

Macon County

May - June 2022

HCE HIGHLIGHTS

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

CRAZY FOR CASEY TRIP

Friday, May 20, 8:30 a.m.

Join us at the Rural King parking lot, the west side by the mailbox between the two entrances, around 8:30 for an hour and 45 minute country drive to the Moonshine Store for lunch. It is a delicious burger joint in the middle of nowhere! They do not accept credit or debit cards here, so plan accordingly. They have outside tables to enjoy your meal.

After lunch, we will head to Casey, only 17 minutes away. You will see Big Things in a Small town, such as the largest wind chime, the largest rocking chair, and the largest knitting needles. I will have a list and map of all the BIG THINGS to find.

After Casey, you may want to check out Cameo Vineyards at Greenup, Illinois. It's about a 14 minute drive to Greenup. From Greenup, it's about an hour and 20 minutes to get back to Decatur.

Remember to sign up and if you can drive let us know. You can stay with your group or just take off on your own from Decatur. I will have maps to help you get around from town to town. Call me at 217-855-1703 or check with me at the Spring Meeting, if you have any questions. - Karen Halicki

IAHCE Annual Conference

The 98th IAHCE Annual Conference was held March 15 -17 in Effingham, Illinois. One hundred and ninety-six members participated in a wonderful three days of fun, share shops, great speakers and entertainment. We enjoyed many beautiful and inspiring items in the Cultural Enrichment room, shopped with our vendors, made fun make -it/take -it crafts, Bingo, enjoyed the scavenger hunt and bought items from our silent auction. Our University of Illinois Extension Educator, Karla Belzer, reported that 333,380 volunteer hours were turned in this year. The estimated value of these valued hours was 9.3 million dollars.

It was good to be back , and we are already looking forward to next year's conference.

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Congratulations!

Our best wishes to two of our very active members, Karen Cahill and Mary Ann Platt. Karen is our new District 3 Director. She will possibly be visiting 14 counties. She will be installing officers at the annual meetings and getting to learn more about each county and its members. We know that she will do a wonderful job in her new position.

Mary Ann submitted her education book to the state Family and Community Issues Director for judging. She was the District 3 winner for Special Activities. We are so proud of her reporting on the flannel heart bonding program for the NICU babies. Also, thanks to everyone involved who helped make over 400 hearts for this special program.

Congratulations to Karen and Mary Ann!!

Upcoming Events

Monday, May 9

HCE Board Meeting
10:00 a.m.
Extension Office
Clover Room

Friday, May 13

**RSVP for May Lesson and
Casey Trip**

Wednesday, May 18

Wildflowers and Butterflies
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Extension Office
Clover Room

Friday, May 20

Casey, IL Trip
Carpool

Monday, May 30

Extension Office Closed

Monday, June 8

Tri-County Meeting
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Piatt County Extension
Office

Friday, June 10

RSVP for June Lesson

Monday, June 13

HCE Board Meeting
10:00 a.m.
Extension Office
Clover Room

**Newsletter items due to
Linda Austin @
lindaaustin48@gmail.com**

Wednesday, June 15

Day Trips Around Central IL
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Extension Office
Clover Room

Friday, June 17

Extension Office Closed
Juneteenth

Monday, June 27

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



Laughter is Good for the Soul

I am a big fan of puns. I looked through my resources and found several items that I thought were good and “punny”. Linda

No matter how much one pushes the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

A dog gave birth to some puppies near the road, and was cited for littering.

Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

Two hats were hanging on the hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other hat, “You stay here. I'll go on a head.”

If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me!

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

Two eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in their craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

Book Reviews

Karen Cahill—If you enjoy reading historical fiction, I would like to recommend the following books: *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson and *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes.

Both of these books tell about the packhorse librarians.

Linda Austin— I love books about the Amish people and if it has quilts in the story, it's even better! Right now I am reading a series, “*The Elm Creek Quilters*”. The series is by Jennifer Chiaverini. You need to read the series in order in order to understand the characters.

Good Places to Eat—Suggestions for Unit Meetings

1. Salty Farmer in Moweaqua-Rock Springs will have their April 13th meeting there. Lois Miller said the food is delicious!
2. Decatur Club
3. Whit's End in Macon
4. Napolis in Decatur
5. Pop's Place, Decatur
6. Benny's -Decatur
7. Crawford's in Mt Zion
8. Windsor Pub -Windsor
9. The Wagon-Decatur
10. Tobias House-Hillsboro. It's nice to take a road trip on a sunny day.
11. Red Apple-Sullivan
12. The Wharf, Decatur

Thank you to Lois Miller for submitting many suggestions of restaurants that their unit has gone to for delicious food!

Great Recipes

Hash brown Breakfast Casserole—served at the Tri-County breakfast by Helen Kershaw

20 ounces shredded hash browns, thawed
1 pound sausage cooked, crumbled and drained
1/4 c. onion, finely diced
1/2 red bell pepper, diced
1/2 green bell pepper, diced
8 eggs
1 can evaporated milk, 12 ounces or 1 1/3 c. milk
1/2 tsp. Italian seasoning or your favorite herbs/spices
Salt and pepper to taste
2 c. cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Brown sausage and drain fat. Combine eggs, evaporated milk, salt and pepper, and Italian seasoning in a bowl. Whisk until smooth. Set aside 1/2 c. cheese for the topping. Place the remaining ingredients in a 9 x 13 inch baking pan. Pour egg mixture over the mixture and top with the remaining cheese. Cover and refrigerate overnight, if desired. If refrigerated overnight, remove from the refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. It may require an extra 10 to 15 minutes baking time. Bake 55 to 65 minutes or until cooked through.

Zinger Cake --by Helen Kershaw

Bake a white cake mix in a 9 by 13 inch pan. Mix 1 cup boiling water and 1 3 ounce package of raspberry jello. Poke holes in the cake. Put the jello in the holes, then spread raspberry jam on top of the cake. Chill. Remove and add a container of Cool Whip to the top of the cake. Sprinkle coconut on top. Now you have a Zinger cake!!!

Tropical Trail Mix—Ann Bandy, Center Unit

1. 7 ounce package of chopped, dried tropical fruit
2. 2 cups popped low-fat kettle flavored popcorn
3. 3 cups high protein and high fiber cereal
4. 1/2 c. cinnamon-brown sugar roasted almonds
5. 1 c. fish-shaped pretzels

Combine all of the ingredients in a large bowl. This will make 16 servings, 1/2 cup a serving.

Crustless Pumpkin Pie--Georgette Merrifield

3/4 c. Splenda
1/2 c. light Bisquick
12 oz. can evaporated skim milk
1/2 c. Egg Beaters (egg substitute or 3 egg whites)
16 oz. can pumpkin
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
1 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

Mix all thoroughly. Spray 9 inch pie pan. Pour into the pan. Cook 1 hour at 350 degrees. Let cool. Cut into 8 pieces.

Rhubarb Dream Bars—Cathy Gipson / Yields 16 bars.

Crust:

1 c. flour
1/2 c. sugar
1/2 c. butter

Instructions:

Filling:

2 large eggs
1 c. sugar
1/4 tsp. salt

2 c. fresh, diced rhubarb. (She used frozen, and drained it with paper towels)

Preheat oven to 350. Line the bottom of the 8 by 8 inch with parchment paper bringing up the sides so that it will easy to remove the squares. Whirl the crust ingredients in a food processor and then press into the prepared pan. Bake for 15 minutes. Crust will still be pale in color. While the crust is baking, mix together the eggs, sugar, flour, salt and whisk well. Stir in the rhubarb. Pour over the hot crust and continue to bake for 40 to 45 minutes. Let the bars cool and remove with the parchment paper. Cut into squares. Double the recipe for a bar pan size.

Cheesy Chicken and Rice Casserole—Lois Miller

1/4 tsp. black pepper
1 can (10 3/4 oz.). Campbell's cream of chicken soup
2 c. frozen mixed vegetables
4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts
1 1/3 c. water
3/4 c. long grain white rice
1/2 c. shredded cheese
1/2 tsp. onion powder

Stir soup, water, rice, onion powder, black pepper and vegetables in 11 by 18 inch (2 qt.) shallow baking pan. Top with chicken. Season chicken as desired. Cover and bake at 375 for 50 minutes or until chicken and rice are done. Top with cheese. Let casserole stand. Stir rice before serving.

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

February 14, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Bonnie Lanham

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mary Ann Platt

HOMEMAKERS' AIM: Mary Ann Platt

JOKE: Bonnie Lanham

ROLL CALL: Elaine Hamm

Units represented: Hickory Point; Maple Grove; Patchwork; Oakley-Pleasant Grove; Mt. Zion; Rock Springs

Total in attendance: 10 (Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Elaine Hamm, Bonnie Lanham, Beth Miglin, Mary Ann Platt, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Lyn Stevens, Vicki Wooten)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the January 10, 2022 Board meeting were reviewed by all present. Karen Cahill moved that same minutes be approved. Sandy Severe seconded and motion carried.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis has sent in the annual report filing paperwork to now show her as the filing agent. Discussion ensued regarding IRS Form 99-N, declaring our non-profit status. Sally will complete the electronic postcard. The 5-year CD auto renewed; it matures January 18, 2026. The current bank balance is \$5,750.23. Karen Cahill and Lyn Stevens will meet with Sally Dennis to audit the books at 10 a.m. on February 21, 2022, at the HCE office.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mary Ann Platt shared that a note has been received from Friends of 4-H, requesting we contribute for one award. Mary Ann moved that we pay for two 4-H awards. Cheryl Sample seconded. Sally Dennis will send the \$50 check.

Lyn Stevens has talked with Ann Bandy of the Center unit in Taylorville. At her March unit meeting, Ann will present her own healthy dessert recipes and then pass those along to Mary Ann and Karen for inclusion in the March county lesson. Ann also wants to help the International Co-Chairs, as that is an area of interest to her. Cheryl will make sure Ann's painting, which was one of the selected entries at the Macon County HCE fall meeting, will be taken to annual conference.

Mary Ann received a note from Ronald McDonald House, thanking us for the pop tabs.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President: Bonnie Lanham has been contacted regarding any interest in basic computer and cell phone usage, possibly for a unit or 2023 county lesson. She received an email from Mary Johnson, waiving late annual conference fees until March 1. Bonnie brought with her crafts that have been and will be made with Imboden Creek Assisted Living residents. They included a Christmas ornament, refrigerator magnet and binder clip holder for photos/recipe cards. On March 2, Sandy Severe will assist Bonnie at Imboden Creek in making coasters from wide-mouth jar lids. The April 6 craft will be book marks, with Mary Ann Platt assisting. If Imboden Creek agrees, Mary Ann will take photos at that time for Community Outreach.

Bonnie will give apron lessons at St. John's Lutheran Church on May 3 and at the Dewitt County Extension office on May 17. She is also going to the Kiwanian meeting at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on March 1, hoping to increase interest in MCHCE.

Our entertainment for the spring meeting on April 27, 2022 will be the "clown lady," who is a speaker/decorator. Lyn Stevens suggested a lesson be given on how to apply clown makeup, etc. The Mt. Zion unit will be in charge of registration, and breakfast/morning snacks will be provided by the Maple Grove unit.

The annual conference book ad, which was made by Karen Cahill and Roxie Waterhouse, was passed around. Nice work, ladies!

Bonnie will ask for a volunteer to do the memorial service at the spring meeting.

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe reminded us of the March activities, including annual conference, the Tri-County Board meeting, pillowcase sewing and the lesson on healthy desserts.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens has either called or sent emails regarding non-paid members. Pins for new members will be distributed at the spring meeting. Their lunch will be free if this is the first county meeting attended since becoming a member. Betty Wheatley will be recognized as a 25-year member. Lyn asked Elaine to send Betty a note, inviting her to the spring meeting. Janet Engling is a 60-year member, and Gloria Leonard is a 65-year member. Bonnie will pick up the respective certificates at annual conference.

Per our Bylaws, Article I – Membership, Section 2. Resignation of Membership: "The fee of \$18.00 shall be paid by February 1, of the current year. Any member not paying by February 1 will automatically be suspended by the County Board." Karen Cahill suggested that this be reiterated at the spring meeting. Bonnie stated that we need to suspend at February 28 this year. If a member re-joins, she begins at year one, as years are not bridged.

Community & Family Issues & CVH: Mary Ann Platt has sent a book to state about the 411 flannel hearts made for St. John's NICU and delivered last month, along with the story of this being her family's mission as a result of Mary Ann's grandson spending time in the NICU.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample and Karen Halicki hope to begin visiting unit meetings now that Covid has decreased. Craft day/membership drive is set for August 27, with plans to make some of the same crafts as Bonnie has made with Imboden Creek Assisted Living residents.

Historian: Carol Ropp – absent.

Co-International: Vicki Wooten is anxious to meet with other International officers regarding the September International Day.

Public Relations: Linda Austin was absent, but Bonnie reminded us to get newsletter articles to Linda.

Extension Program Coordinator: Beth Miglin informed us that a reminder post card will be mailed regarding the Tri-County meeting, which was rescheduled to March 7 due to cold weather.

Unfinished/New Business: Karen Cahill brought up the fact that a silent auction item is needed for annual conference. What will it be? After discussion, Karen moved that we ask Liz King from Mari-Mann Herb Co. to make us a silent auction basket at a maximum value of \$50. Mary Ann Platt seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Sally Dennis will pick up the basket on March 14.

Karen Cahill reported Macon County HCE had 14,865 volunteer hours for 2021, with 60% of our membership reporting. She also noted that from the recent survey results, a majority of members are interested in having an HCE picnic.

Mary Ann Platt reported our next project will be making flannel circles to hold the NICU babies' tubes so they do not rub their skin.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Hamm

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

March 14, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Bonnie Lanham

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Bonnie Lanham

HOMEMAKERS' AIM: Bonnie Lanham

JOKE: Bonnie Lanham

ROLL CALL: Elaine Hamm

Units represented: Hickory Point; Maple Grove; Patchwork; Oakley-Pleasant Grove; Mt. Zion; Rock Springs **Total in attendance:** 11 (Linda Austin, Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Carol Flitz, Karen Halicki, Elaine Hamm, Bonnie Lanham, Mary Ann Platt, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Lyn Stevens)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the February 14, 2022 Board meeting were reviewed by all present. Linda Austin moved that same minutes be approved. Sandy Severe seconded and motion carried.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a current bank balance of \$5,768.28 and handed out a detailed accounting of the debits and credits so far in 2022. On February 21, 2022, Karen Cahill and Lyn Stevens audited the 2020-2021 financial books. A copy of the audit was filed in a manila envelope and stored in the HCE closet here at the U of I Extension office, along with treasurer reports for 2019, 2020 and 2021. Thirty-five dollars and fifty cents cash for the Zero Hunger Fund, plus Sally's personal contribution, will be deposited and a check written and taken to annual conference.

NEW BUSINESS: Lyn Stevens – Bonnie has given her membership forms to update. Newsletter thoughts: Champaign County online includes obituaries. Presently, our unit presidents write a tribute. Unit presidents should report to Linda Austin the names of deceased and new members. Members could give a book review for the newsletter.

*It was agreed to have a book exchange at the spring and fall county meetings, with leftover books being donated to libraries. At the current time, chicken cordon bleu is the entrée of choice for the spring meeting. The craft that will be made at Imboden Creek Assisted Living in May is a pretty fan. Bonnie needs a helper. The June craft will be a heart with red, white and blue small buttons (like the flag). Board members were encouraged to bring in such buttons. The spring meeting program was finalized to give to Roxy Waterhouse. Sandy Severe will lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Homemakers' Aim. Carol Flitz will conduct the memorial service for deceased members. It was noted that Karen Cahill is now a District 3 Director. Our speaker will be Jayme Sims. The 50/50 drawing will be conducted by the Rock Springs unit, with the proceeds benefitting the Honor Guard. Karen Halicki and Sandy Severe will be in charge of the sale items and Karen Cahill the Chinese auction.

*Doug Harlan wants us to do the Master Naturalist breakfast, which will be held offsite on April 9, 2022. Karen Cahill will buy the breakfast items: wrapped muffin, boiled egg and fruit cup (three kinds). The charge will be \$5. Bonnie Lanham will help Karen make up the bags here at the Extension office on April 8.

*Bonnie hopes to obtain new members from her March 1 meeting with the Kiwianians.

*Bonnie has signed the yearly agreement with the University of Illinois in the amount of \$500, effective June 1, 2022. Sally will pay same now. This covers printing and meeting room use.

*Bonnie asked if we want to donate to the Illinois Deer Donation program, which Lyn Stevens explained to those who were not at the tri-county meeting. Sally Dennis moved that we give \$100.00, and Mary Ann Platt seconded. Karen Halicki suggested that some members may wish to donate at the spring meeting. Bonnie will put a flyer at the door. Sally will be in charge of collecting any donations. Lyn noted that Sally could wait until after the spring meeting to write a check for the entire amount raised.

*Penny Barry made more hearts and gave them to Mary Ann Platt. Carol Flitz was given a heart as a pattern to use.

*For the fall meeting, Carol Flitz will ask Jerry Culp, Executive Director of the Macon County Conservation District, to be our speaker.

*Linda Austin will give information to Roxie Waterhouse to compile a postcard regarding the spring meeting, book exchange and donations. This will need to be mailed before April 10.

*Names of the three deceased MCHCE members were given to Carol Flitz. Sally Dennis requested that a copy of Anna Belle Farrell's funeral program be attached to our banner, while it is displayed at the annual conference, in her honor. Gloria Leonard's 65 years in MCHCE will be recognized at Maple Grove's unit meeting at Primrose.

*Karen Halicki advised Sally Dennis that the January -December 2021 budget needs to show the actual expenses incurred. Karen will assist her. This information will help in preparing the 2023 program budget.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President: Bonnie Lanham – included in New Business above

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe – nothing to report

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens passed out the alphabetical MCHCE membership list 2022, noting new 2022 members are at the end. She requested a copy of our Bylaws, which Elaine Hamm will provide.

Community & Family Issues & CVH: Mary Ann Platt voiced that she would like the \$100 monetary gift she received (reference December 13, 2021 minutes) to be added to the scholarship fund.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample apologized for missing the entry deadline for displaying our cultural enrichment items at annual conference. Any item made during 2021-2023 can be included next year.

Karen Cahill asked Karen Halicki to explain volunteer hours to the Christian County units she and Cheryl Sample will visit. Perhaps both Pana and Center units could hold a consolidated meeting at their county extension office.

Historian: Carol Ropp – absent

Co-International: Vicki Wooten and Lois Miller - absent

Public Relations: Linda Austin informed us that details of upcoming programs should be printed in the March 16 issue of the Decatur Tribune. We have received new members as a result of these newspaper articles. Lyn Stevens will catch people at the spring meeting who still need to complete the emergency contact form. Mary Ann Platt noted that all units need to have emergency contact information on index cards for all respective members. Linda requests that newsletter information be given to her ASAP. The newsletter will note an updated pictorial directory is in the works. Karen Halicki will take photos at the unit meetings and pass them to Clarence Middleton.

Extension Program Coordinator: Beth Miglin - absent

Unfinished Business: Next month we will work on hearts for NICU ports and chemo ports, as well as 10-minute table runners for spring and fall meeting sales.

Karen Halicki is no longer on the Extension Council. Doug Harlan may ask someone else to attend. The Council meets four times a year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Hamm

Unit News

Center Unit

Mary Lou Poor

We met at the Christian County Extension office on March 7th. Eleven members were in attendance. The table was beautifully decorated with St. Patrick's Day decorations. Our members enjoyed healthy desserts. A member from the AmeriCorps Seniors was the guest speaker. She explained the program of Community Action Partnership for people 55 years and older about how they can help by volunteering their services to the community. Some of the services are helping kids learn by joining Foster Grandparents or helping a senior live independently as a Senior Companion.

On March 30th, seven members were able to attend the "Healthy Desserts" program. Our members enjoyed sampling the many desserts and deciding on their favorite. The Christian County senior van brought the members to Decatur. An employee from the Senior Center drove in the pouring rain which made the trip so pleasurable so that our members could relax.

We met at the Christian County Extension office on April 4th. Twelve members were present. Volunteer hours were discussed and the members were made aware of the importance of the hours to be reported to Macon County HCE.

Our members were handed a card before the meeting with a butterfly on the card and an Easter wish. Easter baskets that were filled with a plant, candy, a notebook, and Easter egg were beautifully decorated in Easter paper with a card and a picture of a butterfly that were placed on a table. Members were to match their butterfly to the picture of the butterfly on the Easter basket and that basket belonged to them. Beautiful hand made Easter cards were given with a decorated clothes pin and attached chicken. Delicious Easter cake, jello salad and appetizers were served. We welcomed our new member.

Hickory Point

Louise Wickline

We met on March 8th at the home of our chairman, Elaine Hamm. She shared the lesson which she had attended on "Medical Identity Theft." Most of us had never considered this scam, and we had a lively discussion on it and other scams that we had or our friends had experienced. We continued our conversations while enjoying our delicious dessert of German chocolate cake. We had a very long and enjoyable get-together!

Maple Grove

Mary Kay Ennis

What a grand time we had honoring not one, not two, but three HCE ladies on March 24. We met in the pub at Primrose Retirement Center. The honorees all had 65+ years of being members. Those being honored were, Shirley Bennett, Gloria Leonard, and Wilma Gepford. We presented them with wrist corsages before we had our delicious lunch.

After lunch, each honoree was given a plaque stating their years of service to HCE. In attendance, besides our 17 members, were these guests, Gloria Leonard's two daughters, Bonnie Lanham, Karen Seefeldt, Linda Zinn, and Irma Ragel. Wilma Gepford's daughter was there also, but she is a member of Maple Grove.

Many photos were taken and we had a wonderful time just visiting and enjoying the company of these three ladies. We did not have a "regular" meeting, but hope to meet in April, towards the end of the month.

Mt. Zion

Barb Brandt and Vicki Wooten

Our meeting was held on February 23 at the All Star Diner in Mt. Zion. There were six women present. We discussed the 4-H letter and voted to send \$25.00 to the 4-H Foundation. Everyone enjoyed the lunch.

Our very long-time member, Erma Sutton, is now living in Pana. She has been a member since 1959. She moved to Pana where she has family and is now a mailbox member. Our unit is planning to go and visit her in July.

We have three new members in our unit. Sue Jones, who is recently retired, lives in Mt. Zion and has three grown children. Mary Ann Beck, a longtime friend of mine, and her sister, Brenda Nolan, who has moved to this area from California, are also new members. Mary Ann also lives in Mt. Zion and gets to babysit some of her grandchildren. She is also very active in her church. Brenda, Mary Ann's sister, is a retired nurse. Both Mary Ann and Brenda grew up in the Chicago area.

Mt. Zion

Barb Brandt

Our March meeting was held at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit church. Fourteen members attended. We had two new members to welcome, Mary Ann Beck and Brenda Nolan. Carol Flitz attended the board meeting and announced that HCE is in need of red, white, and blue buttons for a craft project.

Karen Halicki came to our meeting and talked about the county Cultural Enrichment Program. Some of the projects are: arts, crafts, pictures, and sewing, etc. She also talked about volunteer hours that include visiting nursing homes, phone calls, volunteering at schools or hospitals, and donating blood.

Von Gregory gave a wonderful presentation about Italy. The flag colors are red, green, and white. The red stands for charity, the green is for hope and the white stands for faith. At school, the children are taught four languages, German, Italian, French and English. One of the many things they are known for is growing lemon trees.

Refreshments were provided by Barb Brandt.

Unit News Cont.

Rock Springs

Louis Miller

We met at the Decatur Club on March 10. Nine members attended. We had our meeting first and then had a delicious lunch which we ordered off of the menu. We reminded all of our members to RSVP Sally Dennis by April 20th for the Spring Meeting. The meeting will be April 27th. Registration will be 9 to 9:30. The proceeds from the 50/50 drawing will go to the Honor Guard. We were also reminded to bring our pop can tabs and plastic medicine bottles to Sally Dennis.

Officer's Reports

President

Bonnie Lanham

HELLO SPRING!!! Glad to see winter in the rear view mirror! We are going to start a couple of new things this year. First, we are to start a book exchange at our Spring and Fall meetings. Bring some gently used books and, maybe, pick up some different books that you want to read. If any are left, they will be donated to the library for their Used Book Sale.

Secondly, if you have read a good book, send a short review to Linda Austin by email or snail mail to share with all of us! Your review will be printed in our newsletter.

Please remember to get your reservation for our Spring Meeting to Sally Dennis. Make your check for fifteen dollars made payable to MCHCE and mail it to Sally Dennis. Our speaker at the Spring Meeting will be Jerry Culp from the Macon County Conservation. For table decorations, we will need small figures of wild animals—birds, etc. Please mark them so we know who to return them to.

Crafts are going well at Imboden Creek. If you would like to help, the classes are the first Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m. They last for about an hour or less. Let me know if you are interested.

If a member of your unit has passed, would the presidents of each unit send a note to Linda Austin for the newsletter? This will keep us informed about our dedicated members who have passed away this year.

First Vice President

Sandy Severe

Hello, ladies! Ready for spring? Me too!

Pillowcase Day was a success with 13 ladies eager to sew, iron, match the fabrics and have fun. The March 30th lesson, "Healthy Desserts", was presented by Karen Cahill and Mary Ann Platt and had all of the ladies attending ready to taste mouth-watering samples. We also learned about food myths and the health benefits of chia seeds. We were shown how to make applesauce cake prepared and baked all in the same pan. Good job, ladies!

Upcoming events include the April 20th lesson on "Salt and All Its Varieties". The Spring Meeting is April 27th. Please RSVP by April 20 to Sally Dennis. The cost is \$15.00.

Coming in May is the lesson on May 18th about "Wildflowers and Butterflies". RSVP by May 13. We are planning a trip to Casey, Illinois, on May 20th, to check out the sights, and hopefully, have lunch at Moonshine restaurant before we head to Casey. We will carpool, so don't miss this fun excursion. Please RSVP by May 13th for this trip.

Second Vice President

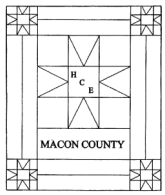
Lyn Stevens

I have finally completed the MCHCE membership list for 2022. We have 124 members. This does include two brand new members who joined the Center Unit in Taylorville. Welcome to a fun group, Marcy and Susie.

I am sad to report that we have lost a long-time member of the OPG unit.

Anna Belle Farrell passed away in March. Linda Austin was able to work with her on the reports for the newsletter. She would mail her two pages of notes with a note at the end that said that she wouldn't have to use it all! She was a wonderful lady who was loved by all who knew her!

I still need quite a few membership forms that have been published in the last few newsletters. These forms help us to keep up on everyone's information. There are a few members that have never, ever filled out the form. If you haven't done so already, please send it in to the Extension Office ASAP. If you have sent it in, THANK YOU!



Macon County Association for
Home & Community Education
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President

Bonnie Lanham 2018-2022
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1st Vice President

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2nd Vice President

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Secretary

Elaine Hamm 2022-2024
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Treasurer

Sally Dennis 2018-2022
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Check out our Websites!

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www.mchce.org

IAHCE at

www.iahce.org