

Changing With Today

COLUMBIA COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION



February 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear HCE Friends,

What will be your legacy when you are gone? How do you want to be remembered? Will it be a big monetary gift to an organization that you supported while you were living? Will it be a farm that your children carry on? In our February lesson we talked about possessions, and the things we leave behind. I hope that you have gleaned some good ideas that will help you pass on those earthly possessions while avoiding conflict and disagreements.

Now let's think about a less tangible, but just as important legacy: how will people describe you and your life's work? What did you accomplish? When I was much younger, I had a neighbor say that I ought to have engraved on my headstone "she made a mean pie crust." He loved my pie, and frankly, I was quite proud of that. Now I hope my remembrances are at a bit higher level. I hope that people will say "she lived her faith" or "she was always willing to help others."

Describing how we want to be remembered will be little different for each of us, but I think that there would be many

commonalities. Besides the two I just listed, wouldn't you include generosity, making people feel loved, standing up for justice, or being a supportive figure in someone's life?

I read a very interesting novel recently that got me thinking about this topic of legacy, The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston. There are several themes in the book that we can all relate to such as family, second chances, aging and loneliness. But the thing I can't stop thinking about is kindness. It's a fundamental human trait manifested in small gestures or larger acts of support. We can practice it every day, and it is crucial for mental health, deeper relationships and building compassionate communities. Wouldn't our world be a better place if everyone actively looked for ways to extend kindness to others? In our families, among our friends, in the community groups that we belong to, we have opportunities every day to practice kindness. It might be lending a hand, giving a monetary offering, saying a kind word, sending a card or making a phone call to show that you care. Let's pledge to look for ways to be kind to others.

Kindly,
Becky Gutzman, Co-President

SAVE THE DATE/ UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars:

Feb. 5, "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?," ADRC, 1:30 p.m.

Mar. 3, "Meaningful Memories," ADRC, 1:30 p.m.

View forms, newsletters, and WAHCE information at: <https://wahceinc.org/columbia-county-hce/>

Facebook group: Columbia County Home & Community Education

March Leader Training

Tuesday, March 3, 1:30 p.m.
Columbia County ADRC
111 E. Mullett St., Portage
"Meaningful Memories,"

Join us for a memory improvement workshop!

We're excited to invite you to an insightful session led by Kim Sweney, Co-President of the CCHACE. Kim will be presenting tips developed by brain experts for improving memory, drawing on recent research and practical strategies to support better cognitive health.

This workshop was originally presented at the WAHCE Conference 2025 by Renee Koenig, MS, a Professor of Practice and Human Development and Relationships Educator at the UW-Madison Division of Extension. Renee's expertise has provided valuable insights that we're eager to share with our HCE counties.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn practical memory techniques! Along with expert tips, there will be music, engaging activities, helpful handouts, and fun surprises—including a BINGO game with a prize!

We look forward to seeing you there! Bring a friend.

Sign up with:
Donna Kohnke
(920) 210-5037
kohnkedonna@gmail.com

CCAHCE Scholarships

Two \$1,000 scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors. Applicants must be a relative of a CCAHCE member **OR** a major in family living education, culinary arts, horticulture, agriculture, interior design, or fashion design. Application materials may be downloaded and printed from the WAHCE website: <https://wahceinc.org/columbia-county-hce/>

Or you may contact Liz Miller at (608) 742-4604 or lzmiller@palacenet.net

The application deadline is April 1, 2026.

Liz Miller
Margo Holzman
Scholarship Committee

CCAHCE Executive Board

Enclosed with this newsletter is a list of the 2026 CCAHCE Executive Board members and contact information. Any updates throughout the year will be posted on the WAHCE website.

Rendezvous/Cultural Arts & Textiles Contest and Show April 16

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the 2026 cultural arts categories. The March newsletter will have the registration form for your projects.

Also included in the March newsletter will be more information about the Rendezvous program at Savanna Oaks, Fall River.

CCAHCE Executive Board 2026 Schedule

All meetings are at 9:30 a.m. at the ADRC.

~~Thursday, January 22~~

Tuesday, February 3 (Portage Library)

Tuesday, March 17

Tuesday, May 19

Tuesday, September 15

Membership Dues Increase

WAHCE dues have increased to \$7/member. Southwest District dues are \$1/member (increasing to \$2/member in 2027). Thus, the annual membership for Columbia County will increase to \$16/member beginning 2027.

Newsletter by E-Mail

The cost of mailing a single newsletter is about \$1.25. Newsletters are mailed eight times a year to 75 members. To save CCAHCE money on this expense, members may opt to have the newsletter sent via e-mail.

If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail instead of first-class mail, text or e-mail a message to LuAnn Olson. Contact info is below. In your message give me your name, your e-mail address, and "please send newsletter by e-mail."

(Disregard this message if you already receive the newsletter by e-mail.)

**Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education
WAHCE Organizational Sheet for 2026**

President's Signature: Rebecca Gutzman/Kim Sweny

District: Southwest

County: Columbia

Website:
<https://wahceinc.org/columbia-county-hce/>

Please fill in the information and send 1 copy to your District Director by November 1st (electronically if possible). The Director will then send a complete set to the State President by November 15th. Inform the District Director of all changes as they occur. List complete address, zip code, and telephone number, including area code. *Include e-mail address if available.* List term in the actual calendar years. If possible, please type, otherwise print very plainly.

POSITION HELD	NAME	ADDRESS (Street Address, City, State, & Zip)	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS	TERM
Co-President	Rebecca Gutzman	W3616 Old B Rd, Rio, WI 53960	920 382 4511	buckhill@centurylink.net	2026-27
Co-President	Kim Sweny	W6504 State Rd 33, Portage, WI 53901	513 869 1814	sweneykim@gmail.com	2025-26
Past President	Liz Miller	N4771 State Rd 78, Merrimac, WI 53561	608 742 4604	lzmiller@palacenet.net	
Vice President	VACANT				2025-26
Secretary	Beth Hahn	N6579 Closs Rd, Cambria, WI 53923	920 348 5699	bethhahn72@gmail.com	2026-27
Treasurer	Carol Beck	5700 Prairie Stone Dr, McFarland, WI 53558	608 669 1858	cbeck955@gmail.com	2026-27
Comm & Family Life	Donna Kohnke	N6664 Kohnke Rd, Cambria, WI 53923	920 210 5037	kohnkedonna@gmail.com	2026-27
International Coordinator	Margo Holzman	N3871 Holzman Dr, Poynette, WI 53955	608 635 7772	mitesag@yahoo.com	2026-27
Cultural & Textile Arts	Cheryl Neef	N7647 County Rd SS, Pardeeville, WI 53954	608 617 3812	centerrafarm@gmail.com	2026-27
Cultural & Textile Arts	Kay Macleish	N3703 County Rd U, Merrimac, WI 53561	608 493 2651	kaymac@merr.com	2025-26
Wisconsin Bookworms	Donna Macleish	W11596 Circle Bluff, Merrimac, WI 53561	608 617 6229	macleishd@gmail.com	2025-26
Scholarship	Liz Miller	N4771 State Rd 78, Merrimac, WI 53561	608 742 4604	lzmiller@palacenet.net	2026-27
Scholarship	Margo Holzman	N3871 Holzman Dr, Poynette, WI 53955	608 635 7772	mitesag@yahoo.com	2025-26
<i>Changing With Today</i> Editor/Update Editor	LuAnn Olson	W8056 Fawn Ln, Oxford, WI 53952	608 450 0282	olson.luann@gmail.com	2026-27
Fundraising	Bobbie Goodman	302 Lake St, Pardeeville, WI 53954	608 429 3046	rbgood90@gmail.com	2025-26

Fundraising	Chris Berger	W2630 Friesland Rd, Cambria, WI 53923	920 348 3393		2026-27
Fundraising	Donna Kohnke	N6664 Kohnke Rd, Cambria, WI 53923	920 210 5037	kohnkedonna@gmail.com	2026-27
Barn Quilt	Margo Holzman	N3871 Holzman Dr, Poynette, WI 53955	608 635 7772	mitesag@yahoo.com	2025-26
Barn Quilt	VACANT				
District/State Officers:					
Chair of International for SW District	Donna Kohnke	N6664 Kohnke Rd, Cambria, WI 53923	920 210 5037	kohnke@centurytel.net	

**Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education, Inc.
2026 Categories for Cultural Arts and Textiles Contest and Show**



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

Forms updated 1/11/2026

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



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. 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.