



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



2017 Scholarship Applications Available

Our scholarship applications will be available February 15th online at MCHCE. All members, children and grandchildren are eligible to receive these scholarships. Four \$500.00 general education scholarships are available. Two \$1,000.00 Margaret Leonard Memorial Scholarships are available for students pursuing degrees in the medical field. Students are eligible to receive two scholarships in either of these categories. Once again we appreciate the generosity of Margaret's family to subsidize this fund. Margaret was a great member who is still missed so much. All MCHCE members should also know that there are IAHCCE scholarships available to qualifying members and their families. Go online to IAHCCE to learn about these. Scholarship papers available at Extension Office.

NVON NEWS

Sharon Middleton

The National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON), which all IAHCCE members belong, has their yearly topic “Eat Healthy, Eat Local”. IAHCCE President Jane Chapman has requested photos from HCE members showing travels to food stands, farmer’s markets, or photos of your own produce that you have grown. Any place that you have been to last summer or fall and purchased vegetables and fruits meets this topic. Jane needs the photos for her report to NVON due by April. If you or your family have visited any of these places or grew your own and have photos, please send them to Jane Chapman or me. My e-mail is tolepainter2@gmail.com. Jane’s e-mail is ejanec50@gmail.com. Thank you!

YOU ARE INVITED!

All members who would like to see what fun and how exciting our state conference is must join us at our 93rd Annual Conference to be held March 14-March 16, 2017, in East Peoria! It excites you, pumps you full of energy to come home and take all of our lessons and tours. You will want to invite all of your friends to join you in our wonderful organization. Besides all of the friends you will make, you will attend many share shops (lessons) of all sorts and see what everyone throughout the state has done in the Cultural Enrichment categories such as the beautiful work in crafts, sewing, painting and quilting, just to name a few. There is a silent auction with many wonderful items to bid on. Tuesday evening, after dinner, there is a Make-It- Take-It craft that you can enjoy. The food is great and included in your registration. If you want more information, look at the IAHCCE website at: www.iahce.org or contact one of the Macon County HCE Board members and they will have the information.

You will also want to be there when the County of the Year is announced! We have been second in the state for the last two years. This year may be the year to be NUMBER 1 and you will want to be there to cheer Karen and Carol on. They have done a terrific job and what a way to end the year!!! You don’t want to miss all of the fun!!!!

Sharon Middleton

Upcoming Events

February

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Scholarship Applications available
www.mchce.org under Education tab

Monday, February 20, 2017

Pillowcase Sewing Day
9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Master Gardener Training Lunch
12:00 pm

Friday, February 24, 2017

Food Preparation and Set-up for Gardening Insights
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Saturday, February 25, 2017

Gardening Insights at Richland Community College
8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

MG Training Lunch

Monday, March 13, 2017

1:00 pm HCE Board Meeting

March 14 - 16, 2017

IAHCE State Conference in East Peoria

Thursday, March 23, 2017

MG Training Lunch

Friday, March 24, 2017

RSVP for March Lesson

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Indestructible Houseplants
Extension Office—Clover Room

Thursday, March 30, 2017

MG Training Lunch

Thursday, April 6, 2017

MG Training Lunch

Monday, April 10, 2017

1:00 pm HCE Board Meeting

Friday, April 14, 2017

RSVP for April Lesson

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Vacation/Staycation
9:30 am to 11 am
Extension Office - Clover Room

Monday, April 24, 2017

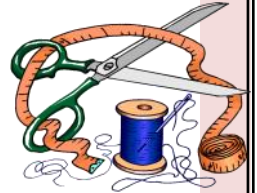
Pillowcase Sewing Day

Thursday, April 27, 2017

RSVP to Sharon Middleton for Spring Meeting

"Sew Practical"

On Monday, January 23, eleven ladies gathered at the Extension Office to learn how to sew some practical items for themselves or to give as gifts. Our instructors were Karen Halicki, Judy Wilhelm, Mary Ann Platt, and Karen Cahill. Under their direction, we learned how to make a pin cushion with an attached trash bin, a colorful tote bag, a pocket pal for the sewing machine, and a non-slip sewing machine foot pedal pad. Everyone agreed that it was a fun, exciting kind of day that we would like to do again! Thank you so much to these great ladies for gathering the materials and preparing the lesson for us.



Volunteers

Volunteers are just ordinary people with extraordinary hearts.

They offer the *Gift of their time* to teach, to listen, to help, to inspire, to build, to grow, to learn.

They expect no pay, yet the *Value* of their work knows no limit.

They've known the *Unexpected joy* of a simple hug.

They've planted time *seeds of LOVE* in countless lives.

***Volunteers* are just ordinary people who reach out and take a hand and together make a *difference* that last a lifetime.**



JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER!!

Be sure to check with your Unit President if your unit has signed up to serve lunch for the Master Gardener's programs. The schedule is in your new program books. The profit we make from this activity goes into the Scholarship Fund! We need volunteers for this very worthy project.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

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 2017 purple 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!

We will once again be participating in the Maker Fest with other community groups. Due to the continuing interest in this project, it will be held at the Decatur Civic Center. Hours are 10 -3. We will be making Moon Sand and allowing people to play for awhile. Volunteers will be needed to make this a successful event again this year. If you are available to work for a couple hours or more, please let Karen know.

This is a reminder that the spring meeting will be Wednesday, May 3. Remember to send your check for the catered lunch reservation to Sharon Middleton (the new treasurer). **We need your reservation by Thursday, April 27.** The cost will be \$10.50. GFF caterers from Cisco will once again be in charge of the meal. If you want breakfast items, a donation basket will be set up. Come join us for this fun day and see which awards we gather from the conference.

We look forward to seeing you at many of our interesting events this year.

NOTE: PLEASE refer to your program book if you have a question. Most all pertinent information is there!!

1st Co-Presidents

Anna Belle Farrell and Linda Hooge

The new year is here and we got off to a great start. Our first lesson, "Sew Practical", was January 23. We brought our sewing machines, two yards of fabric and notions. Everyone was in for a real treat as Mary Ann Platt, Karen Halicki, Judy Wilhelm, and

Karen Cahill presented four items for us to make. These ladies were wonderful, very helpful, and patient with those of us who are not as experienced. We also had a delicious lunch.

Our next lesson is February 13th. A Macon County Sheriff officer will present a program to update us on the newest scams. They were very informative last year, and I know that we will be much wiser and more cautious after they present the new scams to watch out for.

Also ,coming up is another pillowcase sewing day, the Master Gardener's lunches, the IAHCE State Conference in East Peoria, an informative program about indestructible plants by Dr. Jennifer Schultz-Nelson, vacation/staycation, the Maker Fest on April 29th at the Decatur Civic Center from 10 to 3, and the Spring Meeting. Don't forget to RSVP to Sharon Middleton by April 27th for the Spring Meeting on May 3. This year we have so many lessons/programs and activities to keep us so busy that we won't have time to wonder how many days till spring!

Second Vice President

Sandy Severe

Happy Valentine's Day ladies! Our membership starts 2017 with 107 members. As I say each newsletter, please, please, please, let's all do everything possible to encourage new members. This organization cannot continue to exist without new members. **LET'S ALL REALLY WORK HARD THIS YEAR TO BRING THAT NUMBER UP!** Don't forget to sign up for the State Conference March 14 to 16 in East Peoria. It sounds like a lot of fun! As always, don't forget to call in your reservations for each and every lesson!

International

Emily Chamberlain

This year we are looking forward to International Day on Wednesday, September 13. Piatt County will be hosting and DeWitt County will be joining us in a Tri-County event at the Macon County Extension Office. We will be celebrating the women and customs of the Philippines. Recipes and other information will be available at the Spring Meeting. If you have any questions, please call Emily Chamberlain at 433-4962.



OFFICERS' REPORTS

Cultural Enrichment

Sally Dennis

I hope everyone has sent in their reservation for the Conference in Peoria in March. They always have interesting classes and special entertainment, plus the more of us that get together, the more fun we have!

I am sorry that the "thank you" did not make the last newsletter. Many thanks go to: Karen Halicki for her painting of a barn, Barbara Abbott for her counted cross stitch sampler, Vickie Wooten for her photograph of a day lily, Carol Myers for her knitted afghan, Mary Shelton for her huck weaving table runner, Sandy Lynch for her ladybug bowling ball, Mary Ann Platt for her quilted tote bag, and Karen Cahill for her quilt. You all did a beautiful job on your projects and I wish you the best at conference.

Please take your items with you to conference if you are going. If you are not going, make sure that you get them to me by the first of March. I will be receiving the entry tags for your items in a week or so.

Don't forget to get started on a new project for this year's fall meeting which could go to next year's conference. Good luck to all and happy crafting!!!

Historian

Karen Halicki

I am moving right along with getting the books up to date and getting some of the older ones in order. I would like to ask all units to try and take a picture of your units sometime this year and send me the picture for the scrapbook. If you also have something of interest that you would like to see in the scrapbook, please let me know.

Have a fun winter! I can't wait to start my garden seeds inside!

Community Outreach/Family Issues

Mary Ann Platt

Here are some interesting numbers for 2016 that I thought you might enjoy knowing.

- Volunteer hours 29,174 hours
- Made and donated 202 pillowcases (162 to Ronald McDonald House, 14 to Hopedale Medical Center and 26 to Kemmerer Village)
- Donated 73.3 pounds of pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House (\$254 value) 12 rolls of paper towels, 8 juice boxes, 18 granola bars, 8 oz. cracker

and peanut butter snacks, 20 bags of chips, 76 oz. of detergent, 1 box of Kleenex, and 75 sanitizing wipes.

- Collected and participated in the proper disposal of 29 American Flags
- Taught six 4-H girls how to make pillowcases
- Twenty of us taught students of all ages how to sew a button at the Maker Faire.

The outreach events touched the lives of hospitalized children, troubled teens, development disabled, senior citizens, and children who have been abused. All of this has been a labor of love. Thank you!!!

UNIT Reports

Rock Springs Unit

On January 11, we met at the Raspberry Tea Room. Linda Hooge passed out the new lesson books. Our new officers were chosen. They are: President, Rosemary Knap, 1st and 2nd Vice President, Lois Miller, Secretary, Bonnie Lanham, Treasurer, Linda Hooge, County Board Rep, Linda Hooge, Community and Family, Lyn Stevens, Cultural Enrichment, Nancy Norton, Public Relations, Lois Miller, and International Rep, Donna Washburn. We looked through our books and decided on hostesses and teachers for each month. We ended our meeting with a luncheon.

February 8th, our unit met at the home of Linda Hooge. We had a short business meeting. Donna Washburn reported on the January lesson, "Sew Practical". Karen Cahill and Sally Dennis came to our meeting to update us on the Cultural Enrichment changes that have been made. They answered all of our questions. Everyone is encouraged to start on a project. We ended our meeting, and enjoyed a delicious dessert.

Linda Hooge, reporting

Please remember to
RSVP to all Lessons.

MACON COUNTY UNIT NEWS

Hickory Point Unit

We met in January at Monical's to have a short meeting and pizza! While we were waiting for our lunch, members who had received their program booklets in December, went over the lessons for the year. Since we had limited members, we decided to, as a group, go to the February lesson, "Identity Theft and Scams. This topic has been in the news a lot lately. After the lesson, we will gather at El Forno's for lunch and a meeting where we will continue to fill out our itinerary for 2017.

Our March 7th lesson is scheduled with Louise Wickline. She will share her experiences with us about her recent trip to Cuba. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome. Please call Gigi Langhauser at 875-2683 or Sharon Middleton at 877-7229 so we will know how many to expect. We will be able to tell our guests where the location of the meeting will be.

Sharon Middleton, reporting

Oakley Unit

The first of the year, we met at Lucille's to get our books assembled for the year. In February, our group will meet for the lesson on February 13th about "Identity Thefts and Scams". We will have lunch and a short meeting. We will be making and serving lunch for the Master Gardener's on March 23. Cheryl will be attending the lesson on March 29, "Indestructible Houseplants."

Sandy Severe, reporting

Maroa Patchwork Unit

We met on January 17th at Crawford's Pizza in Maroa and enjoyed their delicious pizza, calzones and sandwiches. We discussed upcoming events such as cheese making and growing indoor herbs. We will meet again on February 21 at Maroa Library at 6:00 p.m. Heather Kelly from Canvas and Corks will guide us through a painting, "Down My Country Road". If anyone is interested in joining us, contact Barb at 217-454-3639 or Karen at 217-855-1703.

Cindy Hoffman, reporting

Pleasant Grove Unit

We met on February 7 at Coz's in Mt. Zion. Bev Wall was the hostess. We had 9 members present. Mary Shelton substituted for Mary Ann Platt as president for this meeting. Both the secretary's and treasurer's report were given. Sally Dennis showed and reported on the sewing class she had attended at the Extension

Office last week. We also talked about the Fall Meeting. Sally told us that the theme for this next Fall Meeting would be a pumpkin theme. We worked on our new program books and discussed the next pillowcase sewing class and the Master Gardener's luncheons.

Alice Bray, reporting

Maple Grove Unit

There were 21 members present at our January 27th meeting. We had one guest, Judy Havenwood, a friend of Judy Wilhelm's. We met in the conference room at the Decatur Club at 11:30. We began our meeting with the responsive reading of the homemaker's goal.

The roll call of members was answered with a favorite cold weather memory. Judy Wilhelm gave the treasurer's report. She reported that a total of \$50 had been collected in 2016 for the Pennies for Friendship Fund. Our annual dues were collected for the 2017 year. All of our current officers agreed to serve another term.

The new 2017 lesson books were handed out to all, and we previewed the lessons and made a few corrections, as needed. We discussed having our next two meetings at local churches and having our meal catered. On February 23rd, we will meet at Sharon United Methodist Church at 11:30.

Mary Kay Ennis, reporting

Mt. Zion Unit

Our December meeting was held at the Elwin Tea Room. We enjoyed a delicious meal and had a white elephant gift exchange.

Our January meeting was held at the Four Star Diner in Mt. Zion. After a delicious meal, we spent most of our meeting putting together our plans for this year and filling in our program books. We got a lot accomplished with most of our programs were planned.

February's meeting will be on February 22 at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Mt. Zion. We will begin our time by working on a mat project for the homeless to use if they have to sleep outside. Karen Cahill and Sally Dennis will be visiting our meeting to talk about the Cultural Enrichment program.

Vicki Wooten, reporting

DECEMBER MINUTES

Macon County HCE Board Meeting December 12, 2016

Co-president Karen Cahill called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm at the Extension office after our enjoyable lunch at the Beach House. She told a joke, then she and Carol Ropp led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Homemakers' Aim. There were 16 present and 8 units represented.

The secretary's report was corrected and approved with a motion by Linda Hooge and seconded by Sally Dennis. The treasurer's report was filed for audit. A bill was presented by Gini Smith. A thank-you note from Mindy Peterson-Lindsey was read.

Officers' Reports:

Co-presidents : Karen Cahill and Carol Ropp – given later.

Co-1st Vice President Anna Belle Farrell & Linda Hooge: Sewing day will be January 23, Identity Theft lesson February 13, Pillowcase sewing February 20.

2nd Vice President: Sandy Severe reported that we have 116 members. Unpaid members' names were read.

Community Outreach and Volunteer Hours and Family Issues: Mary Ann Platt encouraged members to report volunteer hours. Mary Kay Ennis had no report.

Cultural Enrichment: Sally Dennis had congratulations to all the winners of crafts at the fall county meeting. These crafts should be taken to conference.

Historian: Karen Halicki said that scrapbooks will be finished, and it is hoped that Photo Scan can be used to save those pictures.

International: Emily Chamberlain said her book is completed. Philippines will be the country for study next year.

Public Relations: Linda Austin said that newsletter items could be sent to her for publication in the upcoming newsletter.

Unfinished/Old Business: Gardening Insights luncheon menu on February 2 will include Chutney chicken sandwich, 7 layer and pasta salads at a cost

of \$8.50. Master Gardener Training lunches will be served by individual units: February 21 Mt.Zion, February 28 Rock Springs, March 16 Maple Grove, March 23 Oakley, March 30 Pleasant Grove, April 6 Hickory Point.

New Business: Registration for IAHCE state conference must be submitted by February 14, 2017. Conference will be March 14-16, 2017. Linda Hooge moved and Sally Dennis seconded that our county contribute \$60 for the Country Women's Council India rice and vegetable cultivation project. Motion carried. Our two Voting delegates will be Linda Hooge and Carol Ropp. Linda Hooge moved and Anna Belle Farrell seconded that Sandy Severe and Gini Smith create a basket to be auctioned at the conference. Motion passed. \$50 will be allocated for this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Wickline

Joke of the Month:

Four high school boys decided to skip school. The next day they told the teacher that they had had a flat tire and that's why they were absent. Much to their relief she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper. Still smiling, she waited for them to be seated and get ready. Then she said, "First question: Which tire was flat?"



Calling All Crafters!!

As you all know, time has a way of getting away from us! We hope you have started on your project to bring to the Fall Meeting for the Cultural Enrichment judging. We would like to have more entries this year! If you have any questions or comments, please call Sally Dennis at 864-2792 or 433-0605.

JANUARY MINUTES

Bylaw changes to be voted on at Spring meeting: May 3, 2017

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications

Sustaining – a member who may want to participate in county activities and programs, but does not wish to belong to a unit. The fee for this membership is \$15.00.

Change: Sustaining to Member-at-Large (this is how IAHCE has it)

ARTICLE II – MCAHCE BOARD

Section 2. Terms of Office for Officers

The officers of this Association shall be elected at the Annual Fall Meeting for a period of two years – the First Vice-President, Second Vice-President and Secretary shall be elected in the odd years and the President and Treasurer in the even years. They shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified.

No elective officer may serve more than two terms in the same office, nor more than four successive years on the board. Exception – The Office of President may serve for six successive years on the board if the term of President starts in the fifth year.

Add - After leaving the board they must be off the board for a minimum of six months before returning to any board position.

ARTICLE II – MCAHCE BOARD

Section 3. Terms of Office for Directors.

At least three (3) directors shall be elected at the Annual Fall Meeting in the even years (Community Outreach, Cultural Enrichment, Family Issues) and the remaining directors in the odd years (Public Relations, Historian, International) and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified. No director shall serve more than two terms in the same position, nor more than four successive years on the Board.

**Change: Community Outreach and Family Issues to
Family and Community Issues (per IAHCE change)**

Add: After leaving the board they must be off the board for a minimum of six months before returning to any board position.

Add:

ARTICLE II – MCAHCE BOARD

Section 8. Vacancies.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of

A. President – The First Vice President shall succeed to the office.

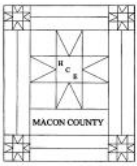
Other Officers and Directors – The Board shall, within 60 days appoint a qualified member of HCE to fill the unexpired term of the respective office.

ARTICLE IV - DUTIES OF OFFICERS OF BOARD

Section 5. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of this Association, and deposit said funds to the account of the MCAHCE in such bank as may be designated by the MCAHCE Board. The Treasurer shall keep a complete record of funds received and of deposits made in said bank. The Treasurer shall pay them out only on order of the MCAHCE Board and make a treasurer's report at the MCAHCE Board meetings and then place on file in the county office. The Treasurer shall make such other reports as the Board may direct. The Treasurer shall submit records for audit at the end of the Association year and at other times as directed by the MCAHCE Board.

Add: Two signatures are required, preferably the President and Treasurer, for expenses exceeding \$300.00.



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