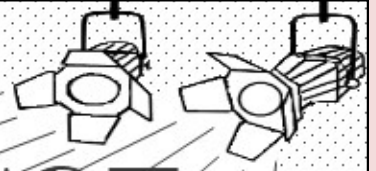


Macon County

HCE
HIGHLIGHTS



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

**IN MEMORY OF
DONNA MCKINLEY**



Donna McKinley, a long time member of Macon County HCE, passed away June 6, 2016. She was Macon County’s oldest living member joining the Hickory Point Unit in 1945. Upon hearing that she joined in 1945, I said I wasn’t even born yet! She never forgot me saying that. That’s how Donna and I became good friends.

Donna told us that after she was married, her mother-in-law took her to her first Home Bureau meeting. That was when things were a bit different than now. She was on a farm for the first time (she was from the city) and I’m sure there was lots to learn and Home Bureau helped her with that. She traveled abroad and visited many places including China.

Donna held several offices on the County HCE Board over her earlier years and was a true member of our organization. Until the past several years, she attended all of the Hickory Point Unit meetings and had some of the meetings at her home on the Centennial Farm where she lived until about a year ago.

Hickory Point lost a wonderful lady and we will miss her. Article by Sharon Middleton, Hickory Point Unit member.



Mary Ann and Macon County Home Extension Friends,

Thank you for your donations of snacks, paper goods and dollars!

These gifts make children and their families more comfortable while they’re here and allow us to spend grant funding on personnel and training.

We sincerely appreciate your contribution to this work so we can allow children to tell their story and keep them safe.

Jean Moore, Director

Don’t Forget!!!

June 27th is Pillowcase Sewing Day. Come have fun with us.

July lesson is “Christmas in July”. This is a membership drive, so start inviting your friends to join us.

August we will take a tour of the Northfork Museum.

Our **Tri-County, October 20th** bus trip to **Starved Rock** has been scheduled.

Upcoming Events

JUNE

Monday, June 27, 2016

Pillowcase Sewing Day

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Extension Office – Clover Room

JULY

Friday, July 1 2016

Scholarship deadline

Mail to Extension Office

Monday, July 4, 2016

Extension Office CLOSED

Monday, July 11, 2016

2017 Program Planning

Open Meeting – all HCE members welcome

9:30 a.m. – Noon

Extension Office – Clover Room

Monday, July 11, 2016

HCE Board Meeting

1:00 p.m.

Extension Office – Clover Room

Friday, July 15, 2016

RSVP for July Lesson

Monday, July 18, 2016

Senior Coloring Club - volunteers needed

Macon County Senior Center

1430 N. 22nd St.

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Monday, July 18, 2016

Municipal Band Concert Bake Sale

6:00 p.m.

Central Park, Decatur

Tuesday – Thursday, July 19-21, 2016

NVON Conference

Bloomington, IL

Saturday, July 23, 2016

Christmas in July

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Extension Office – Clover Room

Membership Drive Event

Bring a Friend – or two!

AUGUST

Monday, August 8, 2016

HCE Board Meeting

1:00 p.m.

Extension Office – Clover Room

Wednesday, August 10, 2016

IAHCE District Meeting

Springfield

Friday, August 12, 2016

RSVP for August Lesson

Wednesday, August 17, 2016

Macon County Historical Museum

(Northfork Museum)

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.



WHAT IS NVON?

The National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON) is comprised of member organizations working together to promote communication, education and volunteerism for all people. NVON was formed in 1996, with Illinois Association for Home and Community Education among its Charter Member societies. NVON currently has two projects that it sponsors:

[Eat Local, Eat Healthy](#) and [Water Around the World](#).

Click on these links to learn more about these projects and how Macon County and Illinois HCE are involved.

NVON's annual conference is just up the road in Bloomington July 19-21. Structured much like our IAHCCE conferences, there are business meetings and Share Shops, good food and entertainment, and a chance to meet people and make new friends. Please consider taking a short drive up to Bloomington and see what's going on. On-site registration for the day is available. Their website is <http://www.nvon.org/events.html>.

Reminder!

June 27—Pillowcase sewing day with the 4H'ers! We will be teaching them to make our "famous" pillowcases! They will get to take their pillowcase home. There will be two sessions that they can sign up for—9:30 and 1:30. We will need "teachers with sewing machines", pressers, and pinners!! Call Mary Ann Platt for more information!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Macon County Senior Center has asked for our help in sponsoring an adult coloring session on the 3rd Monday of the month from 1-3 p.m. The County Board will host the first two sessions on June 20 and July 18. HCE will supply the coloring sheets and pens/pencils for these sessions. If this proves to be a popular activity for the seniors at the center, individual units will be encouraged to take turns sponsoring (and coloring) the monthly sessions.

Co-President

Karen Cahill and Carol Ropp

Happy summer! It's hard to believe the year is almost half over already. We have been busy with great lessons and activities with many more to come. Remember to either get your ideas for future lessons to any board member by the beginning of July or bring them with you to our program planning meeting at 9:30 on July 11. If you do submit a suggestion, you need to have the name or information about whom to contact. We can then add your choices to the list of possible lessons for 2017.

Thank you to everyone who donated items or worked at the June bake sales in Central Park. We had a great variety of items. We appreciate your support. Remember, you get to count volunteer hours for your time baking and volunteering at the park. Our final bake sale for the band concerts will be Monday, July 18.

If you enjoy the new adult coloring craze, feel free to join us as we host coloring sessions on Monday afternoons from 1-3 P.M. on June 20 and July 18 at the Decatur Senior Center. There is no cost to you for this fun time. We may continue the activity monthly if it is well received.

Remember to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Co - Vice President

Anna Belle Farrell and Linda Hooge

All of the ladies had a great time at the Garden Path for our June Lesson. Rick Starshak did a wonderful job giving us information on Backyard Landscape. One of the points he made was "Good Vision Makes Good Design". He suggested coming up with 3 reasons why you like a design before you use it. When you plant, be careful not to place the plants too close to prevent overcrowding when the plants spread out. Many questions were answered and everyone enjoyed walking around the beautiful gardens. Rick had two hand-outs available for us to take with us.

The Top 10 Landscape Design Principles are:

Vision/Theme

1. Determine the purpose and various areas of the landscape.
2. Envision the entire landscape, and its parts, as it will look when completed.

Arrangement

3. Lay out borders (Create Space).
4. Select a focal point (Create Impact).
5. Add balance (Create Stability).

Selection

6. Generate interest.
7. Add harmony.
8. Use contrast.
9. Start big and end small.
10. Numbers matter.

Planting Guidelines:

Basic Guidelines

1. Dig when soil is dry, not wet. Soil should loosely crumble in your hand.

2. The hole should be a minimum of 2-3 times as wide as the root ball, but no deeper.
3. Place soil in a pile or wheelbarrow. Mix in an "amendment" (compost, peat, or loose, rich topsoil) about 1 part amendment to 2 parts soil.
4. Loosen or scrape the roots to loose pot-bound roots and stimulate plant growth.
5. Place the plant in the hole at the same depth as it was in the pot (about the same height as the pot).
6. Replace soil mixture and "firm" into the hole; leave a circle of "raised" soil around the plant to catch water.
7. Fertilize if desired.
8. Mulch 2-3 inches deep around the plant and mounded up soil.
9. Water immediately.
10. If you planted a tree, stake it loosely for 1-2 years.

Watering

1. Water new plantings every 2-3 days for a week or two, depending on the temperature and conditions.
2. Reduce watering over next 2-3 months, toward a goal of about 1 inch per week. When you water, water thoroughly and deeply letting the soil dry out completely. Do not water every day. Overwatering is the number one killer of plants.
3. A well-amended and well-mulched plant should need little or no additional watering after it becomes established... about 3 months for perennials and about a year for trees and shrubs.

International

Emily Chamberlain

Ecuador is our destination for International Day 2016, on Wednesday, September 14th from 11:00 -2:00 P.M. Macon County will be hosting our annual International Day event in the Illini Room of the Macon County Extension Office. Don't forget to discuss choices of food and display topics at your next Unit meeting and send these to me at

echamber1963@yahoo.com or call (217) 433-4962 by August 19th. The recipe sampler has a wide variety of foods for us to sample, but if you decide on another recipe, please have that available with your dish.



Put this date on your calendar and plan on being with us for a fun and informative day.

Second Vice-President

Sandy Severe

Those of you who didn't attend the lesson at the "Garden Path" missed a special time. A reminder to bring a friend and possible new member to the "Christmas in July" membership event on Saturday, July 23, 2016 at the Extension Office. Fun will ensue if you show up!!! Don't forget to call in your reservation for this lesson and all other events and lessons. Don't forget, as well, NVON conference in Bloomington July 19-21. See you in July!

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Community Issues

Mary Ann Platt

I delivered your generous contributions last week. Each agency was thrilled to receive our donations. Ronald McDonald House accepted 62 pillowcases that we made as well as 33 pounds of pop tabs. We continue to collect both. Macon Resources received 3 paper boxes that normally hold 12 reams of paper each filled with used card fronts as well as new cards with envelopes. At this time, they are not accepting more card fronts. I will let you know when we can collect again. If you wish to save them, please hold onto them until I get the word from Macon Resources, as I have no place to store them.

The Child 1st Center received \$57.00, 12 rolls of paper towels, 8 juice boxes, 18 granola bars, 8 snack size packages of peanut butter crackers, 20 individual bags of assorted chips, 76 ounces of detergent, 1 box of tissues, and 75 sanitary wipes. During this delivery, I was able to see the new facility at 800 E. Clay in Decatur. It is a very nice facility. I was very proud to make these deliveries on your behalf.

My other task as a board member is to keep track of your volunteer hours. I was very proud to accept an award on your behalf at the state conference. In our county, 73% of our members turned in volunteer hours. That was the highest percentage in the state. I believe that everyone in our county volunteers in some capacity, but everyone does not turn their hours in. Please consider keeping track of your hours. I would like to increase this percentage to at least 90%. Our year is half over, have you recorded all of your volunteer hours to date? I am counting on you.

Family Issues

Mary Kay Ennis

Thank you to all who contributed their tattered American flags. I hope that you were able to attend the Boy Scouts of America flag-burning ceremony on Flag Day, June 14 at 7 p.m. Twenty nine flags were collected from HCE for the ceremony.

In honor of Flag Day, I hope you will enjoy this article entitled:

REMEMBER ME?

Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star-Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your flag, the flag of the United States of America. I remember some time ago, people lined up on both sides of the street to watch the parade, and naturally, I was always there, proudly waving in the breeze. When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it over his heart. Remember? And you, I remember you standing straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat, but you were giving the right salute. Remember your little sister? Not to

be outdone, she was saluting the same as you, with her hand over her heart. Remember? What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, I have added a few more stars since you were a boy, and a lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago. But I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down the street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets. I may get a small glance, but then you look away. I see children running around and shouting. They don't seem to know who I am. I saw one man take off his hat and look around. He didn't see anybody else with his hat off, so he quickly put his back on. Is it a sin to be patriotic? Have you forgotten what I stand for and where I've been. Anzio, Normandy, Omaha Beach, Guadalcanal, Korea, and Vietnam. Take a look at the memorial honor rolls some time. Look at the names of those who never came back in order to keep this republic free. One nation under God. When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So, when you see me, stand straight and place your right hand over your heart. I'll salute you by waving back. And I'll know that you remembered.

Thanks.

Mary D Winn
Parish Library



Mt. Zion Unit

Our May 25th meeting was held at Concordia Lutheran Church. Sandy provided delicious desserts as usual, so we all went home not needing dinner. There were only 8 members present. Von had a car accident and Nancy was unable to attend due to some surgery. Von had planned to give the lesson on the Bread Monk, but Anna Belle Farrell graciously came to tell us all about the day.

There will be a few of us going to the Garden Path on June 9. We plan to eat at the "Shiny Diner" following the presentation. Our next meeting will be June 22nd at Kraves in Mt. Zion at 11:30. We will have lunch (ice cream) and then a short meeting. We will go for a tour of the Staley Mansion after that. Busy day! In August, we will tour the Lincoln Theater at 11:00 and have lunch at the Downtown Café.

Carol Flitz, reporting

MACON COUNTY UNIT NEWS

Hickory Point Unit

Hickory Point Unit met on June 14 at the Good Samaritan Inn. The director Stacy Brohard took us on a tour of the facility, from storerooms to kitchen and dining room. We were very impressed with the building, its equipment, and its condition. The Inn is not only serving over a hundred meals a day but is also growing produce in its several gardens. People are being trained in food service in a 13 week program, and several have been successful in finding employment in that field. Stacy is the son of our member Barbara Brohard, and she is very proud of his accomplishments. We all understand her pride.

Our unit was very saddened by the death of our member Donna McKinley who was the longest member of HCE in our county, having joined Home Bureau in 1945. She was very proud to be a member of HCE and remained active for many years. She will be missed.

Louise Wickline, reporting

Maroa Patchwork Unit

The Maroa Patchwork Unit will meet June 21st at Crawford's Pizza in Maroa. We will discuss summer meeting plans and also the country that will be displayed for International night. New members are always welcome. See you at 5:30 at Crawfords.

Cindy Hoffman, reporting

Pleasant Grove Unit

The Pleasant Grove Unit met June 7th at Coz's in Mt. Zion with 10 members present. Mary Ann Platt opened the meeting with the Homemaker's Aim. Reports were given. Mary Ann reported on the Tri-County meeting and the dates HCE has the refreshments for the band concerts. She also reminded us of the upcoming lessons and dates to remember.

Sally Dennis gave a minor lesson. She decorated jars with beads and tea lights, which were very pretty. Mary Ann delivered 62 pillowcases and 33 pounds of pop tabs to Ronald McDonald House in Springfield. We adjourned and enjoyed a meal at Coz's.

Allice Bray, reporting

Maple Grove Unit

Maple Grove unit met at the Wild Hare Café in Elkhart on May 26th. Fourteen members were present, answering roll call by telling about a favorite doll from our childhood. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were given and approved. Vi Lanum gave an update on one of our member's recovery from surgery, as well as the status of the magnetic name tags we are ordering.

We were reminded of the upcoming bake sales for the Municipal Band Concert. Other events coming up are the Garden Path lesson, the Flag Day ceremony, the Pillowcase Sewing Day and program planning for next year. We were all encouraged to attend as many of these events as possible. The next Maple Grove meeting will be June 23 at 11:30 at the Beach House, followed by a tour of the Staley Museum.

Mary Kay Ennis, reporting

Oakley Unit

Oakley unit attended the lesson at the "Garden Path" and had a luncheon meeting after at Culver's. Our next meeting will be July 1, 2016 at Cheryl's and Cheryl will give the lesson on "Bucket Gardens". Our meeting in August will be an outing and tour of the Northfork Museum. Please come join us!

Sandy Severe, Reporting

Spring Meeting Highlights

About 50 ladies attended our Macon County Spring Meeting on May 4. County Board officers gave brief reports, and we agreed to try a new approach to selecting the Cultural Enrichment items to send to conference next year. Carol Ropp reported for Extension Advisor Doug Harlan telling us he is confident that our three counties will have enough funds to operate for the next two years. Sandy Severe reported that we have one new member thus far this year, bringing our total to 111. Mary Ann Platt reported that we made and donated 100 pillow cases to Ronald McDonald House in 2015.

Judy Wilhelm gave a touching memorial tribute for those members who passed away in 2015: Lorraine Albert, Oakley Unit; Margaret Leonard, Niantic and Rock Springs; Gladys Lavery, Pleasant Grove; Gloria Marquis, Rock Springs; Jolene Weigard, Pleasant Grove; Janet Winter, Mt. Zion and Pleasant Grove. These ladies touched our lives, and we are grateful for the opportunity to have known them. We miss them and will keep them in our hearts.

Volunteer Service awards were handed out to members who had donated at least 500 hours of their time in various volunteer roles in 2015. Macon County won an award at Conference for having the highest percentage of members in District 5 turn in their volunteer hours – 75%! Congratulation to all of you! Let's go for 100% participation in 2016! Anything you do for others (except family) COUNTS as volunteer hours. Baking cookies for the June bake sale? Record your time spent in the kitchen! Volunteering to sell those cookies at the band concert in Central Park? Record those hours! Drive a neighbor to the doctor? That time counts! Get the idea?

A fascinating presentation on the "First Ladies of the United States" was given by Ruth Cortright, a retired Decatur teacher, followed by a delicious lunch served by GFF Catering of Cisco. Ms. Cortright told us that the role of First Lady has been called the second hardest job in America and equated their role and experiences to the HCE mission statement, "enhancing the lives of individuals and families." Many of the first ladies were not actually the wife of the President, as several of our Presidents were widowers or bachelors, so family friends or female relatives served as "White House Hostess".

Put the Fall Meeting – Wednesday, November 2 – on your calendar NOW! You don't want to miss another chance to go "Rollin' on the River" with MCHCE!

APRIL MINUTES

Macon County HCE Board Meeting April 11, 2016

Co-presidents Carol Ropp and Karen Cahill called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and Homemakers' Aim were given. The roll call was taken and 8 units were present with a total attendance of 16.

The minutes of the last meeting were presented. Mary Kay Ennis moved and Mary Ann Platt seconded that they be accepted. Motion passed.

Pam Walker presented the treasurer's report, and it was filed for audit.

Bills were presented by Carol Ropp, Sally Dennis, Sandy Norris, and Linda Hooge. They were approved for payment.

There was no correspondence.

Linda Hooge moved and Sandy Severe seconded that we give the Macon County Child Advocacy Center a donation of \$50. Motion carried.

Officers' Reports:

Co-Presidents: Karen Cahill and Carol Ropp reported on conference. Our unit received second place for county of the year. McLean County had received first. Our chairmen's notebooks all received high grades. Seven members were reimbursed for conference expenses.

Co 1st –Vice Presidents: Anna Belle Farrell said we had eleven members at the conference in Peoria, and it had been a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Co-vice president Linda Hooge agreed that we had some very interesting lessons planned for the future. There had been 38 pillowcases sewn at the last sewing day.

2nd Vice President: Sandy Severe reported that our membership was now 110 members. She encouraged everyone to bring potential members to the Christmas in July 23 event.

Community Outreach and Volunteer Hours: chairman Mary Ann Platt urged members to bring pop tabs and greeting card fronts to the spring meeting. Donation items for Macon County Child Advocacy Center may also be brought.

Family Issues: Chairman Mary Kay Ennis reminded members to bring worn flags to the spring meeting. They will be taken to Mt. Zion to be disposed of properly on Flag Day, June 14.

Cultural Enrichment: Sally Dennis reported that two craft items from our county received awards at conference: Estaleen Earthal's table runner and Sally Dennis's yo-yo wall hanging.

Historian: Lois Miller was absent.

International: Chairman Emily Chamberlain distributed recipe books and information sheets about Ecuador to be given to each unit to prepare for International Day.

Public Relations: Ann Adkesson said the newsletter would be ready for publishing by the end of the week. She will continue to publish information about upcoming lessons to encourage nonmembers to attend.

Program Coordinator: Karyn Traum congratulated our county for the many awards received at conference. The Maker Faire was a big success. There were guests from 23 cities.

Unfinished Old Business: There have been about 180 tickets sold for the Bread Monk. The Maker Faire was a success with about 1000 in total attendance. Mary Ann Platt reported that our booth had 117 visitors. The Gardening Insights lunch had 158 guests and was well received. The Master Naturalists lunch was served to 28 people. The decorations for the spring meeting will feature the theme Rollin' on the River. Hickory Pt. unit will furnish breakfast baked items, and Rock Springs unit will take care of registration. Reservations should be sent to Pam Walker by April 28 with a \$10.50 check.

New Business: We will give 4-H director Amy Leman our suggestions of the pin wheel button sew-on or Zentangle as an activity we could sponsor with 4-H members. Ann Adkesson moved and Mary Ann Platt seconded that we donate \$90 to 4-H for their awards. Motion passed. Suggestions were needed for the Master Gardeners' Training lunches if we provide them. A remembrance for deceased members in the year 2015 will be made at the spring meeting. Suggestions for future lessons were discussed at the conference. We were asked to volunteer to help at the senior center style show on April 30. Models and cookies were needed and several volunteered to help with that. Sally Dennis agreed to share her ideas for crafts at our board meetings.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Wickline

Program planning for 2017 on Monday, July 11 at 9:30 in the Clover Room. This is an open meeting, so come join us and bring your good ideas! We'll be ordering lunch afterwards from Benny's restaurant.



Senior Center Coloring Days are the same days as the Band Concert Bake Sales—June 20 and July 18. Help our community and earn volunteer hours as well!
VOLUNTEER - IT DOES A BODY GOOD



MAY MINUTES

Macon County HCE Board Meeting May 9, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Carol Ropp who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Homemakers' Aim. Karen Cahill was absent. The roll call showed 7 units represented with 11 board members in attendance.

The minutes of the last meeting were presented, and Linda Hooge moved and Mary Ann Platt seconded that they be approved. Pam Walker gave the treasurer's report, and it will be filed for audit. One bill was presented by Carol Ropp. Mary Ann Platt moved and Linda Hooge seconded that it be paid.

Correspondence: We had received a thank you note from the 4-H for our recent donation.

Officers' Reports:

Co-President Carol Ropp saved her comments until the old business report.

Co-1st Vice Presidents: Anna Belle Farrell reported that the spring meeting had gone very well. There are many interesting lessons listed in our future calendar. Linda Hooge said her bucket garden is growing very well and has been interesting to watch.

2nd Vice-President: Sandy Severe was absent. Ann Adkesson gave some information on the progress being made on the Christmas in July membership drive. She would like to have recipes for quick snacks that could be used that day.

Community Outreach and Volunteer Hours: Mary Ann Platt said a \$57 donation had been made to Child First. The June 14 Flag Ceremony will be at 7 p.m. in Mt. Zion. Sixteen pillowcases had been added to the contribution for Mc Donald House.

Family Issues: Mary Kay Ennis reported that 28 flags had been collected for the ceremony.

Cultural Enrichment: Chairman Sally Dennis discussed having food entries in the craft contest and using those entries as our meal. Piatt County had successfully done this.

Historian: Lois Miller was absent.

International: Chairman Emily Chamberlain was absent.

Public Relations: Chairman Ann Adkesson has sent information about future activities to Thrive magazine and will also be sending information later to Decatur papers. She had read other county news letters to get new ideas for activities and fund raisers.

Program Coordinator: Karyn Traum reported that Jennifer Nelson had given birth to an 8lb.8oz. baby girl and was doing fine. Karen wondered if members would support two bus trips coming up in the future. Our group felt that they would both be interesting. Tri-county is sponsoring a trip to Starved Rock in the fall, and a trip to Bishop Hill is planned for HCE week.

Unfinished Old Business: Carol Ropp said the spring meeting had gone very well. The Honor Guard was given a donation of \$155 from the 50/50 drawing.

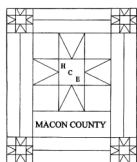
New Business: The first Municipal Band Bake Sale will be on June 6, and Carol Ropp and Karen Cahill will organize that one. Sally Dennis will take care of the sale on June 20. The July 18 sale has not been assigned yet. Those attending the lesson at the Garden Path are urged to bring folding chairs if they need to sit down. A volunteer is needed for the Scholarship committee. Program planning will start at 9:30 am on July 11, and our board meeting will be that afternoon. Linda Hooge moved and Ann Adkesson seconded that we donate \$50.00 to the Senior Center to purchase supplies for coloring classes. Motion passed. Decisions about making Master Gardener and Gardeners Insights lunches will be made later. Ann Adkesson suggested that we need a policy about how much money we should keep in our treasury after scholarship money is set aside. There was some discussion about this but no decision was made.

Sharon and Clarence Middleton had been sent a \$25 check for their fine work on the table decorations for the spring meeting. A \$25 check was sent to Ruth Cortright as a thank-you for her interesting program on First Ladies that she had presented at our spring meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Wickline

Reminder
Scholarship Deadline is
July 1st!



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