



CROSSE COUNTY NEWS

*December
2025*





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Winter has started out fiercely with a lot of snow and cold temps. Sure hope it isn't this way for 3 months. As the year comes to a close, we count our blessings for all that we have been able to achieve.

Our Stitches of Love project is coming along nicely and should be completed before the end of the month. The residents at Caretta Assisted Living have had a great time creating their quilt squares out of recycled fabric to make a wall hanging for the facility. Thanks to members who worked on this: Sylvia Finch (our master quilter), Leah Bork, Cathy Onsager, Linda Gillmeister, and myself. Our next newsletter will have a picture of it hanging on the wall.

For our Services of Love project we decided to help the unsheltered on La Crosse County, working with Sue Graf from WINN to fulfil their needs. We will be providing a hot meal in January using money from our treasury to purchase the ingredients. (See separate article for details. The executive board met on December 9th, and decided on the dates for meetings and events for 2026, the booklets will be printed and distributed in early January.

I hope that everyone has a safe and joyous holiday season!

Sheryl Smith

CULTURAL ARTS CRAFT DAY

On November 10, Linda and Sheryl held a craft day for members which consisted of decorating plastic tree ornaments three different ways. Method 1 was scribbling on the outside of them with Sharpie markers and then using rubbing alcohol to blur out the lines. Method 2 was done by taking the hanger off and putting drops of alcohol ink in and blowing it around with a straw. Method 3 was to thin down acrylic paint slightly and put drops inside swirling it around to cover the walls of the ornaments. Some members then added glitter to sparkle it up. It was challenging and fun! Here are a couple pics of results.

Plans are being made to do a craft of flower pounding in the summer to make special greeting cards, we need to use fresh flowers so will have to wait to have some nice blossoms.





WE NEED YOUR HELP!



We will be providing a hot meal for the unsheltered on January 8th, 2026 which will consist of Goulash, a dinner roll and a cookie. Members of the executive board will be doing the cooking, but we will need help on the assembly line putting everything in containers and boxing it up that morning. If you are able to help, please contact me, Sheryl Smith. This will be done at my house.



WISCONSIN/NICARAGUA
PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS
60TH ANNIVERSARY

Sheryl Smith and I traveled to Portage, WI on November 15th to attend and help celebrate the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas 60th Anniversary. Partners of the Americas was initiated by President John F. Kennedy and has been a wonderful success which was evident in the affection and respect I saw between the Americans and Nicaraguans attending the event.

Our LAHCE members have contributed sewing items, kitchen items, material, sewing machines and clothing, and we have volunteered at the warehouse, loaded gaylords and attended the annual meeting. We strongly believe in this organization and the wonderful camaraderie they have developed with the people of Nicaragua. Sheryl and I were honored to be able to attend and represent HCE.

The program included a heartfelt presentation and video put together by the visitors from Nicaragua, recognition of volunteers and special praise from local and state government officials.

When we checked in, we were given a list of W/N Partnership activities and we were encouraged to find a volunteer who had completed a specific activity and have them sign the sheet. Activities included volunteering at the warehouse, attending an annual meeting, serving on the board, traveling to Nicaragua, participating in the fundraising walk, etc. When we had filled out the sheet, we turned it in for the drawing to win a basket of goodies. Both Sheryl and I had our names drawn and won a basket!

Cathy Onsager



LAHCE MEMBERSHIP 2026 RENEWAL FORM

Please complete this form and either return to your club president or mail before January 15, 2026 to:

LAHCE Treasurer Sylvia Finch, 210 Schaller St., Tomah, WI 54660 along with a check for the \$25 annual dues which support our Services of Love, Stitches of Love, Bookworms, international and community service project, plus our state and district funds. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$25 for the 2026 annual dues. _____

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University of Wisconsin-Extension
La Crosse County Offices
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La Crosse, WI 54601

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