

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

MASTER GARDENER LUNCHES

We are fortunate again this year to prepare lunches for the Master Gardeners Training Sessions. The first two lunches are on Tuesdays. Tuesday, February 21st the Mt. Zion unit will prepare a vegetable soup lunch. Tuesday, February 28th the Rock Springs unit will serve a BBQ lunch. Thursday, March 16th the Maple Grove unit will serve a chicken salad lunch. Thursday, March 23rd the Oakley unit will decide what they want to serve. Thursday, March 30th the Pleasant Grove unit will serve their chicken casserole. Thursday, April 6th the Hickory Point unit will serve an Italian Beef lunch. If you see your unit's name listed, please check with your president to see what you can do to help. All that we provide is the basic lunch. The Master Gardeners have the drinks and lots of breakfast items and desserts for the trainees.

This is a great opportunity for us to earn the money for our scholarships. It's also a lot of fun!



HEY! HEY! HEY! Before you call the office or other members, PLEASE look at the membership book that we *have*

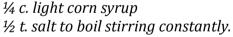
prepared for you! We work really hard to write, proof, and re-proof read this "work of art" so that you will be well informed. Most of your questions will be answered with a quick check in the book. If you don't see it there, it will probably be in your latest newsletter, so check that out as well!!!

IAHCE State Conference March 14 - March 16, 2017 East Peoria, Illinois

For more information visit the IAHCE website.

SWEET SNACK MIX

Preheat oven to 310 degrees
Combine 16 oz. Bugles
2-3 c. split pecans
4 c. Crispix in a large pan.
Bring ½ c. butter
1 c. brown sugar



Boil 5 min. without stirring. Remove from heat and quickly stir in ½ t. soda and 1 t. vanilla. Mix well and pour over dry ingredients. Stir a little so that the syrup covers as much as possible.

Bake for 15 minutes, stirring every 5 minutes. Depending on your oven, you may need to bake it less time but stop after 15 min. Spread freezer paper onto a large, flat surface - shiny side up.. Remove mix from oven and pour out over the paper. I usually use a wooden spoon to break it up right away because it will stick in big clumps if you don't.

Upcoming Events

<u> January</u>

Monday, January 9, 2017 1:00 p.m. HCE Board Meeting Extension Office—Clover Room

Monday, January 16, 2017 Extension Office Closed

Monday, January 17, 2017 RSVP for January Lesson

Monday, January 23, 2017

Sew Practical 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Extension Office - Clover Room

February

Monday, February 6, 2017

Tri County Meeting 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Macon County Extension Office - Clover Room

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

RSVP for February Class

Monday, February 13, 2017

Identity Theft and Scams Macon County Sheriff's Officers 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Extension Office - Clover Room

Monday, February 13, 2017

1:00 p.m. HCE Board Meeting Extension Office - Clover Room Newsletter information due to Linda Austin lindaaustin48@gmail.com

Monday, February 20, 2017

Scholarship Applications available in newsletter and online @ www.mchce.org under Education Tab. Scholarship Committee Chairman - Carol Ropp

Monday, February 20, 2017

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

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

MG Training Lunch 12:00 p.m. Lunch Served Menu—Beef Vegetable Soup and Ham & Turkey Sandwich Mt. Zion Unit

Friday, February 24, 2017

Food Preparation and Set-Up for Gardening Insights @ Richland Community College 9:00 a.m. Extension Office Kitchen Chairmen, Karen Cahill & Carol Ropp

Saturday, February 25, 2017

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

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

MG Training Lunch 12:00 p.m. Lunch Served Menu - Pulled Pork, Chips and Veggies **Rock Springs Unit**

CORN & CHICKEN CHOWDER

3 c. frozen corn

1 T. canola oil

₹ c. chopped onion

 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. chopped red sweet pepper

1 - 14.5 oz. can chicken broth

1 c. medium peeled and cubed potato

1 c. half-and-half of milk

4 T. all-purpose flour

½ t. thyme

1/2 t. salt

 $1^{\frac{1}{4}}$ c. chopped cooked chicken dash of pepper

2 slices crisp-cooked bacon, drained and crumbled (optional)

Peas and carrots (optional)

In a heavy pot heat oil over medium heat. Add onion and sweet pepper and cook until tender. Stir in broth, potato and corn. Bring mixture to boiling and reduce heat. Simmer, covered about 20 minutes or until potato is tender, stirring occasionally.

In a small bowl combine half-and-half, flour, thyme, salt and stir into corn mixture. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Stir in chicken and bacon and heat through.



We will be preparing food for Gardening Insights on February 24

from 9 am to 3 pm at the Extension Office. We will be serving lunch on February 25. Volunteers are needed for both times. Please call Karen or Carol if you can help.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Co-President

Karen Cahill and Carol Ropp

Well, what a year this has been! We hope you were able to join in our many events this year; possibly get some new members in your unit; make a new friend; learn a few new things, etc. We are glad you are part of MCHCE and look forward to many great adventures next year. Remember, we will be "Down by the Riverside" with IAHCE.

The annual conference, March 14-16, will be held in East Peoria at the Embassy Suites. If you are a new member, it really helps to put all of HCE together to give you a better understanding of the many aspects of the organization. If you have never attended, you should consider going. It is a lot of fun and you meet many (about 400) interesting HCE ladies from all over the state. You get great ideas and feel really "pumped up". You can attend for one day, two, or all three. We encourage you to consider joining us in March. Remember, ALL HCE members (NOT JUST BOARD MEMBERS) are invited to attend. Please contact us if you have questions. You can also get information and register at the state website: www.iahce.org

We think we have a great line up of new lessons and programs for 2017. We hope you agree and will join us for them. Maybe you can even bring a friend! Remember to RSVP in a timely manner and, if you are signed up, please call and cancel if you are unable to attend.

Merry Christmas to all of you. We hope you have a happy, healthy new year. Looking forward to seeing you in 2017!

Co - Vice President

Anna Belle Farrell and Linda Hooge

December is here already!! We have had a great year learning new things, going on fun and educational field trips, and meeting new friends along the way. I'd like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make HCE what it is today. We have so many gifted persons who are willing to share their skills and knowledge with us.

Don't forget to turn in your volunteer hours to Mary Ann Platt before December 31. Volunteer hours are very important so please get them in.

Anna Belle and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Speaking of the New Year, January 23rd, we will have the opportunity to make four items with our sewing machines. Please bring your sewing machine, thread, fabric, scissors, and sewing notions with you for our first lesson. February 13th will be our second lesson. Come learn about the latest scams and how to prevent identity theft. This will be presented by the Sheriff's department.

February 20th will be our first pillowcase sewing day. Can we beat last year's record? Bring your sewing machine and let's get started sewing! We love to have help cutting fabric, ironing, folding, or anything you would like to help us do.

"Down by the Riverside" with IAHCE is the theme for the 93rd Annual Conference in Peoria, Illinois at the Embassy Suites Riverfront Hotel and Conference Center, on March 14 to the 16th, 2017. Online reservation is available January 1, 2017.

Our 2016 is almost gone, but 2017 promises to be an exciting year of learning new things and having some new and exciting experiences!

Second Vice President's Report

Sandy Severe

We have ended our 2016 year with a total new membership of 12 members. We welcome all of you and hope you enjoy this wonderful organization as much as all of the rest of us. I hope you have all paid your dues for 2017. If you have not, please get them in as soon as possible. Let's continue the good work of this year and increase our membership by even more. I wish each and every one of you a Very Blessed Christmas and may only good things be in your 2017 future. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Cultural Enrichment

Sally Dennis

Please note in bold print the changes made to the Applied Arts Categories, for the Annual Conference. The reason was due to the number of complaints about the quilts being made by professionals and not by HCE members. The rules state items must be made by HCE members and completed in the last 2 years. Now there is a category for non-member **quilting**, but the piecing **MUST** be done by an HCE member. The Rug and Wood categories were deleted due to lack of entries, but those items can now be entered in the Craft category.

100 Artwork (Charcoal, Oil, Acrylic, or Watercolor) **Baby Ouilts – moved to 1700 Ouilted**

200 Counted Cross Stitch

300 Crafts - Rugs and Wood added & all items that do not fit in any other category

400 Crochet – Afghans
500 Crochet – Other
600 Hand Embroidery

700 Hand Pieced and Hand Quilted. 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 Machine pieced and machine quilted.

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, QUILTED BY NON-HCE MEMBER

1700 Quilted - Other (Baby quilts, Quilted by HCE MEMBER)

1800 Recycled

1900 Scrap Booking (4 pages total, front and back, in 2 plastic sleeves)

2000 Table Runners and covers

2100 Wearable Art (any technique applied to purchased or self made item)

2200 Wall Hangings

Wood - moved to 300 Crafts

2300 Current Annual Conference Theme – "Rollin on the River"

2400 Craft from current Country of Study – Ecuador

Family Issues & Community Outreach

Mary Ann Platt

First of all, thanks for your contributions to Child 1st at our fall meeting. A special thanks goes to Carol Ropp for

her generous donation of her share of the 50/50 drawing to Child 1st. They received a total of \$157. Jean Moore, director of Child 1st, shared the purpose and vision of her agency at our fall meeting. During the course of the year, I will share information regarding child abuse in this newsletter. Jean will be my information source. This month, I will share "Helping is our Mission".

Children who have been victims of abuse need people who care for them as people, not as case files. At the Child 1st Center, children and their families are treated with care and concern.

The Center is a safe, child friendly place where children and adolescents can be interviewed about alleged abuse or exposure to violence without intimidation, The Center staff provides these services to children and their families.

- Assistance and support in coping with abuse
- Crisis intervention services
- Assistance with obtaining medical care, social services, and counseling.
- Legal advocacy and information about the court process including help with orders of protection, victim compensation, and case information as appropriate.
- Information and referral
- Healthy parenting resources
- Case management

To be continued next time...

During the course of this year, we have made 202 pillowcases that we have distributed to The Ronald McDonald House, Kemmerer Village, and Hopedale Medical Complex. Sewing dates for 2017 will be in our program book. Come join us, we have lots of fun and are obviously quite productive.

I delivered 70.6 pounds of pop tabs to The Ronald McDonald House on your behalf Please continue to save them

I appreciate all of your efforts.

Joke of the Month!



Recently my husband put his car in reverse and accidentally drove into a wall. He took it to his mechanic who replaced the dented bumper.

A few days later, he did it again. "I'm so embarrassed, he moaned, reaching for the phone.

"Why not tell him it was me this time?" I suggested.

"Maybe I will, " he said while dialing. "It worked
the last time."

MACON COUNTY UNIT NEWS

Hickory Point Unit

We met on November 8th at Sybil Foster's home. We welcomed a new member, Marge Kauffman, and are looking forward to having her in our group. Sybil gave an interesting book review of the <u>Storied Life of A.J. Fikry</u> by Gabrille Zevin. Sybil's reviews are always one of our favorite programs, for she is a great storyteller.

Barb Reed conducted the business meeting. Sharon Middleton and Marge Kaufman reported on the program at Richland about various coffee types. Coffee is certainly important in our economy as 400 million cups are consumed each day. Our December Christmas lunch will be at the Decatur Club on December 13, and we will bring donations for the Oasis Center as well as a ten dollar gift exchange.

Our officers for next year are: President, Barb Reed; 1st Vice President, Gigi Langhauser, 2nd Vice President, Sharon Middleton, Secretary, Louise Wickline, Treasurer, Barbara Brohard, Community and Family Chairman, Marrill Dees, Callers, Joan Grider and Sybil Foster. Sybil served a delicious apple pie with hot spiced tea as we enjoyed visiting with each other.

Louise Wickline, reporting

Oakley Unit

Our Christmas party was held on Friday, December 2nd, at Evergreen Place. A nice lunch was served and we had a gift exchange after lunch. The new year will find us at Lucille's to work on the new books for 2017. We hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a terrific New Year.

Sandy Severe, reporting

Pleasant Grove Unit

On December 6th, we met at the lovely home of Mary Ann Platt for our Christmas meeting. There were eight members that attended. We had a short business meeting and elected officers. After lunch we played card bingo and exchanged gifts.

Our new officers are: President, Mary Ann Platt, 1st Vice President, Mary Shelton, 2nd Vice President, Anna Belle Farrell, Secretary, Alice Bray, Treasurer, Alberta "Tot" Schuman, County Board Rep, Mary Ann Platt, Anna Belle Farrell, and Sally Dennis, Community and Family, Mary Shelton, Cultural Enrichment, Sally Dennis, Public Relations, Alice Bray, and International Rep, Else Farnham.

Alice Bray, reporting

Maple Grove Unit

Twenty -five Maple Grove members met at Carol Ropp's home on December 6th to enjoy a great gettogether and a delicious lunch served by God, Family and Friends catering service. It was especially great because none of us had to cook! All we had to do was enjoy seeing each other and sharing the latest news about our lives. Another fun activity each year is our gift exchange while "The Wright Family Christmas" is read. It's always fun to see the final destination of our own gifts.

Carol Ropp, reporting

Mt. Zion Unit

The November meeting was held at the Mt. Zion Library. Ruth Gibson was the hostess. We enjoyed visiting over a sack lunch. The months seem to roll around so fast that we don't have time to catch up other than the meetings.

The December meeting will be at the Raspberry Tea Room in Elwin on December 28, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. We plan to have a gift exchange and get ready for the next year in HCE.

Volunteers needed to help prepare food for the Tri County meeting on February 6th.

Contact Karen Cahill or Carol Ropp.



1 lb. ground beef
34 c. chopped onion
2 chopped garlic
cloves

1 can – beef consommé

1 - 28 oz. can diced tomatoes

1 can – green beans

3 - stalks of celery, sliced

3 carrots, sliced

2 c. ea. steamed broccoli & cauliflower

2 - 14.5 oz. cans of beef broth

Sauté onion and garlic in consommé. Brown beef and add the vegetables. Then, pour in onion mixture.

Add: 1 tsp each of Basil and Oregano

Lawry's Seasoned salt and pepper to taste

Simmer for 20-30 minutes.

May be served with parmesan cheese



OCTOBER MINUTES

Macon County HCE Board Meeting October 20, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm by Co-president Carol Ropp. She and Karen Cahill, co-presidents, led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Homemakers' Aim. The roll was taken after Carol read humorous sayings from well-known people. There were 7 units present and 13 in attendance.

The secretary's report was shared. Linda Hooge moved and Sandy Severe seconded that it be approved as corrected. Pam Walker gave the treasurer's report, and it was filed for audit. Carol Ropp and Sharon Middleton presented bills. Lois Miller moved and Sally Dennis seconded that Sharon's bill for the Website be approved. Motion passed.

Correspondence was received from Kemmerer Village thanking us for our donation to the Equine Center. We had all enjoyed the visit to that facility.

Officers' Reports:

Co-presidents: Carol Ropp and Karen Cahill saved their comments until later in the meeting.

Co-1st **Vice President:** Linda Hooge encouraged members to attend the interesting activities for Home Ext. Week. Our dues is to be paid by

November 1. Co-1st vice president Anna Belle Farrell reminded us that the fall meeting will feature apple recipes.

2nd Vice President: Sandy Severe said we have 115 members. Our dues are \$15.

Community Outreach and Volunteer Hours:

Chairman Mary Ann Platt said that 61 pillowcases had been made on the last sewing day. 29 will be sent to Ronald McDonald House, 26 to Kemmerer Village, and 6 to Hopedale.

Family Issues: Mary Kay Ennis will chair the October 11 program: Respect for the Flag.

Cultural Enrichment: Sally Dennis reminded members to bring craft items to be judged at the fall meeting. The winners will be sent on to the state meeting. We should also bring food items with an apple ingredient for the luncheon. Theses will be judged by Piatt members.

Historian: Lois Miller had no report.

International: Chairman Emily Chamberlain was absent.

Public Relations: Linda Austin was absent. Newsletter items are due today.

Unfinished/Old Business: There were only two ladies who attended the coloring group at the senior center. Linda Hooge will lead one on October 17. The need for these groups will be re-evaluated for next year. Pillowcase day was very productive, and everyone enjoyed the salad bar luncheon. The agenda for the fall meeting November 2 was written. We will bring donations for Child First, and suggestions are snacks, paper towels, juice boxes. cleaning supplies, wet wipes, etc. The 4-H Christmas craft day must have a minimum of 10 registered, or it will be cancelled.

New Business: Hosts and lunch responsibilities for HCE week were listed. The Bloomington trip attendees will meet at Sam's at 7:45 am on the 19th to carpool. 2017 program books were organized, and activities were listed. The budget for 2017 was accepted. The slate of officers for 2017 was completed with Sharon Middleton as the treasurer. The 2017 farm tour will include the Maddox farm, Brown farm, and Connie's Green House. A bus will be booked for this trip.

November 8 is set for the coffee lesson, but details are not completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05pm.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Wickline

NOVEMBER MINUTES

Macon County HCE Board Meeting Monday, November 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Co-president Carol Ropp. She and Karen Cahill, co-presidents, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Homemakers' Aim. The roll was called after Carol read a joke. There were seven units represented and 12 members attending.

The secretary's report was corrected and approved. Linda Hooge moved, 2nd by Anna Belle Farrell. The minutes were approved.

Pam Walker gave the treasurer's report. Receipts were submitted and a discussion about what to do with the funds left after the expenses were taken from the fall meeting donations followed. The report was filed for audit.

Karen Cahill read a message from our district director Kathleen Emery about 2017 dates to remember. The 2016 Membership Report is due January 5, 2016. The dues payment is due January 15, 2017. The district 5 workshop is August 9, 2017.

Officers' Reports:

Co-Presidents: Carol Ropp and Karen Cahill saved their comments until later in the meeting.

Co-1st **Vice President:** Linda Hooge reported on the coffee lesson and encouraged knitters to come to the knitting lesson presented by Ruth Darelius December 14, 2016.

2nd Vice President: Sandy Severe reported that we have a new member. Jean Moore joined after she talked with us about Child 1st at the fall meeting. Sandy reported that there are currently 116 members.

Community Outreach and Volunteer Hours:

Chairman Mary Ann Platt reported on the Child 1st presentation. She thanked Carol Ropp for her donation of her share of the 50/50 drawing to Child 1st.

Family Issues: Chairman Mary Kay Harris was absent.

Cultural Enrichment: Chairman Sally Dennis discussed the fall meeting. A pumpkin theme was suggested for next year. She congratulated the cultural arts winners.

Historian: Lois Miller was absent. We thanked Karen Halicki was agreeing to take the Historian office for next year.

International: Chairman Emily Chamberlain was absent

Linda Austin reported that newsletter items are due to her at the next board meeting December 12, 2016.

Unfinished/Old Business: There was only one attendee at the coloring program at the Senior Center in October, so it has been canceled for next year.

New Business: A 4-H craft day for next year was discussed. The master gardeners' training lunches were planned with units assigned. We will meet for lunch at the Beach House before the December Board meeting. There has been a suggestion that we provide a service at the Decatur Celebration. There was a discussion followed by a motion from Mary Ann Platt and a 2nd from Sally Dennis not to participate in the Celebration. Gardening Insights salads were discussed. There will be no bake sale, but we will ask for small baked goods to be provided for sale.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45. Respectfully submitted, Carol Ropp for Louise Wickline

Please Remember to RSVP to all Lessons



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