

FOCUS

Summer 2025



Fond du Lac County Association for
Home and Community Education

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Marianne Geiger

I hope that you are doing well. What a summer this has been so far; way TOO HOT for me! REMEMBER to stay hydrated!!



WELCOME to Nancy Kautzer, our newest Individual HCE Member.

Delores Fritsch, Marianne Geiger, Charmaine Jenkins, Emma Jung, and Nancy Lanyi will represent our county at the WAHCE Conference in Green Bay.

Please include with the September club minutes, nominations for the position of HCE County Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. ALSO, submit program ideas for 2026. Individual members may contact me with their suggestions.

Thank you to Charmaine Jenkins for putting together the Door County Tour on July 17. What a GREAT day it was. She is amazing with her enthusiasm and ability to fill a 51 passenger bus! Also, thank you to Cathie Seffern for doing the financials.

We toured The Door County Candle Company in Sturgeon Bay, and the Coffee Shop. We were able to purchase candles for the Texas Flood Relief Effort, as well as for Ukraine. What is Door County without gift shops and there were PLENTY!

We ate at Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant in Sister Bay having their famous Swedish Meatballs and Pancakes. This is the legendary place with goats on the roof. We continued on to Egg Harbor where we took an amazing 90 minute trolley ride, learning many interesting and entertaining things about the area.

DOOR COUNTY TROLLEY TOUR PICS

*Two trolleys were needed
for our group.*



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER 8 ~ FARM TOURS

PRAIRIE RIDGE ORGANICS and LEDGEVIEW FARMS

*Pre-registration is due by August 29 to
Marianne Geiger at 920-948-9431 or
countergeiger@hotmail.com.*



~ Fees may be charged, payable at time of tour ~

10:00 AM PRAIRIE RIDGE ORGANIC FARM N8410 Abler Road, Fond du Lac

Since 2003, Park Ridge Organics has been providing certified organic produce to the Fond du Lac area and beyond, situated on 15 acres north of Fond du Lac on the beautiful Niagara Escarpment overlooking Lake Winnebago. With over 40 types of produce grown every season, they have provided delicious produce through their *Vegetable Share Program*.

LEDGEVIEW FARMS OF JOHNSBURG W3351 Schumacher Rd, Malone – off Hwy. 151

Established in 2009, Ledgeview Farms of Johnsburg, is a hydroponic greenhouse that produces tomatoes and English cucumbers. Nearly 3,000 plants are selected to be grown in the 12,000-square-foot, environmentally-controlled facility. Fresh tomatoes and cucumbers are available from their retail store.

FALL SOUTHEAST DISTRICT MEETING

Hosted by Fond du Lac
County HCE

**OCTOBER 15, 2025
Lakeside Park Pavilion**



Fond du Lac County HCE will host the Fall Southeast District Meeting on **October 15** at the Lakeside Park Pavilion, beginning at 10:00 AM with registration & morning refreshments. The meeting will be from 10:30-12:00, followed by lunch and speaker. A rep from the Katharine Drexel Homeless Shelter, will give

OCTOBER 27 ~ TOURS

LaCLARE CREAMERY, ST. LAWRENCE SEMINARY

*Pre-registration is due by September 25 to
Marianne Geiger at 920-948-9431 or
countergeiger@hotmail.com.*



10:00 AM – LaCLARE CREAMERY W2994 County HH, Malone

~ \$6 fees payable at time of tour ~

Explore the Visitor Center, Shoppe, and Café. Learn about LaClare Creamery and Saxon Creamery cheesemaking operations. Take a behind-the-scenes look at their cheesemaking process, from the viewing windows. They make over 15 different cheeses on-site! Visit the goat silo and barn to see the doelings they have onsite. A café is also available for lunch.

ST. LAWRENCE SEMINARY 301 Church Street, Mt. Clavary

Since 1860, St. Lawrence Seminary High School has provided students from across the United States and around the world with the education that will help them succeed in college and prepare them for a life of service, whether as a priest, religious, or layperson. An all-male boarding school, with approximately 225 students enrolled in grades 9 through 12. This should be a very interesting tour.

an update on the shelter and its residents. Attendees are asked to donate a toiletry-hygiene item. This event will be catered by Annie's Fountain City Café.

All HCE members are invited to attend. It should be an interesting day and you will learn more about our organization. The meeting will end by 2:30 PM.

Reservations are \$20 each and should be sent to Cathie Seffern by October 3, 2025. Clubs, please send one check, along with the reservation form. Individual members will find a form included in this newsletter. NO REFUNDS.

HCE BANQUET REPORT:

Thank you to everyone that helped make our HCE Banquet on May 5th so successful. Sheriff Ryan Waldschmidt gave an outstanding presentation on the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Department and Jail. Our HCE members were recognized, as well as the Wisconsin Bookworms volunteers.



First Year Individual Club Members Recognized (Left to Right): Chris Stubbe, Joan Mrazek, Kathy Thurow, Sheriff Ryan Waldschmidt, Lois Sherwin, Mary Randall, Patty Presnow.



Left to Right: Marianne Geiger, Karen Luedtke, Gail Majerus (all 52 Yr Members), Charmaine Jenkins (68 yrs), Saloah Hagemen (63 Yrs)

WISCONSIN BOOKWORMS CELEBRATED 25 YEARS AT HCE BANQUET



In September 2000, Fond du Lac County HCE embarked on a new community outreach project – **WISCONSIN BOOKWORMS**. Volunteer readers visited their assigned classroom at Head Start, reading “the book of the month” and doing an activity that pertained to the story. Each child received a free copy of the book to take home to create their own in-home library. Promoting the LOVE OF READING!!

The number of students that received free books each school year ranged from 120 to 238. Over the past 25 years, a total of 67 volunteers have read to 4,184 Head Start children and given out a total of 33,000 free books. We currently have 12 amazing volunteers reading 7 books to 168 students during the school year.

We appreciate our readers' dedication and enthusiasm to this reading program throughout the years. The joy our volunteers bring to the children cannot be measured in dollars and cents – but by smiles, hugs, joy, and laughter. Our volunteer readers for the past school year are: Donna Bray-Peachy, Julia Cartwright, Tim Froh, Marianne Geiger, Linda Jorgensen, Mary Jane Lackas, Nan MGhee, Katie Petersen, Jeanne Retzer, Carol Thome, Ken Tyron, Mary Ann Wagner.



Left to Right: Cathie Seffern (45 Yrs), Marta Rake (10 Yrs), Nancy Lanyi (5 Yrs), Doris Rymer (20 Yrs), Karen Kelley (35 Yrs), Mary Ryan (45 Yrs)

APRIL 21 TOURS TO KIEL and NEW HOSTEIN:

Thank you to Kathleen Arndt for setting up the fun and interesting tours on April 21. In spite of the cold and windy weather, more than 20 of our HCE members and friends participated and enjoyed a WONDERFUL day.

The Country Lavender and Orchard building was very nice and smelled delicious. The husband and wife gave a very interesting presentation. Many lavender products were purchased.

St. Martin's Heritage Park was great. The church has beautifully been transformed for weddings, etc. offered to the public. The museum artifacts were very interesting.



We also enjoyed partaking in the wine tasting at the The Wolf & Fox Winery at Woelfel Homestead.



BOOK CLUB

Second Friday of Month

10:00 AM

Urban Fuel, Peebles



We will meet on Friday, **September 12**, at 10:00 AM at Urban Fuel in Peebles to pick up the book which will be discussed on October 10. If you would be interested in being part of our reading group, please call me at 920-251-1440 or just come to check us out. We have room for more readers!

~ Charmaine Jenkins

Thank You

Fond du Lac County HCE received Thank You's from the following for donations we gave to:

- ♦ Fondy Food Pantry (tour in March)
- ♦ Sheriff's Department, FDL Area Foundation for the K9 Unit (Sheriff Ryan Waldschmidt, speaker at HCE Banquet)



A MESSAGE FROM ADELANTE MUJER:

As many of you may recall, representatives from this program spoke at our 2024 HCE Banquet.

“We’re excited to share a powerful new chapter in the story of Adelante Mujer.

For more than a decade, our program has helped make it possible for women in Nicaragua to gain access to the education and opportunity they need to become doctors and serve their communities.

Now, we are now offering a new program in Santa Apolonia, Guatemala, where young women are answering the call to become nurses. Your generosity is changing lives — not just in one country, but across borders. Thank you for walking with us as we walk with them.”