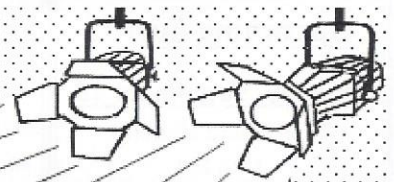


Macon County **September—October 2025**

HCE HIGHLIGHTS



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

Please join us at the following:



International Day

South Africa

September 17, 2025

9 AM to 2 PM

Location: First Baptist Church, 1320 W. Arbor Dr, Decatur, IL 62526

Cost: \$10 per person

RSVP by August 13 to Sally Dennis at 7562 Bonnie Rd., Dalton City, IL 61925

Our study of South Africa comes to a close with the educational and entertaining International Day.

There will be speakers to share their experiences in South Africa, as well as decorations and food to celebrate the culture and traditions of this country.

We will enjoy a Braai Style South African BBQ, and we are asking each unit to pitch in and fix a dish to share in true Braai style (the way we used to contribute food for International Day meals). We're keeping the price low since we are asking for participation from members and/or units. Their BBQ is very similar in style to ours in the Midwest.

Carrot Cake, Malva Pudding, Sweetcorn Bread, and Jollof Rice (seasoned rice cooked with tomatoes) are the dishes we will need volunteers to prepare. Recipes will be provided if needed.

DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Bake Sale Fundraiser

Liz King

Location: 1700 N Lake Shore Dr, Decatur, IL 62526

Upcoming Dates:

September 26 (OPG)

October 24 (Maple Grove)

November 21 available

December 19 available

3-4 volunteers are needed. Two to slice and plate desserts (although pre-sliced is appreciated), and 1 person to take money.

Take the tote from the HCE Closet at the Extension Office. Inside, you should find: serving plates and utensils, carry-out containers, tablecloths, signs, a cleaning bucket, cloth, and dish soap.

Arrive around 4 PM so you have time to set up, slice, and plate desserts. The DAV starts serving dinner at 5 PM, but people will start buying desserts as soon as you set up. Groups are usually done by 6:30, but it might run later.

Homemade desserts are preferred. Fruit pies, cakes, and fluff desserts sell best. If you purchase desserts, please be sure they are good quality.

You are welcome to order food and eat there. The food is good and reasonably priced.

At the end of the night, if you have desserts left over, you can leave those for the staff (they are much appreciated), and/or discount the prices and place into carry-out containers to go.

Emma Oglesby's Marmalade Project

We have been asked by the Governor Oglesby Mansion Board to make Emma Oglesby's Orange Marmalade for their Christmas Tea at the Oglesby Mansion on December 7, 2025. The event will feature traditional afternoon tea with cookies, tea, and punch. The mansion will be decorated for the holidays by the Garden Club of Decatur and board members. It is a free, public event with no reservations needed. Several members have already volunteered to make the marmalade. We will use the kitchen at Mari-Mann Herbs in mid-November and use Emma's traditional marmalade recipe. Along with providing marmalade to serve at their event, we have asked about making extra jars for them to sell as a fundraiser. In return, we get publicity and a fun unique project.

Upcoming Events

Monday, September 15

HCE Board Meeting
1:30 PM

Taylorville Extension Office

Wednesday, September 17

International Day
9:00 AM

First Baptist Church

Monday, September 29

Sewing Day
9 AM

3310 S Taylor Rd, Decatur IL

Monday, October 6

Tri-County Meeting
9:30 AM

DeWitt County Extension
Conference Room

Monday, October 13

Lincoln Theater Lesson
9:30 AM

The Lincoln Theater

Monday, October 13

Antiques Lesson with Ed
Walker

1:30 PM

First Baptist Church

Tuesday, October 14

Humble Casseroles
10:00 AM

First Baptist Church

Tuesday, October 14

HCE Board Meeting
1:30 PM

First Baptist Church

Thursday, October 16

I'm Tired of Cooking
12:00 PM

First Baptist Church

Wednesday, October 29

Fall Meeting
9:00 AM

First Baptist Church

Inside This Issue

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- Laughter is Good for the Soul
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- Unit News
- Event Reminders
- Bakesale Fundraiser



Laughter is Good for the Soul

Many thanks to Lyn Stevens and Liz King for the jokes for this newsletter!!

Why didn't the skeleton go to the dance?BECAUSE HE HAD NO BODY TO GO WITH!!!

Did you hear about the carrot detective?.... HE GOT TO THE ROOT OF EVERY CASE!!

What did one elevator say to the other elevator? I THINK I'M COMING DOWN WITH SOMETHING!!!

A man told his doctor that he wasn't able to do all of the things around the house that he used to do. When the examination was complete, the man said, "Now Doc, I can take it. Tell me in plain English what is wrong with me." "Well, in plain English" the doctor said, "you're just lazy." "Okay," said the man. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife."

Yummy Recipes!

Cathy Gipson submitted this recipe because we are studying South Africa, and she and Lois Miller are co-chairing our International event. Sounds interesting!

SOUTH AFRICAN CHOCOLATE PEPPER COOKIES

Ingredients:

- 1lb. Or 2 1/2 cups of semi sweet chocolate chips
- 12 tbs. butter—room temperature
- 2/3 c. brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 c. all purpose flour
- 2/3 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

Directions:

Mix together. Put mixture in refrigerator for 10 minutes. Bake at 350 for 10-15 minutes.

Thank you again to Linda Austin for submitting this recipe as well!

This is a recipe for a rejuvenating smoothie, and who doesn't need rejuvenating once in a while??

PEANUT BUTTER SHAKE

Ingredients:

- 1 frozen banana
- 1 cup of milk of your choice
- 1/4 c. peanut butter
- 1 tsp cinnamon

Directions:

Mix all ingredients together in a blender and enjoy!

Thank you to Karen Cahill for submitting this amazing recipe!

M&M PEANUT BUTTER RICE KRISPIE TREATS

Ingredients:

- 6 cups Rice Krispies or Cocoa Pebbles (makes it gluten free)
- 1 stick of butter
- 2 10oz. Bags of mini marshmallows
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 2 cups of peanut butter M&M's or Reese's Pieces (or chocolate M&M's)

Directions:

Melt butter in a large pan over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir to melt. Add in the peanut butter and stir. Add Rice Krispies. Add candy. Press into well-greased 9x13 pan. Enjoy!

Thank you to Linda Austin for submitting this yummy recipe!

Over the years, I have tried to find recipes that don't have wheat, flour, still taste great, and my husband will eat!! So here is my recipe for:

PEANUT BUTTER COOKIE BARS WITH OATS

Ingredients:

- 3/4 c. light brown sugar
- 1/4 c. softened butter (either salted or unsalted)
- 1 c. smooth or crunchy peanut butter
- 1 egg and 1 egg yolk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 c. gluten free quick oats
- 1/4 c. gluten free all purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt (only add if using unsalted butter)
- 1/3 c. chocolate chips

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. If you have parchment paper, line an 8x8 baking pan with it. If you don't have parchment paper, you can coat your pan with butter. Use a mixer to combine the softened butter and brown sugar. Mix on high and then add peanut butter. Add the oats, flour, baking soda, and salt (if needed) to the wet ingredients. Mix on low speed (I used a rubber spatula to mix in the chocolate chips). Put the dough into the prepared pan. Spread evenly. Place the pan on the middle rack and bake for 16-20 mins. The top of the bars should be golden brown and puffed up. Take the bars out of the oven and let them cool in the pan for about 5 mins. Enjoy!

NVON 2025

Karen Cahill

During the week of July 17th, 123 members of NVON (National Volunteer Outreach Network), from the ten member states, were hosted by Illinois IAHCE members. Five Macon County members attended some of the events. We enjoyed wonderful inspirational speakers, interesting classes, tours of Springfield area attractions, and getting to know ladies from other parts of the country. It was a great time! Next year's NVON conference will be held in Wisconsin Dells from July 14 to July 16. Think about joining in on the fun!

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

June 9, 2025

Prior to meeting at the United in Faith Church in Pana at 1:00 p.m., lunch was enjoyed at Curly Girls!

Carolyn Barnett welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the table.

CALL TO ORDER: President Liz King

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Liz King

HOMEMAKERS' AIM: Liz King

JOKE: Carol Ropp

ROLL CALL: Elaine Hamm

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

Total in attendance: 20 (Carolyn Barnett, Sally Dennis, Janet Dorn, Nina Elvers, Cathy Gipson, Elaine Hamm, Linda Hooge, Delores Hunt, Liz King, Georgette Merrifield, Mary Ann Platt, Carol Ropp, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Louise Shippy-Rouse, Lyn Stevens, Cheryl Tedrick, Sharon Turner, Doris Walker, Vicky Wooten)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the May 12, 2025 Board meeting were previously accepted as read via email in order to be included in the July-August newsletter.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$4,707.39. There was discussion regarding the donations category in the budget for spring and fall meetings. The craft sales, Chinese auction for fabric, and 50/50 drawing categories, which had earlier been condensed, need to again be divided. Liz will assist Sally with streamlining her computer program. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit. It was noted that a backup person is needed to help Clarence Middleton with the MCHCE website.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe reported the dates for upcoming lessons and events in June and July.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens shared that the Rock Springs unit has a prospective new member!

Community Outreach & Family Issues: Mary Ann Platt was able to secure a tour of the Lincoln Square Theater for Monday, October 13, of HCE Week. She is also working with Clarence on a sale of Sharon's fabric. More information will be forthcoming. Mary Ann will take more pillowcases to the Ronald McDonald House this Thursday.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample continues to promote county fairs to glean ideas from 4-H members and to encourage them. She has finished some of Sharon Middleton's quilt tops and had a few to show us. A beautiful yellow and blue jelly roll quilt will be raffled at one of our county meetings in the future. The Pana unit shared that they have a very successful outreach making quilts and donating them. The ladies that had an opportunity to view their room of supplies and finished work were very impressed. It is hoped that each unit will provide table settings at the spring meeting. Cathy Gipson reported that the Rock Springs unit will finish cross stitching an old linen tablecloth. Cheryl will volunteer to help make table runners from some of Sharon's fabric.

Historian: Carol Ropp reminds everyone to keep collecting MCHCE photos.

International: Cathy Gipson passed around homemade chocolate pepper cookies. The recipe was from Africa.

OLD BUSINESS:

Positions still open are 1st Vice President, Co-International, Secretary and Public Relations.

July 14: 9:00 a.m. program planning before the 1:30 Board meeting.

Sally moved that a \$100 donation be made to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) for letting us hold fundraisers there. Carol Ropp seconded; motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nina Elvers was recognized for being a founding member of the Pana unit 58 years ago (1967)!

Information will be included in the newsletter about working at the Farm Progress Show August 26-28.

Delores Hunt will check to see if our September Board meeting can be held in Taylorville.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Delicious cupcakes, cookies and drinks were provided by the Pana unit and enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hamm

Macon County Home & Community Education Board Meeting

July 14, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: President Liz King

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Liz King

HOMEMAKERS' AIM: Liz King

JOKES: Liz King

ROLL CALL: Elaine Hamm

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

Total in attendance: 14 (Karen Cahill, Sally Dennis, Karen Halicki, Elaine Hamm, Linda Hooze, Liz King, Georgette Merrifield, Lois Miller, Mary Ann Platt, Carol Ropp, Cheryl Sample, Sandy Severe, Lyn Stevens, Vicky Wooten)

SECRETARY: Minutes of the June 9, 2025 Board meeting were accepted as read.

TREASURER: Sally Dennis reported a bank balance of \$4,610.45. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

1st Vice President: Sandy Severe reminded us of the Decatur Economic Development Corporation lesson this Thursday; July 28 sewing day; August 6 IAHCE District 2 Workshop; and the Bachrach Mansion lesson on August 21.

2nd Vice President: Lyn Stevens presented Karen Cahill with a 15-year charm and passed out new County Guidebooks.

Community Outreach & Family Issues: Mary Ann Platt reported 16 ladies made 61 pillowcases at the latest sewing day. On Wednesday, she will deliver approximately 100 pillowcases to the Ronald McDonald House. Since some of our upcoming meetings will be at the First Baptist Church, Mary Ann suggested perhaps our August and September sewing days could be held there, rather than being canceled. She distributed a signup sheet to volunteer at the sale of Sharon Middleton's fabric and sewing/quilting supplies on August 1 and 2 (with set up on July 31) at the Mt. Zion Presbyterian Annex.

Cultural Enrichment: Cheryl Sample shared her experience of judging visual arts, garment construction and cake decorating at the DeWitt County Fair. She has completed two quilts of Sharon's and will complete another next month to be raffled. It was suggested that Peace & Applique Quilt Shop in Rochester, Illinois and/or Stewart's in Mt. Zion would be good businesses at which to sell raffle tickets.

Historian: Carol Ropp is waiting to collect more photos.

International: Lois Miller distributed index cards to be used as Save the Date notices for International Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on September 17. The menu will be BBQ flank steak, prepared by Millikin University Chef Brian Pehr, with each unit preparing other dishes, such as Malva pudding, potato salad and carrot cake.

District 2 Director: Karen Cahill thanked all who helped at the Mini District 2 Workshop. She considered the NVON conference to be the best conference she ever attended, with its great classes and speakers. There were 123 in attendance, from 10 states. Karen is preparing for the August 6 District 2 Workshop in Springfield.

OLD BUSINESS:

Board positions still open are 1st Vice President, Co-International, Secretary and Public Relations. Karen Halicki and Sandy Severe will comprise the nominating committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Patchwork unit will serve desserts at the DAV on July 25. It was noted that pies sell best.

First Baptist Church, 1320 W. Arbor Drive, Decatur, will be the location for:

September 17 – International Day

October 29 – Fall meeting

November 5 – Mini District 2 Workshop

Liz will try to reserve the First Baptist Church for the October HCE Week activities, as well.

Our Board meeting on September 8 will be held at the Christian County Extension Office, Taylorville.

Liz shared that she has been asked to make orange marmalade to be sold at the Governor Richard J. Oglesby Mansion on December 6. This would be made in Mari-Mann's kitchen the middle of November. A book of this project could be made and submitted to annual conference. A reimbursement claim could be submitted to the IAHCE Support Fund.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hamm

Officer's Reports

President

Liz King

Hello MCHCE Members,

I attended my first NVON Conference and had a wonderful time. It was a great reminder that we are part of a larger organization. It was nice to put that into perspective of the impact we have around the world. I attended lessons about the interesting town of Petersburg, IL and bees. We have so many small towns in Illinois worth visiting that have a rich history and a lot to offer. I learned something about bees, that the bees you see on your flowers are older female bees. They finally get to leave the hive at the end of their life cycle to literally smell the roses and see the world. We are never too old to contribute. Like bees collecting pollen and performing this vital job in their last days, we should never stop working and contributing because we think we are too old!

The remainder of this year includes many fun and interesting lessons and activities. We have a few more updates to the schedule for 2025 (of course). The September 8 Board Meeting will be in Taylorville at the Extension Office at 1120 N. Webster St. International Day is coming soon—September 17—with a deadline of August 13. If you are seeing this after the deadline, please do not hesitate to make a reservation. Since members are preparing most of the food, we want an idea earlier of the attendance, but we don't want you to miss out on this event. HCE week is October 13-18, with a couple of changes to dates and locations to watch for in this newsletter. I encourage you to attend these activities, including the Humble Casseroles and I'm Tired of Cooking Lessons led by yours truly. I am having fun researching and planning to include some new ideas! The Fall Meeting is happening October 29, more details to come.

On a personal note, my husband and I lost our dog a few weeks ago. Many of you know what it's like to lose a pet. There are a lot of animals in the area that need a good home or animal shelters looking for volunteers to spend time with cats and dogs, giving them companionship at the shelter. I'm sure we will find another dog to make our little pack complete again, but we are enjoying the lack of dog hair and slobber. I appreciate all of your hard work and patience as we navigate this year in HCE.

First Vice President

Sandy Severe

Happy Hot Summer, Ladies!

The lesson survey for next year is completed and you should be receiving them from your unit President soon. They are to be filled out and returned to your unit President, or sent to Macon County HCE at the Extension office, by September 17 (International Day).

AUGUST Events and Lessons:

Wednesday, August 6: IAHCE District Meeting in Springfield

Thursday, August 21: Bachrach Mansion lesson on the history of the mansion presented by Carol Ropp

Tuesday—Thursday, August 26-28: Farm Progress Show

SEPTEMBER Events and Lessons:

Wednesday, September 17: International Day 9:00-2:00 p.m.

Reservations to Sally Dennis by August 13. Meeting will be at the First Baptist Church (1320 Arbor Dr, Decatur, IL)

OCTOBER Events and Lessons:

Monday, October 13: 9:30 a.m. tour of Lincoln Theater

Monday, October 13: 1:30 p.m. antiques presented by Ed Walker, First Baptist Church

Tuesday, October 14: 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Humble Casseroles lesson, First Baptist Church

Tuesday, October 14: 1:30 p.m. Board Meeting, First Baptist Church

Thursday, October 16: 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. I'm Tired of Cooking, First Baptist Church

Wednesday, October 29: 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Fall Meeting, First Baptist Church

NOVEMBER Events and Lessons:

Wednesday, November 5: Mini District Workshop at First Baptist Church

As a last note, we are still needing a Secretary and a First Vice President on the Board next year. Both positions are work to some degree, but they are fun as well. The Board is full of wonderful ladies that are there to help you along the way. We all work together to make HCE the best it can be. Come and enjoy the process!

Second Vice President

Lyn Stevens

I am saddened to report that some longtime members have passed away since the last newsletter. The tributes for Louise Wickline and Sharon Middleton are done in this newsletter.

Dues information: It's time to start thinking about mailing your 2026 dues. They need to be received by November 1st. Checks should be made out to MCHCE for \$21.00. Please include your phone number and the name of your unit on your check. Your check needs to be mailed to Sally Dennis at 7562 Bonnie Rd., Dalton City, IL 61925.

All membership information needs to be sent to me, Lyn Stevens, at jstev60504@yahoo.com.

This includes: **NEW MEMBER INFORMATION, CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER, TRANSFERS TO ANOTHER UNIT, AND DEATH OF A MEMBER.**

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Cheryl Sample

Greetings!

Summer may be coming to a close, but we certainly have had nice warm weather this weekend. Hopefully, this next week is not as HOT as it has been most of this summer! The beginning week of school seems to bring warmer weather again. My seven grandchildren, in three different school districts, begin their school year on August 6!

This time of the year for HCE members means the Fall Meeting is coming, and it's time to display our Cultural Enrichment items. Your lovely work will be displayed for our members to enjoy. I hesitate to use the word "voted", but members will choose their favorite in each category. Those chosen will move forward to state.

This past March, at the state conference, it was a delight to see the entries. But that can't happen if you don't participate! Please contribute to make our Annual Fall Meeting your showcase. As in the past, please contact me if you have any questions about what you are entering, how to display your entry, etc. I will find the answer to help you present the best possible project! My phone number is 765-426-1420.

INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Lois Miller and Cathy Gipson

It's that time again for the HCE International trip to South Africa, not necessarily going on a trip, but listening to an informative program. We will hear from several interesting speakers to a full menu of South African foods. I promise you will be in for a treat!! Cathy Gipson, Liz King, and I have been busy planning a delicious meal and gathering items depicting South Africa, such as table decorations and pictures of the country. We have previously learned about the landscape and general layout of South Africa through short notes throughout the newsletters. We learned about a few of the animals of that particular area. In a way, we went on a safari of our own! We certainly cannot forget the languages spoken there.

Okay, now it's time for me to stop talking and give you the information I've been talking about. The program is September 17th from 9 AM- 2 PM. It will be held at the First Baptist Church (1320 Arbor Dr. Decatur, IL). **RSVP to Sally Dennis at 7562 Bonnie Rd. Dalton City, IL 61925.** Please make the checks out to MCHCE for \$10.00. We look forward to seeing you there!

Unit News

MT. ZION

Susan Jones

Our June gathering was held at the hall of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Church. There were 8 members present. We had a line dancing lesson, followed by a short meeting with refreshments provided by Pat.

Our July gathering was held at the La Tea Da Tea Room in Clinton. We had a delicious lunch. We decided that we would sell desserts at the DAV dinner on November 21. We had guests, Sandy Severe and Karen Halicki, who were trying to recruit a secretary and a 1st Vice President. Alas, there were no takers.

MAPLE GROVE

Carol Ropp

We met at Sharon Methodist Church on July 24. Delicious snacks were provided by Judy Tilton, Linda Zinn, and Gloria Lowery. Upcoming events were discussed.

There will not be an August meeting because of the Farm Progress Show. In September, we will meet at the Garden Path for a sack lunch meeting.

HICKORY POINT

Janet Feller

For our June meeting, we went to Taylorville. Our first stop was Fur Love and we met with the owner for a tour of the renovated 1896 building. They buy and sell to donate money to animal shelters and to the community.

We found many little shops on the square and had lunch at the Legendary Small Town Trading. Later we visited Yesterday and Elladies Boutique. We had a treat from Dairy Queen before heading home.

ROCK SPRINGS

Lyn Stevens



We met in June at Mari-Mann Herbs. Bonnie Lanham was our hostess. The hostess gift was won by Linda Nolan. However, since she had won the gift in May, she promptly passed it on to our guest, Sue Ingram. Before our meeting, we had a yummy lunch of chicken salad sandwiches, veggie chips, fruit, cookies, and chocolate mousse. There was not a lot of business to take care of, so our meeting was short and to the point. We were reminded that the Farm Progress Show needs volunteers, and also that the County Board is still looking for places to meet and hold lessons. There was a report on the plans and decorations for International Day. We got a chance to look at the tablecloth for our unit project that we will take turns cross-stitching.

In July, Donna Washburn made arrangements to use the room at Pop's Place. Sue Ingram joined us again and became an official member of HCE. We ordered lunch first. Cathy Gipson, our International rep, brought Malva Pudding, a South African dessert, for us to try. It was really good! After lunch, we had a brief meeting. We were informed that many of the meetings and lessons for the rest of the year would be at the First Baptist Church in Decatur. Lois Miller and Cathy Gipson had us make out a Save-the-Date card for International Day and told us more about the plans for the day. After the meeting, Donna Washburn put on her teacher's apron (literally). She then gave us a hands-on lesson about making greeting cards. We each got to make two cards; one with stamps, and one with cut-outs. It was very fun and educational!

Rosemary Knap was our hostess in August. She planned a trip to a Mexican restaurant in Clinton. It was a good day!

Unit News (cont.)

OAKLEY- PLEASANT GROVE

Patty Lovecamp

We met in May at One Stop Diner with Alice Bray as hostess. Mary Ann reported that she will be delivering 64 pillowcases to The Ronald McDonald House. The Spring Meeting was discussed.

The June meeting was held at Crawford's Pizza with Mary Ann Platt as hostess. She reported she had delivered 6 pounds of pop tabs to The Ronald McDonald House. Sandy Severe and Sally Dennis reported on the Tri-County meeting that they had attended. We were given dates of the NVON Conference, Mini District Meeting, Sewing Day, and the June lesson.

CENTER UNIT REPORT

Mary Lou Poor

On July 15, twelve members, and one guest of Center HCE, traveled to Pana to have a lunch at Whiskey Bill's. There was a lot of laughter and stories told. The day was enjoyed by everyone.

We do not meet in July and August, so we chose a day to have lunch and a Fun Day together.

PATCHWORK REPORT

Karen Halicki

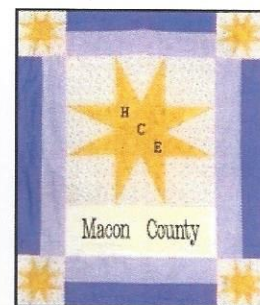
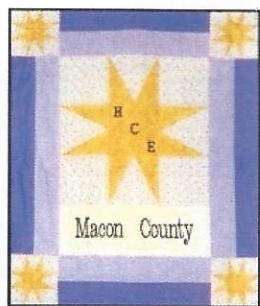


Part of our group, plus a few friends, had a lunch and program at Mari-Mann Herb Farm in Decatur on June 5th. Mike King started us off with a walk among the herbs. We saw Costmary, Lady's Mantle, Soapwort, Peppermint, Lemon Tyme, and many more. Then we had lunch in the small cottage. It was so cute! We had the Herbal Crepe sandwich along with some wonderful extras. The program was Herbs of the Bible. Mike did a great program. We learned a lot!

On July 15, we met at Crawford's in Maroa. President Liz King was able to attend and meet our group. She was an added bonus to our meeting! Thanks for coming, Liz. She explained a lot of things to our ladies.

We talked about making pies and cakes for the DAV on July 25. Our next meeting will be on August 19 at Ted's Garage in Clinton. A few of us will attend the DeWitt HCE Tea Party at the Warner Library in Clinton at 1:30. After that, we will go shopping at the Antique Mall and then have dinner. We are all looking forward to a fun time!

In Loving Memory Of: Louise Wickline



October 19, 1930—July 14, 2025

Hickory Point lost a valuable member in July. Louise Wickline was a friendly face, always smiling, and always welcoming everyone. She was our secretary/treasurer for many years and kept track of finances and activities.

Louise led a full life, using her talents as a pianist in churches, and volunteering her time in nursing homes.

Louise was a joy to be around and will be sorely missed by all of us.

- Janet Feller

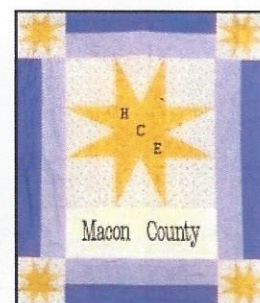
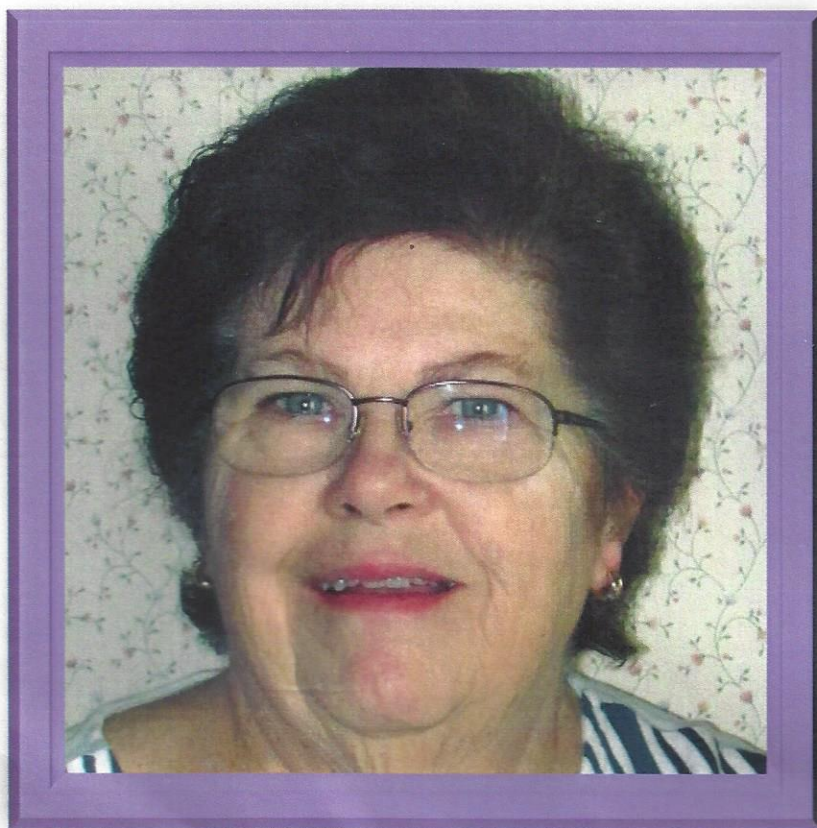
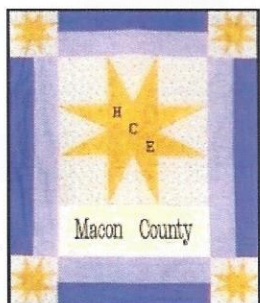
I first met Louise Wickline when I was Jack's (her husband) guardian on his Honor Flight. When MCHCE needed a secretary to replace me because I was going to be co-president, Louise offered to take the job. Two years later when I asked if she would do another term, she said the only reason she had done one was because I had taken Jack on his Honor Flight. (It was my pleasure, and we had a great day together.)

Louise did a great job as secretary, but was constantly confusing Sandy Severe and Sally Dennis. Finally, at one meeting, she looked at them both and said, "Well, can't you change your names?" So, if you hear one of us say "Sandy/Sally" you know it's a fun memory of Louise.

She was truly a fun lady to know.

- Carol Ropp

In Loving Memory Of: Sharon Middleton



December 7, 1947—July 22, 2025

Sharon Rose Middleton, was born on December 7, 1947 and passed away on July 22, 2025. She was 77 years old.

Sharon became a member of HCE in 2001 with the Hickory Point Unit. In 2005, she was on the Macon County HCE Board. What life she gave to me, always looking at the bright side of life, keeping us going, teaching us and taking us into new areas of learning and friendships.

She was president of the Macon County HCE from 2010 to 2014. She was on the State Board IAHCE from 2007 to 2012 as the Public Relations representative and again from 2017 to 2019 as First Vice President. In 2011, Sharon was chair of the IAHCE State Conference in Decatur. It was fun doing the Circus Theme that year. We had fried foods, popcorn, and we dressed up as clowns. I don't think we slept that whole week. We just enjoyed the lessons, our friendship, and had fun meeting new members from all over the state.

Sharon was always willing to show you how to paint and have fun learning new crafts. She would say: "Don't be afraid, you can do it!". What a friend! Sharon was a creator, teacher, volunteer, and friend to many.

With her dementia, just holding her hand and visiting when I could meant so much. I would see that smile in her eyes.

Sharon is survived by her husband of 58 years, Clarence; her mother, Erma Ragle; her children, Gina, Jennifer, and Scott, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

- Karen Halicki

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