



FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR WALWORTH COUNTY HCE

Eileen Guthrie and Jeanette Beard have agreed to co-president the Walworth County Association for Home and Community Education in 2024. After so many years under the leadership of Mary Vander Veen, they know they have big shoes to fill. Mary had been an HCE member for over 70 years and was active right up to the time of her passing in late 2023.

The Walworth County Extension office will continue to support the Walworth County WAHCE with the publication of the quarterly newsletter. Jeanette, Eileen and other board members will write articles to keep the current membership of 31 informed.

Other officers currently listed on the state WAHCE organizational sheet will remain the same: Secretary, Winnie Shelton; Treasurer, Audrey Wuttke; Advisor, Amanda Kostman; Ed. Program Coordinator, Eileen Guthrie; Ed. Community Outreach, Barb Papcke; Cultural & Textile Arts, Winnie Shelton; Wisconsin Bookworms, Jeanette Beard; Southeast District Secretary, Annette Reese.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

March 12	Sewing at Millard church 9 a.m. Questions? Call Eileen Guthrie at 262-742-3134
April	Possible sewing meeting on second Tuesday
April 17	Southeast District HCE meeting in Jackson, WI
April 25	“Spring Fling” at Millard church 11:30 a.m.
May 11	“Treasures From Your Trunk” at Millard church 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
June 14	Newsletter articles due
September 13	Newsletter articles due
October 24	Fall County meeting, Millard church 11:30 a.m.
December 13	Newsletter articles due

COUNTY MEETINGS....PLEASE COME

Two county meetings are planned:

April 25 “Spring Fling” and **October 24** “Reminisce”

- Each will be at the Millard Church beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a potluck lunch at noon.
- Please bring a hot/cold dish to pass. Table service, water, and coffee will be provided.

Lylene Scholz, International Chair, has issued a challenge to all WAHCE members to bring two cans of food such as chunky soup, pork and beans, beef stew or spaghetti sauce with meat to county meetings to be donated to a local food pantry. The number of items collected will be sent to Lylene, to be forwarded to the state President to include in her report at the 2024 NVON conference. **Please bring a couple cans to the “spring fling”.**

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT MEETING APRIL 17

Washington County will be hosting the spring Southeast District meeting April 17 in Jackson, WI. Please contact Jeanette Beard if you are interested in attending 608-868-4240. No formal invitation has been received at the writing of this newsletter.

STATE CONFERENCE AND BUSINESS MEETING SEPT 16-18

The 2024 State HCE conference will be held in Appleton at the Hilton Paper Valley Hotel, 333 W. College Ave. Detailed information about the conference will be in the May update. Hotel reservations can be made by calling 1-800-774-1500 and mentioning the WAHCE annual meeting group block. Code WAHC. Information is also available on the state website.

DUES: COUNTY, DISTRICT, STATE

No county dues will be assessed this year. We have adequate funds to cover any projected expenses.

At the January 30, 2024 WAHCE meeting, a motion was made and passed to have the county treasurer, Audrey Wuttke, send the dues of one dollar per person to the Southeast District HCE Treasurer and dues of \$5 per member to the state HCE Treasurer from our Walworth County funds.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Programs developed for the state HCE conferences by extension educators are available on the website wahceinc.org (go to the box with lines in the upper right corner of the main page, click on programs. Ten are listed.) Inviting a local business or health provider is another option for a club program. Sharing members' expertise on a topic or new experiences can be worthwhile to each member of a club.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH (information from Barb Papcke)

Walworth County HCE has a large number of potholders, pot pinchers, bowl cozies, children's quilts, fabric books and other sewn items that they will be selling at two particular events at Millard Church. Each sale will take place rain or shine from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. with vendors inside and outside of the church. A bake sale will also be held inside of the building.

- The first date is May 11, Treasures From Your Trunk
- The second is November 2, The Millard Church Craft Fair

CULTURAL ARTS

NO CULTURAL ARTS SHOW IS PLANNED AT THIS TIME FOR WALWORTH COUNTY. If you are interested in entering an item, please contact Winnie Shelton 262-441-4148.

Following the state cultural arts show in September of 2023, a meeting was held to discuss needed changes in language and specifications for each category. This information was published in the February UPDATE pages 14-15. It is also available on the wahceinc.org website.

The Bonus Category this year is "The Magic of HCE". Only one entry is allowed per county. Size restrictions are closely followed 10" L x 10" W x 20" H. In 2023 an entry was disqualified because it was too big. Call Winnie at the above number if you are interested in making a display.



WISCONSIN BOOKWORMS

Walworth County received a certificate for reading to children for 25 years through the Wisconsin Bookworm program at the 2023 Wisconsin State HCE Conference in Wisconsin Dells last September. Currently, five women are reading to 180 Head Start students in Rock and Walworth counties at four different sites. WAHCE purchased sets of seven books. Students get a copy of the book read to their class each month the reader visits. A copy of the book is also left for the classroom.

At the January 30, 2024 WAHCE county board meeting, it was determined that enough funds remain in the HCE treasury to purchase books for the 2024-25 school year. While the Wisconsin State Bookworm Director has the final choice of what books are ordered, a team from across the state reviews the books that the state Director feels will fit in the established criteria: numbers, animals, MixMash (Me |

Self-Esteem | Kindness | Diversity | Seasonal), bilingual; availability (3,800 in stock at Scholastic) and together equal a reasonable price.

SEWING – LOOKING BACK

There was a sewing meeting held recently on Tuesday, February 13 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held at Millard Church on County Road O, Millard. We have been sewing here for quite some time. Many years ago, Barb Papcke and I attended a program at State Conference and thought we could do this as a county project. We thought we could make little quilts or blankets; we used fabric that was cut 36” long 45” wide. We bought some fabric and filler and thought we were set for our first meeting. We needed a place with many outlets and space to work. Barb and I decided to ask Millard church if we could have our work meetings there and we have been working there ever since. We are members of Millard church.

Our first sewing meeting was on February 6, 2001. Nineteen women attended that meeting. They came not knowing just exactly what we had in mind; some brought their sewing machines and scissors. Some of the ladies sewed that day and others took the quilts home to sew and brought them back the following meeting. Our goal was to make little quilts and provide them to the community. We delivered quilts to area Fire Departments for the rescue squads, to Police Departments for Deputies to have in their trunk if needed for one reason or another. We also made adult quilts and took them to area nursing homes.

Our hat project also came from State Conference. Our funding started from a donation given to HCE at the Walworth County Fair where there was a hat on display, indicating we wanted to start that project but needed funding. Since then, we have made many hats. During one of our sewing meetings a member asked why we weren't making comfort pillows. We had no idea what she was talking about, and she explained that her daughter had breast cancer and used one of those little pillows. I was given the pattern and had some pillows cut out ready for the next meeting and we have been making them ever since.

We have made walker caddies and delivered them to a few facilities in the area and have also sold a few of them. We were asked by a hospital to make drain pouches, which are used to hold the drains that are used after breast surgery.

We also made many book bags over the years for children who received our Bookworm books. Below are some of the things HCE has been busy making over the past 23 years. I was asked to report on how many ideas we have constructed.

From February 14, 2017 through August 8, 2023:

- Comfort Pillows **3,996**
- Hats **2,033**
- Drain Pouches **1,463**

- Quilts **825**
- This is a total of **7,917** items made and delivered in the past 6 years.

Ok, that tells you what we did from February 2017 to August 2023 and how many articles we have made and donated. You may ask what happened to those 7,917 articles? Here are the places we have donated our wares:

- Aurora Vince Lombardi Cancer Center now Southern Lakes Medical Burlington
- Memorial Hospital of Burlington
- Aurora Kenosha Hospital
- Waukesha Memorial Hospital
- Pro Health Hospital Mukwonago – hats, comfort pillows, drain pouches, which were also sent to Waukesha and Pewaukee hospitals
- Willowfield Nursing Home & Rehab, now known as Delavan Health Center - small quilts and walker caddies
- Vintage on the Ponds - small quilts and walker caddies
- Lakeland Nursing Home - small quilts and walker caddies
- Walworth County Sheriff's Department & Rescue Squads - small quilts
- Delavan Rescue Squad – small quilts
- LaGrange Rescue Squads - small quilts
- Head Start – book bags

As all things, time is changing HCE. Some of our 19 sewers have moved, some of the ladies are having trouble with their eyes and don't sew anymore, and some of our members have passed on. We are now between 5 and 10 sewers at most. We no longer can produce the many items we once did, but we continue to sew to help others who are going through a tough time in their life.

Thank you to all those who have helped with our project in any way.

Eileen Guthrie

Stitches of Love Coordinator

Food for Thought....The tongue has no bones but it is strong enough to break a heart, so be careful with your words.

WALWORTH COUNTY HCE NEWSLETTER

Maria Nelson, Receptionist Clerk, University of Wisconsin Madison, Division of Extension—Walworth County will be working with Walworth County HCE to put out a quarterly newsletter during 2024. Articles may be submitted anytime during the quarter. Maria prefers they are delivered via email with “HCE Newsletter” and the month the article is to be included in the subject line. The next newsletter will come

out in June. Note due dates for article submission in “Upcoming Important Dates” on page one.

This first newsletter will be sent via U.S. Mail. The other three will be sent via email to those with that contact availability.

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