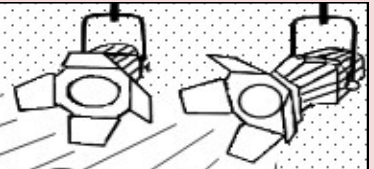


Macon County

**HCE
HIGHLIGHTS**



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

In Loving Memory

We are sad to report that Macon County recently had two more members pass away. Both were active members and enjoyed being a part of MCHCE. They will be greatly missed.

LaVerne White was a member of the Mt. Zion Unit for many years. She was almost as good a cheerleader for HCE as Anna Belle. She held several county offices over the years, and could always be depended upon to help with any project.

LaVerne had been in the nursing home for the last several years, but she continued as a Mail Box member.

Dodie Luker

Macon County HCE lost another member April 1, 2016. Although Delores (Dodie) Luker didn't join us until 2010, she participated in many of our activities. She had attended many lessons and had gone to Springfield to prepare food at the Ronald McDonald House. Dodie helped prepare the lunch for the Master Gardeners' Gardening Insights February 27th. She was a member of the Mt. Zion unit. We appreciate her friendship and will miss her very much.

UPCOMING LESSONS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

We have some interesting and exciting lessons coming up this spring. Spring is all about getting outdoors and enjoying nature, gardening and sunshine. Get these on your calendar NOW! Wednesday, April 27, “Basic Bucket Gardens” learn how simple it is to create these portable gardens with Extension's own Jennifer Nelson. RSVP by Friday, April 22.

The May lesson, on the 26th will have us treating ourselves to super healthy foods – maybe we can even grow some of them in another bucket garden! This lesson is given by Extension's Caitlin Huth. Both lessons are at 9:30 a.m.

In June, we will meet at 9:30 a.m. at **The Garden Path**, 3838 E. Lost Bridge Road for some landscaping tips from Rich Starshak. Bring a lawn chair if you need to sit for a brief presentation, after which we will enjoy a stroll through their gardens.

PLEASE remember to RSVP for all lessons! And, as a courtesy, let us know if you've had a change of plans and can't make it. Thank you!

Don't forget to bring pop tabs, greeting cards, wish lists for Child 1st. to the Spring Meeting.

The Spring Meeting is on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, please RSVP to Pam Walker.



Upcoming Events

April

Friday, April 22, 2016

RSVP for April Lesson

RSVP for Spring Meeting to Pam Walker

Lunch \$10.50

Monday, April 25, 2016

Pillowcase Sewing Day

Extension Office - Clover Room

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Basic Bucket Gardens

Presented by Jennifer Schultz-Nelson

9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Extension Office - Clover Room

May

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Set-up for Spring Meeting

Extension Office - Illini Room 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Spring Meeting

9:00 a.m. registration

9:30 a.m. meeting

Extension Office - Illini Room

Monday, May 9, 2016

1:00 p.m. HCE Board Meeting

Extension Office - Clover Room

Friday, May 20, 2016

RSVP for May Lesson

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Superfoods to the Rescue

9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Presented by Caitlin Huth

Extension Office - Clover Room

Monday, May 30, 2016

Extension Office Closed

June

Friday, June 3, 2016

RSVP for June Lesson

Monday, June 6, 2016

Tri-County Meeting

Piatt County Extension Office

9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Monday, June 6, 2016

Municipal Band Concert Bake Sale in Central Park

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Backyard Landscape - The Garden Path

3838 E. Lost Bridge Rd.

Presented by Rich Starshak

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.



Bake Sales

A little reminder: We will be having three bake sales at the Municipal Band Concerts in Central Park this summer. Mark your calendars now for getting those delicious cookies, etc. to us for **Monday, June 6, Monday, June 20, and Monday, July 18.** Please have your items bagged and ready to sell. We put two large or three small cookies in a baggie. All items sell for \$1.00 a bag. Remember that our profits support our scholarship program

Gardening Gigue:



Two older ladies were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress. One leaned over and said, "Life is so boring. We never have any fun anymore. For \$5.00 I'd take my clothes off right now and streak through that stupid flower show!" "You're on!" said the other old lady, holding up a \$5.00 bill. As fast as she could, the first little old lady fumbled her way out of her clothes and, completely naked, streaked through the front door of the flower show. Waiting outside, her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause. The naked lady burst out through the door surrounded by a cheering crowd. "What happened?" asked her waiting friend. "Why, I won first prize for Best Dried Arrangement."

MORE River Trivia



Keep on Rollin' on the River with the Illinois and Macon County HCE!

The **Illinois River** is an important tributary of the Mississippi and is about 272 miles long. The river begins in northeastern Illinois, near the city of Joliet. It flows west across Illinois, then southwest, passing the city of Peoria, the largest city on the river. It flows into southwestern Illinois joining the Mississippi River about 25 miles north of Saint Louis, Missouri. The Ojibwa Indian word *misi-ziibi*, meaning "big river," gave the Mighty Mississippi its name. The river was used for transportation by the Native Americans, and also by early French trappers. It was an important route between the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes. In the 19th century a canal was built that connected the river to Lake Michigan, through the city of Chicago, contributing to its growth. Large ships still use this canal today to travel from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River and New Orleans.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Co-President

Karen Cahill and Carol Ropp



Eleven members from Macon County enjoyed their three days in East Peoria at this year's conference. It was good to meet up with old friends and make some new friends. We enjoyed interesting speakers, learned a

lot from the Share Shops, had plenty to eat, and came home healthier from all the laughter. We were so pleased to win ten awards including second place as County of the Year. Consider joining the fun next year. We will be in East Peoria again.



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Education book winners -

- ***Sandy Severe** – 2nd Vice President – for events and activities used to gain interest in HCE
- ***Mary Kay Ennis** - Family Issues – for bullying and flag etiquette programs
- ***Mary Ann Platt** – Community Outreach – for the Ronald McDonald House projects
- ***Sally Dennis** – Cultural Enrichment - for history of quilts program
- ***Emily Chamberlain** – International – for our Baltic States country of study program
- ***Ann Adkesson- Linda Austin** – Co-Public Relations- for the variety of HCE activities aimed at educating the public about the value of HCE during HCE Week
- ***Mary Ann Platt**- CVH director- for the District 5 county with the highest percentage of members who submitted volunteer hours (75%)

Other winners:

Best of Show awards went to:

- ***Sally Dennis** – Yo-Yo flag in Cultural Enrichment
- ***Estaleen Earthal** – quilted table runner
- ***Macon County members** – 2nd place as County of the Year!!!!!!

We appreciate the time and effort all of you devote to our organization to make it such a great group!

Co-1st Vice President

Anna Belle Farrell and Linda Hooge

The ladies that attended the February Lesson "Self Defense Tactics for Women" learned many tips on how to protect

themselves from becoming a victim.

These are the tips given by Officers Thompson and Pope:

- Use common sense when out in public, especially at night.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Stay out of unfamiliar areas and alleys.
- Park in well-lit areas. Use secured parking lots when possible.
- Walk with another person or a group – safety in numbers.
- Walk with a purpose – don't act like you are afraid.
- Don't run or be in an excessive hurry as if you are fearful.
- If you leave your purse or valuables in a car, lock them in the trunk or out of sight.
- If you have your purse with you and you are challenged for it or someone tries to take it, it is better to let it be taken than to fight for it and be hurt.
- Instead of using pepper spray, carry a whistle with you. People trying to hurt you don't like loud noise that brings attention.
- If you need help, yell fire instead of help or rape. People are more apt to take notice if there is the possibility of a fire.
- When you travel away from home, ask your neighbors to keep an eye on your property.
- When you are out, carry a minimum amount of cash with you and only 1-2 credit cards.
- Carry your cell phone on you in case you need to call for help.
- If your credit card has the new swipe chip, use a card protector so you can't be scanned for your card number.
- When driving and a police car wants you to pull over, it is advised to turn on your flashers and continue to drive to a well-lit area before pulling over. You can call 911 to verify with the police the legitimacy of the stop.
- If your child has called the police because you smacked them, the police can tell if it is abuse. Don't let your kids intimidate you by threatening to turn you in for punishing them.

The March Lesson taught by Sharon Middleton was very interesting and fun, too. All the ladies took home a necklace that she made her own Zentangle design on. Sharon did a great job showing everyone how to turn a paper doodle into art.



April 27th, the lesson will be "Basic Bucket Gardens" and May 26th, "Superfoods to the Rescue". You won't want to miss these lessons.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Second Vice President's Report

Sandy Severe

Happy Belated Easter!

Those of you who did not attend the conference in Peoria in March missed a really great time. Great lessons, wonderful fellowship and a beautiful hotel by the river.

I'm making my usual PLEA for all of you to work on NEW MEMBERS! We need to get those numbers rolling upward. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the July membership drive and lesson on Saturday, July 23, 2016 at the Extension office. Please, please bring guests to this fun event, "Christmas in July." On a sadder note, our Mt. Zion unit member Delores (Dodie) Lucker passed away on April 1, 2016. Our thoughts are with her family. Also, don't forget the Maker Faire and the Bread Monk events coming up this month.

Community Outreach

Mary Ann Platt

One of the agencies we have selected to help this year is the Macon County Child Advocacy Center, which helps children who have been victims of abuse. The center is a safe, child-friendly place for trained staff members to provide assistance and support, crisis intervention, help obtain medical care, counseling and legal advocacy. This agency has been serving children in Macon County since 1999.

HCE has previously collected supplies to enhance their limited budget. We will again collect items for this agency at our Spring Meeting on May 4. The needed items are:

- 4.7 GB DVR-R discs
- Water
- Juice boxes
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Gasoline or VISA gift cards
- Cleaning supplies
- Paper products (towels, toilet paper, tissues, wet wipes)

According to an article in the April 12 Herald & Review, the agency has just moved to a new location at 600 E. Clay, and will change its name to the "Child 1st Center", which will become its official name at an Open House ceremony on April 28. This will help to distinguish it from other agencies serving children in Decatur and Macon County, according to director Jean Moore.

For more information about Child 1st, please visit their website at www.mccac.org, and don't forget to bring your donations to the Spring Meeting! THANK YOU! Other News – We made 38 pillowcases at the February sewing day. Please come help us make even more on Monday, April 25, 2016.

Macon County HCE had 75% of its membership turn in their Volunteer Hours report for 2015. We all know that EVERYONE VOLUNTEERS someday, sometime. Please keep track of your hours, even if you don't think it's "enough". It IS enough, and we want to get 100% of our membership reporting for 2016!

Family Issues

Mary Kay Ennis

March and the beginning of April have certainly been windy days. If you have an American flag that you've been displaying outside, it is probably tattered like mine. Please bring your tattered flags, that are no longer a fitting emblem for display, to the Spring meeting where I will collect them. When it is Flag Day in June, the tattered flags will be properly burned by the Boy Scouts of America. I have been told the ceremony is very touching. Perhaps we could arrange for a group of us to go see the ceremony on June 14, as it is performed by the troop in Mt. Zion. I will give further details as the time approaches. Thank you for honoring our flag in this way.

International

Emily Chamberlain

Macon and Piatt County will be holding our annual International Day Event on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Illini and Clover Rooms at the Macon County Extension Office. Macon County will be this year's host.

Recipes, general information, and suggestions for activities and display topics have been distributed to a representative in each Unit.

Please discuss this at your Unit meetings, make your choices, and contact Emily Chamberlain (433-4962) by August 26th. If you have personal recipes that you would like to prepare and share, please include these in time for Diane to add them to the handouts and have a name tag for the dish the day of the event. We usually have approximately 12 great informational presentations. Due to time, we are asking members to come early and view the displays and that all unit presentations be contained to 3-4 minutes.

We are looking forward to a fun and informative time.

OFFICER'S REPORTS / UNIT REPORTS

Cultural Enrichment

Sally Dennis

I want to express how much fun and enjoyment we all had at the 2016 IAHCE Conference in Peoria. Yes, there were a few glitches, but overall it was a good time for all. I picked up a few good pointers from the various classes that I took. All the "Books" that were turned in got awards. For us that were first timers on these books, it was quite a thrill. I know I personally was quite stressed over making my Cultural Enrichment book. And equally excited when I was called for an award.

Of all our Cultural Enrichment entries, two people were blessed to take home "Best of Show" Awards. Estaleen Earthal for her beautiful oriental table runner and Sally Dennis for her Yo-Yo Flag in the Wall Hanging category. There were a lot of very nice entries, which makes for stiff competition. Don't get discouraged, just keep being creative. Our County was also blessed to be First Runner-Up for County of the Year! YEAH!

Hopefully, next year we can get back to being County of the Year instead of runner-up. But to do this, we need 100% input from our members, in all manners. Bring a guest to an HCE event, like the Spring Meeting on May 4, and to HCE Week in October.

This also includes volunteer hours. Anything you do for someone, other than family, counts. If you run an errand or bring in the mail or newspaper, or take food to someone, or give them a ride somewhere, it all counts as volunteer time. Anything you do for your church, like provide a funeral dish or potluck dish, this also counts.

Keep the wheels of imagination turning and keep track of your volunteer hours!

Unit Reports

Hickory Point Unit

Our chairman Barb Reed sent word from Texas that she and her husband had enjoyed their warm weather away from Illinois in the winter. They are, however, coming home very soon, and we hope she will be with our Hickory Point group meeting next month. We have been very fortunate to have Gigi Langhauser as our leader this winter and thank her for taking over. We are all looking forward to hearing about the Olympics soon after we heard from Nan Mains about her recent visit to Brazil. She saw many of the places we will be reading about in the paper as the Olympic Games are played. We had a nice group at our meeting at Louise Wickline's home.

Louise Wickline, reporting

Maple Grove Unit

The Maple Grove Unit met on March 21 in the banquet room at Scovill Golf Course. I was unable to attend, but I know everyone enjoyed a soup and salad luncheon and lots of socializing. Karen Cahill brought us up to date on the latest news from the board, and a preview of state conference.

Our April meeting will be on the 28th at the Decatur Club at 11:30, and our May meeting will be at the Wild Hare in Elkhart, following the lesson that day on "Superfoods to the Rescue".

Mary Kay Ennis, Reporting

Mt. Zion Unit

We were unable to meet on February 24 as that was the day of the BIG snow storm. The March meeting was a bit unusual for us as the lesson on Zentangle was held on our regular meeting day. So, we met at Benny's for lunch but there was so much noise that we couldn't have our meeting. We continued our meeting at the Extension Office before the Zentangle program. We discussed the flowers that I had sent for Laverne White's funeral. We also discussed collecting between fifty cents and one dollar at each meeting so we will have a fund for flowers, etc., for our members.

We all enjoyed the Zentangle program that Sharon presented. As usual, she did a fantastic job sharing her talent and enjoyment of a very different craft with us.

Our next meeting will be at Antioch Christian Church, on Route 36, on Wednesday, April 27 at 1:00 p.m. Pat will present the program on "Bucket Gardens".

Carol Flitz, reporting

Maroa Patchwork Unit

The Maroa Patchwork Unit met March 22nd at Crawford's Pizza in Maroa. There were 7 members present. Karen Halicki passed out the most recent lesson information, about women's self-defense. It gave many suggestions to protect from identity theft. Our next meeting will be April 19th at 5:30 at Crawford's. Most likely we will also meet the third week in May. If you would like to join us please contact a member to find a definite time and location.

Cindy Hoffman, Reporting

FEBRUARY MINUTES / UNIT REPORTS

February 8, 2016

Co-president Karen Cahill called the meeting to order at 1:05pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Homemakers' Aim. Co-president Carol Ropp asked for the roll call, and 8 units were represented with 14 members present. The secretary's minutes were read. Mary Kay Ennis moved and Linda Hooge seconded they be approved. Motion passed. Pam Walker gave the treasurer's report and it was filed for audit. Bills were presented by Carol Ropp, Karen Traum, Mary Ann Platt, and Sandy Severe. Linda Hooge moved and Ann Adkesson seconded that they be approved for payment. Motion passed. Thank you notes from Mindy Peterson-Lindsey and Karen Traum were read.

Officers' Reports:

Co-presidents Karen Cahill and Carol Ropp: Karen remembered us with Valentine candy treats.

Co-1st Vice President Anna Belle Farrell was absent. Linda Hooge mentioned Pillowcase day coming on February 22 and the next lesson on Self Defense for Women.

2nd Vice President: Sandy Severe said our membership is still 112. She is planning a membership drive for July.

Community Outreach and Volunteer Hours:

Mary Ann Platt said the total volunteer hours for our county for 2015 was 28,359 hours. That would amount to over \$616,000 in money value. She and Mary Kay Ennis will work together for their state scrapbook with the theme of Citizenship.

Family Issues: Mary Kay Ennis reminded us to bring old flags to the spring meeting. Sally Dennis moved and Linda Hooge seconded that the flags be properly disposed of at the ceremony in Mt. Zion on Flag Day on June 14. Motion passed.

Cultural Enrichment: Sally Dennis has two rooms booked at the hotel for the spring conference. She and Karen Cahill judged the craft show in Piatt County. That show had also included food entries. She suggested we might do the same for our fall meeting. The food entries could be judged and also used as the meal.

Historian: Lois Miller is still looking into putting pictures on DVD.

International: Emily Chamberlain was absent.

Public Relations: Ann Adkesson has sent news releases to all county newspapers. Newsletter items are due, and the letter will be out the latter part of February. Ann will be collecting names of groups in the county who accept items to be recycled.

Program Coordinator: Karyn Traum said that Sangamon County had been asked about their having Macon County logo on their Master Gardener flyer.

Unfinished Old Business: Tickets are still available for the Bread Monk program on April 16. Our county will be greeting and selling tickets, and two people are needed to serve and help clean up. Karen Halicki volunteered to help. Mary Ann Platt showed a sample pin wheel she had made for the Maker Faire. She still needs donations of buttons and volunteers for the day.

The Spring meeting menu was chosen as follows:

Chicken Cordon Bleu, twice baked potato casserole, 7 layer salad, glazed carrots, blackberry cobbler, apple pie bar, iced tea or lemonade, roll.

This is being prepared by caterers God, Family, and Friends (Brenda Reed and family) for \$10.50.

Hickory Point unit will donate the breakfast items.

A meal was provided for the 4H Robotics group. Gardening Insights will be served a lunch on February 27, and preparation will be on the February 26.

New Business: Ideas were presented for 4H lessons but no decisions were made. Sewing Day will be on February 22 from 9am to 3 pm and lunch will be ordered. Mary Ann Platt moved and Sandy Severe seconded that two \$1000 scholarships in memory of Margaret Leonard be established in the medical fields. Motion passed. Lois Miller moved and Linda Hooge seconded that a \$50 dollar basket be made by Sandy Severe for the silent auction at the state convention. Motion passed.

DAR would like our group to help them reach a goal of 10,000 letters sent to the armed forces by their June conference. They are also collecting new children's books. Karen Halicki suggested that HCE purchase a popcorn machine to be used when we provide treats for the band concerts. Mary Ann Platt might be able to embroider our HCE shirts in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Unit Reports

Oakley Unit

The March meeting was held at Patty's. The Lesson on "Clear Your Clutter" was given, and those who attended the state conference filled us in on what went on. The April meeting was held at Carol Bork's, with a small group attending. Carol gave the lesson on "Zentangle" and everyone attempted the doodling process! The Bread Monk demonstration will be Saturday, April 16 in Clinton, and all members will be attending the May Spring Meeting as our unit meeting.

Sandy Severe, reporting.

MARCH MINUTES / UNIT REPORTS

March 14, 2016

Co-president Carol Ropp called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Homemakers' Aim. The roll call was taken and showed 8 units present and 15 in attendance. The secretary's report was read. Mary Ann Platt moved and Linda Hooge seconded that it be accepted. Motion passed. Pam Walker gave the treasurer's report which was filed for audit. Bills were presented by Gini Smith, Carol Ropp, Sandy Severe, Carol Bork, Mary Ann Platt, Karyn Traum, and Karen Cahill. They were approved for payment. There was no correspondence.

Officers' Reports:

Co-Presidents: Carol Ropp and Karen Cahill reported on recent activities.

Co-1st Vice Presidents: Anna Belle Farrell reported that 27 pillowcases had been finished at the last sewing day. Linda Hooge mentioned that the sewing day had been a good learning experience as well as creating pillowcases.

2nd Vice President: Sandy Severe said plastic coffee cans are needed for the bucket lesson on April 27.

Community Outreach and Volunteer Hours: Mary Ann Platt reported on her progress with the pinwheel project for the Maker Faire. She is in need of volunteers for that day.

Family Issues: Mary Kay Ennis had no report.

Cultural Enrichment: Sally Dennis reported that all entries are labeled and ready to be displayed at Conference.

Historian: Lois Miller was absent.

International: Emily Chamberlain reported that most of the necessary papers have been printed for distribution for International Day.

Public Relations: Ann Adkesson was absent.

Program Coordinator: Karyn Traum reported that Dewitt County is hosting a reception for the lady guest from Estonia after the conference.

Unfinished/Old Business: 160 tickets have been sold for the Bread Monk

Demonstration on April 16. Sally Dennis volunteered to help Karen Cahill with the baking of treats the day before. Linda Hooge volunteered to help Karen Halicki with getting them ready on the program day. It was suggested that 200-250

pinwheels would be enough for the Maker Faire booth. The Gardening Insights lunch served on February 27th was well received, and a profit was made.

New Business: Master Naturalist lunch will be served on April 2 for its Carolyn Mason Memorial Event. Suggestions were made for future activities with 4-H groups: Pinwheel buttons used at Maker Faire, Zentangle, or other craft items. Mary Ann Platt moved and Linda Hooge seconded that \$100 be spent to buy kitchen utensils needed for preparing meals by HCE. Motion passed. It was suggested that February would be a good month to designate as Self-Defense for Women month and sponsor programs for information. Mary Ann Platt will be a voting delegate for the conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Unit Reports

Pleasant Grove Unit

April: Pleasant Grove met April 5th at Coz's with 9 members present. Phyllis Goodbred was hostess. Mary Ann opened the meeting with the Homemakers' Aim. Reports were given. Those who went to convention reported on Best of Show. Also, Macon County got 2nd Place for the County of the Year Award. Mary Ann reported that the ceremonial burning of flags is done by the boy Scouts on Flag Day, June 14, in Mt. Zion. We discussed the Mini Maker Faire on April 9 – Mary Ann needs more help at our station. The upcoming lessons were discussed as well as the Spring Meeting, May 4.

Sally gave a mini lesson on how to make a "binder clip holder" - they are neat!

March: The Pleasant Grove Unit met on March 2, 2016 at Coz's in Mt. Zion. Phyllis Goodbred was hostess; Beverly Wall chaired the meeting in absence of Mary Ann Platt, who was ill. Alice Bray gave the secretaries report.

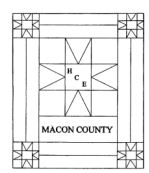
We will serve luncheon for Master Gardeners on March 24th. We discussed the menu and prep days. We also discussed the recipes for our cookbooks.

We also filled in our Year Books for the coming year.

Treasurer's report was given and approved.

Meeting was closed and we ordered our lunch.

Barbara Wall, reporting



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