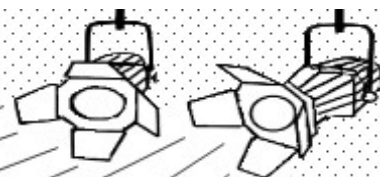


**Macon County**  
**September-October 2024**

**HCE**  
**HIGHLIGHTS**



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

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY**

This special day is coming up on September 18. The cost is \$15.00, and your check and reservation should be sent by September 4th to our treasurer, Sally Dennis, at 7562 Bonnie Road, Dalton City, Illinois 61925. Chef Tucker and his students will be catering a delicious chicken meal. Our country of study is Malaysia this year. Our speaker will be Alice Grooms. Registration starts at 9 a.m. and the program starts at 9:30. We hope to see you there!

### **ATTENTION! HCE WEEK IS COMING!!!**

The week of October 14-18 is HCE WEEK! Check out First Vice President Sandy Severe's article about upcoming events for HCE week! There are three days of fun and interesting programs! Be sure to RSVP to the Extension Office for the events you will be attending!

### **FALL MEETING REMINDER!**

This wonderful event is coming up on Wednesday, October 30, at the large meeting room at the Extension Office. Registration is at 9 and the meeting starts at 9:30. Our speaker will be Ann Irwin from Operation Enduring Support. The monies from the 50/50 drawing will be donated to Operation Enduring Support, as well as other donations.

Be sure to RSVP to Sally Dennis by October 23. Remember to bring your Cultural Enrichment items to display and be voted on for the State Conference in March in Effingham.

### **Inside This Issue**

- Upcoming Events
- Laughter is Good for the Soul
- Great Recipes
- Patchwork Unit
- Minutes
- Officer's Reports
- Unit News

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

NEW PICK-UP POINT FOR THE AUGUST 28th BUS TRIP

FORSYTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

210 EAST RUEHL STREET IN FORSYTH, ILLINOIS

Try to carpool with several other members. Park in the church lot off of Elwood Street. It's across the road from the library. Same pick up time. 7:00-7:30 a.m.

**DON'T BE LATE!!!!**

## Upcoming Events

### Monday, September 9

HCE Board Meeting  
10:00 am  
Macon County Extension Office  
Clover Room

### Wednesday, September 11

Reservations due for International Day

### Tuesday, September 17

Set Up for International Day  
1:00 pm  
Macon County Extension Office  
Illini Room

### Wednesday, September 18

International Day  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Macon County Extension Office  
Illini Room

### Monday, September 30

Sewing Day  
9:30 am-3:30 pm  
Macon County Extension Office  
Clover Room

**Newsletter items due to Linda Austin @**

***lindaaustin48@gmail.com***

### Monday, October 7

Tri-County Meeting  
9:30 am - 1:00 pm  
TBD

### Friday, October 11

RSVP for all HCE Week Lessons

### Monday, October 14

HCE Board Meeting  
10:00 am  
Macon County Extension Office  
Clover Room

### HCE Week/October 14-18

#### Monday, October 14

Don Chamberlain  
1:30 pm  
Macon County Extension Office  
Clover Room

#### Wednesday, October 16

Make It - Take It Craft Day  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Macon County Extension Office  
Illini Room

#### Thursday, October 17

Board Games and Snacks Day  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Macon County Extension Office  
Illini Room

#### Wednesday, October 23

RSVP to Sally Dennis for Fall Meeting

#### Tuesday, October 29

Set Up for Fall Meeting  
1:00 pm  
Macon County Extension Office  
Clover and Illini Rooms

#### Wednesday, October 30

Fall Meeting  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Macon County Extension Office  
Clover and Illini Rooms



# Laughter is Good for the Soul

Karen Cahill, Sandy Severe, and Lyn Stevens sent me these jokes. Enjoy!

Thank you to Lyn Stevens for these “funnies”!

Why don't teddy bears ever want to eat anything? *Because they are always stuffed!*

Did you hear about the cheese factory that exploded in France? *There was nothing left but de Brie.*

Where should you go in the room if you're feeling cold? *The corner—they're usually 90 degrees.*

I can never take my dog to the park because the ducks keep trying to bite him. *I guess that's what I get for buying a pure bread dog.*

What's the difference between a poorly dressed man on a unicycle and a well dressed man on a bicycle? *Attire.*

## POTATO BAKE—Sally Dennis

- 1 can cream of celery
- 1 c. sour cream
- 1/4 tsp. pepper.
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 c. milk.
- 4 c. pkg. Mexican 4 cheese fine shredded
- 2- 2.5 oz or 6 oz pkg. French Fried onions
- 2 sticks butter—melted
- 32 oz. pkg. frozen hash brown potatoes

In a large mixing bowl, stir the first four ingredients together.

- Blend in the 1/2 c. milk
- Blend in 1/2 shredded cheese.
- Add 1/2 French fried onions
- Blend in 2 sticks of the melted butter
- Fold in the frozen 32 oz package of hash browns

Pour into a 9 x 13 baking dish

Cover and bake at 350 degrees until hot all through and bubbly, about 1 1/2 hours.

Top with the remaining cheese and onion. Bake uncovered for 5 more minutes.

## Great Recipes



**PATCHWORK  
UNIT**

# **Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting**

Carol Ropp (for Elaine Hamm)

June 10, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER:** Sandy Severe, Vice-President at 10:00 am

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**HOMEMAKERS' AIM:**

**JOKE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

Units represented: Five units were represented by Vickie Wooten, Cathy Gipson, Lyn Stevens, Karen Halicki, Mary Ann Platt, Sandy Severe, Carol Ropp, Linda Austin, Linda Hooge, Cheryl Sample and Sally Dennis.

Total in attendance:

**SECRETARY:** The May minutes were read and approved. Motion by Sally Dennis with second by Lyn Stevens.

**TREASURER:** Sally Dennis presented the treasurer's report which was filed for audit.

## **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

**President:**

**1st Vice President:** Sandy Severe Sandy reminded us that our June program is Thursday, June 20 at 9:30 at Richland with Chef Tucker. Sewing Day is June 24<sup>th</sup>. It was decided to order Monical's for lunch. The Mini District Workshop is Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 in the Illini Room.

**2nd Vice President:** Lyn Stevens reported that our membership number hasn't changed. She is close to getting all of the emergency forms from members.

**Community & Family Issues:** Mary Ann Platt reported that she has pillowcases to deliver to the Ronald McDonald House. We discussed Operation Enduring Support because this is what Mary Ann wants her annual book to show. She is asking Ann Irwin to come to the fall meeting. There will be containers to accept money and items to be delivered for the Christmas mailing OES will be sending.

**Cultural Enrichment:** Cheryl Sample is attending county fairs. She wants to make small books to submit for the state conference.

**Historian:**

**International:** Lois Miller and Cathy Gipson will meet Alice Grooms to make plans for International Day about Malaysia. Cathy showed favors she wants to have at each place for the lunch.

**Public Relations:** Linda Austin went over corrections to be made to the draft for the newsletter going out this week.

**District 3 Director:**

**Extension Program Coordinator:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

# Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

Elaine Hamm

July 8, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER:** Bonnie Lanham

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Bonnie Lanham

**HOMEMAKERS' AIM:** Bonnie Lanham

**SCOTLAND HIGHLIGHTS:** Bonnie Lanham

**ROLL CALL:** Elaine Hamm

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

Total in attendance: 14 (Linda Austin, Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Carol Flitz, Cathy Gipson, Karen Halicki, Elaine Hamm, Linda Hooge, Bonnie Lanham, Lois Miller, Mary Ann Platt, Carol Ropp, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe)

**SECRETARY:** Minutes of the June 10, 2024 Board meeting were reviewed by all present. Sandy Severe moved to approve said minutes as read. Linda Austin seconded. Motion carried.

**TREASURER:** Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$1,974.39. There was discussion regarding the decrease in funds. As a result, Lois Miller moved that for 2024 each Board member pay her own \$25 registration for the District 3 meeting and \$15 subscription for the IAHCE newsletter. Mary Ann Platt seconded. Motion passed. It was also discussed that each Board member pay 100% of the IAHCE annual conference registration rather than being reimbursed a percentage based on number attending. Karen Cahill suggested that if a Board member needs to be reimbursed, that could be processed anonymously. Each Board member received a copy of the up-to-date budget spreadsheet. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** One scholarship application has been received. A note from Jamie Boas, Extension County Director, thanking us for continued support of the program, was passed around. New Life Pregnancy Center has also thanked us for pillowcases. Another thank you was received from Ronald McDonald House for 89 bonding hearts and 10-21 pounds of pop tabs. Dove also sent a thank you note.

## **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

**President:** Bonnie thanked Sandy Severe for filling in as President during her absence.

**1st Vice President:** Sandy Severe reminded us of the county lesson on July 16 presented by Nicole Bateman of the Decatur Economic Development Corporation; sewing day on July 29; the District 3 meeting in Springfield on August 7, and the bus trip to Eureka and Washington on August 28. She also noted that last month's lesson by Chef Brian Tucker was very interesting.

**2nd Vice President:** Lyn Stevens – absent.

**Community & Family Issues & CVH:** Mary Ann Platt has cut 400 circles for feeding tubes. Ann Irwin of Operation Enduring Support (OES) looks forward to being the speaker at our fall meeting. Mary Ann has received enough greeting cards for two years but will still accept more. She has 14 pillowcases to take to the Ronald McDonald House. Linda Riva of DeWitt County has donated fabric. Mary Ann reminded everyone to be kind.

Linda Hooge reported that 35 pillowcases and 118 hearts were finished at the last sewing day. She will take the pillowcases to the Salvation Army and Water Street Mission.

The August 26 sewing day will be canceled, as it is two days before the bus trip.

**Cultural Enrichment:** Cheryl Sample informed us that the United Nations has decided that 2026 will be the International Year of the Woman Farmer. Perhaps we could do a program in recognition. She is trying chicken scratch embroidery cross stitch on gingham. Karen Cahill suggested this could be a share shop at annual conference next year.

**Historian:** Carol Ropp continues to request that articles be given to her.

**International:** Lois Miller reported that she and Cathy Gipson have met with Alice Grooms regarding International Day. Eggs are considered good luck in Malaysia. At weddings, hard-boiled eggs are given as gifts to the guests. As a representation on International Day, Lois has purchased plastic eggs, which will be wrapped in tulle donated by Karen Cahill. Roxy Waterhouse will make the placements, which were reviewed and approved today. Mary Ann has contributed silk flowers and Karen Cahill will also provide silk flowers for decoration.

**Public Relations:** Linda Austin reminded us that the deadline for the next newsletter, which will include HCE Week info, is August 1. Recipes and book reviews are always welcomed.

**District 3 Director:** Karen Cahill thanked those who attended the Mini District meeting, the next of which will be held on November 6, beginning with lunch at 11:30 a.m., rather than the scheduled 1:00 p.m. start time.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Bonnie has decided that an all-day fall meeting in place of both spring and fall meetings would be too long. Karen Halicki suggested we plan for a spring meeting between 9 a.m. and 12 noon next May, with the Board furnishing breakfast this first year. Annual conference awards and the memorial service for deceased members would be the main focus.

The offices of President and Treasurer are up for election.

Bonnie noted that due to the high service fee being charged by Richland Community College, if we continue having our meals catered by Chef Tucker and his culinary students, we may have to raise the meal charge from \$15 to \$20 for our fall meeting in 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

## **Officer's Reports**

### **President**

Bonnie Lanham

Well, hello ladies! As a lot of you know, I recently took a trip to Scotland on Timi's Tours. I enjoyed a week's tour with them and then I developed pneumonia. I was in the hospital for 11 days. I will say that everyone was super nice, and the doctor's were great. That was in May, and I am fully recovered now.

Don't forget our bus trip coming up. There is a new meeting place listed on the front of this newsletter. International Day and the Fall Meeting are coming up. I would like to see more people attend the Fall Meeting. We are trying to keep expenses down, but as you all know, that will not be easy.

Remember, HCE week is coming up. Please try to attend a few or all of the planned events. Remember to RSVP for these fun times!

---

### **First Vice President**

Sandy Severe

Happy summer, ladies! It's been hot and sticky lately, right? Fall is just around the corner!!! Here are some dates for you to put on your calendar for events that you will not want to miss:

- August 28—Road trip to Eureka and Washington. Hope you are ready for the fun!
- September 18—International Day at the Extension Office
- September 30—Sewing Day

#### October HCE Week

October 14— Don Chamberlain will be speaking to us about the women's stories, Sacagawea, Big Crow, Lakota Sioux, Buffalo Calf Road and four white women captured by Native American tribes.

October 16—Make it-Take it craft day. Interesting and fun crafts! 10 a.m. till 2 p.m.

October 17—Board games and snack day 10 a.m. till 3 p.m.

October 30—Fall Meeting. Be sure to bring your Cultural Enrichment items to be voted on for conference.

I hope you will attend all of these events or at least most of them. Be sure to sign up for each lesson you plan to attend. Have a great rest of your summer!

---

### **Second Vice President**

Lyn Stevens

Melissa Chitwood, the IAHCE Treasurer, had the following to say,

"There's a Chinese Proverb that states, "Be not afraid of growing slowly; be afraid only of standing still." What a truthful and powerful statement. Sharing is caring and we should share our excitement for HCE by inviting others to join in our learning and fun. I understand it might be "uncomfortable" to ask someone to attend an HCE event. What if they say no? You won't know until you ask. If they have said no before, try again. Maybe the timing or event was not right for them.

No, our membership will not grow like the invasion of the cicadas this year, however, slow growth in membership is better than a declining membership.

These words ring so true. Our Macon County HCE seriously needs to grow. As Melissa says slow growth is important. Without it, we will continue to decline. You all know what a wonderful time we have in HCE or you would not be a part of this organization. So get out there, stretch yourselves and start inviting friends. YOU WON'T KNOW IF YOU DON'T TRY!!!

---

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH/FAMILY ISSUES**

Linda Hooge and Mary Ann Platt

Ten ladies gathered on July 29th and made 29 pillowcases, 20 bonding hearts, and 49 tube covers for babies tubes. The covers protect the babies tender skin.

On August 12, I will deliver 192 hearts, 22 pillowcases, and 49 tube covers to the Ronald McDonald House. I have pop tabs as well, but they weigh them when I deliver them. I love delivering them on your behalf. Linda has delivered pillowcases locally as well.

I no longer have anyone to deliver the plastic caps so I will no longer collect them. I was given two possible sources, but neither responded after multiple contacts. Sorry.

Our sewing day for August has been canceled since the date is so close to our trip. Linda Riva of Clinton has provided me fabric to cut into hearts for them. I delivered about 200 hearts to Piatt County to sew as well. I am so grateful for everyone's involvement in these projects.



## **Unit News**

### **Maple Grove**

Mary Kay Ennis

We met in June at Primrose. We visited with our members who live there. There was a good amount of talking and a wonderful dessert.

We did not meet in July.

---

### **Mt. Zion**

Barb Brandt and Vicky Wooten

Our June meeting was held at Mari-Mann Herbs. Ten members and one guest were present. Mike King talked about stem cell products, that could be a patch. We watched a video of his mom who started the business years ago. We also had a delicious lunch.

In July, we toured the Northeast Community Fund building. We only had 5 members there. We were shown the food area. There are lots of selections for people to pick from. We also saw the clothing area and were told of other services that they offer. After that, we went to Culver's for treats and visiting. We had one guest, Diana, and we hope she will be a new member for us.

---

### **Oakley-Pleasant Grove**

Mary Ann Platt

We met at Coz's on July 2 at 11 a.m. Alice Bray was our hostess. Sandy Severe called the meeting to order. We said the pledge, the Homemaker's aim, and we had the treasurer's report. We have \$81.08 in our treasury.

We discussed future lessons: Nicole Bateman, sewing day and newsletter deadlines. All of those who attended the mini district meeting agreed that it was a great meeting. The district meeting will be held August 7th in Springfield. All members were invited to attend.

Those who attended Chef Tucker's program at Richland were impressed by how much he loves teaching. They now have three kitchens. Each year they take an international trip to learn about food and customs. We also discussed the possibility of changing our fall and spring county meetings into one meeting in the fall. More discussions will be held later. We celebrated Else Farnham's 96th birthday with a cake and cards.

Our next meeting will be August 6th at Coz's.

---

### **Rock Springs**

Lyn Stevens

The June meeting of our unit was hosted by Lyn Stevens at the 1912 Barn in Niantic, Illinois. We started with a lovely presentation by the owner, Alissa Norris, telling us all about the history of the barn and the families who have owned it. She explained how the barn accidentally became a venue for weddings and other gatherings after she and her husband purchased the property. When she was finished, some of us climbed the stairs to see the barn's loft which is set up for Hipcamping. Alissa was gracious enough to allow us to eat our lunches and hold our meeting in the barn. Lois Miller, 1st Vice President, called the meeting to order in the absence of Bonnie, our president. The report from the MCHCE board meeting included lots of reminders of upcoming events. We heard the latest information about International Day plans. Liz King is our hostess for July.

In July, we took a road trip and carpooled to Pana, Illinois. Liz King was our hostess and arranged a tour of the Tallgrass Butterfly House at Anderson Prairie Park. David Nance, a retired biology teacher at Pana High School, was full of interesting information about both the butterflies and their habitat. We had plenty of time to meander through the butterfly house seeing the butterflies and also the posted signs about the various species. After the tour, we climbed back in the cars and drove to the Curly Girls Cafe for our meeting and lunch.

Our president, Bonnie Lanham, entertained us with information about her trip to Scotland that included many days in a hospital there. She said she actually didn't mind being in the hospital. She got to meet some lovely people and everyone at the hospital was so nice. Bonnie gave a report on the MCHCE Board Meeting. We got to see a preview of possible lessons for 2025. We heard about the changes for the Spring Meeting beginning next year and a little about International Day. After our brief meeting, we ordered our lunch. Everything was so yummy. And, of course, we spent a lot of time enjoying each other's company.

## Unit News (cont.)

### Economic Development Program

Presented by Nicole Bateman

Report by Carol Ropp

If you didn't attend the Economic Development program on Tuesday, July 16, you missed a really informative program by President Nicole Bateman. The EDC works to bring new businesses to our community, which in turn, means jobs for our community.

Tillamook Creamery, which is based in Oregon, has purchased the former Prairie Farms Dairy property at Cerro Gordo and MLK. They originally planned to spend \$49,000,000 and now are hoping to end at \$60,000,000. If you haven't tried a taste of their delicious ice cream, shop at Kroger or Over the Top Ice Cream Shop at Nelson Park. You may notice when you re-open a carton to scoop out more ice cream, there will be no crystals. That's because Tillamook doesn't add air when they are packing. I tested it and it's true!

The TCCI (old GE building) is producing heavy duty compressors only for EV compressor conversion. Richland students are taking classes to build these. The old Borg Warner plant is almost always fully leased by companies for storage.

### Cultural Enrichment

Cheryl Sample

Greetings! The dog days of summer are definitely upon us as I write this in early August. Hopefully you were able to stay cool. Lots of iced tea and lemonade were consumed at my house. The grandchildren in Indiana started school on August 7. Doesn't that seem early?

As I look ahead on our HCE calendar I am reminded of the Fall Meeting. That means Cultural Enrichment items will be due Wednesday, October 30 for display. I hope you are planning and taking time to begin your projects. This is a good reason to stay inside from the heat.

I am trying something "new to me" and look forward to sharing the results at Cultural Enrichment Day. Of course, I will have a couple of "fabric related" projects in other categories.

I will be happy to answer any questions you might have about possible projects you are interested in making. If I am not sure, I will contact the appropriate person at the state level. Let's make this day a big success!

#### **APPLIED ARTS: These are the "Cultural Arts Show" categories:**

100 Artwork (charcoal, oil, acrylic or watercolor)	1400 Nature Items (anything made of natural things, wheat, corn husk, etc.)
200 Counted Cross Stitch	1500 Photography
300 Crafts (wood and rugs included)	1600 Quilt, hand or machine pieced by HCE member and quilted by non HCE member
400 Crochet Afghan	1700 Quilted - Other (anything quilted that isn't a quilt)
500 Crochet - other	1800 Recycled
600 Hand Embroidery	1900 Scrap Booking/Paper Crafts
700 Quilt, hand or machine pieced & quilted by HCE member	2000 Home Decor (wall hangings, wreaths, center-pieces, rugs and other things that make your home artistically satisfying) <b>No quilts</b>
800 Heritage Needlework (Silk Ribbon, Hardanger, Tatting, etc.)	2100 Wearable Art (any technique applied to purchased or self-made item)
900 Jewelry (Handmade)	2200 Holiday Theme (Anything Holiday) <b>No quilts</b>
1000 Knit Afghan	2300 Current Annual Conference Theme or Country of study.
1100 Knit - Other	2400 Sewing
1200 Machine Embroidery	
1300 Quilt Machine pieced, and machine quilted by HCE member	

**NOTE: Above size maximums 24" including matting and frame, or maybe folded to 24" — except quilts**

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

**President**

Bonnie Lanham 2018-2024  
Rock Springs Unit  
384 Dawson Rd.  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217-428-7404 (Home)  
217-454-8746 (Cell)  
randb74@comcast.net

**1st Vice President**

Sandy Severe 2022-2024  
Oakley Pleasant Grove Unit  
3147 Maryland St.  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217-422-9889 (Home)  
217-972-2870 (Cell)  
severesandean@comcast.net

**2nd Vice President**

Lyn Stevens 2022-2024  
Rock Springs Unit  
960 Kirk Drive  
Mt. Zion, IL 60504  
217-972-5192  
jstev60504@yahoo.com

**Secretary**

Elaine Hamm 2022-2024  
Hickory Point Unit  
1222 Pineview Ct.  
Decatur, IL 62526  
217-972-6575

**Treasurer**

Sally Dennis 2018-2024  
Pleasant Grove Unit  
7562 Bonnie Road  
Dalton City, IL 61925  
217-433-0605  
sjdfeline@one-eleven.net

**Historian**

Carol Ropp  
Maple Grove Unit  
3620 South Taylor Road  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217-855-3339  
one4thetrees@comcast.net

**Community Outreach/  
Family Issues**

Mary Ann Platt 2018-2024  
Pleasant Grove Unit  
3614 Harryland Road  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217-864-2716 (Home)  
maryannia@aol.com

**Co-Chair**

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

**Cultural Enrichment**

Cheryl Sample 2018-2024  
Patchwork Unit  
10630 Greenswitch Road  
Maroa, IL 61756  
765-426-1420  
erskc@aol.com

**Co-Internationals**

Cathy Gipson 2024  
Rock Springs Unit  
415 W Andrews  
Macon, IL 62544  
636-628-5580  
bevhillbillie10@gmail.com

Lois Miller 2022-2024  
Rock Springs Unit  
1770 Dipper Ln.  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217-201-1356  
dipplerlane@gmail.com

**Public Relations**

Linda Austin  
Maple Grove Unit  
50 Hickory Point Ct  
Forsyth, IL 62535  
217-521-0401 (Cell)  
lindaaustin48@gmail.com

**CVH**

Karen Cahill  
Maple Grove Unit  
4752 Arbor Court  
Decatur, IL 62526  
217-520-2683 (Cell)  
karencahill@outlook.com

**Check out our Websites!**

Macon County HCE at

[www.mchce.org](http://www.mchce.org)

IAHCE at

[www.iahce.org](http://www.iahce.org)