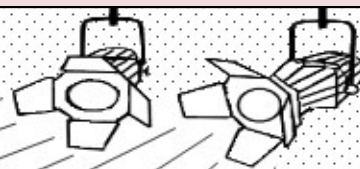


Macon County

**HCE
HIGHLIGHTS**



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



The greatest show (and tell) on earth! The Decatur Mini Maker Faire of Central Illinois is a family-friendly festival of invention, creativity, and resourcefulness. The event is part science fair, part county fair and part something entirely new. Maker Faire is an all-ages gathering of those who want to come to show what they make and to share what they have learned. Plan to volunteer with the Macon County HCE demonstration, then stay to enjoy the numerous other exhibits. There really is something for everyone!

MACON COUNTY HCE

SCHOLARSHIPS

MCHCE annually offers four \$500.00 scholarships to its members, members' children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The member must have been a member in good standing for at least three years. Applicants must be attending a 2 or 4 year college, trade school, or any other accredited institution of higher learning, and are not restricted to any particular education choices.

Applicants may download applications from the MCHCE website after February 13, 2016. Applications are also available at the extension office.

THE MARGARET LEONARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Presented by Macon County HCE

Due to the generosity of the Leonard family, we have established two \$1,000.00 scholarships which will be available to MCHCE members, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The member must have been a member in good standing for at least three years. Applicants must be attending an accredited school and working toward a degree in the medical field. Studies may be in graduate or undergraduate fields.

Applicants may download applications from the MCHCE website after February 13, 2016. Applications are also available at the extension office.



ALL HANDS ON DECK!

Your help is needed for our HCE project at the Maker Faire!

We will be teaching kids (and adults) how to sew on a button as they make a fabric pinwheel to keep. We need at least 9 volunteers to work 3 to a shift in 2-hour shifts on Saturday, April 9. Shifts will be 9:30 AM-11:30 AM; 11:30 AM-1:30 PM; and 1:30 PM-3:30 PM. The first shift will help get everything set up and the last shift will help clean up. The Faire is from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Extension office. Please email Mary Ann Platt if you are able to help - maryannia@aol.com.

Upcoming Events

February

Saturday, February 27, 2016

Gardening Insights at Richland Community College
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

March

Master Gardener Training Lunch

Served March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 30

Monday, March 14, 2016

1:00 p.m. HCE Board Meeting
Extension Office – Clover Room

Tuesday-Thursday, March 15-17, 2016

IAHCE State Conference in East Peoria

Friday, March 18, 2016

RSVP for March lesson

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Lesson – Zentangle
Presented by Sharon Middleton
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Extension Office – Clover Room

April

Saturday, April 9, 2016

Maker Faire
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Macon County Extension Office

Monday, April 11, 2016

1:00 p.m. HCE Board Meeting
Extension Office – Clover Room
Newsletter information due to Ann Adkesson

Saturday, April 16, 2016

The Bread Monk
Copper and Brass Room, Clinton, Illinois
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Contact Karen Cahill for tickets - \$15.00 each

Friday, April 22, 2016

RSVP for April lesson

Monday, April 25

Pillowcase Sewing Day
Extension Office – Clover Room
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Basic Bucket Gardens
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Extension Office – Clover Room

Thursday, April 28, 2016

RSVP to Pam Walker for Spring Meeting

May

Tuesday, May 3

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

NEWS from around the State

Women Walk the World

This is an event sponsored by one of our affiliate organizations, Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). The official 2016 date for an organized fund-raising walk is Friday, April 29, but the date can be changed, if necessary. State International Director, Pat Weitzmann encourages every county to organize a Walk this year. Counties and/or Units can self-sponsor by donating to Pennies for Friendship for the amount of time or distance each member plans to walk, or seek donations from family and friends. Wouldn't it be great if each of our county units got together for a morning (or afternoon, or evening) stroll and collected additional Pennies for Friendship to turn in at our Spring Meeting on May 4!

More from Pat Weitzmann

We will have two special guests at State Conference this year...two women from Estonia (one of the 2015 countries of study) will be guests at the conference! Rutt Tuvike (retired biology teacher and current B&B operator) and Ene Paks (English professor at a vocational college) will attend the conference, hold a Q&A session at a Share Shop, and visit many HCE groups throughout the state on a two-week tour following the conference. We'll have an opportunity to meet and greet them face-to-face on **Saturday, March 19** at the Piatt County International Day Event! Time and place to be determined, but put this on your calendar NOW!



ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS:

*The Vendor Fair ** Share Shops **
Q&A by International Guests ***

An opportunity to suggest program topics for 2017 in one of three categories (Consumer Economics, Family Life and Nutrition and Wellness). Send your ideas to Anna Belle Farrell (Pleasant Grove) or Linda Hooge (Rock Springs) before March 14.

An opportunity to visit the Peoria Riverfront Museum and/or take a riverboat cruise on the Spirit of Peoria
GOOD FOOD ** GOOD FRIENDS ** GOOD FUN !!!

Co-President

Karen Cahill and Carol Ropp

Many of your board members have been hard at work completing their reports for the state officers. It's always fun to see the previous year's events, lessons, and work all compiled into notebooks. It's quite a history of which to be proud! We will find out at the IAHCE conference in March if any of that hard work earns us an award or two.

You should have received your 2016 bright pink program book by now. As you look through it and mark your calendar for events, you may find that you have a conflict or two with your unit meeting being at the same time one of our events is scheduled. Please know that many times our guest speakers/presenters have limited days to work with us. There is no way every monthly lesson can be scheduled around all of the unit meetings. You can have your meeting at the lesson, then go to lunch or even plan to have lunch at the office. There are ways to make it work!

This is a reminder that the Spring Meeting will be Wednesday, May 4. Remember to send your check for the catered lunch reservation to Pam Walker. Even though the program book states that reservations are due by April 28, **we need your reservation by Friday, April 22**. The cost will be \$10.50. If you want breakfast items, there will be a donation jar set up. We are trying a new caterer, GFF caterers from Cisco. They come with a great recommendation from our Piatt County HCE friends. Come join us for this fun day!

We look forward to seeing you at many of our interesting events this year. Remember to contact us if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Co - 1st Vice President

Anna Belle Farrell and Linda Hooge

Have you ever looked around your house and wondered how you could clear your clutter or organize all of your "stuff"? The January lesson "Clear Your Clutter" was presented to us by Becky Rogers, a certified professional organizer. Many ideas on how to do this were given to us. The first step is: You have to purge. Many things you may want to keep, but a decision must be made about every item, either to toss, or recycle, donate or sell, place it elsewhere or keep it. Keep frequently used items between hip and eye level for ease of access. Becky shared many other valuable tips, including how to let go of the items you're "stuck" on. If it gives you negative feelings, get rid of it. If it was expensive, but no longer useful, let it go. Emotions and guilt come in to play, but

be as brutally honest with yourself as you can. As a last resort, put it in storage, labelled and dated, and revisit it in a year.

February is here already. Our lesson on February 17th is "Self Defense for Women" presented by Sgt. Kris Thompson and Detective R. Pope. The time is 9:30 – 11:00. We all want to learn how to protect ourselves from becoming a possible victim. Please RSVP before February 12th.

February 22nd, come join us at the Extension Office – Clover Room, where we will have a Pillowcase Sewing Day from 9:30 – 3:30 pm. You may come stay all day or for a couple of hours. It's a lot of fun and you don't even have to know how to sew. We need ladies to cut fabric, iron the pieces, and sew the pillow cases. If you have a sewing machine, please bring it. The pillow cases are donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield, IL.

Don't forget:

To sign up for the Gardening Insights February 27th, from 8:00 – 3:00 pm. at Richland Community College.

"Rollin on the River" is the theme for the IAHCE Conference held in East Peoria, IL March 15 – 17. You won't want to miss the March 23rd lesson, Zentangle presented by Sharon Middleton. The lesson is from 1:00 – 2:30 pm. Please RSVP before March 18th.

Just a note, tickets are available now to see the Bread Monk Saturday, April 16th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. The tickets are \$15.00 each. Father Dominic Garramone is known for his delicious bread recipes, bread tips, and inspirational programs.

Second Vice President's Report

Sandy Severe

Happy Valentine's Day to all!!

Starting the New Year our membership stands at 111. We unfortunately lost 6 members in 2015. We need to set a goal within our units to increase our membership by 2 or more this year. Let's work on that, ladies! We will be having a membership drive at the July lesson, "Christmas in July", hope to see all of you there with a prospective member in tow. Please don't forget to always sign up for the lessons. Hope to see you at the Conference in March, sounds like a wonderful time!

International

Emily Chamberlain

This year we are looking forward to International Day on Wednesday, September 14th. This is a change from our usual Thursday date. Macon County will be hosting. We will be

OFFICERS' REPORTS

celebrating the women and customs of Ecuador. Ecuador is a country straddling the equator on South America's west coast. Its diverse landscape encompasses Amazon jungle, Andean highlands and the wildlife-rich Galápagos Islands. In the Andean foothills at an elevation of 2,850m, Quito, the capital, is known for its largely intact Spanish colonial center, with decorated 16th- and 17th-century palaces and churches including the ornate Compañía de Jesús cathedral. Recipes and other information will be available at the Spring Meeting. If you have any questions, please call Emily Chamberlain (433-4962).

Cultural Enrichment

Sally Dennis

Our members selected at Fall Meeting to represent Macon County at State are: Beverly Wall, Mary Shelton, Carol Myers, Vicki Wooten, Sharon Middleton, Estaleen Earthal, Sally Dennis and Gini Smith. Please bring your items to the Extension Office by March 1, or call me (864-2792) to make arrangements for pick up. I will take our entries to State Conference for competition. Congratulations, and Good Luck!

The rest of us need to be starting on our projects for this year! It's already February!

Message from the Presidents

Each year the MCHCE County Board members work very hard to get the annual program book ready for publication. Almost everything you need to know can be found in this book. The only information which is not there will be anything that comes up additionally during the year. We proofread and correct, proofread and correct and keep going over the book until we think we have it correct.

Before you call, send an email or make a trip to the extension office, PLEASE look in your book to see if the information is already there for you! It will save everyone a lot of time and energy.

ATTENTION Unit Presidents - if you didn't have a January meeting or if some of your members didn't come to the meeting, please be sure to get the members' books to them as soon as possible. You can hand deliver or mail them for \$1.00 and ask the member(s) to reimburse you for this cost. This way, all our members will be up-to-date for our 2016 lessons and events.

Thank you!

Community Outreach

Mary Ann Platt

You ladies are awesome! Collectively, we volunteered 28,359 hours in 2015. If we translated that to a low wage of \$10.00 per hour, that would equal \$283,590. Amazing! Totals by unit are as follows:

Hickory Point-4,045

Maple Grove-9,031

Mt. Zion-6,840

Oakley-1,530

Patchwork-1,839

Pleasant Grove-3,673

Rock Springs-1,401

In addition, we donated 17 pounds of greeting card fronts to Macon Resources. Even though we will no longer prepare meals as a county for the Ronald McDonald House, we will continue to collect pop tabs for them. These can be sent to the board meetings or saved until the spring meeting. Currently, we have 3 gallons collected. I will deliver these to Springfield. Individual units could arrange to prepare meals for RMDH if they wish.

As a county, we will continue to make pillowcases for RMDH and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). We have sewing days scheduled for February 22, April 25, June 27, and September 26. Your volunteering at these sew days is essential. We need people to sort, cut, pin, sew and press fabric. Upon completion of the pillowcases, we need people to add labels to each pillowcase. The ladies have had fun each time. We begin at 9:30 and finish up at 3:30, but your help for any portion of the day will be appreciated. Please add these dates to your calendar now.

**Please remember to RSVP to
all lessons! 217-877-6042**



hello
spring!

MACON COUNTY UNIT NEWS

Hickory Point Unit

Hickory Point HCE met for lunch at noon at Primrose Retirement Community. Kate Stankovic, Sales Director, was our hostess. She had prepared a Mexican feast for us, and we chose from a variety of toppings for a delicious mixture. After our business meeting Kate presented a lesson to us about Balance. She conducts a series of lessons on "A Matter of Balance" to help participants reduce the danger of falling. It includes group discussions and exercises. She led us in a series of the exercises to help us stretch our muscles. We all felt like this would be a good series of lessons. We were all encouraged to have a regular exercise program, have our vision checked, check our medicines, and make our homes safer.

The March meeting will be the "Zentangle" class on the 23rd, given by our member Sharon Middleton. The April meeting will be on the 12th at the home of Louise Wickline. Nan Mains will speak on her recent trip to Brazil where the Olympics will soon be held.

Louise Wickline, reporting

Mt. Zion Unit

Our President, Carol Flitz, led us in the Homemaker's Aim and the pledge to the flag at our December meeting. We answered the roll call with our favorite Christmas gift. There were 15 ladies present. No secretary's report was read. We have \$5.66 in our Pennies for Friendship account and \$61.20 in the birthday account. A collection was taken for Antioch Christian Church to help pay for our using their building for our meetings.

Upcoming events are: April 16th - the Bread Monk will be in Clinton. Purchase a ticket as soon as possible for this event sponsored by our three counties. "Zentangle" will be on March 23rd, and the Maker's Faire at the Extension Office on April 9th. We will be making pinwheels. Our unit will be serving the Master Gardener's Lunch on March 17th. We will serve bar-b-que, veggies, and dip.

Carol Flitz suggested that we all need to be members of RSVP. Nancy talked to us about the events going on at the Lincoln Theatre. The rest of our meeting consisted of making out our books for the coming year. Helen Kingston served a delicious dessert with candies, nuts, and drinks.

Our February meeting will be at our local nursing home so we can include a long-standing member of our group,

Laverne White. The March meeting will be March 23rd after the county lesson and April 27th at Antioch Church.

Vicky Wooten, reporting

Patchwork Unit

The Maroa Patchwork unit met January 19th at Crawford's pizza. We enjoyed dinner together and spent the evening catching up on current happenings. There were 6 present. Karen Halicki passed out our new books and went over some of the lessons that would be offered this year. During the conversation some of the ladies decided to attend a Mexican cooking class offered at Richland Community College. They also plan to attend a painting class in the near future. We enjoyed a great evening together. Our next meeting will be at Crawford's on February 16th at 5:30. We meet the third Tuesday of each month. New members are always welcome. Cindy Hoffman, reporting

Pleasant Grove Unit

The Pleasant Grove Unit met February 2 at the Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church. Sally Dennis was hostess. Mary Shelton chaired the meeting, passing out the program books and filling in the officers. Several members reported on the lesson "Clear Your Clutter".

Our unit donated \$100 to the DOVE Children's Clothing Room to buy new underwear and socks. A thank you was received, stating that we made many children happy.

The upcoming programs were discussed. Our unit will serve the March 14th Master Gardner Training Lunch. The Maker Faire will be April 9th at the Extension office. Mary Ann needs buttons to present the project to learn to sew on a button.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 with Sally serving a fabulous lunch.

Alice Bray, reporting



1. IAHE State Conference in East Peoria, March 15-17
2. The Bread Monk , April 16.
3. Next pillowcase sewing day Monday, April 25.
4. Please RSVP by April 28, to Pam Walker, at 972-2524 for the Spring Meeting.

Maple Grove Unit

Maple Grove Unit had their January meeting at the Decatur Club on the 28th. There were 21 members present. The ladies answered roll call by naming their favorite TV show from their childhood. The secretary's report was read and approved from our November meeting (we did gather in December but did not have a formal meeting), Treasurer's report was given and Pennies for Friendship was collected.

Several announcements were made concerning members: Some were moments of concerns and some were joys. We had a show of hands as to how many were going to the "Clear Your Clutter" lesson the following Saturday. Our new program books were handed out and we discussed the lessons for the first half of the year. The club seemed enthusiastic about the choices.

Karen Cahill, told us about her trip with Sally Dennis to DeWitt County's Cultural Enrichment Day. They served as guest judges for this event. One noted difference from our enrichment Day was the addition of foods, each year a certain ingredient is featured in their food items. This year cranberries was the common ingredient. The ladies enjoyed their opportunity to be judges.

These announcements were made: Reservations for "Rollin' on the River" are due February 16, news items are due February 8; and we are hosting the Tri-County meeting on February 1. Along lines of congratulations, our unit had 100% of our volunteer hours turned in.

Mary Kay Ennis, reporting

Oakley Unit

January began with a meeting at Lucille's to set up new lessons for the year and get our books filled in. Great treats were served and lots of laughs and fellowship followed. In February all members will attend the lesson on the 17th. Carol and Sandy attended the very helpful lesson on "Clear Your Clutter" and plan to give it at the March 4 meeting.

Sandy Severe, reporting

Spring Meeting Menu - Wednesday, May 4

Chicken Cordon Blue
Twice Baked Potato Casserole
7 Layer Salad
Glazed Carrots
Roll

Apple Pie Bars -Blackberry Cobbler
Iced Tea – Lemonade

Cost: \$10.50 - Send your check to Pam Walker by April 22

Hickory Point Unit will be in charge of the breakfast items.

50 cent donation will be collected.

Rock Springs Unit will be in charge of registration.



DECEMBER MINUTES

Co-president Karen Cahill called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Homemakers' Aims were given. There were 17 present and 7 units represented. The roll call was taken, and the secretary's report presented. Carol Bork moved and Linda Austin seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. Motion passed. There was a moment of silence in memory of Margaret Leonard, a member and friend, who had died recently. Carol Ropp distributed the proof copies of our 2016 yearbooks. Each page was read to correct any mistakes. The corrected copies will be printed and distributed to our members at a later date.

Treasurer Pam Walker gave the treasurer's report which will be filed for audit. Carol Ropp and Karen Cahill presented bills. Gifts will be presented to Mindy Peterson-Lindsey, Karyn Traum, and Diane Dowd. Linda Austin moved and Anna Belle Farrell seconded that these bills be paid. Motion passed.

Officers' Reports:

Co-Presidents: Carol Ropp reminded us that our meetings in 2016 will be at 1 pm. on the 2nd Monday beginning in January. A memorial scholarship of \$500 in Margaret Leonard's name for a student in the medical field was suggested. Lois Miller moved and Carol Bork seconded that this be established. There has been memorial money donated already.

1st vice presidents: Linda Hooge was introduced as the new person in this position to work with Anna Belle Farrell. Several members had attended the last lesson on Next of Kin and produced some lovely pottery pieces.

2nd Vice President: Vice President: Sandy Severe reported that about 30 members have not yet paid their dues. She is planning Christmas in July as a membership drive meeting. We have about 112 members now.

Community Outreach and Volunteer Hours: Mary Ann Platt will deliver pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House. She still needs buttons for our project at the Maker Faire. The volunteer hours must be turned in by the end of December.

Family Issues: Mary Kay Ennis said the theme for September will be Respect for the American flag.

Cultural Enrichment: Sally Dennis said that craft items for the March conference should be sent to her to be tagged. On January 27, Piatt County will have a Cultural Enrichment Day in Monticello.

Historian: Carol Bork turned her scrapbooks over to Lois Miller the new chairman. Clarence Middleton will still help with photography.

International: Emily Chamberlain has been working on the International Day activities. Louise Wickline volunteered to speak on Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

Public Relations: Ann Adkesson and Linda Austin said the

December newsletter is being completed. It was suggested that pictures of new board members be included. Everyone had her picture taken for future publication.

Program Coordinator: Karyn Traum was absent.

Our lunch break was taken before continuing our business.

Unfinished/Old Business: Tickets are still being sold for the Bread Monk. Mary Ann Platt reminded us about our project Button up Your Pinwheel for the Maker Faire. Lois Miller moved and Sally Dennis seconded that name tabs be ordered for board members from Beck's Printing with a set-up price of \$40 and individual name tags for \$6.50. Each will have the name and the county of the member. Motion passed.

New Business: The 2016 budget was examined and adjusted. Anna Belle Farrell moved and Linda Hooge seconded that the budget be accepted as planned. It will be published later.

Leaders of monthly lessons were chosen: **January** - Clear Your Clutter - Linda Hooge and Lois Miller, **February** - Self Defense Tactics for Women - Karen Cahill, **March** - Zentangle- Karen Halicki, **April** - Basic Bucket Garden - Carol Ropp, **May** - Superfoods to the Rescue- Karen Cahill, **June** - Backyard Landscape - Carol Ropp, **July** - Christmas in July - Sandy Severe and Ann Adkesson.

The meeting was adjourned at 2 pm.
Respectfully submitted, Louise Wickline

CHUCKLE CORNER **February Funnies**

A young woman was taking an afternoon nap. After she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for my birthday.

What do you think it means?"

"You'll know tonight," he said.

That evening the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife.

Delighted, she opened it—only to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams"

A guy walks into a post office one day to see a middle-aged, balding man standing at the counter methodically placing "Love" stamps on bright pink envelopes with hearts all over them.

He then takes out a perfume bottle and starts spraying scent all over them

His curiosity getting the better of him, he goes up to the balding man and asks what he is doing. The man says, "I'm sending out 1000 Valentine cards signed, "Guess who?"

"But why?" asks the man.

"I'm a divorce lawyer," the man replies.

JANUARY MINUTES

Co-president Karen Cahill called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. Co-president Carol Ropp led the Pledge of Allegiance and Homemakers' Aim. There were 8 units represented and 16 members present. The secretary's report was read. Anna Belle Farrell moved and Linda Hooge seconded that it be approved as read. Motion passed. Pam Walker presented the treasurer's report, and it was filed for audit. Bills were presented by Sandy Severe, Carol Ropp, Ann Adkesson, and Emily Chamberlain. Lois Miller moved and Sandy Severe seconded that they be approved for payment. Motion passed. A thank-you note from Diane Dowd was read.

Officers' Reports:

Co-presidents : Karen Cahill and Carol Ropp: Karen explained the Ronald McDonald corporate grant that had recently been presented to the YMCA.

Co-1st Vice Presidents: Anna Belle Farrell and Linda Hooge shared experiences about their kiln projects. They are both looking forward to future lessons, especially Clear Your Clutter!

2nd Vice President: Sandy Severe reported that the county membership was 117 at the end of 2015. The current membership is 112.

Community Outreach and Volunteer Hours:

Chairman Mary Ann Platt was absent.

Family Issues: Mary Kay Ennis discussed the disposing of old American Flags on Flag Day, June 14, at the ceremony in Mt. Zion. Members will be asked to bring discarded flags to the spring meeting.

Cultural Enrichment: Chairman Sally Dennis urged everyone to start on new craft projects for this year. She along with Anna Belle Farrell, Karen Cahill, and Carol Ropp will be judges for the Piatt County crafts on January 27.

Historian: Chairman Lois Miller is still investigating putting photographs on DVD.

International: Chairman Emily Chamberlain said her book was finished.

Public Relations: Chairman Ann Adkesson has sent information to the Decatur Herald and Review and county newspapers for publication. Newsletter items will be due at our next meeting.

Program Coordinator: Karyn Traum discussed future DIY (Do It Yourself) Classes. An extra cheese making class has been scheduled.

Unfinished Old Business: Tickets are still available for the Bread Monk program. Karen Cahill, Linda Austin, and Ann Adkesson are working with the DeWitt County members to publicize the event. Our presentation for the Maker Faire, "Button up Your Pinwheel", will need buttons and material

donated. A program planning meeting will be on July 11, 9:30 am. before the county meeting at 1 pm.

New Business: The Gardening Insights luncheon will be served on February 27. The menu will be chicken salad, broccoli salad, 3 bean salad, and candy for dessert. Sally Dennis and Anna Belle Farrell will be in charge of a bake sale at that luncheon. They were also chosen as our voting delegates for the state conference. Our group voted to accept the three bylaw changes and vote for Sharon Davis, and our delegates will cast those votes. Ann Adkesson moved and Linda Hooge seconded that we buy a ½ page ad in the state program. Motion passed. Linda Hooge moved and Linda Austin seconded that we nominate the Bunselmeyer (Amy Leman) family as our nominee for the family of the year. Motion passed. Amy Leman, 4H educator, asked that our group volunteer to teach 4Her's skills classes and suggested different locations and projects. Linda Austin moved and Sally Dennis seconded that we hire caterers from Cisco to provide the meal for the Spring Meeting. Motion passed. Ruth Cortwright was suggested as a speaker on the subject of Presidents' Wives. The menu for the Tri County meeting will be Nacho Potato Soup, bread, strawberry-pretzel salad, and raw vegetables. Sharon Middleton will be presenting a Zentangle class in March and has some fun activities planned.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Wickline

Tri-County Meeting

The Macon-DeWitt-Piatt HCE boards met with Karyn Traum on February 1 at the Macon County Extension Office. We finalized plans, publicity and volunteer needs for the Bread Monk program on April 16. We shared ideas for programs and discussed a possible joint trip to be taken later this year. Each county shared their upcoming lessons and events for the next few months, and we talked about the State Conference in March and the NVON Conference later this summer.

These meetings are a great opportunity for us to share and learn from our fellow HCE groups, as it expands our thinking and our horizons. A delicious lunch was served by some of our Macon County board members following the meeting. Our next Tri-County board meeting will be in June at the Piatt County office.

Ann Adkesson, reporting

Overnight French Toast

1 pound bread (King's Hawaiian is great in this)
1 cup sugar
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
8 large eggs
2 cups heavy cream



Tear the bread into 1-inch pieces and put in a large bowl (you will have about 9 cups of bread).

In a small bowl, mix together the sugar and cinnamon.

In another large bowl, whisk together the eggs, cream, and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of the cinnamon sugar, then pour over the bread stirring until coated.

At this point, cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or overnight.

Preheat the oven to 350° F. Coat a 13 X 9-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Spread the batter in the prepared dish and sprinkle the top with the remaining cinnamon sugar. Bake until puffed and golden brown, 35 to 40 minutes.

Remove from the oven and serve with warm maple syrup or powdered sugar.

Strawberry Pretzel Salad

Serves 10-12

6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ounces pretzel sticks (2 cups crushed)
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar
12 Tablespoons ($\frac{3}{4}$ cup) butter, melted and cooled
8-ounces cream cheese
1 cup heavy cream
2 3 oz. packages strawberry Jell-O dissolved in 2 cups hot water
1 -16 oz. carton frozen un-drained and un-thawed strawberries
1 8 oz. can crushed pineapple, drained.



Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 400° degrees. Spray 13 by 9-inch baking pan with vegetable oil spray. Pulse pretzels and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar in food processor until coarsely ground, about 15 pulses. Add melted butter and pulse until combined, about 10 pulses. Transfer pretzel mixture to prepared pan. Using bottom of measuring cup, press crumbs into bottom of pan. Bake about 10 minutes. Set aside to cool, about 20 minutes.

Using stand mixer fitted with whisk, whip cream cheese and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Increase speed to medium-high and with mixer still

running, slowly add cream in a steady stream. Continue to whip until soft peaks form, scraping down bowl as needed, about one minute more. Spread whipped cream cheese mixture evenly over cooled crust. Refrigerate until set, about 30 minutes.

Mix together 2 3 oz. packages strawberry Jell-O dissolved in 2 cups hot water, 1 16 oz. carton frozen un-drained and un-thawed strawberries, 1 8 oz. can crushed pineapple, drained. When this is partially set, pour over cream cheese layer. Refrigerate at least 4 hours or up to 24 hours.

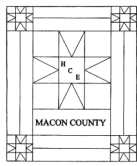
Zentangle

The Art of Doodling: Creating art doesn't have to be a daunting task. Check out the world of Zentangle and see how your paper doodle can turn into art. Join us on Wednesday, March 23rd.



Bread Monk Tickets

Tickets are still available for the Bread Monk program on April 16, 2016. They can be purchased for \$15 each. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please call Karen Cahill at 217-428-0037 or 217-520-2683. Come by and join us for a fun afternoon! Spread the word and bring a friend or two with you.



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