies"!

DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU NEVER SEE ELEPHANTS HIDING IN TREES? *Because they are really good at it.*

HOW DID THE HIPPIE BURN HIS MOUTH? *He ate his pizza before it was cool.*

AS A SCARECROW, PEOPLE SAY I AM OUTSTANDING IN MY FIELD. *But hay, it's in my jeans*

WHY DON'T BLIND PEOPLE SKYDIVE? *Because it scares their dogs.*

I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT AND TRIED TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THE SUN WAS. *Then it dawned on me.*

PISTACHIO WHIP

From Mary Kay Ennis & Carol Ropp

- 1 1/2 rolls of crushed Ritz crackers
- 3/4 c. melted butter

Combine to make crust. Reserve some for the topping. Mary Kay used crushed Butterfingers for her topping.

Filling

- 2 pkgs. pistachio instant pudding
- 2 c. milk
- 1 quart Cool Whip

Mix pudding and milk together. Add in the ice cream. Pour in the crust. Top with Cool Whip. Top with crumbs. Refrigerate for 2 hours before serving.

SPICE APPLE CAKE

By Cathy Gipson

- 1 spice cake mix
- 1 can of no sugar added apple pie filling

Put the dry cake mix in a bowl. Mash the pie filling till the pieces are small, then add to the cake mix. (She did not mash the apple pie filling. She also greased and floured her Bundt pan, and added walnuts to the bottom of her Bundt pan before she added the batter.). Bake it at 350 degrees for about

45 minutes until the toothpick comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes. So yummy!!!

Yummy Recipes!

Lois Miller sent this recipe.

It was given to her by Dr. Tim Waller's father.

It sounds delicious!

1 pound pork sausage

1 c. onion

4 c. potatoes, cut in cubes

1 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. marjoram

2 cups water

1/8 tsp. pepper

1 can cream corn (17 oz)

1 can whole kernel corn (17 oz)

1 can evaporated milk (12 oz)

In a Dutch oven or kettle, brown sausage and onion. Drain. Return to the kettle with potatoes, salt, marjoram, pepper and water. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer till the potatoes are tender. Add both cans of corn and stir in the whole can of evaporated milk.

OUR COUNTRY OF STUDY FOR 2025- SOUTH AFRICA

Lois Miller sent me a little information about South Africa. I will try to have some information about South Africa in each newsletter.

South Africa is a country on the southernmost tip of the African continent. If you plan to take a trip to Africa, you would land in Capetown after a flight of 22 hours and 35 minutes. A big game park is Kruger National Park. According to the website, it is home 336 trees, 49 fish, 34 amphibians, 114 reptiles, 507 birds, and 147 mammals.

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

August 12, 2024

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; Mt. Zion; Oakley-Pleasant Grove; Patchwork; Rock Springs

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

SECRETARY: Minutes of the July 8, 2024 Board meeting were reviewed by all present. Carol Ropp moved to approve said minutes as read. Karen Cahill seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$2,914.44.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe highlighted the upcoming bus trip to Washington and Eureka, International Day on September 18 and sewing day on September 30. At the District 3 breakout session, she received a Lessons for Living handout, which lists packaged and recorded lessons, as well as resources from other states.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens stated she will make copies of the Guidebook changes that have been made and distribute same to the Board members.

From the District 3 meeting, she learned of a suggested bylaw change which should be implemented at the county level to give the Board the option of asking a Board member to step down when conditions necessitate. We will need to notify our MCHCE members 30 days before a vote on same at our fall meeting. Karen Halicki checked the IAHCCE bylaws regarding such a situation. Lyn will draft the language for such bylaw and email same to the Board members.

At the District 3 meeting, IAHCCE President Angela Hicks reported that the state dues will increase \$3 to \$8. Lyn moved to increase the MCHCE dues by \$3 to \$21, effective November 1, 2024. Lois Miller seconded; motion passed. Lyn will also draft language to update our bylaws concerning dues.

Kathy Peterson, IAHCCE First Vice President, is gathering material to make a time capsule. Bonnie will give her several items to include, such as the 2023 105-year membership booklet and the apple and Monk cookbooks.

Community & Family Issues & CVH: Mary Ann Platt and Linda Hooze – absent. Linda Austin read Mary Ann's report from the latest newsletter.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample will make samples of chicken scratch embroidery cross stitch on gingham, along with handouts, and submit to Janel Kassing for a share shop at next year's annual conference and/or to Mary Johnson for the NVON conference in July 2025 in Springfield. Remember to bring cultural enrichment items to the fall meeting.

Historian: Carol Ropp hopes that scholarship recipient Anna Lovekamp will be available to talk to MCHCE on interior design, which is her college major.

International: Lois Miller reported that Cathy Gipson has ordered egg bags, rather than using tulle to make same, for décor at International Day. South Africa will be next year's country of study.

Public Relations: Linda Austin – nothing to report at this time.

District 3 Director: Karen Cahill thanked those who attended the District 3 meeting, which went well. Six meal choices were selected for the bus trip lunch on August 28.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A flyer will be mailed the first week of September outlining the HCE Week crafts, which the Board will decide upon at our September meeting.

The fall meeting menu will also be selected at the next Board meeting.

The offices of President and Treasurer are up for election, as well as Education Directors in Cultural Enrichment and Community Outreach Family Issues.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hamm

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

September 9, 2024

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; Mt. Zion; Oakley-Pleasant Grove; Patchwork; Rock Springs

Total in attendance: 15 (Linda Austin, Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Cathy Gipson, Karen Halicki, Elaine Hamm, Linda Hooge, Liz King, Bonnie Lanham, Lois Miller, Mary Ann Platt, Carol Ropp, Sandy Severe, Lyn Stevens, Vicky Wooten)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the August 12, 2024 Board meeting were reviewed by all present and approved as read.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$1,814.46. A \$318 profit was made on the August 28th bus trip. Karen Halicki and Liz King will work with Sally to create the 2025 budget, for review by the Board at their October meeting and a vote at the fall meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: A thank you from the Macon County 4-H and Extension Foundation for the more than 118 volunteer hours given at the 2023 Farm Progress Show was read. Nine helpers worked these hours at the food court.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe reported that the bus trip to Washington and Eureka was enjoyed by all. Karen Halicki suggested a donation be given to the Forsyth United Methodist Church for use of their parking lot that day. Linda Hooge moved that \$50 be given to the afore-named church; Lois Miller seconded.

The RSVP deadline for International Day is September 11. Sewing day will be on September 30. The Tri-County Board meeting will be at the Vespasian Warner Library in Clinton on October 7.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens distributed to each Board member the new IAHCE Guidebook pages. The following Bylaws Committee will present the proposed Bylaws changes at the 2025 spring meeting: Lyn Stevens, Karen Cahill, Bonnie Lanham, Karen Halicki and Liz King.

Community & Family Issues & CVH: Mary Ann Platt reported the number of trach covers, bonding hearts (including 89 from Piatt County), pop tabs and pillowcases presented to Ronald McDonald House when Mary Ann took her 5-year old grandson (who at birth was a patient in the NICU) with her.

Linda Hooge will take 11 pillowcases to Webster-Cantrell Hall today.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample was absent but sent a reminder that cultural enrichment items for annual conference next March will be voted on at the fall meeting.

Historian: Carol Ropp asks everyone to save pictures from HCE activities.

International: Lois Miller and Cathy Gipson – The Rock Springs HCE unit will handle registration on International Day. Set up will be at 1 p.m. on September 17.

Public Relations: Linda Austin – The next newsletter deadline is October 1. Linda requests holiday recipes and games, as well as family holiday memories, to include in the newsletter.

District 3 Director: Karen Cahill reminded us of the November 6 Mini District Workshop. She advised that she needs all volunteer hours by December 5, as she has to have her report to the state by January 5, 2025. On October 20, the IAHCE Board will have a planning meeting in Effingham for next year's annual conference.

The CWC (Country Women's Council) will have a conference in Destin, FL in September. There will only be 45 attendees – 3 from Illinois.

NEW BUSINESS:

The fall meeting menu is fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, dinner roll and choice of apple or pumpkin dessert, at a \$15 cost. Mary Johnson, IAHCE 2nd Vice President, will install our new slate of officers. Remember to wear your bling, as our theme is still Diamonds Are Forever, and So Is HCE!

During HCE Week, a variety of crafts will be available on October 16 for Make It – Take It Craft Day, including Christmas gift tags, a small Christmas wreath and small diamond painting projects. A freewill donation receptacle will be at the door. Sally, Karen C., Sandy, Linda and Elaine will provide snacks.

On October 17 – Board Games and Snacks Day – card bingo will be the last game played, with \$5 gift bags (donated by each HCE unit) as the prizes. Appetizers/snacks will be brought by Carol, Bonnie, Liz, Lois, Linda H. and Mary Ann.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hamm

Officer's Reports

President

Bonnie Lanham

As I wind down my terms of office, I want everyone to welcome Liz King. She will be your new President. I know that you will help her along the way. I have really enjoyed working with all of you, but I am ready for a break! My plans include some travel and just being free to do as I wish. Thank you for supporting me.

Remember to get your reservations in on time! I feel that we have selected a lot of informative and fun lessons for next year. Please support the lessons you were interested in by attending them, if at all possible.

See you all at HCE week and the Fall Meeting!

First Vice President

Sandy Severe

Fall is beginning to show its face, a little cooler weather and the leaves will start to fall. HCE week is just around the corner. Plan to attend these fun days!

Here is the schedule:

Monday, October 14, 1:30. Don Chamberlain, stories of several Native American women plus white women who were captured by the Natives.

Wednesday, October 16, 10-2 p.m. Make-It, Take-It Day, come and enjoy the fun! Snacks provided for a monetary donation.

Thursday, October 17, 10-3 p.m. Board games and snacks, heavy hors d'oeuvres provided. Monetary donation appreciated.

Be sure to get your \$15.00 to Sally Dennis by October 23 for the October 30 Fall Meeting. Ann Irwin, Operation Enduring Support, will be our guest speaker.

Keep in mind that the dues for next year will be \$21.00 and should be sent to Sally Dennis by November 1, 2024.

See you at HCE! Come play with us!

Second Vice President

Lyn Stevens

IMPORTANT REMINDER

2025 DUES ARE NOW DUE! Please mail your money to Sally Dennis, 7562 Bonnie Road, Dalton City, Illinois, 61925. Checks should be payable to MCHCE (not Sally) in the amount of \$21.00. Please include your phone number and the name of your unit.

It would certainly be exciting if every one of 109 members from 2024 gets their renewal dues paid PLUS we get a few of our friends or family to join the fun with us.

That 109 number is down slightly from the previous year. It is sad that the dwindling numbers are a problem for the entire state of HCE units and counties. Counties end up folding for lack of members. In the recent past, Christian County ceased as its own entity and merged with our own Macon County HCE. We are thrilled that they continued with HCE by joining us, but saddened that they couldn't maintain on their own. By now, you have probably heard that instead of five districts, the state has had to combine districts and now there are only four districts. This is because of declining membership. It takes the effort of every single member to keep HCE going strong. PLEASE get out there and talk up HCE. Bring someone to your unit meeting or a county lesson or a county meeting.

These words ring so true. Our Macon County HCE seriously needs to grow. As Melissa says slow growth is important. Without it, we will continue to decline. You all know what a wonderful time we have in HCE or you would not be a part of this organization. So get out there, stretch yourselves and start inviting friends. YOU WON'T KNOW IF YOU DON'T TRY!!!

Scholarship Winner

The recipient of the 2024 HCE scholarship is Anna Lovecamp. She is the granddaughter of Patty Lovecamp, a member of the Oakley/Pleasant Grove unit. Anna is studying Interior Design at Anderson University in Anderson, South Carolina. This is a \$500.00 scholarship to use for her college expenses. Congratulations to Anna!

Unit News

Maple Grove

Mary Kay Ennis

We met on September 26th at the Sharon Methodist Church community room. Carol Ropp led the ten of us with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Homemaker's Aim. We had one guest, Rita Scanavino. Carol told us about the lesson on Economic Development that she attended in July. She said that the presenter, Nicole Bateman, was very enthusiastic about her job.

Two items were discussed about our association: the fact that the dues will now be \$21.00 and are to be sent by November 1 to Sally Dennis. Karen Cahill said that our volunteer hours need to be turned in earlier, by the beginning of December.

We really enjoyed our unit's trip to the Little Theatre and plans will be made to attend one of the upcoming shows. We will have our Christmas gathering at the church on December 11. Mary Kay Ennis provided the dessert. We adjourned by 2:10.

Mt. Zion

Barb Brandt

Our unit met at the Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Church in Mt. Zion for the August meeting. Seven members were present. We also had five visitors; Carol Fishbein, Jeanise and Charles Niebugge, Kathy Cain and Dianne Shipley.

The two daughters of Mary Ann Beck, Trisha Beck, owner of Beck Realtors and Katrina Beck, a broker, talked about selling your house.

They spoke about what you need to do to fix up your house to sell it. There was a lot of good advice.

Oakley-Pleasant Grove

Patty Lovekamp

We met at Coz's in August with Elsie Farnham as our hostess. There were seven members present. Mary Ann reported about all the pillowcases, bonding hearts, and tube covers that were made in July on sewing day. Upcoming meetings were discussed as well as the bus trip to Eureka. We are so glad to have Barb Stinson as a new member of our unit.

Our September meeting was held at Judy's Kitchen in Cerro Gordo and Shirley Krall was our hostess. There were seven members in attendance. Mary Ann reported that she had delivered the items from Sewing Day to the Ronald McDonald house. We were reminded about International Day coming up and when reservations are due. We selected lessons from the suggestion sheet for the next year. We discussed the activities coming up for HCE Week which will be a fun and busy week.

Rock Springs

Lyn Stevens

For our September meeting, Cathy Gipson was our hostess. She planned a wonderful day. We met at Mariah's Mums & More in Clinton. We had 10 members plus 5 guests from other units. Mariah told us lots of information about the farm and gave us plenty of time to wander about. The mums were absolutely beautiful. She also cleaned the tables and moved them together so we could have the delicious lunch that Cathy and several other members provided.

After lunch, President Bonnie Lanham called the meeting to order. We began the meeting with our pledge, the Homemaker's Aim, and a joke from Bonnie. To save postage costs, Bonnie brought the mailings about HCE week, the proposed by-law changes, and a ballot to vote for the 2025 lessons. Donna Washburn told us that Scovill Zoo will have a dementia day. Decatur is a dementia friendly community.

She also told us about the Street Dog Coalition, a non-profit group providing free vet care and related services to pets of people experiencing, or at risk of homelessness. They accept monetary donations and pet supply donations. Donna will accept the pet supplies and make sure they get where they are needed. For more information about the Street Dog Coalition, their website is www.thestreetdogcoalition.org or email decatur@thestreetdogcoalition.org.

Lyn Stevens passed out a list of things happening in our area. That went over really well with our guests. Our guest, Cheryl Sample, gave a plug reminding everyone to bring their Cultural Enrichment items to the Fall Meeting. IT WAS A GREAT DAY!

Unit News (cont.)

Economic Development Program

Presented by Nicole Bateman
Report by Carol Ropp

If you didn't attend the Economic Development program on Tuesday, July 16, you missed a really informative program by President Nicole Bateman. The EDC works to bring new businesses to our community, which in turn, means jobs for our community.

Tillamook Creamery, which is based in Oregon, has purchased the former Prairie Farms Dairy property at Cerro Gordo and MLK. They originally planned to spend \$49,000,000 and now are hoping to end at \$60,000,000. If you haven't tried a taste of their delicious ice cream, shop at Kroger or Over the Top Ice Cream Shop at Nelson Park. You may notice when you re-open a carton to scoop out more ice cream, there will be no crystals. That's because Tillamook doesn't add air when they are packing. I tested it and it's true!

The TCCI (old GE building) is producing heavy duty compressors only for EV compressor conversion. Richland students are taking classes to build these. The old Borg Warner plant is almost always fully leased by companies for storage.

There are so many more new businesses and planned programs for our community. Now we need to find housing for all of the new business employees who will be moving here.

Cultural Enrichment

Cheryl Sample

Don't forget to bring your items to the Fall Meeting to be judged. The winners will go on to the State Conference in Effingham in March. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 765-426-1420

Happy holidays with your family and friends!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/FAMILY ISSUES

Mary Ann Platt and Linda Hooge

Mary Ann joined the committee for Operation Enduring Support. There will be 135 boxes mailed at the holidays. The committee took an inventory of what had been already collected. Items in short supply include: flat air fresheners, beef sticks, slim Jim's, beef jerky, combination body wash and shampoo, 2025 calendars, packages of hard candy, cereal, energy/protein bars, individual coffee packets, combs, deodorant, individual hot chocolate packets, duct tape, one ounce Gold Bond powder, gum, pencils, playing cards, puzzle books, black socks, individual packets of tissues, toothpaste, toothbrushes, individual packets of tuna or chicken salad, small packages of wet wipes, and 5 x7 pads of lined paper.

The committee meets every Monday at Grace Methodist Church from 6 to 7 p.m. to update inventory. Packing day will be December 3. Mailing each box costs \$23.

Ann Irwin will be our speaker at our Fall Meeting. Donations will be accepted that day. Our 50/50 drawing that day will also benefit them. Please consider helping Macon County soldiers who are deployed overseas enjoy some basic necessities. Thank you.

REMINDERS

RSVP for Fall Meeting, Wednesday, October 23.

Send your check to:

Sally Dennis, 7562 Bonnie Road, Dalton City, 61925,

or call her at 217-433-0605.

Mini District Meeting

November 6 by Karen Cahill

Macon County Extension Office, 1 p.m.

Fall Meeting is October 30 from 9 to 2. Registration is at 9. Meeting starts at 9:30.

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

President

Bonnie Lanham 2018-2024
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1st Vice President

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**Community Outreach/
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Check out our Websites!

Macon County HCE at

www.mchce.org

IAHCE at

www.iahce.org