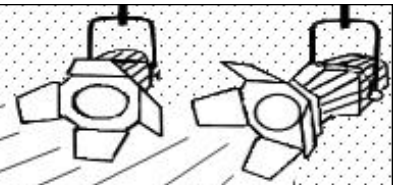


Macon County

July-August 2019

HCE HIGHLIGHTS



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

Inside This Issue

- Upcoming Events
- Zero Hunger Challenge
- Illinois Raptor Center
- Congratulations, Beth Allhands!
- For Your Information
- Support Our Troops
- Elephants Needed!
- Laughter is Good for the Soul!
- Officer's Reports
- Unit News
- Hello! I'm Laura, the New Office Support Assistant
- Craft Extravaganza Insert

WE NEED YOU!

We need you to join our County Board! Here are the positions that we need for next year:

1st Vice President--Preside for the president in case of her/his absence; chair the program planning committee; plan and implement the county program; with her committee, plan the annual meeting; make arrangements for alternate meeting places; contribute to the newsletter.

2nd Vice President--Chair the membership committee; send the membership report to the District Director and the state membership chairman (State 2nd Vice President, due January 1st each year and the form is in the Vice President's book); contribute to the newsletter.

Treasurer--shall have charge of the funds of the county organization and pay them out only at the direction of the board; shall make a financial report at each meeting of the board and at the annual meetings; a copy of each report shall be placed in the permanent file; shall submit records for audit at the end of the fiscal year; shall contribute to the newsletter when needed.

Secretary--Keep a record of all transactions of the board; provide a copy of board minutes to be kept in a permanent file; send a list of county officers to the State President, Secretary and your District Director following your annual meeting. The form is in the Secretary's book. Contribute to the newsletter.

International--Shall report the International subject designated by the State officer; implement the International program to be given at the local level; remit the Friendship Projects Fund (formally Pennies for Friendship) by November 20th each year. Contribute to the newsletter.

Please consider accepting the office when the nominating committee member calls. We need you!!!! Thank you!!!!

POP TAB FACTS!!

One thousand four hundred and sixty two tabs equal one pound.

In 2017, we collected 59.2 pounds. That equals 86,550.4 tabs.

In 2018, we collected 27.6 pounds. That equals 40,351.2 tabs.

THERE IS POWER IN NUMBERS!!!

Please Remember to RSVP for All Events 217-877-6042

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, July 1st

Scholarship Deadline

Must be delivered to the Extension Office by 4PM.

Thursday, July 4th

Extension Office Closed

Monday, July 8th

Annual Program Planning

9:30 AM—11:00 AM

Extension Office—Clover Room

HCE Board Meeting

1:00 PM

Extension Office—Clover Room

Friday, July 12th

RSVP for July Lesson

Saturday, July 20th

Craft Extravaganza—For All You Crafters!

Membership Drive

9:30 AM—2:30 PM

Extension Office—Clover & Illini Rooms

Wednesday, August 7th

IAHCE District Meeting

Southern View Chapel, Springfield

Monday, August 12th

HCE Board Meeting

1:00 PM

Extension Office—Clover Room

Newsletter information due to Linda Austin
lindaaustin48@gmail.com

August 27th—August 29th

Farm Progress Show

ZERO HUNGER CHALLENGE

IAHCE CONFERENCE 2019

Sally Dennis

We were told at Conference that it only takes twenty-five cents a day to feed one child. We also learned that one person in nine goes to bed hungry. The results of the challenge that was put to local HCE's by the IAHCE to help stamp out world hunger was announced at the past Conference. The dimes that were collected totaled approximately \$8604.00. Of this \$8604.00, Macon County gave \$385.00. I am proud to say that of this \$385.00, the Pleasant Grove Unit gave \$115.42. We challenge the other units, as well as ourselves, to do this again or better for the next year's Conference.

ILLINOIS RAPTOR CENTER

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Karen Halicki

Approximately 20 people from HCE attended this program at the Illinois Raptor Center at 5696 West Hill Road on the west side of Decatur. They have two paid employees and many volunteers. They try to help injured animals and return them to nature, if possible. They receive no state or federal funding and ask for donations and grants to keep them going. They see a lot of bad things that happen to animals. With the help of veterinarians and the hospital, they try to save as many animals as they can. They have to make the decision if they can be released again or if they have to be put down.

We also saw a video about baby birds, grey horn owls and falcons. One of the most interesting items that we saw was how they used wicker baskets for the baby owls and then, put them in trees to use as nests. They put a video camera on them to watch them as they grew.

We were shown a picture of an eagle on the Tate and Lyle building and from the pictures, they could see a tag showing H/32. Jacques talked with Mary in Chicago, and found out that it was an eagle from their area and had been treated for injuries at one time.

We were able to see a 5 year old eagle (no white head yet) that would not fly or eat. He was exposed to the West Nile virus. They finally got him to eat but he would not fly. He did enjoy playing with the toys. They liked to take him to programs and the kids really enjoy seeing him. When the eagle molt, the feathers have to be sent to the depository under the Native American treaty that says they may have them to use.

If you have Facebook on your computer, you can visit the Illinois Raptor Center. They always have interesting pictures and articles.

Congratulations!

Thank you and congratulations to Beth Allhands, who is our advisor from the University of Illinois. She works with DeWitt, Macon and Piatt counties. She is retiring July 1st. We certainly appreciate the time and effort she has spent with us. Enjoy retirement!!!

For Your Information

Carol Ropp

Macon County hosted the IAHCCE Board on June 10th to the 12th in the Extension Office. This board includes the officers as well as all of the district directors. The board discusses plans for our district meetings and annual conference, as well as changes and policies. Our Rock Springs unit provided lunches each day and Sharon and Clarence Middleton hosted the ladies for dinner on Monday night.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

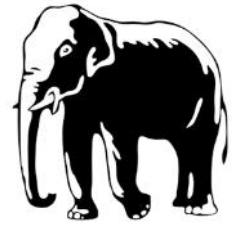


To continue our celebration of 100 years of MCHCE, we are planning to collect 100 various items each month for the next year to donate to the troops. If everyone donates just one item each month we will make our goal. You can collect the items at your monthly meetings and then get them to the extension office where we will have a box. Remember NO LARGE SIZES as they are too costly to mail.

- ⇒ **July:** Chap stick, Moisturizers
- ⇒ **August:** Individually packaged Wet Wipes

Elephants Needed!!!!

If you or anyone you know has a figurine of an elephant that we could borrow for International Day, please let Donna Washburn know. They will be used as table decorations. Her phone number is 217-201-7945. Thank you!!!



Laughter is Good for the Soul!

I have some young grandkids and so I hear cute jokes a lot. I thought that I would give some examples of some clean funny jokes!

Why did the robber take a bath?	Because he wanted to make a clean get-away!
What did the blanket say to the bed?	Don't worry, I have got you covered!
What do you call a frozen dog?	A pupsicle.
What did the tie say to the hat?	You go ahead and I will hang around.
What goes through towns, up and over hills, but doesn't move?	A road!

Officer's Reports

President

Bonnie Lanham

Greetings from your President!! A lot of interesting things are happening for our MCHCE. Refer to your program book for the details.

Please consider serving in some capacity on the county board if you are called by the Nominating Committee. Yes, it takes a little time depending on the office and time that you want to devote to it. Most are not difficult at all. We will

have a training session in December to help you understand your duties. Out-going officers will be there to help.

We are trying to find a time to tour the Police Training Academy. We have given them some times; September 7, September 21, October 19, and November 2nd. We are waiting to hear from them.

If you have any ideas for programs,

please come on July 8th from 9:30 to 11. We could use your help.

The Farm Progress Show is coming up in August, and we need volunteers in a variety of places. I have a list of where and when, so contact me.

See you at the Craft Day, Saturday, July 20! Remember, BRING A FRIEND!!!

1st Vice President

Linda Hooge

Our May lesson was "Updated Scams." Jay Scott did an excellent presentation. Senior citizens are the most targeted. If you have a question about a possible scam, call the Elder Fraud Hotline at 217-615-7582. Ask them for advice. Most scams are not reported because the person suffers from dementia, or they are embarrassed. Most of the time, they don't get their money back. Some of the current scams are:

1. They say that they are calling from the IRS and need information.
2. They are calling about your Social Security. They tell you to send them money or they will stop your payments.
3. They tell you that they are calling about your Medicare and they want your information.
4. Publisher's Clearing House--they say that you have won money, a car, or prizes. You must send them money to pay the taxes before they will send the prize.
5. Grandma/Grandpa scam--they call to say that you have a grandchild in trouble with the law or the child has been in an accident. They want money to keep the grandchild out of jail or to not prosecute them.
6. Home computer scam--they say that they are from Microsoft and something is wrong with your computer. They do something to mess up your computer, then charge you to fix it.
7. Ameren Illinois--they say they are with Ameren and they will shut off your power if you don't give them money.
8. Home repair fraud--they take your money to buy materials to repair your home. They don't come back to do the job or they do only part of the work.
9. Charities--make sure the charity is legitimate.
10. Panhandlers--they say that they are homeless. You are probably supporting their alcohol or drug habit.

This is only a partial list of the scams that were covered. Jay Scott was very helpful telling us what to avoid so we are not victims.

Officer's Reports Cont.

1st Vice President's Report (continued)

The Spring Meeting theme was "Celebrating Around the World with IAHC". Pleasant Grove worked at the registration table and Maple Grove served a delicious breakfast. Board members gave their reports. Tribute was paid to the following members who passed away in 2018: Joan Tirpak, Rock Springs, Ann Stringer, Sunnyside unit, and JoAnn Grider, Hickory Point unit. We will miss these members.

Yoder's catered the lunch and everyone had plenty of delicious food to eat.

Many items were on the tables to be purchased and a table was also set up showing some of the crafts that we will be making at the Craft Extravaganza in July. Sally Dennis sold the 50/50 tickets. Clarence Middleton drew the ticket and it belonged to Sally Dennis! She won \$94.00 and the Macon County Honor Guard was given \$95.00. Items were on a table for the Chinese auction. The winners were:

Linda Hooge--baby blanket

Karen Halicki-angel solar light

Rosemary Knap-flower solar light

Cheryl Drake-star solar light

Janice Leach-cross solar light

Sandy Severe-Cardinal auto trash bag

Linda Austin-apron

Dan Watkins, the Executive Director of God's Shelter of Love was the guest speaker. He spoke about the two shelters for homeless women and their children. They have programs to help the ladies. They are expected to help with the chores in the home and they are given the opportunity to work at Blessingdales, the resale shop. Mary Ann Platt presented 30 pillowcases for him to give to the ladies at the homes.

We have many great lessons coming up. Please RSVP and call to cancel if you can not come.

Cultural Enrichment

Sally Dennis

I hope everyone is high and dry and not floating away! Keep your creative ideas working for an entry for Cultural Enrichment at our Fall Meeting. This will be voted on at that meeting to go to Conference next spring. Please be sure your entry is no larger than 24 inches wide, tall or long, unless it can be folded that small. While you are at it, make some craft items for our craft sale.

Each unit is being asked to take a poll as to which fruit you prefer for the "theme" food for the Fall Meeting potluck. The choices are peaches, cranberries, or pears. Please contact me with your results.

Keep up the good work.

International

Donna Washburn

In the last newsletter, I challenged you to look for products containing Neem oil, which is a vegetable oil from the Neem tree, native to India. What did you find? HINT: Look in the following aisles--cosmetics, hair care, skin moisturizers, pet shampoos, and biopesticides for organic farming. CAUTION: Neem oil is very toxic if ingested, so don't be like the bugs in the organic gardens!

Plans for International Day on September 18th are moving right along. Partially due to the cost of the ingredients, a decision has been to have the meal catered with a charge of ten to twelve dollars per person. This was also met with the approval of those who attended the Tri-County meeting on June 3. I will let each unit know of the precise cost and other information as soon as the plans are finalized. As a result, I will need the EXACT count of those attending. If you forget, you may not have food to eat! Some Indian food is high in spices that we are not accustomed to, so we will do our best to have the spices toned down for American palates but still represent Indian cuisine. Part of studying countries of the world is to taste their food, right???

There are two challenge questions this time. Number one is: name the species of elephants found in the world, and where do elephants in India fit in and number two is :

how long is an elephant pregnant? (And we think 9 months is long!) Elephants are fascinating creatures to learn about. Who knows? Maybe one will show up at International Day on Wednesday, September 18!

Unit News

TRI-COUNTY NEWS

Carol Ropp

The board members of DeWitt, Macon, and Piatt counties met at the Cisco United Methodist Church, Monday, June 3, 2019. These meetings are held three times a year in alternating counties. It's a great time to share activities and ideas with each other. We also discuss our combined International Day plans and ideas for group trips of interest.

HICKORY POINT UNIT

We met at 10:30 on May 14th at the Decatur Area Arts Council. Sue Powell shared an Experience Art Tour with our unit. Pictures from the local Barn Colony group were on display, and Sue explained the ways that we could study the paintings to appreciate the different types of work. We were all able to enjoy and appreciate the artworks more after her tour.

Our business meeting followed the tour with Sharon Middleton as our chairman today. She had samples of crafts that will be demonstrated and made on July 20th at the Craft Extravaganza. Our group had been given the gavel at the Spring Meeting for having the highest percentage of members present, and we were proud of that award.

We had lunch at the Raspberry Tea Room, and we enjoyed our visiting together.

Louise Wickline, reporting

MAPLE GROVE UNIT

The secretary was absent for the April 25th meeting at the Decatur Club, so we have no minutes. On May 23rd, we met at Primrose Retirement Center. Our guest is a resident there and we had a lovely lunch in the Pub. Ten members were present plus our speaker, Mary Haney and her niece. We had another visitor, Cheryl Kiick.

Our meeting began with Carol updating some health issues of our members or their family members. Since there were no minutes of April meeting and our treasurer was absent, we proceeded to the presentation by our speaker. Mrs. Haney did a wonderful talk about her time working at Camp Ellis, a POW camp from 1943 to 1946. She was there from the construction to its closing. At one time the camp had as many as 5,000 prisoners. Mary has published a book about this part of her life, and that was made available to us.

Those of us who attended the lesson at the Raptor Center shared some comments about the presentation. Carol reminded us about the Bingo event on June 27. Our next meeting will be at the Raspberry Room at 10:30 on June 25.

Submitted by Mary Kay Ennis

MT. ZION UNIT

Eight members met for the unit lesson at The Raptor Center on May 22nd. We were given so much information about birds of Illinois! We then were introduced to an eagle by the name of Laura, who is held there because of the amount of lead in her system. It affects her brain and she can't fly. We were able to see owl hatchlings. We then had lunch at Pops Place while we discussed upcoming events! It was a great day!

OAKLEY UNIT

Our HCE group met at Carol Bark's house on June 6th at 1:30. We had 6 members present. Patty Lovcamp gave the minutes. Sandy gave us the information on the International Meeting. It will be held on September 18th at the office. Time will be 11:20 to 2:00. Sandy Severe gave us an update on the county board meeting. Sandy served refreshments. In May four members of our group attended the Spring meeting.

Respectfully yours, Cheryl Yoder

PLEASANT GROVE UNIT

We met on March 5th. Mary Shelton chaired the meeting with 8 members present. A few were absent due to illness. The reports were given. Sally gave us an update on the cancelled meetings and those that have been rescheduled. Cindy Kuro will speak March 11th on Human Trafficking. The Spring Meeting will be May 1st and there will also be a craft sale. We talked about those who were going to the State Conference. Some had to cancel due to appointments. The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

The April meeting was held with 8 members present. Else Farnham was the hostess. Mary Ann opened the meeting with all of us saying the Pledge and the Homemaker's Aim. The reports were given. Sally and Anna Belle reported on the State Conference. They were excited about Macon County winning the County of the Year.

Mary Ann reported on delivering three bins of things donated for the soldiers. She also reported on how wonderful the Ronald McDonald House was to her son and wife when they were there for their infant son in St. John's. Keep those pop can tabs coming! It takes 1,462 tabs to make one pound.

Anna Belle made us aware of the upcoming lessons and their dates. May 1st is the Spring Meeting and reservations for that meeting are due by April 19th. The meeting adjourned at 11:55.

Alice Bray, reporting

Unit News Cont.

ROCK SPRINGS UNIT

Our April meeting was held at the 4-Star Diner in Mt. Zion. Twelve members and one guest, Christina Cutler, were present. At that meeting, we also welcomed three new members, Cheryl Drake, Diane Rueff, and Cathy Gipson. Nancy Norton delivered the donated items to Dove and also collected for the servicemen. Reservations need to be in by April 19th for the Spring Meeting on May 1st. In July, Lois Miller will be hosting a road trip to the German restaurant in Gibson City. She also reminded the unit of the craft day and membership drive that will be held July 20th. We also recognized our very diligent secretary at the Extension Office, Diane Dowd, who will be retiring at the end of April.

Our next meeting will be May 18th at the Raspberry Tea Room with Bonnie Lanham hosting the lunch.

Our May meeting was held at the Raspberry Tea Room. Eight members answered the roll call, which was led along with the pledges, by Bonnie Lanham. She also read the minutes, which were approved by everyone. July 20th will be the craft day and membership drive and members were reminded that there will be no sewing projects. Lyn Stevens reported that there will be free movies at the amphitheater in Nelson Park on Fridays. The International report was given by Donna Washburn, and she also shared the scrapbook that won the State Award at Conference. Our unit will be serving lunch at the Extension Office on June 10th for the State Board. We also voted to participate in providing snacks for the Rock Springs Concert on July 21st. Linda Hooge shared a handout for God's Shelter of Love which we may visit. The next meeting will be hosted by Sue Miller and we are going on a road trip to the Village Tea Room in Springfield on June 12th.

Lois Miller, reporting

Hello! I'm Laura, the New Office Support Assistant

I was born May 5th in the 80's to Mark and Debbi Siburt. I have a younger sister (Abby) and an older sister (Carrie). I lived in Warrensburg until the end of my sophomore year, when my parents bought a house in Moweaqua. I had to make the traumatizing move and spend my last 2 years of school in a new place.

Around 2006 I met my husband, Philip, on World of Warcraft (an online video game). He's from Lancaster, PA, but was living in State College at the time and studying Computer Science at Penn State. Over the next 3 years we became close friends. On the weekend of July 4th in 2009 he made the drive to Illinois so we could meet. A month later we were engaged. We were married on November 14, 2009.

After we got engaged I moved to Maryland, where Phil was living after accepting a Software Developer position at Information Management Services, Inc (IMS, Inc). For the next 4.5 years we lived in Maryland, where I worked at Miss Utility. Miss Utility is where Delaware, Maryland, and Washington DC would call to have underground utilities marked (like the JUIE here). I started out processing dig tickets, but was quickly promoted to the leadership team where I assisted in training, continuing education for the ever changing laws, and ticket research for lawsuits.

After living in Maryland for over 4 years I was ready to be back in Central Illinois where things move a little slower, housing is more affordable, and family is nearby. IMS, Inc agreed to let Phil work from home. We moved to Illinois and bought a home in Forsyth, where we have been very happy for the last 5 years.

In April of 2016 I started working at Cleary Building Corp in Clinton as a secretary. A year later I was promoted to Region Secretary. The secretaries throughout the region would come to me for training and to answer any questions they had. I also assisted my Region Manager with reports, travel arrangements, and planning meetings. Much to the dismay of my Region Manager, I left Cleary in April for this position. So far I love my new role and look forward to learning every aspect of it.

Phil and I have no children, but we do have a yorkie that we spoil rotten. His name is Loki and he turned 4 years old on February 28th. We have 2 nephews and 5 nieces. Courtney and Corwin are my sister Abby's children and they live in Moweaqua. Brianna and Mia are Phil's sister Diane's children and they live in Lancaster, PA. Justin, Mackenzie, and Madison are Phil's sister Karen's children and they live in York, PA. Madison and Mackenzie are fraternal twins.

July will mark 11 years that Phil has been at IMS, Inc., where he works on SEER*DMS. SEER*DMS provides a unified, modular approach to functions performed by central cancer registries and can be customized to individual registries. The system facilitates methods for collecting and reporting cancer incidence data. It substantially increases the efficiency of registry operations. SEER*DMS was developed under contract for the National Cancer Institute. The SEER staff and the IMS development team were awarded an NIH Merit Award for the development of SEER*DMS. (<https://www.imsweb.com/products/>)

November 11th of this year will mark 10 years that we have been married.

We are huge Philadelphia Eagles fans and splurged on front row tickets to the wild card game in January at Soldier Field. I think we are still in disbelief over the dramatic win with the "double-doink" missed field goal!

I enjoy reading (both fiction and non-fiction), watching movies, traveling, and spending time with my family.



Philip and I taken in April of 2019 on a cruise to Cozumel, Mexico.



Macon County Association for
Home & Community Education
3351 N. Pres. Howard Brown Blvd.
Decatur, Illinois 62521

President

Bonnie Lanham 2018-2020
Rock Springs Unit
384 Dawson Rd.
Decatur, IL 62521
217-428-7404
randb74@comcast.net

1st Vice President

Linda Hooge 2017-2019
Rock Springs Unit
333 Dawson Road
Decatur, IL 62521
217-855-3060 (Home)
ywalk333@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President

Lois Miller 2017-2019
Rock Springs Unit
1770 Dipper Lane
Decatur, IL 62521
217-429-9660
dipperlane@gmail.com

Co-Secretary

Judy Wilhelm 2017-2019
Maple Grove Unit
3495 S Baltimore Ave.
Decatur, IL 62521
217-429-4502
jawwilhelm@aol.com

Co-Secretary

Carol Flitz 2017-2019
Mt. Zion Unit
6121 E. Mayflower Drive
Decatur, IL 62521
217-864-2175
carolfnitz@comcast.net

Treasurer

Sharon Middleton 2017-2019
Hickory Point Unit
1190 Chelsea Way
Decatur, IL 62526
217-877-7229 (Home)
217-620-0484 (Cell)
tolepainter2@gmail.com

Historian

Karen Halicki 2017-2019
Maroa Patchwork Unit
753 Brush College Rd.
Maroa, IL. 61756
217-794-5508 (Home)
217-855-1703 (Cell)
halicki3@prairieinet.net

**Community Outreach/
Family Issues/CVH**

Mary Ann Platt 2018-2020
3614 Harryland Road
Decatur, IL 62521
217-864-2716 (Home)
maryannia@aol.com

International

Donna Washburn 2017-2019
Rock Spring Unit
2051 Southgate Drive
Decatur, IL 62521
217-201-7945
washburndonna@yahoo.com

Cultural Enrichment

Sally Dennis 2018-2020
Pleasant Grove Unit
7562 Bonnie Road
Dalton City, IL 61925
217-864-2792 (Home)
217-433-0605 (Cell)
sjdfelin@one-eleven.net

Public Relations

Linda Austin 2017-2019
Maple Grove Unit
50 Hickory Point Ct
Forsyth, IL 62535
521-0401 (Cell)
lindaaustin48@gmail.com

