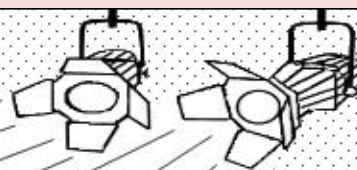


Macon County

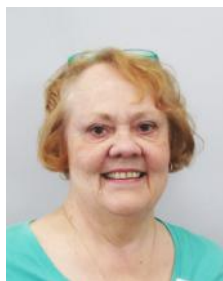
**HCE
HIGHLIGHTS**



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

MEET OUR NEW OFFICERS

Donna Washburn grew up on a family dairy farm near Irvington, Illinois, which is six miles south of Centralia, Illinois. All four of the kids in the family were very active in 4-H and only stopped when they either got too old or left for college. She went to high school in Centralia, one year at Kaskaskia College, and a three year diploma graduating from Julia Burnham School of Nursing in Champaign,



Illinois. She has worked in ICU and CCU at the University of Tennessee Hospitals in Memphis and at both hospitals in Decatur. She has also worked as a camp nurse in Wisconsin, in the CHIC Health Clinic which is now known as the Crossroads Healthcare in Decatur, and she has worked in the Home Care and Hospice through the VNA, DMH and in a private agency. She was an RN for forty years, and retired in 2008 when the agency she worked at closed the Decatur office and she had both knee replacement surgeries to face.

She has been married to her husband, John, for 45 years this August. They have two grown sons and two grandchildren. Their families live in Rolla, Missouri, and Louisville, Illinois. She spends a lot of time babysitting for the family in Louisville!

In her spare time, she is active in her church as a Deacon and is on the Health Ministries committee, spends time outside in the nice weather with yard work and tending to her flowers, and playing with her dog Archie. She is definitely a farmer's daughter and would rather be outside than being "cooped" up in the house! If she has to be inside, she loves creating greeting cards, sewing and crafting. She is also an avid reader. She bought 33 books last year from their annual visit to Tuscon. She also enjoys thrift store shopping and photography. She says that there are many things to learn to do before she grows old!!!!



Bonnie Lanham Hi there! I am your new 2nd Vice President. I have been an HCE member for a good number of years! I belonged to the Elwin Unit until they disbanded. I now belong to the Rock Springs Unit. I was also a past County President. I am

open to ideas for getting new members. We need to think of how to get some younger people in the units. Maybe we will have to do something on the computers to get them interested to join us. Anyway, I look forward to hearing from you.



Judy Wilhelm will be our new co-secretary along with Louise Wickline. I asked her to give me some information about herself, and this is her story. She was raised in Washington, Illinois and her first

exposure to sewing and crafting was 4H, where she received several ribbons in sewing and baking classes. She spent nine years in Mexico as a missionary with her husband, Gary. They have a son, Andrew, and twin daughters, Elizabeth and Rebecca. They have seven grandchildren. She retired in 2011 from the Land of Lincoln Credit Union after being there for 18 years. She is the secretary for the Kiwaniana's. She has also been on the board for RSVP, and she is the treasurer for the Maple Grove Unit. She is one busy lady!! Welcome to the board, Judy!

**HCE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
A CENTURY OF LEARNING
AND SERVING !**

Upcoming Events

MARCH

Thursday, March 1, 2018

RSVP for March Lesson

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Novel Ideas - 480 E Main St.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

Lunch on your own

Meet at the Staley Museum at 1:30 pm

361 N. College St.

Monday, March 12, 2018

1:00 pm HCE Board Meeting

Macon County Extension – Clover Room

March 13-15, 2018

IAHCE State Conference in Effingham, IL

Keller Convention Center

APRIL

Monday, April 2, 2018

RSVP for April Lesson

Monday, April 9, 2018

Libraries

Extension Office - Upstairs Room

9:30 am to 11:00 am

Monday, April 9, 2018

1:00 pm HCE Board Meeting

Extension Office - Clover Room

Newsletter items due to Linda Austin

lindaaustin48@gmail.com

Friday, April 20, 2018

RSVP to Sharon Middleton for Spring Meeting

Monday, April 23, 2018

Pillowcase Sewing Day

9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Extension Office - Clover Room

MAY

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Set-up for Spring Meeting

1:00 pm

Extension Office - Illini Room

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

Spring Meeting

9:00 am Registration

9:30 am Meeting Begins

Extension Office - Illini Room

Donations for Northeast Community Fund

MACON COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION SHIRTS UPDATE

My goal is to turn in the order for the shirts March 1st, 2018. So far, we have 32 shirts to order. I have 1 more unit to give the tote of shirts to try on. Thanks everyone for your help. Linda Hooge

CRAFT SALE AT THE SPRING MEETING

As a fundraiser this year we would like to try something different. We know most of you are very talented and make a variety of gift type items. IF you would be willing to give any of your creations (even one!) to be purchased by other HCE members, PLEASE consider donating to our craft sale which will be held on May 2 during the Spring Meeting. Examples of some items we know we will have available are pillowcases, table runners, microwave bowls, hot mitts, coasters, hats, and hopefully a variety of other things all at reasonable prices. We hope you can donate or shop for some lovely gifts. If you have questions please contact Karen Cahill or Carol Ropp. Also, if you are planning to donate anything please let us know so we can plan accordingly.

IAHCE FACTS

- In 1915 Kankakee County became the first organized Home Bureau group in Illinois and the second in the USA.
- Mercer County Home Bureau was established in 1917.
- In 1918 twelve counties were organized and are celebrating their 100th anniversaries this year. Along with our own Macon County there are Adams, Champaign, Hancock, Kane, LaSalle, Livingston, McHenry, McLean, Saline, Tazwell, and Williamson.
- These counties will be honored during the conference in Effingham.



SAVE THE DATE

Who: Father Dominic Garramone –

The Bread Monk

What: 100 Years of Baking

Where: Macon County Extension Office

When: Saturday, August 11, 2018

Time: 1 to 3 pm

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 2018 red 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 2. Remember to send your check for the catered lunch reservation to Sharon Middleton. **We need your reservation by Friday, April 20.** The cost will be \$11.00. 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. Try to bring a friend!

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

1st Vice President

Linda Hooge

Happy Valentine's Day and have a Blessed Easter! Some of you ladies are making plans or making things for both holidays. Our January lesson, "Sew Practical" was a lot of fun. We had a great turn-out of ladies. We made a table runner, a fabric topped kitchen hand towel, a placemat purse, and a fabric basket. I'm thinking about buying Spring or Easter themed hand towels to make for gifts. The fabric basket would be great to put Easter candy in. The basket can be made in larger sizes, so you can make it as large as you like.

February's Lesson, "Update on Current Scams" presented by State's Attorney, Jay Scott, will be very helpful. Every year there are new scams out there.

In March, we will go to Novel Ideas. It's a great book store. I have purchased and ordered new and used books from this store. They are very helpful and it's a nice shop with other items to purchase.

The 2018, Annual Conference is March 13 – 15, 2018 in Effingham, IL. The Conference will be held at the Thelma Keller Convention Center. On Tuesday, be sure to wear red, white, and blue. On Wednesday night wear formal attire for the Elsie Mies banquet. Be ready to hear some great speakers, eat delicious food, attend the share shop of your choice, and have a great time.

Do you know what services your library provides? We will be updated on April 9th at 9:30 A.M. in the upstairs room at the Extension office.

April 23rd is another Pillowcase Sewing day from 9:30 – 3:30. Come join us as we make pillowcases. Please bring your sewing machine and everything you need to sew. We all have a good time. You don't have to sew, you can iron fabric, cut fabric, and other things, or just visit. All of us at Home Extension will have lots to keep us busy while we wait for Spring to get here.

Community Outreach/Family Issues

Mary Ann Platt

This is a summary of our collective activities for 2017. We made and donated a total of 294 pillowcases. The recipients were: Ronald McDonald House 183, Webster Cantrell Hall 54, Cunningham Children Home 30, and Hopedale Medical Center 153. We will continue to make pillowcases in 2018. There have been sewing days that we teach 4-Hers to make their own pillowcase.

We collected and donated 59.2 pounds of pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House. I was amazed to learn that this house in Springfield receives approximately \$10,000 from all of the tabs that they collect. Of course, several organizations contribute, but doesn't this fact make you feel good about collecting these lowly tabs?

We gave \$114.00, 11 rolls of toilet paper, 10 juice boxes, 5 boxes of tissues, 4 bottles of spray cleaner, 2 toothbrushes, 4 bars of soap, 348 wipes, 75 snack bars, and 20 individual bags of chips to Child First. Ninety four of our 112 members volunteered 29,572.5 hours for 2017. Amazing!! Many of the units submitted their hours all at once. This helped me a lot.

Thank you, ladies, for all that you do.

MACON COUNTY UNIT NEWS

Mt Zion Unit

Our next meeting will be February 28th at Kraves in Mt. Zion. We will meet for a lunch and a lesson on the North East by Vicky Wooten. The roll call will be our member's favorite charity and why it is their favorite. Our March meeting will be on the 28th at the Antioch Christian Church where we will be having a speaker from Ameren for our program. Each member is to bring a favorite family picture.

Vicky Wooten, reporting

Hickory Point Unit

We canceled the January weather due to the weather conditions. In February, we met at the Extension office after the "Current Scam" lesson, which made us all think to be careful who you give any of your information to. We held our meeting in the Illini room and discussed some of the upcoming lessons. Then our group went to lunch after a great lesson and meeting.

We will be at Evergreen in March a week later than usual due to the State Conference being held the day of our scheduled meeting.

Sharon Middleton, reporting

Oakley Unit

Our January meeting was held at Sandy Severe's home on January 18th. We filled out our new books and went over some of the upcoming lessons. Our February meeting will be held at Il Forno for lunch and good conversation. Sandy will be attending the February lesson about "Scams". The pillowcase sewing day is coming up on February 19. We all will be attending the lesson in March at Novel Ideas and the Staley Museum. The State Conference will be in March. We hope you have your reservations in.

Sandy Severe, reporting

Pleasant Grove Unit

December: The Pleasant Grove Unit had their meeting at the lovely home of Mary Ann Platt in December. We had a short business meeting. We agreed to give \$100.00 to the Northeast Community Campaign Fund. The group talked about the Macon-Piatt county trip to Champaign. They all enjoyed it. We will not have a January meeting. We enjoyed our potluck lunch and later had fun playing card bingo.

January: We met on February 6th. We had 8 members present. We opened with all of us saying the Homemaker's Aim. Reports were given. Sally Dennis told us to be creative for our craft items for Cultural Enrichment in 2018. The State Conference is March 13 to March 15 in Effingham. She reminded us that if anyone had articles to go to the state competition, they need to be to her by March 12th. Mary Ann reported that Australia is the country of study this year for International Day. Anna Belle reported on some of the upcoming lessons for this year. Mary Ann said that the 100th anniversary celebration of MCHCE will be at the Decatur Club on September 8th. Paul Osborne will be the speaker. We are excited that the Bread Monk will be here in our Illini Room for our fundraiser for our 100th anniversary. His program will be 100 Years of Baking.

Alice Bray, reporting

Maple Grove Unit

December: Our unit had a gathering at the Decatur Conference Center cafe on December 13 to celebrate Christmas. We did not have a formal meeting, but enjoyed the company of the 15 who gathered there. We had our gift exchange which we all enjoyed doing.

January: The January meeting was held at the Decatur Club, 11:30 on the 24th. There were 21 in attendance that day. We welcomed our newest member, Chris Robinson. We recited the pledge of allegiance and our homemakers' aim. The secretary report was read and amended; because our lesson for November was held at the Brettwood Kroger's not the originally scheduled Airport Plaza Kroger. The treasurer gave our balance and reported that \$52 was collected for Pennies for Friendship.

It has been decided that HCE will sell snacks for concerts at Rock Springs next summer, to help as a fundraiser. We will also be selling at the Spring Meeting, among these items will be cleaning cloths, the apple cookbooks, table runners, small cloth baskets, and signs for "We Support First Responders" and more.

Co-President Karen Cahill announced that the Bread Monk will be coming to our area on August 11. When he heard about our 100th anniversary he decided to build his presentation around that milestone, his presentation will be "100 Years of Baking". This is brought to us by Macon County HCE and will be held at the extension office. Karen also mentioned that she and Mary Ann Platt and Sally Dennis were judges at the Cultural Enrichment

competition at the DeWitt County HCE gathering. She said it was very enjoyable. We were reminded of the lesson on scamming, led by State's Attorney Jay Scott on Feb 12.

We have set up our next 2 meetings: February 22 we will meet at Primrose Retirement Community at 11:30, and March 22 at Imboden Creek Living Center, also at 11:30. We will be eating lunch at both facilities before our meetings. Several health concerns were shared before the meeting adjourned.

Mary Kay Ennis

ILLINOIS FACTS

- ◆ Illinois became the 21st State on December 3, 1818.
- ◆ 102 counties
- ◆ State bird: Cardinal
- ◆ State flower: Illinois native purple violet
- ◆ State mammal: White-tailed deer
- ◆ State insect: Monarch butterfly
- ◆ State fish: Bluegill
- ◆ State tree: White oak
- ◆ State snack food: Popcorn

Spring Meeting

Don't forget the Spring Meeting.

Reservations need to be made by Friday, April 20, 2018 to Sharon Middleton. The Cost will be \$11. GFF Caterers from Cisco are the caterer. We are looking forward to seeing you!



Perfect Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup butter, room temperature
- ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar (I use dark brown sugar)
- 6 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 ¼ cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- ½ cup pecans



Preheat the oven to 350° F and line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper or spray with non-stick spray. In a medium bowl, sift the flour, baking soda and salt together. In another large bowl, using an electric mixer at medium speed, beat together the butter and sugars about 2 minutes until it is smooth. Add the egg and vanilla and mix on low speed until mixed in. Gradually add the flour mixture and mix in until just incorporated. Do not overmix. Add chocolate chips and pecans and stir with wooden spoon just until incorporated. Chill dough if it is warm. Using a small or large ice cream scoop or heaping tablespoon, drop the dough onto the prepared baking sheets, 6 to 8 per pan, depending on size you are making. Bake the cookies 1 sheet at a time, until the bottoms and edges are lightly browned and the tops feel firm when lightly touched. Small cookies bake 8 – 10 minutes. Large cookies bake 10 – 13 minutes. Let the cookies cool for 5 minutes on the baking sheets, then transfer the cookies to wire racks to cool completely. Makes 15 – 30 cookies depending on size.

Recipe from Linda Hooge

DECEMBER MINUTES

Macon County HCE Board Meeting December 11, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm. by Co - President Karen Cahill. Carol Ropp was absent. We said the Pledge of Allegiance and the Homemakers' Aim. Roll call showed 8 units represented and 15 members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read. Linda Hooge moved and Sally Dennis seconded that they be approved. Motion passed. Sharon Middleton gave the treasurer's report which was filed for audit. Mary Ann Platt moved and Linda Hooge seconded that Sharon Middleton be reimbursed for the cost of the craft lesson. Motion passed.

New yearbooks were distributed and will be handed out to unit members. Ronald McDonald House had sent a thank-you note for pillowcases.

Officers' Reports:

Co-President: Karen Cahill saved comments until later.

Co-Vice Presidents: Anna Belle Farrell and Linda Hooge urged members to attend the new programs starting in January.

2nd Vice President: Sandy Severe said 99 members had paid dues. Certificates for 25 or 50 year members will be presented at conference.

Community and Family Issues and CVH:

Mary Ann Platt reminded that volunteer hours are due at the end of the month. Members should keep track of the number of articles they have made as volunteers.

Cultural Enrichment: Sally Dennis encouraged members to make crafts. Cherries will be the featured food for next year. Carol Ropp, Karen Cahill, and Sally will judge Piatt county food entries at their meeting.

Historian: Karen Halicki once again asked for pictures from each unit.

International: Emily Chamberlain was absent. Australia is the featured country next year.

Public Relations: Linda Austin was absent, but the newsletter deadline is today.

Our advisor Beth Allhands thanked the group for her Christmas gift. She stated that the December trip to Champaign had been a success.

Unfinished Old Business: Linda Hooge had brought samples of shirts available for the Centennial year. There was no information on the aprons. Practical ideas for the January Sewing were suggested: table runners, holder for cell phone, hand towel holder, place mat purses, fabric basket. Name tags are still not being made.

New Business: A table for sale was suggested for the conference: cleaning cloths, cook books, and craft items, as a fund raiser for our centennial celebration. We will have a patriotic basket with a value of \$50 for the silent auction at conference. Next month we will make decisions for delegates and voting at the conference. Sharon Middleton moved and Bonnie Lanham seconded that we purchase 200 HCE fliers and apply for money from the support fund. Motion passed. Registration deadline for conference is February 1, 2018. We will be looking for a patriotic speaker for our Spring meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Wickline

A little birdie told me
That Spring will soon be here.
A five dollar cleaning cloth
Can make your windows clear.
(Elbow grease needed!)



Contact Karen Cahill to order
yours today.

JANUARY MINUTES

Macon County HCE Board Meeting

January 8, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm. by Co-Presidents Carol Ropp and Karen Cahill.

Present: Carol Ropp, Karen Cahill, Linda Hooge, Bonnie Lanham, Judy Wilhelm, Sharon Middleton, Sally Dennis, Anna Belle Farrell, Sandy Severe, Carol Flitz. Six units were present.

The minutes were read: Motion to approve 1st Bonnie Lanham and 2nd Linda Hooge. The motion was passed.

Correspondence:

- Thank you card from Diane Dowd
- Thank you card from Jane Chapman
- Thank you card from Peggy Mechling
- Thank you card from Ronald McDonald House

Officers' Report:

Co-Presidents suggested to sign up for all year and if unable to come to event then "cancel" a much easier way to remember.

1st Vice President: Reminders of upcoming events. Sew Practical discussion of materials needed - January 22
Current Scams by Jay Scott – February 12, 2018
Pillowcase Sewing Day – February 19, 2018

2nd Vice President: Bonnie Lanham, shared a card from Betty Trebacz.

Community/Family Issues and CVH: Mary Ann Platt not present. A reminder that the volunteer hours will go to Bonnie Lanham in the future, page 21 in Book, was shared by Karen Cahill.

Cultural Enrichment: Sally Dennis sent papers to receive Tag Back.

Unfinished/Old Business:

Centennial Plans: Aprons and Shirts Linda Hooge will be calling and visiting units with samples available to members.

Sew Practical Ideas: Directions needed printed out for all projects presented at class to hand out.

Fund Raiser for Centennial Celebration: Karen Cahill will be calling about the Bread Monk invitation.

Speaker for Spring Meeting: Karen Cahill will be calling speakers.

Conference and Hotel Registration Delegates: Anna Belle Farrell and Sally Dennis were nominated for Delegates. Motion made to approve 1st Linda Hooge 2nd Bonnie Lanham Approved

Silent Auction Item were discussed and Sandy Severe will be in charge of getting basket ready.

New Business:

Maker Fest in April was discussed Motion was made to drop for lack of new members joining HCE.
1st Bonnie Lanham 2nd Sally Dennis Passed

Officers will be working on **notebooks** to submit to the State Officers by January 31.

Number of Scholarships was discussed of having just 1 Scholarship this year and also Carol Ropp will be looking into other ways of saving on expenses.

Tri County, Monday, February 5 food on menu was discussed and dessert, soup and a salad. Carol Ropp volunteered to make soup.

Current Scams Monday, February 12, 2018, Jay Scott will be speaking.

Committee for Centennial was discussed, will be held at Decatur Club, September 8th, Paul Osbourn will be our speaker.

Membership Pictures: Sharon Middleton will be taking more pictures in the near future but she feels like almost all are taken.

New Name Badges were shown by Karen Cahill, the cost will be \$3.50 each. Every unit will be able to order.

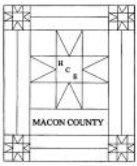
April 3 Aging Summit 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. We be held at HCE office. We will host a table.

Sales table at Conference will be \$45. Karen Cahill will be calling to see if we can get that cancelled and hours clarified when the table will be opened. Cleaning towel, Cookbook, pillowcases, pads, etc items for sale on table.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Wilhelm, Co-Secretary.





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