

# Changing With Today

COLUMBIA COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION



August 2025

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where did our summer go?! Hopefully, the over-the-top heat and humidity that was experienced in July will be a distant memory. After my two-month visit in Cincinnati with my daughters and their families, I came back to Wisconsin to be greeted with oppressive humidity and high temperatures—just in time for Columbia County Fair week!

Because I enjoy the wealth of history in our area, I did a little research using A.I. and an article from *Agri-View*, May 19, 2019, about the history of the Columbia County Fair.

### It started with \$15.....

**1851:** The Columbia County Agricultural Society was founded in Portage, with the primary goal of sponsoring the county fair.

**1852:** The first fair was held at Wyocena. The receipts were \$15.75 and disbursements were \$11.80, but everybody had a good time.

**1874:** The city of Portage purchased 40 acres of land in the First Ward, made a park of it, and gave the Columbia County Agricultural Society or its successors an indefinite lease of the grounds. Each year up to 1901 at this place an annual fair was held under the auspices of the society.

**Early 1900s:** The original society weakened, and the Columbia County Fair Association was formed as a stock company to revitalize the fair.

**1994:** CCAHCE Purchased a cream puff machine for fundraising.

**Ongoing:** The fair has continued

to be a significant event in Columbia County, celebrating its 174th year in 2025. It has also been a place for 4-H to showcase its work.

Many of our CCAHCE members have been part of the Columbia County Fair in Portage since they were children. Whether it was through 4-H, participating in Open Class, just going for that once-a-year fair food, judging results, or enjoying some of the rides, there was anticipation to go to the fair. I spent a lot of time at the fair through 4-H. I have lived in many areas across the United States and have visited each area's fair. Most have an entrance and parking fee. I attended my grandson's 4-H horse show this summer, and the cost was \$15 for the day. I was looking for the same kind of things that we have at Portage. Columbia County has an amazing fair, and it's free. Yes, exhibits are less, the commercial buildings do not include free cheese and crackers or enough handouts and free giveaways to fill a large bag (like in the past), but we do have continued participation of organizations and volunteers to make the fair a fun week for families.

This year as I was overseeing the DAR/Fort Winnebago Surgeons Quarters booth, I was looking out towards the grandstand with all the sounds, dust, and craziness of the grandstand program. When what do my eyes see, but this small yellow bus flying through the air like the "Magic Bus," with lights flashing! When it landed, I heard the announcer say, "the shocks are  
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## SAVE THE DATE/ UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars:

Aug. 15, Il Bit Ranch Horse Show

Aug. 15, WAHCE conference registration deadline

Sept. 4, "Sitting is the New Smoking" and "Exercise Options In Columbia County"

Sept. 9, CCAHCE Executive Board meeting

Sept. 15-17, WAHCE Conference, Green Bay

bus trip to Milwaukee (date pending)

Oct. 2, "Indoor Gardening"

Nov. 1, annual dues deadline

Nov. 5, Fall Council, "Armchair Traveling"

View forms, newsletters, and WAHCE information at: <https://wahceinc.org/wahce-counties/>

Facebook group: Columbia County Home & Community Education

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probably gone." Later it was reported the airbag was also released.

You hear and read Facebook comments about the fair, but I have had several individuals report that one of the best things this year was HCE's cream puff booth. Between service with a smile, amazing cream puffs, and talking with people who stopped at our booth, many enjoyed their cream puffs and also gave donations. The CCAHCE Executive Board would like to give a BIG THANK YOU for all the volunteers at the HCE booth. Also a huge thank you to Bobbie Goodman and Chris Berger, fundraiser co-chairs, and Chris's husband, Jim Froelich, engineer master whipper. All volunteers are invaluable for our cream puff fundraising program.

**ANNOUNCEMENT!** The CCAHCE Executive Board has decided that the cream puff program will only be done at the Columbia County Fair. Chris and Jim have agreed to continue their roles: Chris as co-chair, and Jim who provides invaluable maintenance and troubleshooting with the whipper. CCAHCE is so grateful for their continued commitment and invaluable services. Thank you Chris and Jim!

The 2025 WAHCE State Conference registration deadline is August 15, 2025, in Green Bay on September 15-17. If interested, you still have time to register.

Mark your calendars for the CCAHCE monthly education/training class for September. Full details below.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. I will be getting into Dad's garden to pick tomatoes and peppers!

Kim Sweney, HCE Co-President

### September Leader Training

Thursday, September 4  
1:00-3:00 p.m.

ADRC Bldg., Rooms 2 & 3  
"Sitting is the New Smoking,"  
Dr. Blau

"Exercise Options in Columbia County (Strong Bodies, etc)"  
ADRC staff  
Sign up with Donna Kohnke:  
(920) 210-5037  
kohnkedonna@gmail.com

Please join us and learn about why "Sitting is the New Smoking - how to be fit while you sit" followed by ADRC's presentation on exercise options in Columbia County. These two programs could give us ideas and exercise options to keep our bodies healthy and in better shape.

### Cream Puff Thank You

Sharon Bartnick  
Mary Beahm  
Mary Ellen Ruesch  
Kris Young  
Chris Berger  
Jean Minick  
Colleen Jones  
Donna MacLeish  
Carol Albrecht  
Nancy Nehring  
Dorothy Priske  
June Waterworth  
Judy Cuff  
Beth Hahn  
LuAnn Olson  
Becky Gutzman  
Kim Sweney  
Carol Beck

Thank you all volunteers for helping with the cream puff sales!

Bobbie Goodman  
Fundraising Chair

### A Horse Show for HCE

Our Rendezvous speaker, Melanie Lichtfeld, has a special invitation for us. On Friday, August 15, at 1 PM, her Horse Camp students are presenting a small horse show to feature what they have been learning this summer.

Campers have not only been learning to handle horses, but researching each breed's history and importance. They would like to give us a practice show of what they have accomplished, and are hoping to develop this into a bigger event next year. The kids will be showing 15 different breeds of horses!!

The show will take place at the Il Bit Ranch, W12350 Tiedt Road, Columbus. They have an indoor arena with safe seating, indoor plumbing, and they will provide snacks and beverages. There is no charge for this program; they just want a willing audience to try out their skills.

Il Bit Ranch is located east of Columbus. Take Hwy. 16 through town, past Duffy Grain, and take the next right turn onto Oxbow Rd. Turn right onto Tiedt Rd., and look for the ranch name over the driveway. Go past the house and down to the barn.

I hope we can have a nice turnout for this event and show these youth we support their hard work!

Becky Gutzman  
HCE Co-President

### 2025 WAHCE Conference

Room reservations: The Tundra Lodge Resort-Waterpark and Conference Ctr., 865 Lombardi Ave., Green Bay. Make your reservations by calling the hotel directly at 1-877-886-3725 and mentioning the WAHCE Conference. All Rooms are suites and are at the rate of \$99.95/night.

Complete conference information is available on the WAHCE website: <https://wahceinc.org>

### 2025 Scholarship Winners

The four (yes, four!) scholarship recipients and their pictures will be in next month's newsletter.