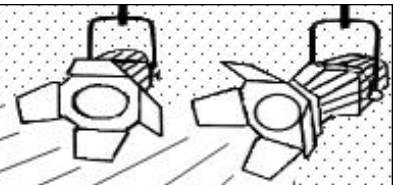


Macon County

November-December 2019

HCE HIGHLIGHTS



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

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Don’t Forget!

Volunteer hours are due by the end of December. They need to be sent to Karen Cahill. If you have any questions, please call her at 217-520-2683. Remember to count all of your volunteer hours for HCE plus all other volunteer hours that you do! You cannot count babysitting hours for children or grandchildren. Let’s have 100% participation this year. We are a great group, and we need to show how active we are in our community!

Notes from Carol Ropp



This is an editorial about our active soldiers and veterans! There are plenty of churches who support the area charity organizations such as Good Samaritan, Northeast Fund, God’s Shelter of Love etc.

I think we sometimes take for granted that our veterans are cared for by our government. Their basic needs are cared for, but it’s sadly true that they can’t do the personal care for our actively serving soldiers but also need our personal support. Our soldiers really appreciate support from home! What is more important to us than to support the troops who are protecting all of us from the crazy people who want to destroy us? Although it is no longer our active mission to support Operation Enduring Support, I encourage all of you to continue to help with your donations of products as well as monetary donations. You can still take your donations to Grace United Methodist Church. If you would rather donate money, the address for Grace United Methodist Church is 901 N. Main St. 62522. Our Maple Grove Unit donates money each month (when I remember!) to help with the mailing of 125 boxes twice a year. Each box costs \$18.25, so they really need our help! The packing is done the first week of the month in which Easter falls and the first week of December each year.

I really appreciate all of your help!!

Just a Quick Reminder!

Dues are due by November 1st. They are \$18.00 this year! What a bargain for all of the knowledge and wonderful programs that we have! Talk to your relatives, neighbors, and friends from other groups about joining us. Send your check to Sharon Middleton at 1190 Chelsea Way, Decatur, Illinois 62526 and make it payable to MCHCE.

Thank you!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, November 1st

\$18.00 HCE Dues are due to
Sharon Middleton
1190 Chelsea Way
Decatur, IL 62526

Monday, November 11th

HCE Board Meeting
1:00 PM
Extension Office—Clover Room

Thursday, November 14th

RSVP for November Lesson

Thursday, November 21st

Eggs from Farm to Fork
9:30 AM—11:00 AM
Extension Office—Clover Room

Thursday, November 28

and

Friday, November 29th

Extension Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Monday, December 2nd

RSVP for December Lesson

Monday, December 9th

Little Known Facts About Decatur
9:30 AM to 11:00 AM
Extension Office—Upstairs

HCE Board Meeting

1:00 PM

Extension Office—Clover Room

Newsletter items due to Linda Austin
lindaaustin48@gmail.com

Friday, December 27th

Volunteer Hours due to Bonnie Lanham

Tuesday, December 24th

thru

Wednesday, January 1st

Extension Office Closed



A CHALLENGE FROM SALLY DENNIS!!!

SALLY IS CHALLENGING ALL OF US TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE “STAMP OUT HUNGER CHALLENGE”. LAST YEAR, MACON COUNTY CONTRIBUTED \$385 OF THE OVER \$8,000 THAT WAS CONTRIBUTED. SHE KNOWS THAT WE CAN DO MORE! IT WAS TO BE A COLLECTION OF DIMES, BUT ALL DENOMINATIONS OF CASH WILL DO!!! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL SALLY AT HOME AT 864-2792 OR HER CELL PHONE AT 433-0605. LET’S DO THIS TOGETHER!!!!



An Easy, Quick Christmas Gift!

This is an easy, quick idea for a Christmas gift for that special person that may be challenging to buy for. Combine it with a loaf of homemade bread and watch for the smiles!

Cinnamon Honey Butter

- 1 cup honey
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 3 half pint canning jars that you may want to decorate

Using the whisk attachment on an electric mixer, add all of the ingredients to the mixing bowl and blend until smooth and creamy, about 5 to 7 minutes, scraping the sides of the bowl as needed. Use a rubber spatula to pour the mixture into a large pastry bag or a Ziploc bag and squeeze into the half pint jars. Keep refrigerated. Serve at room temperature.

LAUGHTER IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL!

Linda Austin

As many of you know, Christmas is my all-time favorite holiday! I love buying presents, and I usually start early in the year to find that perfect gift for all of my grandkids. Now that some of them are teenagers, money is the gift they want. I do miss those days when I would scour the toy department for the one toy that they wanted most of all!! With that being said, I found some relevant Christmas stories about kids and Christmas.



While this person was being a store Santa, a little boy asked him for an electric train set. "If you get your train," the store Santa said, "your dad is going to want to play with it too. Is that all right?" The boy became very quiet. So moving the conversation along, the store Santa said, "What else would you like Santa to bring you?" He promptly replied, "Another train."

A four year old girl said to her two year old sister: "Let's play Christmas. I'll be Santa Claus, and you can be a present and I'll give you away."

As the children and their parents were putting out cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve, the mother accidentally dropped one. "No problem," the mother said as she picked it up and dusted it off before placing it back on the plate. "You can't do that," argued her four year old. "Don't worry, Santa will never know," she said. He shot her a look and said, "So he knows if I have been bad or good, but he doesn't know that the cookie fell on the floor?"

CHRISTMAS IS A COMIN'

YOU HAVE THE SPECIAL PRIVILEGE OF PURCHASING YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS AT THE FALL MEETING! WE HAVE MANY OF OUR OWN CRAFTERS WHO HAVE DONATED ITEMS FOR OUR SPECIAL SALE. BRING YOUR CASH OR CHECKBOOK WITH YOU TO THE MEETING. WHAT A NICE GIFT A HANDMADE ITEM WOULD BE FOR THOSE SPECIAL PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE!!!

IF YOU ARE A CRAFTER AND HAVE MORE ITEMS TO DONATE, PLEASE LET SALLY DENNIS KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HER NUMBERS ARE 864-2792 (HOME) AND 433-0605 (CELL).

THANK YOU!!!



Officer's Reports

President

Bonnie Lanham

Well, here we are again. I hope that you all enjoyed HCE week. I think that we had some interesting programs. The Fall Meeting is coming up. Let me know what you liked as well as any improvements that we can make. We try to please. Everyone should have voted for their favorite lessons for next year. If you did not like the choices, come next year to the planning session and put your opinions in. We like to have good choices to vote on. Have a nice Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. See you next year--in the newsletter, that is!!!!

First Vice President

Linda Hooge

Happy fall to everyone! I hope you all had a great summer. My husband, Mike, and I worked at the food booth at the Farm Progress Show. We met many interesting people from many different states and countries. We enjoyed talking to them. We took orders part of the time and filled orders the rest of the time. The sandwiches that we sold were delicious and were a big hit with everyone. On Wednesday afternoon, we sold all of the sandwiches. We had many cheeseburgers and hot dogs left on Thursday, so we asked if we could sell them for half price. If they didn't sell, they would have had to be thrown away. We chanted as people were leaving that we had food that was now half price, and their wives would not have to cook supper. Needless to say, people loved this bargain!

We had a good turn-out for International Day. The education boards were very interesting and the ladies did a great job presenting their information about India. Richland Community College's Culinary Arts Department prepared the Indian foods. Donna Washburn was in charge of this day. She had given them the recipes to prepare for us. Many people commented about this enjoyable day. We all agreed that Donna did a wonderful job!!!

On October 7th, several of us went to the Tri-County meeting at the DeWitt County Extension Office. It was

a very interesting and helpful meeting. We discussed what lessons we liked and the future meeting that we will have in 2020. Piatt County is in charge of International Day next year. Beth Miglin was introduced as the Horticulture and Program Coordinator for this area. She replaced Beth Allhands, and I am sure that she will be very helpful to us for this next year. Before we left, we had a delicious lunch prepared by the DeWitt County unit.

HCE Week will be very busy for all of us. We have some great lessons lined up and the luncheons sound delicious. Many of us are looking forward to touring the new Decatur Police Training Center. Only HCE members are allowed to tour this facility. Be sure to be there at 9:45. Wear your name tag. The tour starts at 10.

The Fall Meeting on October 30 will be a chance to get many recipes for items made with peaches. Make sure you put your name on the bottom of the dish and bring copies of the recipes. Your name needs to be on the back of the recipe as well. Our taste testers won't know the identity of the cook when they choose their favorites. Don't forget to bring your Cultural Enrichment items to enter in the competition. The winners will enter their item next March at the Conference Center in Effingham.

Officer's Reports Cont.

Second Vice President

Lois Miller

Hello everyone! Fall is here, and I don't know about you but this is my favorite time of the year. I haven't got all of my pumpkins purchased yet, but my fall decorations are all out and I am ready to have our annual wiener roast. I can just smell the smoke from the fire and taste the hot dogs and those tasty s'mores! Our membership drive is over BUT I am always looking for new members. I am going to have a table set up for recruiting new members at the Fall Meeting. See you there!

Cultural Enrichment

Sally Dennis

The Fall Meeting is Wednesday, October 30. I am hoping this reminder gets to everyone before then. The potluck food theme is PEACHES. Don't forget to bring your recipe with your name on the back. I hope you were able to complete an entry or two for Cultural Enrichment. Also, be sure to bring any crafts you have made to sell, and a few dollars to buy a few things that you just can't live without! Christmas is a coming! We have ladies coming from Piatt County to judge our food and cultural entries.

It just dawned on me at our board meeting yesterday that not much has been said about saving dimes for "Stamp Out Hunger Challenge". Several people commented that they thought this collection was over. Un-

fortunately, the people that need help to ward off hunger has not gone away. So, the "Challenge" is still on. Last year we were told at Conference that the total collected from Illinois was \$8604.31. Of that total, \$385.00 was from Macon County. Even if you have not been collecting dimes, if you remember how much you collected last year, just donate that amount or more again this year. I "Challenge" everyone to beat our donation amount from last year.

Please watch for harvest equipment and give them room and time to get where they are going at all hours of daylight and darkness. Please pray for a SAFE and bountiful harvest.

International

Donna Washburn

International Day was a great success. THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all who helped make it so!!! Most of the seventy-two chairs were occupied. Fifty two surveys were turned in, and will be shared with Piatt County. The results of the surveys indicated a high interest in having Richland Culinary Department cater next year. Several people mentioned changing to a speaker or video instead of doing the story boards. Piatt County announced they are planning a power point presenta-

tion as part of the program on Uruguay for next year when they are in charge. In a side note, Friendship Projects Fund donations totaled \$59.41, which will be turned into the state Friendship Projects Fund.

My sincere apologies for not stressing the time change! It was stated in the newsletter under International news, but other glitches happened that I wasn't aware of. Again, my sincere apologies.

Please Remember to RSVP for All Events

217-877-6042

Macon County Meeting August 8, 2019

- **CALL TO ORDER:** President Bonnie Lanham
- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
- **HOMEMAKERS AIM:**
- **JOKE:** Bonnie
- **ROLL CALL:** 7 Units represented 10 board members
- **Secretary:** Judy Wilhelm/Carol Flitz; July minutes were approved with 1 correction. Motion to approve by Linda Austin. 2nd Mary Ann Platt.
- **Treasurer:** Sharon Middleton
Report filed for Audit
- **Correspondence:** Bonnie shared the map showing the new districts.

Officer Reports:

- **President:** Bonnie Lanham
The next Tri County meeting will be held at DeWitt Extension Office. It will be October 7th at 9:30 AM.
- **1st Vice President:** Linda Hooge
Gave a list of upcoming meetings. The visit to Police Academy will be October 19th. We have to be at the Academy by 9:45 AM if we want to attend.
- **2nd Vice President:** Lois Miller
She will send an article to newspaper regarding membership drive.
- **Community & Family Issues & CVH:** Mary Ann Platt
There will be a fundraiser in September for Ronald McDonald House at the Decatur Conference Center. Will know exact date later.
Per State Conference the Focus for 2020 will be on Nutrition & Iron Deficiency. She also suggested we add chair yoga to the program list. She gave her registration fee for State Workshop back to the County as she was unable to attend.
- **Cultural Issues:** Sally Dennis
Working on her newsletter article. Peaches will be the focus for Fall Meeting. Reminded us to finish our projects.
- **Historian:** Karen Halicki—Absent
- **International:** Donna Washburn
The India restaurant closed so she contacted Richland and they will prepare some of the food per recipes Donna gives them. Reservations and \$10.00 are due to the Extension office by September 6th . Everyone should bring their Elephants for table decorations by September 17 at 1 :00. A group will cook some of the meal Wednesday morning 9:00 AM. Meeting will be September 18. Registration begins at 9:30 am with meeting starting at 10:00. Registration and. Raffle tickets will be handled by Sally Dennis, Linda Hooge and Lois Miller. Serving the food will be Bonnie, Lois, Sandy Severe, Linda Austin, Linda Hooge and Carol F.
- **Public Relations:** Linda Austin
Newsletter information due today.

Unfinished Business:

- Sharon handed out the ornaments she had ordered.
- There will be a meeting for Bonnie, Linda Hooge and Carol Ropp to finalize the listing of suggested programs for 2020 on August 23 at 10:00 AM. Extension office.
- The speaker for the Fall meeting will be Julia Roundtree Livingston of CASA.

New Business:

- A discussion regarding selling refreshments at the Concerts at Rock Springs. The sales have been very low this year. Mary Ann made motion to not do that in 2020. 2nd by Lois. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 3:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by; Judy Wilhelm & Carol Flitz

Unit News

Rock Springs Unit

We met at Pop's Place in August. There were 9 members who attended. We opened our meeting with the Pledge and the Homemaker's Aim. Bonnie read the minutes from the last meeting and Linda Hooge gave the treasurer's report. I gave a report on the District meeting that was held in Springfield on August 7th. We also discussed some things about the Fall Meeting and all of the recipes that would contain peaches. The next meeting will be September 11th at The Wagon.

We met September 11th and there were 12 members present. Nancy Norton reported that the fan had been delivered to the Senior Citizens Center, Donna Washburn reported that 65 ladies had already signed up for the International Day program about India. The International Day will be on September 18 The set-up day in September 17th at 1 o'clock. The dues for HCE will be \$18.00 this coming year. You may give your dues money to Linda Hooge at the October 9th unit meeting. This meeting will also be held at The Wagon. -Reporting, Lois Miller

Pleasant Grove Unit

We met on September with 5 members in attendance. We have several members with health issues right now, and so our attendance was down! Mary Ann Platt opened the meeting with the Pledge and the Homemaker's Aim. Reports were given. Mary Ann reported on all of the upcoming events. Sally and Mary Ann told about what they did at the Farm Progress Show. It was decided not to do the Rock Springs Concerts any more. Mary Ann spoke about the collections for the soldiers. They need ink pins, beef jerky, current and next year's calendars, gum, deodorant, and the game papers that come in the Herald and Review, and are a separate addition to the paper. The penny collections and dues are due November 1st. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

We met on October 1 with 8 members present. Mary Ann opened the meeting with the Pledge and the Homemaker's Aim. The reports were given, and many members paid next year's dues, which are \$18 and are due by November 1. Sally reported on the Board Meeting and stated that our Macon County organization needs another fundraiser. Mary Ann said that 58 pillowcases were made at the last sewing day. She also talked about HCE week activities and the need to call in reservations by October 1st. We also need to RSVP by October 18 for the October 30 Fall Meeting. The meeting adjourned after deciding that there would be no November meeting. The December meeting will be at Mary Ann's home. -Alice Bray, reporting

Hickory Point Unit

We had a fun excursion for our September meeting. We drove to Arthur making our first stop at Beachey's where we made various purchases of spices, jelly, cheese, rolls, noodles, puzzles, and even a little baby doll. We went to Yoders for lunch. Several of us chose the buffet with its great salad bar, chicken and all of the trimmings. Most of us ended with ice cream too! We had great food and conversation. Our next meeting will be October 8 in the history room of the Decatur library where someone will explain the collection and how to access it. It was a beautiful day to be out and about.

We met on October 8 in the history room of the Decatur library. Lee Ann Grossman and Archivist Becky Dampitz spoke to us about the many resources available in this room.

If a person needs to find information about most any subject in local history, help is available. We found this information very interesting. Our chairman, Elaine Hamm, held a short business meeting to take care of dues, etc. Several of us will be attending the county programs and will share those topics with our members at our November meeting at Elaine's home.

-Louise Wickline, reporting

Mt. Zion Unit

Twelve members were present for our September 25th meeting. It was held at Carol Flitz's house. We were introduced to Rachel (a comfort dog) from Charleston's Immanuel Lutheran Church dog program. Her handler was Joylyn who is called her lead dog. There are approximately 135 dogs in this Lutheran program. Only golden retrievers are accepted—all come from reputable breeders. Rachel does approximately 30 visits a month for comfort visits. She has 9 handlers who share the job. We loved her because she was so perfect for her job. This is Rachel's facebook page—Rachelcomfortdog. Our next meeting is October 23 and will be held at Crawfords in Mt. Zion at 11:30. -Sharon Kelley, reporting

Maple Grove Unit

Our September 26 meeting was held at the Decatur Conference Center at 11 :30. Since several of our members were absent (only 10 in attendance), we were briefly caught up on their health issues, or other reasons for being absent. These items were discussed: Gini Smith is helping with a fundraiser for the Honor Flight. It is Saturday, Oct. 5 at the Harley-Davidson dealership in Forsyth. She is asking for baked goods to sell on that day. If willing to contribute, just bring the items on the fifth.

Fifty-eight pillowcases were made on our last sewing day, Sept, 23. The next sewing day will be dedicated to making port pillows for chemo patients. That date will be November 13. Carol reminded us that we don't necessarily need to know how to sew to attend. There are other jobs that contribute to the project.

We were reminded of all the activities lined up for HCE Week, and the few changes that have occurred. We will not have an October meeting. Our November meeting will be Nov. 21 following the lesson on Eggs from Farm to Fork. We will go to the restaurant., Bistro 537 at approximately 11 :15.

Reminder of the tour of the Law Enforcement Training Center on Saturday, October 19 at 9:45. -Submitted by Mary Kay Ennis



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