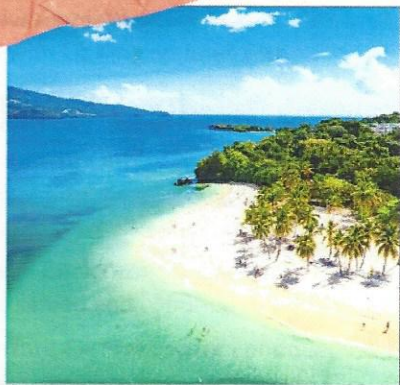


Macon County
September—October 2026

HCE HIGHLIGHTS

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



\$20/person

International Day 2026

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

9:30 - 1:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church

1320 Arbor Dr. | Decatur, IL | 62526



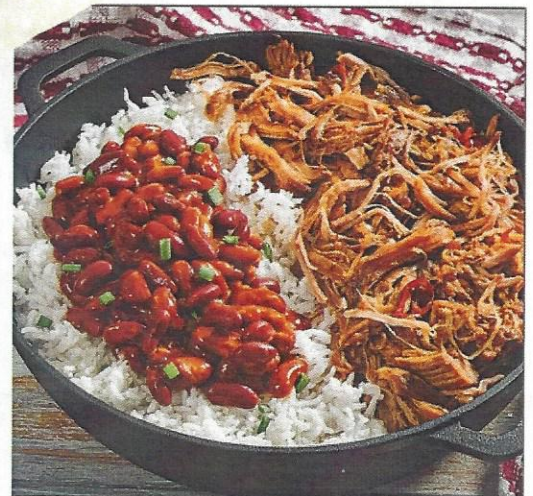
Piatt County HCE will present facts, food, and
experiences from the Dominican Republic.

First Christian Church of Decatur
took a mission trip to the
Dominican Republic, and a
representative will come to
share their experience.



Checks made out
to MCHCE.

Mail checks to
7562 Bonnie Rd.
Dalton City, IL
61925



Reservations are due by
September 9 to Sally Dennis.



Late reservations cost
an additional \$5.

Chef Tucker and the Richland Culinary
Department are preparing lunch
inspired by the cuisine of that region,
including chicken and rice dishes.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 1
RSVP for September Lesson

Tuesday, September 8
DPS Ag Education Center
Lesson
9:30 a.m.
First Baptist Church

Wednesday, September 9
RSVP Reservations due to
Sally Dennis

Monday, September 14
HCE Board Meeting
1:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church

Tuesday, September 15
Newsletter Items Due to Toni
Strait
Tonia81551@aol.com

Wednesday, September 16
International Day
9:30—1:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church

Monday, September 28
Sewing Day
9:30—3:30 p.m.
Ropp's Sewing Center

Monday, October 5
Tri-County Meeting
9:30 a.m.
Vespasian Warner Library

Monday, October 5
RSVP for ALL HCE Week
Lessons

HCE WEEK:
October 12-16
All at First Baptist Church

Monday, October 12
Helpful Household Hacks
9:30 a.m.

Monday, October 12
HCE Board Meeting
1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 13
Cultural Enrichment Day
9:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 15
Economic Development
Corporation Lesson
9:30 a.m.
Taco Salad Bar \$5
12:00 after the Lesson

Thursday, October 15
Decatur Police Department
K9 Presentation
1:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church

Wednesday, October 21
RSVP to Sally Dennis for Fall
Meeting
Checks made out to MCHCE

Monday, October 26
Sewing Day
9:30—3:30 p.m.
Ropp's Sewing Center

Wednesday, October 28
Fall Meeting
11:00—3:00 p.m.
10:30 a.m.—Registration
12:00 p.m.—Lunch
50/50 to Operation Enduring
Support
First Baptist Church



Laughter is Good for the Soul

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst!

A frog decides to visit a fortune teller to find out if he'll ever find his princess. The fortune teller reads his palm and after a few brief moments of contemplation, begins her reading, "I have good news and I have bad news. Which would you like to hear first?" The frog, anxious for the possibility of true love, chooses the good news first. "You are going to meet the most beautiful girl," the fortune teller says. "She's going to be very interested in you and will know everything there is to know about you. You'll open up to her and give her your heart." Pleased, the frog then cautiously asked for the so-called bad news. To this, the fortune teller replies, "You'll meet her in a Biology class."

Mom and son texting:

Son: Mom, where are you?

Mom: Leaving Walmart. Halfway home. Why sweetie?

Son: You brought me to Walmart with you.

Mom: OH DARN!! Be right there in a bit

I went into Dairy Queen the other day and asked for a hot fudge sundae with extra hot fudge. The clerk behind the counter replied, "Sorry. The hot fudge only comes in one temperature."

Yummy Recipes!

Chick-Fil-A Frosted Lemonade (Copycat)
Jennifer Fishkind

Ingredients:

1 1/2 C. freshly squeezed lemon juice (6 large lemons)
1 C. granulated sugar
1 C. VERY cold water
6 C. vanilla bean ice cream
4-5 drops of yellow food coloring (optional)
4 sliced lemons for garnish (optional)

Directions:

Add the lemon juice and sugar to a 7-8 cup blender. Blend at low speed on milkshake/smoothie setting for 30-45 seconds to dissolve and blend the juice and sugar. Keep the mixer at low speed (milkshake/smoothie setting) and drizzle in the VERY cold water. Blend for 10-15 seconds. Add the ice cream to the lemonade. Secure the lid and pulse on low until the ice cream and lemonade are well blended. Pour into glasses and serve immediately.

Orange Roughy
Kroger

Ingredients:

Orange Roughy filet
Butter
Breadcrumbs

Directions (To Broil):

Sprinkle breadcrumbs on top of the filet. Add butter or liquid margarine. Place under broiler for 7—10 minutes, or until breadcrumbs become crisp and deep brown. Do not turn.

Directions (To Bake):

Place filet in baking dish with 1/2" milk. Bake at 325 degrees for 10—12 minutes. Remove from oven, top with breadcrumbs and butter or liquid margarine. Broil additional 3—5 minutes until crumbs become crisp. Do not turn.

Egg Roll In A Bowl
Jennifer Fishkind

Ingredients:

1 1/2 lb. ground beef
1 large onion, diced
1 Tbs. minced garlic
2 Tbs. sesame oil
1/2 C. carrots, peeled and finely shredded
16 oz. coleslaw mix
1/2 Tsp. onion powder
1/2 Tsp. garlic powder
1/2 Tsp. red pepper flakes
1 1/2 Tsp. ground ginger
1/2 C. low sodium soy sauce
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
Chopped green onions (for garnish)

Directions:

Cook ground beef in a deep-sided skillet over medium heat until no longer pink. Keep the pieces larger. Drain grease and return to the stovetop. Add onions and minced garlic and cook until onions are soft. Add all of sesame oil, carrots, and coleslaw mix into skillet. Mix with tongs and cook for about 5 minutes. In a small, separate bowl, combine the onion powder, garlic powder, red pepper flakes, ground ginger, soy sauce, and vegetable oil. Pour over meat and coleslaw mixture. Reduce the heat and continue to cook for 5 minutes, then serve.

*Optional: I sometimes add leftover ground pork, pork cuts, leftover meats you like, or shrimp.—Toni Strait
6 servings, 248 calories

Healthy Oatmeal Breakfast Cookie

Ingredients:

2 C. quick oats
1/2 Tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 Tsp. salt
1/2 C. creamy peanut butter
1/2 Tsp. vanilla extract
2 large ripe bananas, mashed (about 1 1/2 C.)
1/4 C. chocolate chips (can substitute other flavored chips, nuts)

Directions (To Broil):

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients, stirring until well mixed. Drop 2 table-spoons onto the baking sheet. Flatten slightly, forming the shape of a cookie. Bake for 14—17 minutes, or until the edges begin to brown. Remove from the oven and cool. (Makes about 24 cookies).

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

June 8, 2026

Call To Order: President Liz King at 1:37 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Liz King

Homemakers' Aim: Liz King

Joke: Liz King

Roll Call: Jody Dawson

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

Total in Attendance: 11 (Karen Cahill, Jody Dawson, Sally Dennis, Elaine Hamm, Linda Hooe, Liz King, Georgette Merrifield, Carol Ropp, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Vicki Wooten)

Secretary: Minutes of the April and May 2026 meeting were distributed for record. May meeting minutes were approved through email.

Treasurer: Sally Dennis reported a current bank balance of \$8,040.74

Officers' Reports:

1st Vice President: No report, but all upcoming events in our Macon County HCE booklets with Tillamook coming up on May 20th and Herbs with Liz King on June 17th.

2nd Vice President: Georgette reported that she has been working on emails and membership details. We currently have 112 members.

Community Outreach and Family Issues: Linda Hooe and Sandy Severe will be working together on this committee. It was decided to collect pop-tabs at the church in our cabinet, for now. Gini Smith is working on an Honor Flight program for veterans that cannot travel and wondered if we could volunteer with boxed lunches and help at the event. We will discuss more when final details are confirmed.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl reported that Cultural Enrichment Day is October 13th, and the speaker will be Annette Russo. Refreshments will be served and continue to work on entries for the event.

Historian: Carol asked for continued news/photos to be sent to her.

CVH/District 2 Director: Karen is asking for salad and dessert donations for our upcoming Mini District Workshop on June 30th. Let her know if you are able to contribute a salad, dessert, or both. If you have any changes in conference program or ideas for upcoming sessions, let Karen know. She is going to Petersburg next week for preplanning.

Club Updates:

Lunch Bunch: No lunch in July. August 7th at 11:00 a.m. at BB's B.F.E. Bar and Grill in Latham, IL.

Game Day: July 1st and August 12th at the Extension Office at 10:00 a.m. are the next two planned days. Let Karen know if there is a better day of the week/time, since attendance has been low.

Crafts/Needle Arts: Cheryl showed some of the stitches that the Needle Arts Club has been practicing. Contact Cheryl and Bonnie if you plan on attending.

Unfinished Business:

Board Positions for 2027: We currently need a new Treasurer, Cultural Enrichment chair, and Community Outreach chair. Please check with your units to see if anyone will volunteer.

Extension Office Construction Update: Liz will check with Jamie on an update.

June 30th Mini District Workshop: Let Karen know if you can donate salad and/or dessert. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. and lunch at 11:30 a.m.

New Business:

Oglesby Mansion Project: We were asked if we could bake Mary Todd Lincoln's White Almond Cake for the event. We could have each unit make one, or have a baking day and make them together. The recipe was provided. The event is the Christmas Tea Party on Sunday, December 6th from 1:00—4:00 p.m.

July 13th Program Planning Meeting: This will be held at the church at 10:00 a.m. Please bring any ideas and suggestions you have for 2027 lessons.

Cooking with Grandma: Tammy Buse is looking for volunteers. It will be held at the Maroa Public Library on July 17th at 1:00 p.m.

IAHCE 2027 Conference: Carol Ropp is looking for any ideas for the favors that are provided. We have a lot of extra material scraps from pillowcases that we could use to make some gifts.

Volunteer to Rehabilitate the Schaub Floral Center: A member was asking for help to clean up this garden. We discussed checking with the Garden Club.

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

July 13, 2026

Call To Order: President Liz King at 1:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Liz King

Homemakers' Aim: Liz King

Joke: Liz King

Roll Call: Jody Dawson

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

Total in Attendance: 11 (Jody Dawson, Sally Dennis, Elaine Hamm, Liz King, Georgette Merrifield, Carol Ropp, Nora Reed, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Toni Strait, Vicki Wooten)

Secretary: Minutes of the June 2026 meeting were distributed for record and accepted as presented.

Treasurer: Sally Dennis reported a current bank balance of \$8,373.04. A reminder that we are currently looking for a new treasurer to take Sally's place at the next election. Jody made a motion to donate \$150.00 from the Mini Lesson District Workshop to the church and the remaining \$172.00 to go to HCE. Georgette seconded. Motion passed. It was stated that Hickory Point donated \$50 from their DAV sales to the fabric fund.

Officers' Reports:

1st Vice President: Nora read our upcoming events. A sign up sheet went around for the August District 2 workshop in Springfield on August 5th for IAHCE. Registration begins at 9:00 and \$30 needs to be paid to Karen Cahill by July 21.

Georgette made a motion to reschedule the July lesson to the Amish Museum in Arthur due to excessive heat. Sally seconded. Motion passed. Carol asked Gini about moving it to a day trip in September.

2nd Vice President: Georgette reported that she has been working on email and membership details. A reminder to return emergency contact forms to her as well. We currently have 112 members.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl reported that Cultural Enrichment Day is October 13th at 9:30 a.m. and the speaker will be Annette Russo. It was discussed that the board will provide light appetizers/finger foods as refreshments.

Historian: Carol passed around the 2 scholarship entries this year and made a motion to award two \$500 scholarships this year to both very talented and deserving gentlemen. Georgette seconded. Motion passed.

Public Relations: Toni discussed some newsletter hurdles with mailing labels last month and our current time frame to send the newsletter. It was discussed to move the newsletter deadline to the 15th of the month to allow for more time to get it made, printed, mailed, and delivered.

Club Updates:

*Discussion about ideas for more participation-better days of the week, change to quarterly instead of monthly, send a survey to see what people are interested in doing.

Lunch Bunch: August 7th at 11:00 at BB's B.F.E. Bar and Grill in Latham, IL. September 4th will be at Abe's Hideout in Mechanicsburg.

Game Day: August 12th and September 2nd at the Extension Office at 10:00 a.m. are the next two planned days. Let Karen know if there is a better day of the week or time since attendance has been low.

Craft/Needle Arts: Toni shared the exploding book is the craft this month on July 17th. August 21st is craft gift boxes and Friday, September 21st is crafting a hanky wreath.

Unfinished Business:

Board Positions for 2027: We currently need a new treasurer, Cultural Enrichment chair, and Community Outreach chair. Please check with your units to see if anyone will volunteer.

Mini District Workshop follow up: \$322 collected from donation boxes. Good feedback from participants. Directions for a felt heart were distributed and we need members to make some as favors to distribute at the state conference.

MCHCE Website: Liz has been in contact with Carolyn to revamp our website to make it more user friendly and secure. Once she has a quote for it, she will bring it to the board. It will be similar to the McLean Co. HCE website.

Lessons for 2027: The planning meeting went well and Nora will put the ideas in the newsletter for a vote.

New Business:

IAHCE District Workshop: RSVP with \$30 to Karen Cahill. We will be taking our pop tab collection. Macon County is asked to donate coffee creamer—Sally volunteered to pick some up at Sam's.

Fall Events for Newsletter: Try to get any events into the newsletter as early as possible especially for HCE week and International Day.

Fall Meeting: Our Fall Meeting is October 28th with Da Burgs Bar & Catering and Kemmerer Village in Assumption as our guest speaker. It was discussed to order pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, and green beans. Carol made a motion to charge \$20 for the catered lunch. Sally seconded. Motion passed.

Tablescapes: Liz presented a program that is a fundraiser for the Garden Club titled "Tablescapes". It takes place on October 3rd at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We would like to decorate a table in honor of HCE using the table cloth that the Rock Springs unit made. We need four luncheon sets, dried or fresh flowers on the table, and any other decorations we decide. Possible themes for the table could be HCE or fall. Start thinking of ideas. We will need 2 members to be at the event to promote our table and organization.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Dawson

Officer's Reports

PRESIDENT

Liz King

Hello MCHCE Members and Friends,

It sure has been a hot summer! I stayed home—safe and cool—on July 4th, but I enjoyed watching the TV coverage of America 250 celebrations across the U.S.. We are truly blessed to live in a beautiful, proud, and free country like the United States. I know we don't always agree on politics or policy, but the freedoms we enjoy are not seen in most countries of the world, and for that, we should all be very thankful.

We regretted having to postpone the trip to the Amish Heritage Center, but it was just too uncomfortable so it will be rescheduled in cooler weather.

Make your reservations now for Fall Meeting on October 28 at the First Baptist Church (1320 Arbor Dr. in Decatur, IL). HCE week is quickly approaching, which will include a new event—Cultural Enrichment Day—separated from the Fall Meeting. Cheryl will share details about the event. Membership has increased a bit this year, but we always need additional members.

We need current members to volunteer for board positions! I feel like we're beating the same drum every year looking for talented and willing members to serve on the county board. Leaders are needed to organize cultural enrichment, further our community outreach, and manage the treasury. Service to the HCE community is a big part of the responsibility of MCHCE Board Members, so don't wait to be asked. Your HCE friends might not know your interest or talent for a particular position.

We have been asked to collaborate with the Governor Oglesby Mansion & Museum to prepare Mary Todd Lincoln's Almond Cake for their Christmas Tea on Sunday, December 6, 2026. The First Ladies lesson on November 18 will showcase the dessert so we can sample the recipe. Volunteers are needed to prepare cakes. This can be a project for individual members or as a unit. Let me know if you're interested in helping.

On October 3, we are participating in the Tablescapes event held by The Garden Club of Decatur, their semi-annual fundraiser. Details are included in this newsletter for ways you can participate.

And finally, we need your input. There are some questions printed in the newsletter that we want you to answer. We're planning events, lessons, and activities for 2027, so watch for the ballot in the next newsletter. Your opinions are needed and appreciated!

Thank you for all you do!

Your Grateful President—Liz King.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Nora Reed

Hello everyone! I, for one am enjoying the lazy summer days. I hope you are too!

- September 8—RCC Ag Education Center lesson at 9:30 a.m. at the church.
- September 9—RSVP for International Day.
- September 19—International Day from 9:00—2:00 p.m. at the church.
- October 5—RSVP for HCE Week. (All events are at First Baptist Church in Decatur).
- HCE WEEK—October 12-16
 - Monday—Household Hints—9:30 a.m.
 - Tuesday—Cultural Enrichment Day—9:30 a.m.
 - Thursday—Andrew Taylor from the Economic Development Corporation will join us—9:30 a.m.
 - Thursday—\$5 Taco Bar—12:00 p.m.
 - Thursday—Decatur Police Department K-9 Presentation—1:30 p.m.
- November 18—First Ladies of the U.S. lesson at 9:30 a.m.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Cheryl Sample

As I write this, we are still "enjoying" the heat. Hopefully by now, the weather is beginning to cool. Fair season was hot, but I enjoyed the variety of projects. It seems many young people use Amazon for their needed supplies. I heard that response often when I asked where they purchased their needed supplies.

SAVE THE DATE—OCTOBER 13, 2026

This is the day for our Cultural Enrichment exhibits and judging. The day will begin at 9 a.m. with check-in of your projects. A new form has been designed! Every project will require a separate entry form. I think this will make check-in much easier for you and the volunteers accepting your projects. Included in this newsletter, you will find a sheet listing the categories and a second to use as your entry form. Please have the entry form completed before you arrive. You will receive a receipt for each entry. This will need to be shown when items are returned.

Unit News

MT. ZION

Susan Jones

The Mt. Zion unit met in June at the hall of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit. Karen Cahill was a guest speaker. Some topics covered included her history with HCE, volunteer hours, the Friendship Project Fund, and the Kindness Hearts project. Our roll call was done via a show and tell, with many interesting items displayed. A sign-up sheet was passed around for donations of dessert to be sold at the DAV on July 24th. Upcoming meetings were covered.

PANA

Carolyn Barnett

Our May meeting lesson was given by Louise Shippy-Rouse on the history of Tillamook Creamery. She has visited the Oregon tourist attraction numerous times. We enjoyed samples of a variety of cheeses produced by Tillamook. The company recently built a new facility here in Decatur.

In June, we toured AAMP (Autistic and Movement Program). They help train special needs individuals to enjoy a more meaningful life. Following the tour, we had lunch at Curly Girls, then made up hygiene bags to donate to our local food pantry.

We plan an informal get-together at Angelos in Taylorville.

HICKORY POINT

Janet Feller

Our Hickory Point unit celebrated Merrill Dees at our meeting today. She turned 100 on August 2. (She is our second 100 year old unit member, as Erma Ragle turned 100 on February 26). Merrill is a 35 year MCHCE member!



ROCK SPRINGS

Cathy Burgess

The June Rock Springs meeting was held at Panera Bread. We had 12 members present and one guest, Lauren VanZant. Linda Hooge was the hostess. Lyn Stevens won the hostess gift of homemade strawberry jam. YUMMY! President Bonnie Lanham called the meeting to order and entertained us with some cute antidotes. Donna Washburn purchased the fans we voted to buy and will deliver them to the Senior Center. Liz King reported on the county board meeting and told us the Ogelsby Mansion has again asked if HCE would help with their Christmas Tea by baking Mary Todd Lincoln's White Almond Cake. Members of our unit will bake the cake and present it at the November 18th lesson on The First Ladies. After our meeting, we ordered lunch and enjoyed visiting with each other.

Bonnie Lanham was the hostess for our July meeting. She fixed and served us a delicious lunch. We had 8 members present. Linda Nolan won the hostess gift. After Bonnie called the meeting to order, she told some jokes and read "The Great Truths About Growing Old". Most of us could relate. Bonnie also told us that MetLife Insurance Company had sent her a letter. They had planted a tree in Florida in remembrance of her brother. We were all impressed having never heard of such a thing before. Lyn Stevens talked about her visit with Sue Miller, a long-time member living at a care home in Springfield. It was a nice visit and Sue said to tell everyone hello. Our unit made plans to meet and car-pool for the Amish Museum lesson. Liz King reported that HCE units are being asked to make IAHCE Kindness Hearts for the conference next March. They are made from felt with a little fiberfill inside and can be embellished. We got to see the embroidered tablecloth that members of our unit finished. It was suggested that it be used to create a Tablescape at the Garden Club event with the possibility of putting it up for sale after the event is over. Liz will present the idea at the next board meeting. We will be at the Sunrise Café for our August meeting.

INTERNATIONAL

Judi Bohlmann

Puerto Rican women writers have shaped literature by addressing a variety of themes such as identity, social justice, migration, and gender. Their works range genres from memoirs and novels to poetry, essays, and dramas. All their works reflect the island's cultural and experiences. These writers are a vital part of the Puerto Rican literary community.

Unit News

CVH
Karen Cahill

I hope you have been keeping track of your volunteer hours. Before you know it, it will be time for me to collect them. I'll have forms available at the Fall Meeting. Remember to count HCE hours **PLUS** Other volunteer hours.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Karen Cahill—217-520-2683

DISTRICT 2 / STATE NEWS

Karen Cahill

A few weeks ago, Sally Dennis and I joined over 20 other IAHC members in the Wisconsin Dells for the National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON) Conference. It was a great time meeting ladies from our nine other "sister states". We enjoyed a ride on the famous Dell Ducks, heard several inspirational speakers, learned how to chain paint, and cheered on the election of Angela Hicks and Melissa Chitwood as they joined Carol Harms on the NVON Board. Go IL! Next year, we will travel to Mountain View, Arkansas. I hope you will consider joining us. It's a lot of fun!!! Remember, you ARE members of NVON.

The next District 2 Mini Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 5th at The First Baptist Church from 11:00—3:00 p.m. Please consider joining us as you meet and interact with ladies from our district. We have fun, eat great food :), hear the newest updates from the state, and learn new things. Come join us!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/FAMILY ISSUES

Linda Hooge

On July 27th, 54 pillowcases were made at Ropp's Sewing Center. With the pillowcases I had on hand from May, that gives us a total of 182! I have the following to deliver:

Dove—40 pillowcases

Webster Cantrell Hall—70 pillowcases

Ronald McDonald—72 pillowcases

This is such a wonderful contribution to our community. Thanks to all of the ladies who make this possible!

PATCHWORK

Karen Halicki

The Tuesday, June 16th meeting was held at Bistro Five Thirty-Seven at Richland Community College. This was a fun time for their staff to take orders and get the right one to the customer. She was in luck, as we all ordered the same thing: Pub Burger and Newlywed Cupcake. We talked about the lesson from Mike Sagoski from Tillamook. It started in Oregon and they built a boat to get the product to market faster. They have received several awards for their cheese. We got to sample Cookies and Cream, Chocolate Mudslide, and French Vanilla. We also got to try cheese that was 10 months old, and another that was 12 years old. The older the better. They sell it at Kroger along with their yogurt and cream cheese. I received a coupon, so I stopped on my way home for their Butter Pecan. Later, I picked up vanilla and a mudslide that were on sale that day.

On July 21st, we met at Early on Main in Maroa. We invited our sewing group from our library and a few extras. Good time! We were hoping to talk about The Living History Farm and Amish museum, but this was canceled due to heat. Hoping to attend when the Day Trip Club has it.

Several members attended Herbs with Liz King out at Mari-Mann. They reported learning about adding herbs to our meals and enjoyed the herb dip and drink.

Four members attended the Needle Arts Club with Cheryl Sample. They are learning new stitches.

Next month, August 17th, we are meeting on Monday at Da Burgs Bar and Grill in Warrensburg for a noon meeting.

MAPLE GROVE

Carol Ropp

Maple Grove was on the go in June and July! We went to Clinton and visited the C.H. Moore Homestead in June. The home was built in the 1800s and had several unique features. The Homestead was having a quilt show with the America 250 theme. There were many beautiful displays of patriotism and symbols of America. After the tour, we went to lunch at Early on Main in Maroa.

Our July trip was back to Clinton to visit Andy and Steve who own Leading Men Fiber Arts on the square. Andy told us about how they had started with their idea of dying their own yarns to sell in a store. Steve took us next door to show us how he dyes the yarn. We met the resident Labradoodle, Stash, who is very welcoming and anxious to be petted! It's worth the trip to visit this store, even if you don't do needle crafts! We must be creatures of habit because we returned to Early on Main for lunch.

OAKLEY-PLEASANT GROVE

Mary Ann Platt

We met in April at One Stop Diner. We were reminded of the Spring Meeting on the 29th. We also discussed the bus trip to Peoria in June.

In May, we met at the Daily News. We discussed the Spring Meeting. Everyone enjoyed both the speaker and the meal. The ones that had attended the Little Theater Tour reported that it was great.

In June, we met at Crawford's Pizza. We enjoyed helping Alice Bray celebrate her 99th birthday with cake and cards! We learned that the Peoria bus trip will now be by carpooling. Sally and Sandy reported on the Tillamook lesson. They definitely enjoyed the ice cream and cheese!

In July, we met at The Wagon. We learned that material is needed for pillowcases. We were reminded of the District Workshop in Springfield on August 5th. We were given dates and times of upcoming activities.

Tablescapes—Set to Inspire!

MCHCE has decided to participate this year with a table set for a 'HCE Ladies Magical Luncheon' to promote HCE to visitors of the event. The décor will feature the tablecloth that the Rock Springs Unit made, and the many talents of members. If you enjoy flower arranging or have table settings and accessories you would allow us to use for the day, reach out to me for more details. There is no fee to participate, but visitors must buy tickets.

What is Tablescapes? Browse 50+ stunning tablescapes designed by local businesses, organizations, individuals, and Garden Club members. Each table is uniquely decorated and sure to inspire! Judges and guests choose their favorite designs.

While You're There, Enjoy the Following:

The Garden Club Boutique, featuring handcrafted items created by their members

Delicious homemade cookies

A Flower Bar where you can create your own fresh floral arrangement

Proceeds from this event help fund more than a dozen beautification projects throughout the Macon County area, making our community an even more beautiful place to live.

Date: Saturday, October 3 from 9 a. m. —3 p. m.

Purchase Tickets: Available from any Garden Club member, or by calling Sue at (217)–433–5824.

CULTURAL ARTS SHOW CATEGORIES

- 100 Artwork (Charcoal, Oil, Acrylic, or Watercolor)
- 200 Counted Cross Stitch
- 300 Crafts (Wood, etc.)
- 400 Crochet Afghans
- 500 Crochet—Other
- 600 Hand Embroidery
- 700 Quilt—Hand or machine pieced and hand quilted by HCE member
- 800 Heritage Needlework (Silk, Ribbon, Hardanger, Tatting, etc.)
- 900 Jewelry (Handmade)
- 1000 Knit Afghans
- 1100 Knit—Other
- 1200 Machine Embroidery
- 1300 Quilt—Machine pieced and machine quilted by HCE member
- 1400 Nature Items (Anything made of natural things, wheat, corn husk, etc.)
- 1500 Photography
- 1600 Quilt, hand or machine pieced by HCE member and quilted by non-HCE member
- 1700 Quilted—Other (Anything quilted that ISN'T a quilt, i.e., wall hanging, table runner, placemat, etc.)
- 1800 Recycled
- 1900 Scrapbooking (Up to 4 pages total, front and back, in 2 plastic sleeves) and Cardmaking
- 2000 Home Décor—Wall hanging, rug, any item artistically satisfying for the home—NO QUILTED ITEMS
- 2100 Wearable Art (Any technique applied to purchased or self-made item)
- 2200 Holiday Theme—ANY holiday item, NO QUILTED ITEMS
- 2300 Current Annual Conference Theme or Country of Study
- 2400 Sewing

NOTE: Above size maximums are 24 INCHES including matting and frame or can be folded to 24 INCHES square except quilts.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT FINE ARTS &

CRAFT FAIR ENTRY FORM

OCTOBER 2026

NAME: _____ UNIT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CATEGORY: _____

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM:

CIRCLE ONE: ENTRY *DISPLAY ONLY*

JUDGES COMMENTS:

AWARD EARNED: STATE ALTERNATE STATE PARTICIPATION

POSSIBLE PROGRAMS FOR 2027

Please vote for no more than 10 programs which are of interest to you next year. If you vote for a program, PLEASE make every effort to attend it. When you have completed your choices, give this to your unit president or bring mail the ballot to Macon County HCE, 3351 N. President Howard Brown Blvd., Decatur, IL 62521 by Wednesday, September 16th (International Day). You may also bring it that day.

Attendance has not been good for the Crafts, Games, and Needle Arts Clubs. It has been suggested that these don't meet every month. Instead, these would meet three to four times a year. Please check the club(s) you would be interested in attending.

____ Crafts— Bonnie Lanhām

____ Games— Karen Cahill

____ Needle Arts— Cheryl Sample

Programs offered for 2027

____ 1. Pawprint Ministries— This organization pays visits to comfort those who have or are experiencing stress or other challenges. Find out what's involved in Comfort Dog Team visits.

____ 2. Scovill Senior Center— Presented by Micky McNoughton from the Decatur Park District, will talk about the plans for the new facility that is being built.

____ 3. Using Puff Pastry— Learn lots of new uses for puff pastry and how it can make mealtime easier.

____ 4. Make Your Own Salad Dressing— Did you ever want to stop buying commercial salad dressing? We'll learn about how to make our own at home!

____ 5. Types of Fabric and How to Care for Them— We will look at our clothing labels and learn about some of the new fabrics and how to care for them.

____ 6. Good Bugs That Get Bad Names— Ken Johnson from the Macon County Conservation District will tell us all about some great garden helpers.

____ 7. Wellness in Nature— Cheri Burcham from the U of I Extension Service will help us learn more about the good plants in nature.

____ 8. The History of IAHCE— Come and learn where and why IAHCE was started and how it has grown since it began.

____ 9. The History of the American Revolution— Presented by Don Chamberlain. Don has done several of these historical subjects before and is very entertaining, as well as informative.

POSSIBLE PROGRAMS FOR 2027 (CONT.)

____ 10. DPS Ag Center— Zach Shields will tell us about the new ag programs being offered to DPS high school students.

____ 11. Superfoods— Presented by Cheri Burcham of the U of I Extension Service. We'll learn about foods that are exceptionally good for us.

____ 12. Economic Development Corporation— Presented by Andrew Taylor. Andrew will tell us about the new businesses and industries that have been built in Decatur and Macon County since last year.

____ 13. The Heart of Illinois Community Foundation— This foundation has distributed several million dollars since its inception. We'll hear about the opportunities generous families, individuals, companies, and non-profits can make their charitable dollars go the furthest.

____ 14. Making My Home Healthy— Presented by Cheri Burcham from the Illinois Extension Service.

____ 15. Heinkel Packing Company— We'll hear about the history of this long-standing local company.

____ 16. All Day Craft Extravaganza— Come for a fun day of crafts and socializing with your friends!

U of I Extension Programs

____ 17. What to Eat When You Can't Eat That.

____ 18. Communicating with Individuals with Dementia.

____ 19. Understanding the Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences.

____ 20. Happy Hacks for More Positivity and Improved Well Being.

____ 21. Inflation: How it Affects a Fixed-Income Budget.

Please list programs or interest groups you would like to suggest for 2028: (If you suggest an interest group, you need to be willing to be the chair, or know someone who can be).

PRESIDENT NOTE—LIZ KING

MCHCE needs YOUR feedback...

We have a few questions, and your answers can really help your Macon County Board make decisions that best suit the membership. We would like to hear your feedback. There are no bad suggestions, no bad answers, and no bad questions. We are here for you and want to offer tools to make your participation easier and more fulfilling.

1. How often do you look at our website www.mchce.org? What do you use it for—lessons, contact information, or reading past newsletters? How could we make the website more user friendly? Would you use it more frequently?
2. Hopefully you refer to these newsletters for information about events and lessons, but would you like to receive email updates along with the newsletter?
3. The new Clubs have received mixed participation. What would make you more likely to participate? Maybe meeting on a different day or time? Maybe different topics you would find more appealing?



FALL MEETING

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH | 1320 ARBOR DR. | DECATUR, IL

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 28 | 11 - 3 P.M.

\$20 / PERSON

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 10:30 A.M.

LUNCH @ NOON FROM DA BURG BAR & GRILL
PULLED PORK | GREEN BEANS | POTATO SALAD | DESSERT

SPEAKER FROM KEMMERER VILLAGE IN ASSUMPTION

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF MACON COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

RESERVATIONS DUE BY OCTOBER 21 TO SALLY DENNIS
(LATE RESERVATIONS COST AN ADDITIONAL \$5)

CHECKS MADE OUT TO MCHCE
7562 BONNIE RD. | DALTON CITY, IL | 61925

CLUB NEWS

Please remember to RSVP to the designated Chairperson if you will be attending these clubs.

Unit Presidents will have information regarding clubs as some club meetings will fall in between receiving your newsletters.

GAME CLUB MEETING — RSVP To Karen

Chair: Karen Cahill

217-520-2683

Mark your calendars for the following dates to join us for fun and fellowship as we play some old and new games. We will be at the Extension Office unless I let you know differently.

Wednesday, September 2

Wednesday, October 7

Wednesday, November 4

Wednesday, December 2

Come join us and bring a friend!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

LUNCH CLUB MEETING — RSVP To Sally

Chair: Sally Dennis

217-433-0605

Friday, September 4—Abe's Hideout in Mechanicsburg

Friday, October 2—Arches Brew & Pizza in Findlay

Friday, November 6—Mystery Outing

We need to be at restaurants by 11 a.m. to beat their crowds. If you are carpooling, you should likely start at 10 a.m.

CRAFT CLUB MEETING — RSVP To Bonnie

Chair: Bonnie Lanham

217-454-8746

Friday, September 18—Hanky wreaths | 11:30—1:30 p.m. | Illinois Extension Office

Friday, October 16—TBD | 11:30—1:30 p.m. | Illinois Extension Office

Let Bonnie know if there is a craft or art idea you would like to make, or one you can teach.

NEEDLE ARTS CLUB MEETING — RSVP To Cheryl

Chair: Cheryl Sample

765-426-1420

Friday, September 18 | 9:00—11:00 | Illinois Extension Office

Friday, October 16 | 9:00—11:00 | Illinois Extension Office

CLUB NEWS

(cont.)

DAY TRIP CLUB MEETING— RSVP To Gini

Chair: Gini Smith

217-454-1940

September (TBD) - Library Crawl starting at the Decatur Public Library

Get a passport to be stamped at area libraries you spend time visiting. Learn about the numerous resources available that can be accessed with your library card.

DEADLINE FOR DUES

Sunday, November 1st

Dues of \$21 made out to MCHCE

Mail to Sally Dennis

7562 Bonnie Rd.

Dalton City, IL 61925



REMINDER!

A Moment to Reflect (In Memory of Dolly Parton)

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."

- Dolly Parton

"Find out who you are, and do it on purpose."

- Dolly Parton

"Dreams are of no value unless they're equipped with wings."

- Dolly Parton

"If you're feeling low, don't despair. The sun has a sinking spell every night, but it still comes back up every morning."

- Dolly Parton

"My weaknesses have always been food and men—in that order."

- Dolly Parton

"When I wake up, I expect things to be good. If they're not, then I try to set about trying to make them as good as I can 'cause I know I'm gonna have to live that day anyway. So why not try to make the most of it if you can?"

- Dolly Parton

"The magic is inside you, there ain't no crystal ball."

- Dolly Parton

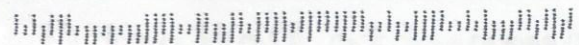
Macon County Association for
Home & Community Education
3351 N. Pres. Howard Brown Blvd.
Decatur, Illinois 62521

SPRINGFIELD IL 625

3 SEP 2026 AM 2 L



62526-137290



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CVH

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Check out our Websites!

Macon County HCE at

www.mchce.org

IAHCE at

www.iahce.org