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Homemaker Reflections
IOWA COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION
January-February 2026

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2026 with Iowa County HCE! I hope everyone enjoyed a pleasant Holiday season with family, friends, food, and fun!

We are starting a new year of HCE events, lessons, and fun. The 2026 Program Book, filled with plans for the coming year, and the February lesson was distributed to an officer in each club. You should receive a copy at your next club meeting.

Check out the rest of the newsletter for information about 2026 dues, the HCE scholarship, and the March and April lessons.

Mark your calendar for the Culver's fundraiser from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, February 10. In March, you will learn about Houseplants and at Spring Council in April, join the fun as we sing and play instruments at Spring Council.

The Holiday season is a time for giving. This quote helps explain why giving is important at any time:

“The Giver is bigger than the Receiver. If you want to be large, larger than life, learn to Give. Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get - only with what you are expecting to give - which is everything. The importance of giving and blessing others can never be over emphasized because there's always joy in giving. Learn to make someone happy by acts of giving.”

~ Dan Clark

Wishing you a GIVING 2026!
Deb Ivey, President

Mark Your Calendar

January: Club programming/planning for 2026.

February Project Lesson: “The Little Heart Project” delivered to club members

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

March 1: HCE Newsletter deadline for March/April/May 2026

March 5 Project Lesson: “Green Companions: Exploring the World of Houseplants” at Aspen Ridge, Mineral Point, at 1:00 p.m.

March 15: HCE Scholarship application deadline

March 15: Dues, Member Lists, and Pennies for Friendship due to Treasurer Jeanne Lisser

April 9: “Spring Council and Hootenanny”, Cobb Community Bldg. 1:30 p.m.

April 16: Southwest District Meeting: Hosted by Columbia County

CULVER'S SHARE DAY INFORMATION: The HCE fundraiser at Culver's to support college scholarships and the Bookworms project is set for Tuesday, February 10, 2026, from 5pm to 8pm. Culver's will donate a percentage of sales to help support Iowa County HCE, but the percentage they donate depends on the sales during that time. It is important that we tell EVERYONE to eat at Culver's that day between 5 pm and 8 pm! Watch for more information. Elaine McCann will be coordinating this event. And be sure to plan to eat at Culver's on Tuesday, February 10!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: Iowa County HCE will award two \$300 scholarships to students planning to enroll or presently enrolled full-time in two or more years of post-secondary education in a program that benefits families or communities. Current post-secondary students are eligible to apply!

Programs or related fields may include, but are not limited to education, health care, childcare, food service, communications, agriculture, etc. Scholarships will be awarded upon the recipients' successful completion of the Fall 2026 semester (GPA of 2.5 or higher) and proof of full-time registration for the Spring 2027 semester.

Applicants must be:

- a resident of Iowa County, WI **or** attend an Iowa County, WI school
- a child or grandchild of an Iowa County HCE member **or** a current Iowa County 4-H member **or** an Iowa County 4-H graduate

This application is available electronically from **Deb Ivey** at iveydeb51@gmail.com.

The application is due no later than **March 15th** to **HCE Scholarship Chair, Jeanne Lisser, 300 5th Ave, Hollandale, WI 53544**

CULTURAL ARTS by Lynette Miess: The 2026 cultural arts show will be held on Thursday, April 9, at our Spring Council meeting. The category page and explanation sheet are included in this newsletter. Please read through it carefully, as some changes have been made from last year. All categories with an * have instructions on the explanation sheet.

Guidelines:

1. All work must be done by the entrant and completed after last year's county show.
2. Kits and patterns may be used as long as the entrant does all the work.
3. All items must be clean or will be disqualified.
4. A photo of the quilts is not required at our county show.
5. The size limit for diamond dot pictures and wall hangings is for the state show. You may enter larger ones in our county show, however, they cannot go on to the state show due to limited display space.
6. You may enter as many items as you wish, however, only 1 item per lettered category can be chosen to be entered in the state cultural arts show. Use 1 entry form for each entry, including 1 for the bonus entry. Entry forms will be in the next newsletter.
7. Iowa County HCE is not responsible for any loss or damage of items on display. Each county may enter a total of 12 items, plus 1 in the bonus category. The bonus category entries will be judged at our Spring Council meeting, and 1 will be chosen to go to the state show.
8. Entries will be collected by Lynette the week of April 6 to be judged before our show.

More info will be in the next newsletter.

Wisconsin Association for Home & Community Education, Inc.

Additional Rules/Sizes for Cultural & Textile Arts Entries

On all "other" categories, please attach a card with details of what the item is made from or how it was made, or what embellishments were used. All items with multiple or loose pieces please tie them together or put it in a box.

Counties: when you are bringing your items for check in, please have them in the same order as the Category Sheet. Also, whoever is keeping the claim tickets, there will be a sheet for your name and phone number if we need to contact someone.

1. Painting/Drawing: Artwork Must be framed or canvas wrapped. Please spray charcoal or pencil drawings with fixative to avoid rubbing off onto another artwork. You must bring an easel with your name attached.

2. Photography: Size Requirement: Must be an 8" x 10" print, unmatted and unframed. Place inside of an 8 ½" x 11" protective sheet.

3. Crafts: 4 to 6 cards as stated on category sheet, without envelopes, must be mounted as a group on a 36" x 48" tri-board.

4. Diamond Art: Size Requirement: No larger than 24" x 32". All pictures need an easel with a name attached.

6. Poem: The writer must have two copies typed (12 pt font) which must accompany the registration form. Entries must NOT be framed or in book form. Staple a cover sheet with the category/title which is to be centered on the page. The name and county should appear on the back side of the entry.

7. Prose: 7A This must be an original Non-Fiction piece of writing written or published in the current year. (August 2025 to July 2026). Written pieces must be 3,000 words or less. The writer must have two copies typed (12-point font) which must accompany the registration form. Entries must NOT be framed or in book form. Staple a cover sheet with the category/title which is to be centered on the page. The name and county should appear on the back side of the entry.

7B Fiction: This must be an original Fiction Short Story which has a beginning, middle, and end. Piece will need to be written or published in the current year. (August 2025 to July 2026). Written pieces must be 3,000 words or less. The writer must have two copies typed (12-point font) which must accompany the registration form. Entries must NOT be framed or in book form. Staple a cover sheet with the category/title which is to be centered on the page. The name and county should appear on the back side of the entry.

7C Other: This must be an original piece of writing written and/or published in the current year (August 2025 to July 2026). Written pieces must be 3,000 words or less. The writer must have two copies, typed (12 pt font), which must accompany the registration form. Entries must NOT be framed or in book form. Staple a cover sheet with the category/title which is to be centered on the page. The name and county should appear on the back side of the entry.

15. Bed Quilt: Size Requirement: Must be larger than 60" x 80" (4,800 square inches). Measurement must be written on entry form and be confirmed by County Cultural Arts Chair. A 4"x6" picture is recommended for this category. The picture must be placed inside of a plastic bag along with the entry form and then attached to the right, bottom corner of the quilt with a safety pin.

16. Small Quilt: Size Requirement: Smaller than 60" x 80" (4,800 Square Inches). Measurement must be written on entry form and be confirmed by the County Cultural Arts Chair. A 4"x6" picture is recommended for this category. The picture must be placed inside of a plastic bag along with the entry form and then attached to the right, bottom corner of the quilt with a safety pin.

17. Quilted Wall Hanging: Size Requirement: No larger than 50" square. One Item only allowed. Must be submitted WITHOUT frames

19. Bonus Category Theme: "Celebrate HCE". Directions: This category is to be made with dried and/or silk flowers. Accessorize with other items. Size Restrictions: Container should not be larger than 10" square and 10" tall and needs to be measured by the County Cultural Arts Chair and size written on the entry form to be judged at the state level. Each county may submit one entry in the bonus category. The bonus category will be judged on originality and how unique and creative the concept is along with how well it has been crafted and designed. *Forms updated 12/29/2025.*

Please see **Entry Requirement Criteria Sheet** (previous page) for any category marked with an (*). All entries that do not meet the entry requirement criteria will be disqualified.

Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education, Inc. 2026 Categories for Cultural Arts and Textiles Contest and Show				State Registration Deadline: August 1, 2026	
1*	PAINTING/DRAWING	8	HERITAGE SKILLS	14	SEWING
1A*	Oil	8A	Hardanger	14A	Children's Wear
1B*	Acrylic	8B	Tatting	14B	Adult Wear
1C*	Watercolor	8C	Wood carving or burning	14C	Useful Item
1D*	Alcohol Ink	8D	Basketry	14D	Purse or Tote
1E*	Pencil	8E	Spinning/Weaving	14E	Pillow
1F*	Charcoal	8F	Felting	14F	Item made from recycled materials
1G*	Any other item not listed.	8G	Wood Applique		
2*	PHOTOGRAPHY	8H	Rug Making	14G	Wearable Access (apron, hat, etc.)
2A*	Color – Landscape	8I	Rug Hooking	14H*	Any other item not listed
2B*	Color – Waterscape	8J	Quilling	15*	BED QUILT – 60” x 80”
2C*	Color – Skyscape	8*K	Any other Heritage Skill	15A*	Tied Quilt
2D*	Color – Plants	9	CONSTRUCTED ITEMS	15B*	Hand Quilted
2E*	Color – Animals/Creatures	9A	Clay/Pottery	15C*	Pieced-Machine/ Computer Pattern Design
2F*	Color – People	9B	Woodworking item		
2G*	Any other photo not listed	9C	Textile/Fabric	15D*	Other-Machine/Computer Pattern Design
3*	CRAFTS	9D*	Any other item not listed		
3A*	Glass Craft	10	PAINTED OBJECT	15E*	Pieced-Machine/Freehand
3B*	Plastic Canvas	10A	China	15F*	Other-Machine/Freehand
3C*	6 Cards – Paper only, hand drawn	10B	Glass	15G*	Other - Embellishments
		10C	Fabric	16*	SMALL QUILT -Less 60”x80”
3D*	6 cards – Paper only, stamped	10D	Wood	16A*	Tied Quilt
3E*	6 cards – Mixed media	10E	Ceramic/Kiln Fired	16B*	Hand Quilt
3F*	4 cards – fun fold cards	10F*	Any other item not listed	16C*	Pieced – Machine/Computer
3G*	Craft made from recycled materials	11	KNITTING	16D*	Other – Machine/Computer
		11A	Wearable Item	16E*	Pieced – Machine freehand
3H*	Any other craft not listed	11B	Wearable Accessory (hat, scarf, etc.)	16F*	Other – Machine freehand
4*	DIAMOND ART			16G*	Other - Embellishments
4A*	From a kit – full picture	11C	Afghan	17*	QUILTED WALL HANGING
4B*	From a kit – part picture, may include lights	11D*	Any other item not listed	17A*	Hand Quilted Fabric
		12	CROCHETING	17B*	Machine Quilted Fabric
4C*	From a kit – other not a picture	12A	Wearable item	17C*	Other – Embellishments
4D*	Original design – not a kit	12B	Wearable accessory (hat, scarf, etc.)	18	QUILTED TABLE TOPPER/ RUNNER
5	JEWELRY				
5A	Bracelet	12C	Afghan	18A	Hand Quilted
5B	Necklace	12D	Doily/dresser scarf	18B	Machine Quilted
5C	Earrings	12E*	Any other item not listed	18C*	Other - Embellishment
5D	Set of 2 or 3 pieces	13	HAND STITCHING	19*	Bonus Item “Celebrate HCE”
5E*	Any other item not listed	13A	Embroidery		
6*	POEM	13B	Cross Stitch		
7*	PROSE	13C	Counted Cross-Stitch		
7A*	Non-Fiction	13D*	Any other item not listed		
7B*	Fiction – Short story				
7C*	Any other item not listed				

