



# CROSSE COUNTY NEWS



*March 2026*

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We made it through the worst of the winter, at least I hope we have. The Arctic blast we had was really nasty forcing us to stay indoors, but what a good way to take the time to work on our cultural arts projects.

I want to welcome our 3 newest members, Sharon Maier, Rita Ross, and Tarah Borreson. Rita and Tarah are quilting friends of Sylvia Finch and Sharon used to work at Mayo and I knew her from there. All it takes is talking to acquaintances about HCE and you may also get some new members.

We have been busy working on our Stitches of Love and Services of Love projects, Cathy Onsager will tell about this in her Community Service article. It is heart warming to do these projects and help those who need our help plus network with others. There will be pictures of these different projects in this newsletter. I will also have some upcoming events listed for you to look at, anyone who wants to help with these, just let me know. Also listed is West District meeting with registration form in this newsletter also.

I have been doing some chain painting classes and am wondering if anyone would like me to hold a class in doing this, you can create some beautiful artwork. If you are interested, let me know a day of the week which will work best, I will hold this at my house.

Looking forward to our Spring Annual meeting in May, Nancy Kuczynski is working on getting an interesting program lined up.

Hope to see you soon.

Sheryl Smith, President



# COMMUNITY SERVICE

LAHCE members have been busy with community service projects!

In November we began our Stitches of Love project, crafting and sewing a quilted wall hanging with residents of Caretta Senior Living in Holmen. Several ladies and one gentleman, who originally 'just came to watch' picked out fabrics from a stash of recycled dresses. They then created a pattern and cut out and pinned the fabric. One square was created by Sheryl Smith to represent LAHCE. The squares were then sewn into a wall hanging by Sylvia Finch. Each square has a photo of the resident who created it. When it was finally complete, we hung it where residents would see it every day.



# COMMUNITY SERVICE

On January 8<sup>th</sup> members met at Sheryl Smith's home to prepare 60 meals for the unsheltered. This is one of our Services of Love projects. We cooked up 2 large roasters of goulash and filled individual containers with 2 cups of goulash, soft buns and two homemade cookies. We included crystal light for those who like to add it to their water bottles and two large boxes of hand/foot warmers. The food and handwarmers were picked up and delivered to two sites by Sue Graf and Brian from WINN (What I Need Now). This amazing organization helps feed, clothe and find shelter for those who are in need. We originally invited Sue to speak at a meeting and have been helping to support their efforts ever since. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be making sandwiches and macaroni salad. If you like, you can bake cookies or help with food preparation. Phone or text Sheryl Smith at 608-317-2411.





# COMMUNITY SERVICE

On February 4<sup>th</sup> five members helped with Bingo at the Caretta Senior Living facility in Holmen. We had a great time calling numbers, chatting and helping residents with their cards. We were told that they have never had such a large group of participants come to Bingo. I understand that word was spread by our quilter's group that the LAHCE ladies were helping with Bingo!

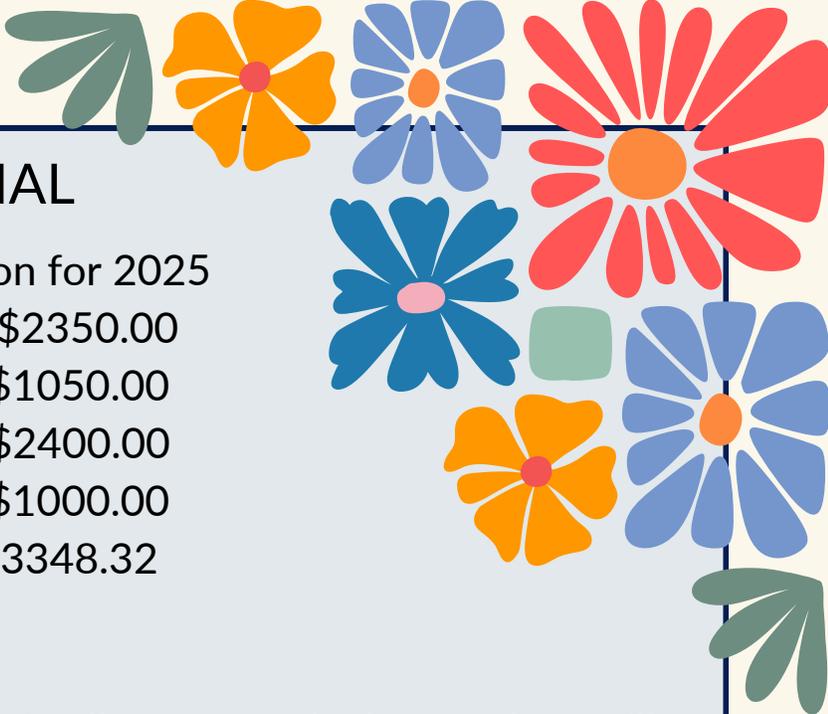


## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Finally, on February 7<sup>th</sup>, members again taught two crafts at the 4H Clover College. We have been doing this for several years and really enjoy working with the kids. This year we helped them make diamond art coasters in one class and valentine cards in the other. Afterward, we treated ourselves to lunch in West Salem at Whiskey River. Yummm! FYI Whiskey River will be donating containers for the macaroni salad for our next meal for the unsheltered. Thanks so much!

Cathy Onsager, Membership Chair





## INTERNATIONAL

Pennies for Friendship Distribution for 2025

Ventures in People-Haiti \$2350.00

Scholarships for 6 children \$1050.00

Wi/Nicaragua Partners \$2400.00

Community Centers \$1000.00

ACWW Rural Women in Action \$3348.32

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Total \$10148.32

The fundraising project for Haiti of collecting used ink cartridges will be continued for 2026, need to be turned in by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Items for Nicaragua will still be collected. Four our shoebox this year, I am asking for cooking supplies such as measuring cups and spoons, wooden spoons, whisks, spatulas, turners, tongs, meat forks, paring knives, etc.

Leah Bork, International Chair

## CULTURAL ARTS



Hello Everyone. I know it's hard to believe but Spring is right around the corner. May 11<sup>th</sup> is our LAHCE Annual Spring Meeting and Luncheon. It is also our Cultural Arts competition. I'm hoping all of you with your own special talent would like to be a part of it. I must admit one of the reasons I became a member of HCE is because of all the different arts and crafts that we all Love to do so we can share. The new cultural arts entry forms are in this newsletter for you to see, there are some changes and some new categories.

Linda Gillmeister, Cultural Arts Chair

# HCE Spring West District Meeting

## Trempealeau County

Monday, April 13, 2026

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 109 Elm St. Strum, WI 54770

(handicap accessible)

### Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m. Welcome ... *Carolyn Boehne, Trempealeau County President*

9:35 a.m. Business Meeting

10:35 a.m. *Networking with our local school (Kris Husby, Member of Eleva-Strum School Board)*

11:30 a.m. Lunch (*lasagna, salad, garlic bread, dessert, milk, water, coffee*)

12:15 p.m. How important are volunteers to your community (Dawn Hering, Director of Strum Public Library)

1:00 p.m. Committee Reports

1:30 p.m. Invitation to the Fall 2026 West District Meeting

1:35 p.m. Wrap-up

### Member/Club Registration

**HCE West District Meeting: Monday, April 13, 2026**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # or E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

The cost of this meeting is \$15.00 per person which includes morning refreshments and lunch.

\_\_\_ Members attending X \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_.

Please make check payable to **Trempealeau County HCE**, and send to Julia Bjorgo, N49949 Missell Rd, Strum, WI 54770 by April 9, 2026.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR LAHCE



March 9<sup>th</sup>.....Executive Board meeting, Sheryl's house (all members welcome to attend if they want)

March 12<sup>th</sup>.....Bingo at Caretta Senior Living just north of Holmen (we have one person calling number and others helping residents)

March 19<sup>th</sup>....Preparing and packaging cold meals for the unsheltered at Sheryl's house. (Sandwiches, macaroni salad, assorted chips, and cookies)

April 13<sup>th</sup>....West District Meeting at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Strum

April 20<sup>th</sup>....Executive Board Meeting at Sheryl's house





**Wisconsin Association for Home & Community Education, Inc.  
Cultural & Textile Arts Show  
2026 Guidelines for County Chairs**



**ALL items, including Bonus Category, must be pre-registered. Registration is due August 1, 2026.** Any items NOT pre-registered will NOT be judged or displayed. Only one (1) entry on each registration form. Send all forms together immediately after the county show including written entries. Each County may enter a total of 12 entries. *No County may have duplicate entries in any lettered sub-category.* The County Cultural Arts Chair must include a self-addressed postcard or email address to verify receipt of registration forms. If you do not receive verification within three (3) weeks, please call or email the WAHCE Cultural Arts Chair.

**IMPORTANT: ALL entrants MUST sign the registration form.** Please read and sign below as entries will NOT be accepted if unsigned. Entrants will not hold WAHCE responsible for any loss or damage to any item submitted for use in the WAHCE Cultural Arts Show. Entrants give permission for their photo, photos of their entry, and/or print copies of their written entry to be used by WAHCE as seen fit. **Judges have authority to put items in the proper category, if needed.**

All work must be done by the entrant and completed after last year's county show. It must receive first place at the current year's county show or fair. All items must be clean or laundered or will be disqualified by the judge. Kits and patterns may be used if the entrant does all the work. *All easels must have a securely taped label with name, county, and district.*

**Color Coding of Registration Forms by Districts:**

Central – White

Northeast–Yellow

Northwest-LightBlue

Southeast – Green

Southwest–Orange

West–Pink

**Entry Day:** Deliver items Sunday (September 20th) from 4:00 -7:00pm or Monday (September 21st) 9:00am-11:30am. Judging will begin at 12:00 pm. Members may view the show after the Monday evening activity until 10:30pm. The viewing hour on Tuesday will be announced or posted. Times to pick up items will be posted.

Send registration and written entries to: **Susan Grotjahn**, Cultural Arts Chairperson  
W14737 Town Road 44, Hixton, WI 54635  
Email: [psydkick2@gmail.com](mailto:psydkick2@gmail.com) Cell (715) 896-2760

Cut on the dotted line and send in the **SIGNED** completed Registration Form and Claim Check **with both parts filled out.**  
NOTE: You will receive your Claim Check when you bring in the items.

**2026 Registration Form**

**Registration # and People's Choice Vote #:** \_\_\_\_\_

Category (i.e., 2D) \_\_\_\_\_

Class (i.e. Acrylic Oil) \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Color/Pattern Description:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please read and sign:** Entries will NOT be accepted if unsigned. Entrant will not hold WAHCE responsible for any loss or damage to any item submitted for use in the WAHCE Cultural Arts Show. Entrant gives permission for their photo, photos of their entry, and/or printed copies of their written entry to be used by WAHCE as they see fit.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**2026 Claim Check**

Claim Reference # \_\_\_\_\_

Category (i.e., 2D) \_\_\_\_\_

Class (i.e., Acrylic / Oil) \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Color/Pattern Description:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





**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. 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 piece 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 piece 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 original piece of writing written and/or published in the current year (August 2025 to July 2026) Written piece 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 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 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.



**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	14G	Wearable Access (apron, hat, etc.)
<b>2*</b>	<b>PHOTOGRAPHY</b>	8H	Rug Making	14H*	Any other item not listed
2A*	Color – Landscape	8I	Rug Hooking	<b>15*</b>	<b>BED QUILT – 60" x 80"</b>
2B*	Color – Waterscape	8J	Quilling	15A*	Tied Quilt
2C*	Color – Skyscape	8*K	Any other Heritage Skill	15B*	Hand Quilted
2D*	Color – Plants	<b>9</b>	<b>CONSTRUCTED ITEMS</b>	15C*	Pieced-Machine/Computer Pattern Design
2E*	Color – Animals/Creatures	9A	Clay/Pottery	15D*	Other-Machine/Computer Pattern Design
2F*	Color – People	9B	Woodworking item	15E*	Pieced-Machine/Freehand
2G*	Any other photo not listed	9C	Textile/Fabric	15F*	Other-Machine/Freehand
<b>3*</b>	<b>CRAFTS</b>	9D*	Any other item not listed	15G*	Other - Embellishments
3A*	Glass Craft	<b>10</b>	<b>PAINTED OBJECT</b>	16A*	Tied Quilt
3B*	Plastic Canvas	10A	China	16B*	Hand Quilt
3C*	6 Cards – Paper only, hand drawn	10B	Glass	16C*	Pieced – Machine/Computer
3D*	6 cards – Paper only, stamped	10C	Fabric	16D*	Other – Machine/Computer
3E*	6 cards – Mixed media	10D	Wood	16E*	Pieced – Machine freehand
3F*	4 cards – fun fold cards	10E	Ceramic/Kiln Fired	16F*	Other – Machine freehand
3G*	Craft made from recycled materials	10F*	Any other item not listed	16G*	Other - Embellishments
3H*	Any other craft not listed	<b>11</b>	<b>KNITTING</b>	<b>17*</b>	<b>QUILTED WALL HANGING</b>
<b>4*</b>	<b>DIAMOND ART</b>	11A	Wearable Item	17A*	Hand Quilted Fabric
4A*	From a kit – full picture	11B	Wearable Accessory (hat, scarf, etc.)	17B*	Machine Quilted Fabric
4B*	From a kit – part picture, may include lights	11C	Afghan	17C*	Other – Embellishments
4C*	From a kit – other not a picture	11D*	Any other item not listed	<b>18</b>	<b>QUILTED TABLE TOPPER/ RUNNER</b>
4D*	Original design – not a kit	<b>12</b>	<b>CROCHETING</b>	18A	Hand Quilted
<b>5</b>	<b>JEWELRY</b>	12A	Wearable item	18B	Machine Quilted
5A	Bracelet	12B	Wearable accessory (hat, scarf, etc.)	18C*	Other - Embellishment
5B	Necklace	12C	Afghan	<b>19*</b>	<b>BONUS ITEM "Celebrate HCE"</b>
5C	Earrings	12D	Doily/dresser scarf		
5D	Set of 2 or 3 pieces	12E*	Any other item not listed		
5E*	Any other item not listed	<b>13</b>	<b>HAND STITCHING</b>		
<b>6*</b>	<b>POEM</b>	13A	Embroidery		
<b>7*</b>	<b>PROSE</b>	13B	Cross Stitch		
7A*	Non-Fiction	13C	Counted Cross-Stitch		
7B*	Fiction – Short story	13D*	Any other item not listed		
7C*	Any other item not listed				

Forms updated 1/11/2026

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.

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**  
**United States Department of Agriculture**  
**University of Wisconsin-Extension**  
**La Crosse County Offices**  
**212 North 6th Street**  
**La Crosse, WI 54601**

**100.200.1000**



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