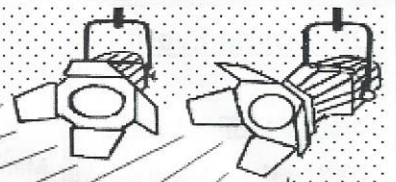


Macon County
January – February 2025



HCE HIGHLIGHTS

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

NEW MEMBERS

We are so excited to welcome these new members into our units!

- Nora Reed (Patchwork)
- Diana Shipley, Jeannine Niebrugge, Kathy Cain, Delores Troyer (Mt. Zion)
- Joyce Pallas, Rita Scanavino (Maple Grove)
- Karen Brune (Center)
- Linda Nolen (Rock Springs)

We know that you will enjoy our programs and the new friendships that you will make.

Welcome!!!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PAST PRESIDENT

Bonnie Lanahm

I have enjoyed my time with all of you. That being said, I am in need of some free time. I will attend some lessons and the Spring, International, and Fall meetings. You can't get rid of me totally!! I know my replacement, Liz King, will be a great asset. Later!!!!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM OUR DISTRICT

DIRECTOR, KAREN CAHILL

This year the IAHCE theme will be MAKING TIME. We hope that you will make time for HCE this coming year. Whether it's attending or even presenting lessons, serving on your board, keeping track of those volunteer hours, etc. HCE is better when YOU participate. The 2025 conference will be in Effingham from March 11-13.

Consider joining us for this fun experience whether it's for one day or all three. You learn a lot and meet such fun HCE ladies from all over the state. For more information, you can contact me, Karen Cahill, or any board member.

Reservations are due by January 31.

Inside This Issue

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

Upcoming Events

Extension Office Closed

Wednesday, January 1

Happy New Year!

Monday, January 13

HCE Board Meeting

1:30 pm

Macon County Extension
Office - Clover Room

Extension Office Closed

Monday, January 20

**Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day**

Monday, January 27

Sewing Day

9:30 am—3:30 pm

Macon County Extension
Office - Clover Room

Friday, January 31

State Conference
Registration Due

Saturday, February 1

**Newsletter Items Due to
Linda Austin**

lindaaustin48@gmail.com

Monday, February 3

Tri-County Meeting

9:30 am to 1:00pm

Macon County Extension
Office

Monday, February 10

Board Meeting

1:30 pm

Macon County Extension
Office - Clover Room

Friday, February 21

Scholarship Application
Available

Monday, February 24

Sewing Day

9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Macon County Extension
Office - Clover Room



Laughter is Good for the Soul

Many thanks to Lyn Stevens for these jokes.

I told my friend ten jokes to make him laugh. SADLY, NO PUN IN TEN DID.

I couldn't believe the highway department called my dad a thief. BUT WHEN I GOT HOME, THE SIGNS WERE ALL THERE.

Why did the cowboy get a dachshund? HE WANTED TO GET A LONG LITTLE DOGGIE.

Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building? OF COURSE! THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING CAN'T JUMP!

What did the duck say when it bought some lipstick? "PUT IT ON MY BILL."

If you have some jokes, you can send them to me too! We all need to laugh a lot more!!! Linda

DIP

- 1 can of refried beans
- 1 package of cream cheese
- 1/2 jar of Pace Picante mild sauce
- 1 cup cheddar cheese
- 1 cup of sour cream
- 1 cup of Monterey Jack cheese
- Sprinkle of taco seasoning, chilli powder, and

In the crockpot, cook on high for 3 hours. Stir to combine. Serve with the dipping Scoops.

Bonnie Lanham shared her recipe from the Mini District meeting. It was a delicious dip with the Scoops chip. Enjoy!

BAKED OATMEAL

- 3 cups rolled oats
- 1 cup of brown sugar
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 c. Milk
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract

Yummy Recipes!

- 3/4 cup cranberries or 3/4 cup bananas (your choice)

Mix the first five ingredients, then add the milk, maple syrup, eggs, vanilla, cranberries or bananas. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 35-40 minutes.

Lois Miller submitted this recipe for Baked Oatmeal. It sounds wonderful. I am a devoted fan of anything with oatmeal!! Enjoy!!!

FLUFFY DESSERT

You can be very creative with the flavors you like!

- 2 cups crushed cookies (like Oreos but any cookie will do)
- 1 small box of instant pudding mix or jello (any flavor you choose)
- 1 small jar of marshmallow fluff
- 1 1/4 cup of milk
- 1 tub of whipped topping (or equivalent sweetened whipped cream)

In a medium mixing bowl, add the pudding or jello and 1 1/4 cup of milk. Whisk together for 2 minutes. Add marshmallow fluff (some versions use softened cream cheese instead). Whisk until fairly smooth.

Add the whipped topping and 1 1/2 cup crushed cookies and fold into the mixture. Place into a large serving bowl or container (about 9x13) Cover with the remaining cookie crumbs. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours.

Liz King, our new President, submitted this recipe after many requests from our Board. This is a recipe that can be altered to suit your taste! Enjoy!!

INTERNATIONAL

Lois Miller and Cathy Gipson

The Western Cape of South Africa offers beaches, lush wine lands, craggy cliffs at the Cape of Good Hope, forests and lagoons along the Garden Route, and the city of Capetown, beneath flat topped Table Mountain. The population of South Africa is 62 million and the official languages are Africana, English, Tswana, Zulu, and many more. More on our country of study, Africa, next month. For International Day, 2025, representatives from Okaw Valley will be our speakers.

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

October 14, 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, Mary Ann Platt, Carol Ropp, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Lyn Stevens, Vicky Wooten)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the September 9, 2024 Board meeting were reviewed by all present and approved as read.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$1,814.46. The treasurer's report was filed for audit. Discussion on the 2025 budget followed. Karen Halicki will assist Sally in finalizing same. Since our bank balance is low, there was discussion on lesson fees. Lyn Stevens moved that beginning in 2025, we no longer pay the speakers who give our lessons. Carol Ropp seconded. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you notes were passed around from the following:

Ellie Woods for the \$25 we gave for 4-H awards; Anna Lovekamp for her college scholarship; Roxy Waterhouse for the bonus and card given upon her leaving U of I Extension; and Webster-Cantrell Youth Advocacy for the pillowcases.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe reported HCE Week attendance: 32 for Make It - Take It Craft Day and 16 for Board Games/Snack Day. October 23rd is the RSVP deadline for fall meeting on the 30th. Dues of \$21 are due November 1. November 6 is the Mini District 3 meeting. The November lesson on the Family Justice Center will be on November 20.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens stated that the Bylaw Committee of Lyn Stevens, Karen Cahill, Bonnie Lanham, Karen Halicki and Liz King will meet at 10 a.m. on November 1.

Lyn would like MCHCE members to contact her to see what is involved in replacing her as 2nd Vice President in 2026.

Community Outreach & Family Issues: Mary Ann Platt advised that needed donation items for Operation Enduring Support will be listed in the upcoming newsletter. 2025 calendars, small flags, colored comics from the weekend newspaper, individually-wrapped hard candies, combination shampoo/body wash; and protein bars are some of the suggestions.

Linda Hooge reported that 52 pillowcases were made on September 30, 29 of which will go to the Ronald McDonald House and 23 to Decatur Children & Family Services.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample continued to voice the need for additional items for the Cultural Enrichment judging at the fall meeting. Karen Halicki will help Cheryl check items in that day.

Historian: Carol Ropp asks everyone to give her memorabilia from HCE activities.

International: Cathy Gipson reported that Linda Long from DeWitt County knows a person who has been to South Africa, who will be the International Day speaker.

Public Relations: Linda Austin is awaiting the newsletter draft today and also noted that Paul Osborne of the Decatur Tribune is wonderful to put in HCE articles and photos.

District 3 Director: Karen Cahill has sent emails to the Christian County units to RSVP for the Mini District 3 meeting on November 6. Four ladies will be coming from Edgar County. The Board will prepare a lunch for 50: chicken salad on croissants, chips, fruit salad and bundt cakes.

Volunteer hours are due December 5. Six Board members are going to the Sangamon County HCE trivia event in Chatham on Saturday and still need two more ladies for their team.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was discussion on selling sandwiches at Kirby Foods in Sullivan next summer as a fundraiser. Liz King has the required food handler license. This possibility will be further explored.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hamm

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

November 11, 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; Oakley-Pleasant Grove; Patchwork; Rock Springs

Total in attendance: 13 (Linda Austin, Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Cathy Gipson, Karen Halicki, Elaine Hamm, Linda Hooge, Liz King, Bonnie Lanham, Carol Ropp, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Lyn Stevens)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the October 14, 2024 Board meeting were reviewed by all present and approved as read.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$4,080.60. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

CORRESPONDENCE: A thank you note was passed around from Elizabeth Cornett, who received the 4-H Fair Champion award in Food Preservation.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe reminded us of the Family Justice Center lesson on November 20; reservations are due by the 15th.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens reported that we have nine new members as follows: Patchwork - 1; Mt. Zion - 4; Maple Grove - 2; Center - 1; and Rock Springs - 1.

She then read the list of members who have not yet sent in their 2025 dues and shared ideas received from the breakout session at the Mini District 3 meeting. Lyn will later prepare a new membership list effective February 1, 2025.

Community Outreach & Family Issues: Linda Hooge noted that there will not be a sewing day in November or December. December 3 is the packing day for Operation Enduring Support boxes.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample thanked those who entered cultural enrichment items at our fall meeting and Karen Halicki and Linda Hooge for assisting her that day.

Historian: Carol Ropp asks everyone to continue to save articles about HCE activities.

International: Cathy Gipson reported that International Day will be on September 17, 2025. A couple from Okaw Valley, who took a three-week trip to South Africa for an apple conference, will be the speakers.

Public Relations: Linda Austin announced that she and her husband are giving a \$1,000 gift to MCHCE from their community fund. Thank you very much! December 1 is the deadline for the next newsletter.

District 3 Director: Karen Cahill was happy with the Mini District 3 meeting. The State Board is starting to get ready for annual conference next March.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Karen Halicki shared what she learned about our organization's name:

1924 – Illinois Home Bureau Federation

1962 – Illinois Homemakers Extension Federation

1993 – Illinois Association for Family & Community Education (FCE)

1995 – Illinois Association for Home & Community Education (HCE)

NEW BUSINESS:

On December 9, the MCHCE Board will have a short meeting, followed by a Christmas party, at the home of Karen Cahill at 10 a.m. We are to bring a \$5 donation for a charity and a \$5 gift for an exchange. We will order Monical's pizza and salad for our meal.

Lyn Stevens read to us the Bylaw changes to be voted on at our spring meeting. Sally Dennis moved to accept all changes to the Constitution and Bylaws as read by Lyn. Linda Hooge seconded; motion passed.

Sally raised the matter of two fundraiser ideas:

Serving sandwiches at Kirby Foods in Sullivan, which requires applying for a Moultrie County food handler license. Three possible dates need to be chosen.

Selling desserts at the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Hall in Decatur on a Friday evening once a month. This would take place between 4:15 and 6:00 p.m. A cashier and two ladies to cut and place the desserts on plates would be needed. It was suggested this could be divided up among our six Macon County HCE units. Karen Cahill moved that we check with our units to see if they are agreeable to serve desserts at the DAV two times a year. Sandy Severe seconded; motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hamm

Officer's Reports

President

Liz King

Hi everyone! I am Elizabeth S. King, but I go by Liz. I was born in 1975, and I have lived in Decatur, Illinois, all of my life. I am married to Mike King and we own the Mari-Mann Herb Farm. I am an active member of the Mound Chapel Church of God. I do not have children, but I am a proud dog mom. We have rescued several dogs over the years and we currently share our home with a 200-ish pound Mastiff named Bruiser.

I joined HCE in 2021 and have really enjoyed being part of the Rock Springs Unit. If I am not attending HCE meetings or activities, you can usually find me in the kitchen at Mari-Mann.

First Vice President

Sandy Severe

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas! Just a reminder that there are no lessons in January and February. We will have sewing days on January 27 and February 24 from 9:30 till about 3:30 each day. Don't forget about attending the State Conference in Effingham on March 11-13.

Program books should be out soon.

Take care and enjoy the winter weather—from inside your residence!

Second Vice President

Lyn Stevens

*****IMPORTANT REMINDER*****

2025 DUES WERE DUE NOVEMBER 1st. If you haven't sent the money yet, please mail your money to Sally Dennis, 7562 Bonnie Road, Dalton City, Illinois 61925.

Checks should be made payable to MCHCE, (not Sally) for \$21.00. Please include your phone number and the name of your unit.

I want to remind everyone that if Sally has not received your dues by February 1, 2025, you will be dropped from the membership roll. You can still pay after that, but your years of membership will start back at one year.

As of the date that this newsletter report needed to be turned in, we have 107 paid members for 2025. This number includes nine new members, but that is still less numbers than we had on the books for 2024. We had two members pass away last year, several members not rejoining because of aging related health issues, and there are three members who have not paid yet.

I keep playing the song, "Do the Hustle" in my mind. That's what we all need to do....hustle to tell all of our family and friends what a fun group HCE is. If each unit could convince a couple of acquaintances to join the fun, it would create a nice addition to our numbers!

Unit News

Patchwork

Karen Halicki

We had dinner in November at Crawford's Pizza in Maroa at 5 p.m. We have a new member, Nora Reed. We now have 10 members! We passed out the lesson from last month and voted on officers for next year. We also voted on giving a donation to the Maroa Christmas basket. We enjoyed being with everyone and hearing how everyone was doing. In December, we are meeting at Cheryl's home for our Christmas party. Everyone is to bring an appetizer. It has been a busy year.

Unit News (cont.)

Mt. Zion

Barb Brandt

For the October meeting, we met at the East End Grill at the airport. Eight members were present. We had one visitor, Delores Troyer. After a delicious lunch, we went to the North Fork Museum. We watched a short film about Abe Lincoln. After that, we took a walk through the museum to see all of the artifacts. It was very interesting.

Ten members were present at our November meeting. We met at the Knights of Columbus Hall. We had a delicious lunch. We had a short meeting and discussed the upcoming events for HCE.

Center Unit

We met on November 4th at the Christian County Extension Office. There were 10 members present. Each member was given a sheet to arrange their turkey for Thanksgiving. Members brought their craft that they made at the craft lesson at the Macon County craft day. Hygiene items were brought for the Taylorville Food Pantry. Delicious pumpkin pie was served. We made plans for the Christmas party. Volunteer hours were prepared to be sent to Karen Cahill. Each member went home with a sack of goodies.

On December 2, we met at the beautifully decorated home of Janet Engeling. As we left Taylorville, it began to snow but that did not stop the ladies! Thirteen members were present. We had delicious vegetable soup and the table was filled with delicious desserts.

There was a \$5.00 gift exchange and \$1.00 gifts for prizes for Bingo. Joelynda Conrad made everyone a Santa. Ann Bandy provided the material and instructed our members how to make a Christmas tree. Everyone went home with gifts and Christmas tins filled with candy.

Rock Springs

Lyn Stevens

We met in October at Crawford's in Mt Zion. Lyn Stevens hosted our meeting. We had seven members and one guest, Linda Nolan. It was really nice that our guest won the hostess gift. Lyn planned a mini Halloween party. We had our meeting and ordered lunch. While we were waiting for lunch to be served, Lyn had a trivia game which was very hard. We also played a few games of Bingo. The winners won a plastic glass with a skeleton hand on the outside.

During the meeting, Lyn shared a thank you note from God's Shelter of Love for our September donation. Linda Hooge reminded us that we should bring donations for Operation Enduring Support to the Fall Meeting. Lyn told us that Sue Miller had given her money to help cover the cost of shipping the items. Lyn passed out a list of things happening in our area.

Our meeting in November was hosted by Donna Washburn at the First Presbyterian Church in Decatur. There were 10 members present. Lyn Stevens brought two guests. The hostess gift was won by Bonnie Lanham.

We started with a presentation by Pastor Bob. He takes wonderful nature pictures. He showed us slides and told us about how he composes a picture. We all found him very interesting.

Next, we had our meeting. Bonnie will be the hostess for our December 11 meeting. She gave us an update. She said that all of the members of the Rock Springs unit have paid their dues. She also reminded us to get our CVH hours to Karen Cahill as soon as possible.

Lyn went over the proposed changes to the MCHCE Constitution and

By-Laws that will be voted on by the county membership at the Spring Meeting on April 30.

Donna asked that we take up a donation for Pastor Bob because he came in on his day off to do the presentation. After a short discussion, we voted to take up a donation to the church for the use of their facilities.

Lois Miller reported that Karen Cahill and Gini Smith found a zebra when they were out shopping. They are going to use it to decorate for the International Day in 2025 when the country of study is South Africa.

Our meeting was adjourned. Then we had lunch. Before the meeting began, Donna and her helpers put together stone soup with the ingredients that we all brought. "Stone Soup" is an old folk tale. And YES, there was a stone in the soup.



News (cont.)

Hickory Point

Janet Feller

October 16, 2024

HCE met after the craft day at the Extension office with five members present. Louis Wickline retired from the Secretary position after many years of dedicated service. Thank you, Louise! Janet Feller assumed this position. The form for volunteer hours was passed out, and it was brought to our attention that the newsletters are now done in Monticello. After planning the dates of the next few meetings, it was decided that instead of a Christmas gift exchange, we will each donate to the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield.

In other business, Elaine Hamm reminded us what items are useful for Operation Enduring Support for the fall meeting.

A donation was received for Rural Women in Action and the meeting was adjourned.

Hickory Point

Janet Feller

November 5, 2024

Hickory Point met for our meeting following the District Workshop with six members present. We added up our total volunteer hours for the year and we answered roll call with "I am thankful for ____ and ____." Most of us were thankful for our families, answered prayer, and our freedoms.

We discussed our Christmas party, January meeting, and took a donation for the Ronald McDonald House. Sixty dollars was collected and given to Mary Beth Wickline so she could purchase a suggested needed item to be given to Ronald McDonald House at Christmas. Marge Kauffman reminded us of a long list of community events happening in our area and the meeting was adjourned.

Cultural Enrichment

Cheryl Sample

I hope this newsletter finds you taking time for yourself after your busy holiday festivities. I am adjusting to our shop cat living in our house, but that's a story for another time.

I'm not going to say much about Cultural Events in this newsletter. There have been a few changes that I will talk about in the next newsletter.

This is still the season to be sharing your time and heart with others. I recently had the opportunity to attend a program sponsored by the Champaign County HCE. Jacob Dickey, a weatherman with Channel 3 from Champaign, was the guest speaker. What a delight! I enjoy his weather reports and this presentation did not disappoint.

Oakley Pleasant Grove

Patty Lovecamp

We didn't have an October meeting because we attended HCE week.

Our November meeting was held at the One Stop Diner. Sandy Severe was the hostess. She had the table looking pretty for fall and a cute turkey container full of candy for each of us. We had planned to have our Christmas potluck on December 3, but due to sickness, we have postponed that until the first week of January. I will report about that later.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/FAMILY ISSUES

Mary Ann Platt

Thank you to all of the members who contributed to the Operation Enduring Support.

One hundred fifty boxes were mailed on Tuesday, December 3.

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Check out our Websites!

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www.mchce.org

IAHCE at

www.iahce.org