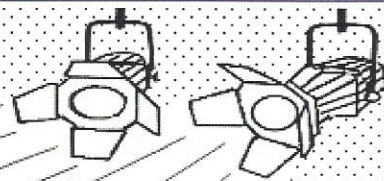


Macon County
January—February 2026

HCE HIGHLIGHTS



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

2026 Lesson Descriptions

Monday, February 9th at 9:00—Valentine's Day Party: Cheryl Sample

Thursday, March 5th at 9:30—Information about Alzheimer's: An Alzheimer's Association representative will tell us about signs and available help.

Thursday, April 16th at 9:30—A Tour of the Little Theater on the Square in Sullivan: We'll take a tour of the theatre and practice studios.

Wednesday, May 20th at 9:30—Tillamook Creamery: This is a leftover program from last year. The facility is up and running now, so join us for a presentation from a representative.

Wednesday, June 17th at 9:30—Herbs with Liz King: Our own MCHCE President will discuss growing herbs and how to use them.

Wednesday, July 15th at 10:00—Illinois Amish Heritage Center: The Living History Farm and Amish Museum is on seven acres just east of Arthur and contains historic facilities that tell the story of the Amish settlement established in 1865.

Wednesday, August 19th at 9:30—What's In My Food?: U of I Extension Educator, Caitlin Mellendorf, will give us the facts!

Tuesday, September 8th at 9:30—DPAS Andreas Ag Education Center: A speaker will tell us about this center which is for MacArthur and Eisenhower students who are interested in the agricultural areas of education.

OCTOBER 12th—16th: HCE WEEK

Monday, October 12th at 9:30—Helpful Household Hacks: We'll talk about shortcuts and share ideas we use around our homes.—Sandy Severe and Carol Ropp.

Tuesday, October 13th at 9:30—Cultural Enrichment Day: Bring your handcrafted items and share in a day of fun activities.—Cheryl Sample.

Thursday, October 15th at 9:30—Economic Development Corporation: Andrew Taylor will update us about the new business development in our area.

Thursday, October 15th at 1:30—Decatur Police Department K-9 Presentation: The location for this will be announced.

Thursday, November 18th at 9:30—1st Ladies of the U.S.: We'll learn about six more of our country's presidents' wives.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 6

10:30 a.m.
Game Club Meeting
Pop's Place

Tuesday, January 6

11:30 a.m.
Lunch Club Meeting
Pop's Place

Monday, February 9

9—11:30 a.m.
Valentine's Day Party
First Baptist Church

Monday, February 9

11:30 a.m.
Craft Club Meeting
First Baptist Church

Friday, February 20

9:00 a.m.
Needle Arts Club Meeting
Macon County Extension Clover Room

Friday, February 27

10:00 a.m.
Day Trip Club
Macon County Extension Illini Room

Inside This Issue

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- Laughter is Good for the Soul
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- Unit News
- Event Reminders



Laughter is Good for the Soul

Thank you to Lyn Stevens's cousin for sending these!

1. When I am behind a slow car, I steer my car a little to the right so the people behind me can see it isn't my fault.
2. April Fool's Day is cancelled this year because no prank can top the reality going on right now.
3. Welcome to adulthood, where you get irritated when they rearrange the grocery store.
4. The fact that somebody looked straight at a purple onion and named it a red onion really bothers me.
5. Remember when we were little and had underwear with the days of the week on them? Yeah...Those would be helpful right now.
6. "How much of an allowance did you get as a teenager per week?" Me: I was allowed to live there.
7. My teacher told me not to worry about spelling because in the future there will be autocorrect...and for that I am eternally grapefruit!
8. I was lonely until I glued a coffee cup on top of my car. Now everyone waves at me!
9. This can't be the same 90 degrees I used to run around outside in as a child.
10. I used to be able to do cartwheels....now I tip over putting on my underwear.
11. If you are feeling too good about yourself, go ask a 5 year old to guess your age. That should even things out.
12. When I was a kid, there were no phones or tablets. We read cereal boxes at breakfast.
13. When I say "the other day", it could mean anytime between yesterday and my birth.
14. You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
15. Where do rainbows go? To prism. It's a light sentence, but it gives them time to reflect.

Yummy Recipes!

Apple Crisp for One

Ingredients:

- 1 apple, peeled and diced
- 1 Tbs. butter, cut into cubes
- 2 Tbs. brown sugar
- 1 Tbs. cornstarch
- 1 Tsp. cinnamon
- Pinch of nutmeg
- 2 Tbs. quick oats
- 2 Tbs. flour

Directions:

Place diced apples in a microwave safe bowl with a cover. Microwave 1 minute. Add in sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Stir to cover the apples. For the topping, combine the butter (softened), brown sugar, quick oats, and flour into a bowl and mix well with a fork, mashing all together. Sprinkle topping mixture on top of apples and microwave for an additional 2 minutes. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream and/or caramel sauce.

Thank you to Bonnie Lanham for sending in this recipe!

New York Crumb Cake

Jennifer Segal

Prep Time: 25 minutes

Cook Time: 45 minutes

Serves: 12 (9x13 inch pan)

Ingredients:

Crumb Topping:

- 2 1/2 sticks (10 oz.) unsalted butter, melted
- 1/2 C. granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 C. (packed) light brown sugar
- 2 Tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 Tsp. salt
- 4 C. cake flour, leveled off
- of measuring cup
- Powdered sugar for dusting

Directions:

Crumb Topping—In a large bowl, whisk together the melted butter, granulated sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt. Using a spoon, stir in the cake flour one cup at a time, until the mixture forms a cohesive dough, like a very thick and clumpy cookie dough. Add the last cup of flour, the mixture will be difficult to stir, so feel free to ditch the spoon and use your hands to mix it in. Set aside.

Cake—Preheat oven to 350 degrees and set the oven rack to the middle position. Grease a 9x13 inch cake pan. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Set aside. In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat the softened butter and granulated sugar on medium high speed, scraping the bowl as necessary, until light and fluffy, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the eggs one at a time, beating until incorporated after each addition (don't worry if the butter looks a little curdled at this point). Beat in the vanilla and scrape the bowl to make sure everything is evenly combined. Add the flour mixture alternating with the sour cream (half of flour, all of sour cream, rest of flour). Mixing on low speed with each addition, until just combined. Spread the cake batter evenly in the cake pan (it will only come up about 3/4 inch up the sides of the pan). Top the batter with the streusel crumb topping, using your fingers to break it apart and form it into roughly 1/2 inch chunks. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes, until a cake tester inserted into the middle of the cake comes out clean. Let the cake cool fully on a rack. Dust with powdered sugar and cut into squares to serve. Cover the cake with foil and store at room temperature; it will keep nicely for 3 days. To keep the cake fresher longer, store in the fridge, but bring to room temperature before serving.

Freezer friendly instructions: The cake can be frozen for up to 3 months. After it is completely cooled, wrap it tightly with aluminum foil or freezer wrap. Thaw overnight on the counter before serving.

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

October 14, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: President Liz King

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Liz King

HOMEMAKERS' AIM: Liz King

JOKE: Toni Strait

ROLL CALL: Elaine Hamm

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

Total in attendance: 16 (Linda Austin, Carolyn Barnett, Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Cathy Gipson, Karen Halicki, Elaine Hamm, Linda Hooe, Liz King, Georgette Merrifield, Nora Reed, Carol Ropp, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Toni Strait, Vicky Wooten)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the September 8, 2025 Board meeting were accepted as read.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$6,003.42. It was noted that so far, \$1,472.00 has been received from the DAV dessert fundraiser. Sally will finalize the 2026 budget for the Board to approve before the fall meeting, at which time it will be voted on. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe reminded us of the fall meeting on October 29 and the Mini District 2 meeting on November 5. She introduced Nora Reed, nominee for the 1st Vice President position.

2nd Vice President: In Lyn Stevens' absence, Georgette Merrifield, who is the nominee for 2nd Vice President as of January, shared that she has received Lyn's notes for such position.

Community Outreach & Family Issues: Linda Hooe reported that 101 pillowcases were made at the September sewing day. 57 pillowcases were taken to Dove and 44 to the Ronald McDonald House.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample brought several of Sharon Middleton's quilts that she has finished. It was discussed that we would hold a live auction at the June 30, 2026 Mini District 2 meeting. Evan Hall will be contacted to see if he will serve as auctioneer.

Historian: Carol Ropp told us that a picture of Chase White, our scholarship recipient, was in the Decatur Tribune.

International: Cathy Gipson advised that she wants to choose a different Caribbean Island than the Dominican Republic to highlight next year. She will complete the claim form and booklet to receive a mini stipend for this year's International Day on South Africa.

District 2 Director: Karen Cahill informed us that at the Mini District 2 meeting on November 5, information on the silent signal for help, which was started in 2020 by Canadian women, will be shared. Also, a Sangamon County HCE member will speak on their rug weaving project. Liz King will talk about our DAV dessert fundraiser. Board members chose which food items they would bring for our nacho lunch. There will be two donation receptacles: one for use of the building and one for the meal.

Public Relations: Linda Austin introduced Toni Strait, who is the nominee, to assist Linda with the MCHCE newsletter. Linda will continue to handle articles for the Decatur Tribune and the IAHCE newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS:

All open Board positions have been filled and will be voted on and installed at the fall meeting:

1st Vice President—Nora Reed (Patchwork)

2nd Vice President—Georgette Merrifield (Christian County member-at-large)

Secretary—Jody Dawson (Maple Grove)

Public Relations—Toni Strait (Maple Grove)

Co-International—Judi Bohlmann (Patchwork)

President Liz confirmed that all events for the rest of 2025 will be held at First Baptist, Decatur.

Several ladies have volunteered to assist Liz with the Marmalade Project in the Mari-Mann Herb kitchen at 10 a.m. on November 14.

At the fall meeting, Maple Grove will serve breakfast items. Speakers will be Amber Kaylor of the Ronald McDonald House and the Macon County Honor Guard.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cheryl Sample proposed having a Valentine's party on February 9. Crafts, such as bookmarks, hearts, cards, etc. could be made for nursing homes. Cathy Gipson, Bonnie Lanham, and Sandy Severe will assist. Georgette Merrifield told of their unit previously making table settings and selling lunch as a fundraiser. Fundraising continues at the DAV. There will be more discussion with splitting the profit with units

\$400 have been received for the Sharon Middleton memorial. One idea is to have a bench made to memorialize Sharon.

During HCE Week, a tour of the Lincoln Square Theater was enjoyed by a large group of HCE members. Sally Dennis moved that we give \$100 to the Lincoln Square Theater for their renovations. Karen Cahill seconded; motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hamm

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

November 10, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: President Liz King

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Liz King

HOMEMAKERS' AIM: Liz King

JOKE: Liz King

ROLL CALL: Elaine Hamm

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

Total in attendance: 12 (Linda Austin, Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Elaine Hamm, Liz King, Georgette Merrifield, Mary Ann Platt, Carol Ropp, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Toni Strait, Vicky Wooten)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the October 14, 2025 Board meeting were accepted as corrected.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$8,344.17. No report was distributed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe reminded us of the November 20 lesson on fingerprints. New program books are being compiled.

2nd Vice President: In Lyn Stevens' absence, Georgette Merrifield, who will hold this position in 2026, stated that in January, she will work on the 2026 membership list and will send dues reminders to those who have not yet paid.

Community Outreach & Family Issues: Mary Ann Platt voiced that she was happy to present 57 pillowcases to Amber Kaylor of the Ronald McDonald House at our fall meeting.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample passed a thank you note around the table for the Board members to sign, thanking Steve Halicki for making the sign holders and box for use at cultural enrichment days. It was noted that there was increased participation and a good variety of projects submitted for judging at the fall meeting. Cheryl hopes for an even greater response next year.

Historian: Carol Ropp continues to ask that members save pictures and articles.

International: Cathy Gipson and Lois Miller were absent.

Public Relations: Linda Austin requested that articles be sent to her and Toni Strait by December 1 for the January/February newsletter. Linda would like the 2026 program information so she can write articles for the Decatur Tribune.

District 2 Director: Karen Cahill needs to receive all CVH hours by the first week of December. She thanked everyone for their help at the Mini District 2 meeting. Karen moved that we give \$40 each to Carol Ropp, Liz King, and Cathy Gipson for their donations of meat and ice cream for the nacho lunch. Mary Ann Platt seconded; motion carried. It was reported that \$149 in donations were collected and given to First Baptist Church for the use of their building, and \$225 in donations for the meal.

OLD BUSINESS:

Reminder: Those who are assisting with the Marmalade Project are to meet at 10 a.m. on November 14 at Mari-Mann Herbs.

2026 lessons are summarized as follows: **MARCH:** Alzheimer's Association; **APRIL:** Little Theatre on the Square tour; **MAY:** Tillamook County Creamery; **JUNE:** Liz King on herbs; **JULY:** Illinois Amish Heritage tour—Arthur, IL; **AUGUST:** "What's in Your Food" presented by Caitlin Mellendorf; **SEPTEMBER:** Zach Shields of the Andreas Ag Academy; **OCTOBER—HCE WEEK:** Helpful Hacks by Carol Ropp and Sandy Severe; Economic Development Corporation of Decatur & Macon County; Decatur Police Department, Canine Unit; Cultural Enrichment Day; **NOVEMBER:** First Ladies of the Civil War Era. (More specific information to come).

Five new clubs will begin: Games (led by Karen Cahill); Lunch (led by Sally Dennis); Crafts (led by Bonnie Lanham); Needle Arts (led by Cheryl Sample); and Day Trips (led by Gini Smith). A tri-fold introducing the clubs may be made, which could be available at the DAV dessert fundraiser nights, etc. to promote interest in MCHCE. HCE members can attend any club they are interested in. Guests would pay \$5 each time they attend a club, with the hope they will realize it would be less expensive to pay the \$21 dues, join HCE, and participate in as many clubs as they would like. Below are dates set so far, with specifics to follow later:

January 6—At Pop's Place, 4335 W. Main, Decatur—combined game club at 10:30 a.m. and lunch at 11:30 a.m. This will be an informational meeting to decide meeting dates.

February 9—Valentine party and crafts.

February 20—Needle Arts club at 9 a.m. for information/organization discussion.

February 27—Day Trips club at 10:30 a.m. for information/organization discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Mt. Zion unit will handle the DAV bake sale on November 21, and the Rock Springs unit will be there on December 19. Liz will get in touch with the DAV contact to set up the 2026 schedule.

Karen Cahill made a motion to give each unit \$50 when they work at the DAV; Cheryl Sample seconded. Motion carried. This is with the assumption that the units will pass this on to needs in our community. Karen suggests that each unit inform Liz when such money is spent to see where we are helping.

Carol Ropp moved to give \$100 to the Macon County Honor Guard; Cheryl Sample seconded. Motion carried.

Karen Cahill moved that Ella Claxon, U of I Extension Office Support, be given a \$50 Amazon gift card for Christmas; Carol Ropp seconded. Motion carried.

Sandy Severe moved that Tina Erwin, First Baptist Church Secretary, be given \$50 for Christmas; Carol Ropp seconded. Motion carried.

On December 8, the Board will meet at 11:30 a.m. for an appetizer lunch and \$5 gift exchange before our regular Board meeting at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hamm

Officer's Reports

President

Liz King

Hello MCHCE Members,

As you read this, we are beginning a new year—2026. Wow how time flies! The holidays are a busy and hectic time, so I always enjoy the slower pace of January and February to take a breath and reset to begin a new time.

I appreciate all of your hard work and patience through the past year with date and location changes. The U of I Extension office renovations have been delayed again, so most of our activities for 2026 will be held at First Baptist Church of Decatur.

As I change my calendar over to another year and begin adding the HCE activities for 2026, I'm looking forward to the variety of great lessons planned and a few trips to take. You can read more in this newsletter about the new clubs that have been formed based on special interests.

The new IAHCCE Conference theme for 2026 is *Experience the Magic*, so watch for details on how you and your unit can help celebrate the magic of HCE. Speaking of IAHCCE, make your reservations for the 102nd Conference happening March 17-19. To avoid a late fee, have your forms postmarked January 31, 2026. I'm looking forward to the great speakers, great share-shops, and great connections and friendships I experience each year.

I want to welcome our new MCHCE Board Members: Nora Reed: 1st Vice President, Jody Dawson: Secretary, Georgette Merrifield: 2nd Vice President, Toni Strait: Co-Public Relations, and Judi Bohlman: Co-International. Elections at the Fall Meeting this year will be for the offices of: President, Treasurer, Cultural Enrichment, Family & Community Issues, and CVH. It's never too early to think about how you can serve the county members. Sandy Severe, Elaine Hamm, Lyn Stevens, and Lois Miller will be missed on the Board, and their service was an important part in serving the members of Macon County HCE.

We will continue our monthly Fundraising Bake Sale at the DAV. Each unit will receive \$50 when they volunteer. It will be interesting to know how you use the funds and put money into helping our communities.

Macon County will be hosting the Tri-County Meeting on February 2nd. It is always interesting to see what is going on in the other counties.

As always, thank you all for your hard work and dedication to HCE!

First Vice President

Nora Reed

Upcoming dates to remember:

December Board meeting will be held on **December 8th** at 1:30 at First Baptist Church

January Board meeting will be held on **January 12th** at 1:30 at First Baptist Church

Mark your calendars for February 9th—our Valentine's Day party at First Baptist Church from 9-11:30. The February Board meeting will follow at 1:30

IAHCCE Annual Conference "Experience the Magic of IAHCCE" will be held March 17-19 at the Thelma Keller Convention Center.

Second Vice President

Lyn Stevens

I hope everyone is staying warm. I have seen how cold it has been in Illinois. I'm writing this report from far southern Texas. It's much warmer than Illinois, but because it has been very hot, our 60 degrees feels cold.

This is my last 2nd Vice President report. I have enjoyed my time serving the organization and members. Please welcome Georgette Merrifield to the 2nd Vice President position. I know she will be great and on top of everything.

It is so wonderful to see all the members who have paid their 2026 membership dues. I need to remind the stragglers that as on February 1, 2026, anyone who has not paid their dues will be dropped from the membership roll. If your dues are paid on or after February 1, your years of service/membership will start over at zero.

I hope everyone has a blessed and Merry Christmas and a beautiful 2026!!

International

Cathy Gipson

Hi! International study is the Caribbean Lands. The Caribbean is a region in the Americas that includes the Caribbean Sea, it's thousands of islands, and coastal areas of Central and South America. Seafood is the favorite food item. International—Cathy Gipson and Co-chair—Judy Bohlmann.

Cultural Enrichment

Cheryl Sample

Hello and Happy Holidays to everyone! I am still basking in the Cultural Enrichment Day success!!! Thanks to everyone that participated. What a great group of entries. If you were in attendance and did not enter, I hope you were inspired for next year. It's not too early to begin thinking about what you might want to try this year. With the new craft club opportunities, I'm sure you will find them inspiring.

For now, let's all remember the Reason for the Season. Happy Holidays to everyone.

First Vice President Message

Sandy Severe

Merry Christmas, ladies!

Are you in the holiday spirit? I'm working on it. Hopefully our 2026 program books will be ready soon and we won't have the issues we have had this past year with location changes and lesson dates rescheduled. Bare with us, we are trying to make it easier.

This is my last year on the board, and I have totally enjoyed it! I will miss it. You have Nora Reed from Patchwork coming aboard and she will do a terrific job. Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Unit News

MT. ZION

Susan Jones

Our November meeting was held at the hall of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Church. Sandy volunteered to help Vicky and I with the dessert sale at the DAV this Friday. Vicky reviewed potential upcoming lessons at both the county and unit level. Brenda Nolan gave a talk on mental health. Barb Brandt discussed Toys for Tots, and several members brought toys for this collection. Barb also provided refreshments.

MAPLE GROVE

Toni Strait

On Wednesday, December 10, Maple Grove will be sharing their holiday spirit with each other. Appetizers and other snacks will be sampled, bringing joy to all. There will also be a gift exchange game where everyone is a winner. Ho Ho Ho!

HICKORY POINT

Janet Feller

In November, we met at East End Grill for our monthly meeting. Roll call was answered by telling our favorite Thanksgiving food. After the pledges, Elaine opened the meeting and discussed the various classes during HCE week. We shared what we learned.

For next year, we talked about taking a date in April for serving desserts at the DAV. Also, we will all take a date or two and plan a monthly meeting place and agenda. For this year's Christmas meeting, we will meet at Marge Kaufman's house for a potluck brunch. We will each donate \$10 to the Ronald McDonald House and exchange goodie bags amongst ourselves.

ROCK SPRINGS

Cathy Burgess

In October, we met at the Legends Restaurant in Monticello. We had 8 members present. Linda Hooze was the hostess. We discussed the Fall Meeting. President Bonnie Lanham collected our updated emergency cards for the office. We made marmalade for the Oglesby Mansion (November 14) at Mari-Mann Herbs. After the meeting, we went inside for a very good lunch. Next, we visited Prairie Fire Glass and several other stores.

In November, we met at the Hall. Eight members were present. Cathy Burgess was our hostess. All of our members have paid their dues. President Bonnie Lanham reported on the Mini District Meeting. Reports on the Board meeting were given. Rock Springs will be working at the DAV on December 19.

OAKLEY- PLEASANT GROVE

Patty Lovecamp

We met in August at the One Stop Diner with Barb Stinson as hostess. Mary Ann Platt, Sally Dennis, and Sandy Severe plan on attending the District Meeting in Springfield. We were informed that all lessons and activities will be at the First Baptist Church starting in September. We discussed International Day. Program ideas and activities were passed out for us to choose for the upcoming year.

Our September meeting was held at the Beach House with Sandy Severe as hostess. Sally Dennis and Sandy Severe had attended the Bacharach Mansion lesson and gave us a report. We discussed what dish our unit would prepare for International Day. We are to sell desserts at the DAV this month and talked about what we might take.

We didn't have an October meeting due to HCE week.

Our November meeting was held at Judy's Kitchen with Shirley Krall as hostess. We talked about the lessons that were attended in October and the Fall Meeting. We were reminded of the State Conference to be held in March and made plans for our December Christmas party which we always enjoy.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/FAMILY ISSUES

Mary Ann Platt

The only thing I have to report is that Linda Hooze and I were honored to present Amber Kaylor, director of Ronald McDonald House, with 57 pillowcases at our fall meeting. Please remember that those tiny pop tabs that we save provide a considerable amount of money for them. Please consider asking any restaurant or bar that you frequent if they would save them for us. Most would be willing to help.

CENTER UNIT REPORT

Mary Lou Poor

Center HCE members met for their monthly meeting at the Christian County Extension Office. There were 13 members present. A delicious lunch was served by our meeting's hostess, Sandy Sample. Volunteer hour sheets were passed out to our members to be completed. Ladies who attended the Macon County meeting discussed the information they received. Christmas party plans were being made for our December meeting. Members brought personal hygiene items to be donated to the Taylorville Food Pantry. 6



EXCITING NEWS FOR THE NEW YEAR!



MCHCE would like to invite you to try one or more of the new clubs we are starting. As a member of MCHCE, there is no additional cost to you unless the activity has a special fee. You are encouraged to bring guests to these events in hopes they will want to become members. Your guest will need to pay \$5.00 each time they go to a club activity. If they are interesting in trying out several of the activities, they may decide it would be cheaper to pay the \$21.00 dues and then pay no more! Following is a list of dates and times that the first meeting will be held for each club. The first meetings will be for thoughts, ideas, dates, organizing, etc. If you are interested in one and cannot attend the organizational meeting, feel free to contact the chairperson. There will be times when two, three, or maybe more clubs will combine for a special activity. We hope to see you at a new MCHCE Club event!

Tuesday, January 6th—10:30 a.m.: Game Club Meeting

Pop's Place; 4335 W Main St. Decatur
Chair—Karen Cahill
217-520-2683

Tuesday, January 6th—11:30 a.m.: Lunch Club Meeting

Pop's Place; 4335 W Main St. Decatur
Chair—Sally Dennis
217-433-0605

As you can see, we are combining these first two club meetings. Feel free to come to one or both that day. In case of bad weather, contact Karen or Sally to see if it is still happening.

Monday, February 9th—11:30 a.m.: Craft Club Meeting

After Valentine's Day Party

First Baptist Church; 1320 W Arbor Dr. Decatur
Chair—Bonnie Lanham
217-454-8746

Friday, February 20th—9:00 a.m.: Needle Arts Club Meeting

CLOVER ROOM at the **EXTENSION OFFICE**
Chair—Cheryl Sample
765-426-1420

Friday, February 27th—10:00 a.m.: Day Trip Club Meeting

ILLINI ROOM at the **EXTENSION OFFICE**
Chair—Gini Smith
217-454-1940

Feel free to contact any of these ladies with your ideas. IF you are planning to attend any of the organizational meetings, it would be nice to let them know you are coming so they have an idea of how many to plan for. Mark your calendars!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Jody Dawson—Hi, my name is Jody Dawson and I'm excited to be the new secretary! I am married to my husband, Tony, for 31 years. We have 2 wonderful boys, a daughter (in-law), and a granddaughter! I'm a retired teacher from Warrensburg Latham Elementary with over 34 years of experience. I'm newly settling into retired life slowly! I enjoy reading, lake life, and love my family and friends!

Nora Reed—I would like to introduce myself. My name is Nora Reed. I am the newly elected First Vice President of the Macon County Chapter of HCE. I was born and raised in Macon County and have been a member of Patchwork for 1 year. I look forward to working with everyone over the next two years. I hope you are all enjoying the holiday season as we will be busy.

Toni Strait—I was born and raised in IN. With marriage came life in different Chicago suburbs for 37 years, and Forsyth for the last 9. I have 2 daughters and a son, with 4 grandchildren. Universities and work in school districts are in the past. I have been a member of Maple Grove for 2 years. I will attempt to replicate Linda Austin's hard work by taking over the newsletter production.

Judi Bohlmann—I am a transplanted Michigander since October 2020. I joined IAHCE and Patchwork in 2021. I enjoy reading and traveling.

Georgette Merrifield—Georgette has been a member of MCHCE since 1993. She lives in Pana and is a part of the Pana unit.

Nora Reed is the new First Vice President replacing Sandy Severe.

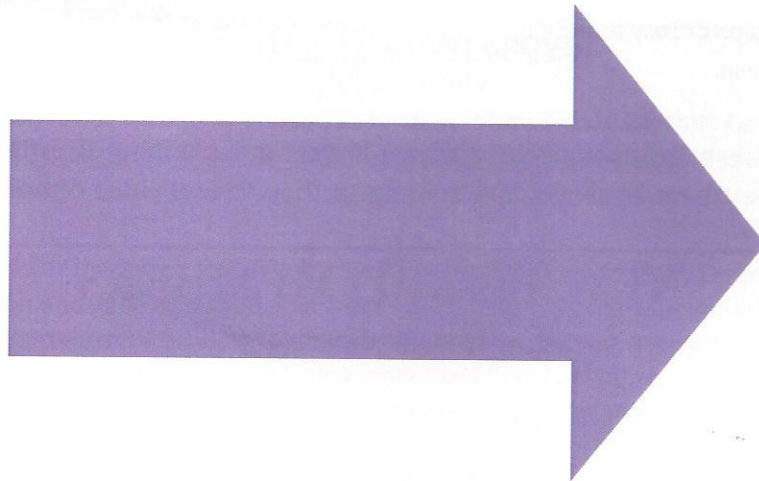
Georgette Merrifield is the new Second Vice President replacing Lyn Stevens.

Jody Dawson is the new Secretary replacing Elaine Hamm.

Judi Bohlmann is the new Co-International replacing Lois Miller.

Toni Strait is the new Public Relations replacing Linda Austin.

**IF YOU WANT TO
GO TO CONFERENCE
PLEASE TEAR AND
FILL OUT THE
FOLLOWING FORM**



**Please be sure to postmark the form by
January 31st, 2026.**

Thank you!

IAHCE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION- MARCH 17-19, 2026

MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 31, 2026 A late fee will be added if not postmarked by that date. PLEASE PRINT

Name (one form per person please) _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip code _____ NEW IAHCE District # _____ County _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Person to contact in emergency _____ Phone (____) _____

Special dietary needs: (circle one) gluten-free diabetic vegetarian dairy

NOTE: This designation will apply to all conference meals.

PLEASE CHECK AND/OR COMPLETE ALL SPACES WHICH APPLY

IAHCE Member _____ 50 year member _____ or more _____ (# of years) Voting Delegate _____

First-time attendee _____ County Board Officer _____ if so, office held _____

Guest _____ Past STATE BOARD member _____ Past STATE PRESIDENT _____

REGISTRATION FEES: PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION

3 Day Package - All meals and registration \$230.00 _____

Full Day (Tuesday or Wednesday) Package - All Meals & registration (Circle: Tues. or Wed.) 150.00 _____

Daytime (Tuesday or Wednesday) Package -Lunch & registration (Circle: Tues. or Wed.) 100.00 _____

Wednesday Elsie Mies Banquet only 75.00 _____

Make-It & Take-It & Share Shops (Pre-registration and payment required; enter total here and indicate your selection(s) on page 2 of this registration form. Assume you will get your 1st choice) _____

T-Shirts - \$25 each ____S ____M ____L ____XL ____XXL ____XXXL _____

Crossbody Bag - \$30.00 each ____ Quantity _____

SUB TOTAL _____

\$50 District Scholarship Certificate won at 2025 District Workshop (SUBTRACT) _____
(Must register for full conference. Certificate must be included with payment)

Late Fee: \$15.00 per person entire conference; \$10.00 per person for Full Day or Daytime _____

Registration is transferable, not refundable. Make check payable to **IAHCE** TOTAL _____

Send payment with Registration and Share Shop forms to:

Melissa Chitwood, 1408 East 2250 North Road, White Heath, IL 61884

2026 SHARE SHOP REGISTRATION

Name _____ County _____

Instructions: Choose the share shop you prefer to attend in each of the time periods by placing 1, 2, 3. (OMITTING the 2nd & 3rd choices WILL NOT ENSURE placement in your 1st choice.)

Share Shops will be filled per registration date.

Send the forms for conference registration and share shop selection registration with your check made out to IAHCE to:

Melissa Chitwood, 1408 East 2250 North Road, White Heath, IL 61884

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

Officer Meetings- 1:15-2:00 p.m.

- ☐ 1. President
- ☐ 2. 2nd Vice President
- ☐ 3. International
- ☐ 4. Cultural Enrichment

2:15 - 3:15 p.m.

- ☐ 5. Oscar Meyer Weinermobile
- ☐ 6. Backyard Herbs
- ☐ 7. 100+ Women Who Care
- ☐ 8. Becoming a Dementia Friend
- ☐ 9. Chair Yoga
- ☐ 10. MITI- Friendship \$7

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

- ☐ 11. History of the Purse
- ☐ 12. Mobile Banking
- ☐ 13. Horticulture Therapy
- ☐ 14. Many Faces of Water
- ☐ 15. Chair Yoga
- ☐ 16. MITI- Dragonfly \$6
- ☐ 17. MITI- Pincushions Free

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

Officer Meetings- 1:45-2:30 p.m.

- ☐ 18. Treasurer/Secretary
- ☐ 19. Public Relations/CVH
- ☐ 20. Family & Community Issues
- ☐ 21. 1st Vice Pres.

2:45 - 3:45 p.m.

- ☐ 22. Volunteer Burnout
- ☐ 23. Wellness in Nature
- ☐ 24. Pickleball 101
- ☐ 25. Mini Massages \$10.00
- ☐ 23. History of Feedsacks
- ☐ 24. MITI - Cutting Boards \$15

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

- ☐ 25. Bubbles and Beads
- ☐ 26. Public Speaking & Parliamentary
- ☐ 27. Cooking with Herbs
- ☐ 28. Fur Real Companionship
- ☐ 29. Mini Massages \$10.00
- ☐ 30. MITI- Succulents \$5.00
- ☐ 31. MITI- Sewn Cards \$6.00

THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH

DISTRICT MEETINGS 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

- ☐ 32. District #1
- ☐ 33. District #2
- ☐ 34. District #3
- ☐ 35. District #4

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

- ☐ 36. Closing Ceremony
- (No other share shops will be offered during this time)

*Classes requiring a fee have been bolded. MITI stands for Make-It, Take-It.

Please add up your total cost for share shops and notate the amount here

\$ _____

I am willing to collect tickets for the following sessions: (write in the session #)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday 1:15-2:00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday 2:15-3:15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday 3:30-4:30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday 1:45-2:30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday 2:45-3:45 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday 4:00-5:00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 8:30-9:30 | |

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

**President**

Liz King 2024
Rock Springs Unit
1615 St. Louis Bridge Road
Decatur, IL 62521
217-450-7076 (Cell)
Esk1@marimann.com

1st Vice President

Nora Reed 2025-2027
Patchwork Unit
12229 Greenswitch Rd.
Maroa, IL 61756
217-433-8945 (Cell)
lenorareed@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President

Georgette Merrifield 2025-2027
Pana Unit
909 Holly St.
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217-562-5548
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Secretary

Jody Dawson 2025-2027
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56 Eastmoreland Ct.
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217-972-2166 (Cell)
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Treasurer

Sally Dennis 2018-2024
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7562 Bonnie Road
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217-433-0605
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Historian

Carol Ropp
Maple Grove Unit
3620 South Taylor Road
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217-855-3339
one4thetrees@comcast.net

**Community Outreach/
Family Issues**

Mary Ann Platt 2018-2024
Pleasant Grove Unit
3614 Harryland Road
Decatur, IL 62521
217-864-2716 (Home)
maryanniea@aol.com

Co-Chair

Linda Hooge
Rock Springs Unit
333 Dawson Road
Decatur, IL 62521
217-855-3060
ywalk333@yahoo.com

Cultural Enrichment

Cheryl Sample 2018-2024
Patchwork Unit
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Maroa, IL 61756
765-426-1420
erskc@aol.com

Co-Internationals

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Rock Springs Unit
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636-628-5580
bevhillbillie10@gmail.com

Judi Bohlmann 2025

Patchwork Unit
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Maroa, IL 61756
989-954-9985
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Public Relations

Linda Austin
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Forsyth, IL 62535
217-521-0401 (Cell)
lindaaustin48@gmail.com

Co-Public Relations

Toni Strait
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Forsyth, IL 62535
815-954-0359 (Cell)
tonia81551@aol.com

CVH

Karen Cahill
Maple Grove Unit
4752 Arbor Court
Decatur, IL 62526
217-520-2683 (Cell)
karencahill@outlook.com

Check out our Websites!

Macon County HCE at

www.mchce.org

IAHCE at

www.iahce.org