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Homemaker Reflections

IOWA COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION
October-December 2025

HCE Friends,

Another summer is gone, and we are starting to celebrate fall! I hope you enjoyed the September and October lessons. We love feedback. Let us know what you thought of those topics!

In September, several officers and members attended the State HCE Conference. We had fun and learned a lot! Want to learn more?? Contact Deb, Jeanne, Lynette, Jean, Elaine, Jackie Chambers, Kandi Lockard, Terri Carlson, and Kim Love Perez for information. The 2026 Conference is in Eau Claire.

Fall is also a good time for me to share some end of year thoughts—

First, thank you to all members of Iowa County HCE. You are a valuable resource to your families, communities, and to HCE!

Next, a big thank you to the officers of HCE both at the club level and on the county HCE Board. You make HCE successful and impactful.

A thanks to those who represent HCE at the Culver's fundraiser, who write grants, and who lead the Bookworms program. You are the messengers of the impact of HCE in Iowa County.

Thank you to all who entered the Cultural Arts show, attended Spring Council, taught a lesson at your club, and/or conducted a community service event. We would not be HCE without the efforts of all of you!

THANK YOU!!!!

Now on to HCE and our fall schedule:

☀ There is not a November lesson, but in this newsletter are some fun Halloween and Thanksgiving trivia questions (and answers!) Maybe your club would enjoy a trivia contest at your November meeting!

The HCE Board is starting to plan 4 project lessons for 2026. Let us know if you have a topic you would like to learn more about.

Happy Fall, stay busy and keep learning!

Deb Ivey, President

Mark Your Calendar

October 23: Southwest District Meeting in rural Sauk County from 9:30-3 p.m.

November 9-15: HCE Week

November lesson- Club Choice

December 1: Board Meeting at Pointer Cafe in Mineral Point at 11:30 a.m.

December 30: January-February Newsletter Deadline

February 10: (tentative) Culver's Share Night 5-8 p.m.

WAHCE STATE CONFERENCE REPORTS

We will give conference reports over the next few newsletters; this is the start. Watch this space...

CONFERENCE STATS: total attending-246 including 13 one day, 24 first timers, 2 out-of-state, and 4 men. Counties represented 41. Silent Auction raised \$2669.00 for international Projects

Photo of our IAHC attendees at our delicious banquet: front Terri, Kim, Kandi, Jackie; back Jeanne, Deb, Elaine, Jean, and Lynette.



Lynette Miess-We enjoyed another wonderful state conference in Green Bay. We did very well in the cultural arts show. Thank you to Deb Ivey for helping during the judging and display so that I could take the tour of the Packers Hall of Fame and stadium. I enjoyed that very much. Keep in mind that there were 335 entries in the cultural arts show; each one of the best items at their county's show. Thank you to our talented members for sharing your creations at the conference. This is a list of Iowa County items that received ribbons at the State show:

FIRST PLACES:

- Winter wonderland photo by Peggy Storms
- Hoar frost photo by Sarah Weier
- Knit blanket by Ann Johnsrud
- Crocheted caterpillar by Sarah Weier
- Large quilt by Ann Johnsrud
- Holiday table topper by Lynette Miess

SECOND PLACES:

- Bird mark photo by Jean Slapak
- Small quilt by Rhonda Mitchell

THIRD PLACE:

Butterfly photo by Elaine McCann

MERIT MEDALLIONS

- Congratulations to Ann Johnsrud on receiving a merit award for her knit blanket! That is the top of the class.

Kathy Weaver, a member of our district, received a merit award for her quilt and the coveted viewer's choice award! A raffle was held of donated items and made \$1,135 to pay for the show (judges and awards, etc.)

Besides the fun tour of Lambeau Field, I attended a workshop with a speaker from the Oneida tribe about their history. We made a strawberry pin out of small seed beads. A workshop on iPhone tips was very informative. A workshop of the lighthouses was given by a retired couple who visit the lighthouses in Wisconsin. There are 48. They showed pictures of them and have written a book about them. It was very interesting. Then I attended a meeting with the other cultural arts chairs to discuss changes we would like to make for next year's show. We agreed on just a few changes.

Jean Slapak-After a fun and informative trip through the Packer stadium, museum and gift shop, we perused the lovely entrants in Cultural Arts and the opening evening session.

The next morning classes were an active discussion of the Generations of Changes in women's rights and lives through the years, and a very intense talk about suicide prevention. We learned how to recognize and question when someone is contemplating taking their life. Instead of the (don't talk about it) of the past, we learned ways to identify and approach them; even to making a connection to a mental health worker, and accompanying them, if deemed necessary. Two ladies told their own personal, heartbreaking stories. The highest rate of suicide by age is over 85. Many schools now have anti-bullying programs, because student numbers are also high and are often precipitated by bullying.

I learned lots of things I can do with my cell phone that I had no idea about. I will need a grandchild to help me do it, though.

We had a wonderful speaker about resiliency. He said to always look for the joy in every situation. We should thrive, not just survive. Optimism is the wonder drug! Another favorite lesson was Yoga and its benefits. Yoga brings you to yourself, it can reduce pain and stress, help you sleep and increase your energy. She explained that how you do yoga will change through your years. There are practices for elderly people as well as young and fit people. As always, the conference was very enjoyable. We gained much knowledge and talked to many interesting people.

CULTURAL ARTS 2025

In addition to the items sent to the WAHCE Conference show, these items were also entered at our Iowa County Spring Cultural Arts show and the awards were:

First place:

Weeping willow photo by Peggy Storms

Cacti photo by Elaine McCann

Jellyfish photo by Elaine McCann

Prince of the Forest diamond dot by Lynette Miess

Midnight dreams quilt by Dolores Murphy

Birdhouses wall hanging by Lynette Miess

Second place:

Spring meadow diamond dot by Lynette Miess

Amazing grace diamond dot by Peggy Storms

Your Votes: Thank you for reviewing and approving the changes to the Iowa County constitution and bylaws. Our Board Member election results approved a 2-year term for Debra Ivey as President and Jean Slapak as Secretary.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

We did not receive the paperwork required to receive the scholarship money from one of our 2024 scholarship recipients, so we contacted our alternate to offer the \$300.00 award. Estella James is from Mineral Point and County Line 4-H Club. Estella attends Cornell University in New York majoring in Agriculture and Life Science; she plans on

working with plant sciences to develop improved seeds and plants for the future. She was happy to have our scholarship money toward her education.

2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Our first choice was Atley Potterton from Mineral Point High School. Atley has an excellent GPA, is an athlete and a coach for basketball, a 4-H member and president of his club for 6 years. His list of service activities for the community is long, and we were impressed with the service he does for neighbors to help with their lawn care and snow removal. He is an active church member. Atley has been employed since his freshman year. He will attend the University of Tennessee-Knoxville majoring in Social Work/Agriculture Leadership with intentions of returning to Wisconsin and opening a therapy clinic. His grandmother is Debra Ivey. Deb presented his scholarship to him at the Mineral Point High School Honors Night on May 14.

Our second choice was Baylee Leix from Montfort who attended Iowa-Grant High School. She had a good GPA, is a 2-sport athlete, and tutors elementary school students. She is very active in 4-H and FFA with a long list of service activities for community and school events. Baylee is a lifeguard at the Montfort pool and works at Lands' End in Orderfilling. She has demonstrated good leadership skills in FFA and in 4-H as a mentor. Baylee plans to attend UW-Whitewater with a major in Elementary Education. Mary Leix, a long-time member of Sunny Dell HCE and board member, is her great grandmother. Jean Slapak presented her scholarship award at Iowa Grant.

Our alternate is Jadyn Swinehart from Mineral Point High School; she is also a very impressive young woman.

Photos: Atley with Grandma Deb and Baylee with Jean.



2026 HCE Dues-Our HCE dues will remain \$10.00 despite the increase to \$7.00 that is required for the WAHCE State portion and \$1.00 dues that will go to our Southwest District. A member has offered to cover that \$2.00 increase per member and another member will donate the dues for the district; both are anonymous donations. This generosity allows us to keep \$5.00 per membership in our budget. Just a reminder to collect the dues and submit them and any Pennies donations to Jeanne Lisser at 300 5th Ave., Hollandale 53544 by **March 15**. Many clubs find it easier to collect the dues at the last meeting of this year in case bad weather prevents them from meeting in the winte



FALL TRIVIA

Ask your HCE club members or families these trivia questions. Maybe give prizes (or a big round of applause) to the person who gets the most right! Answers are on the next page.

HALLOWEEN TRIVIA

QUESTIONS:

1. How did early New Englanders protect their homes from evil spirits?
2. What vegetable was once thought to have supernatural powers on Halloween?
3. What is the significance of bobbing for apples during Halloween?
4. In 2023, Travis Geinger nabbed the Guinness World Record for the heaviest Pumpkin. How much did it weigh?
5. What is another name for Halloween?
6. When did Halloween start?
7. Why do we “Trick or Treat”?
8. Which Halloween Candy Was originally referred to as Chicken Feed?
9. Before pumpkins, which root vegetables did the Irish and Scottish carve on Halloween?
10. What did Americans use for Halloween decorations in the early 1960s?
11. Why are the Halloween colors orange and black?

THANKSGIVING TRIVIA

QUESTIONS:

1. How many guests do those hosting Thanksgiving dinner usually have on average?
2. When did *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving* premiere?
3. According to a survey, what are people most thankful for on Thanksgiving?
4. How much glitter is typically used during the Macy’s Thanksgiving parade?
5. Which football teams always plan on Thanksgiving Day?
6. According to AAA, how many Americans take to the roads on Thanksgiving?
7. What was the first character balloon in Macy’s Parade?
8. What household hazard triples on Thanksgiving?
9. According to a poll, what is the true meaning of Thanksgiving for most Americans?
10. Which tradition brings good luck at Thanksgiving?



FALL TRIVIA

HALLOWEEN TRIVIA

ANSWERS:

1. By hiding their shoes in the walls!
2. Cabbage
3. It was originally a fortune-telling games, where it was believed that the first person to catch an apple would be the next to marry.
4. 2, 749 pounds
5. All Hallows' Eve
6. Around 600 AD with the ancient Celtic festival Samhain
7. For homeowners to reward pranksters for not vandalizing their homes on Halloween
8. Candy corn
9. Turnips
10. Crepe paper, cardboard cutouts, corn stalks, pumpkins, gourds, and hay
11. Orange is for pumpkins and harvest, and black represents night, death and darkness

THANKSGIVING TRIVIA

ANSWERS:

1. Eleven (11)
2. 1973
3. Family, health, and life
4. Over 300 pounds
5. The Detroit Lions and the Dallas Cowboys
6. 50 million
7. Felix the Cat
8. Fires
9. Spending time with family
10. Breaking the wishbone