



A Few Words from President Donna Zarovy

Dear Kenosha HCE Members:

WELL... This cold and snowy *actual* winter is becoming tiring. As I sit here typing this newsletter, the thermometer says -11 degrees. BUT it is the end of January, so hopefully...

As you all know, we have postponed the Annual Meeting to January 31st. Below zero weather is not what we want to come out in. The biggest thing for the meeting is the revision of our By-Laws. The revisions are minor but necessary. Also, there are some minor changes to Committee Guidelines. Presidents and Committee Chairs will receive the revised By-Laws and Handbook shortly after the annual meeting.

There is lots of exciting news in this issue – 2026 programs, Families Branching Out, membership numbers, and some of our new members. Cultural Arts forms for 2026 and Scholarship forms are included in your folders at the meeting. There are some new entries for cultural arts – especially Diamond Dots.

Kenosha County HCE is hosting the Southeast District Meeting April 15th at the Paris Village Hall, 16607 Burlington Road, (Hwy 142) Union Grove. The JJ's Club is organizing the day. More information will be in the March education program folders as to what is needed from members. We hope most of you will attend – great chance to meet the members of other counties in our district.

We are deviating from the norm this year. April is going to be extremely busy – the Southeast District Meeting on the 15th and Families Branching Out on the 24th and 25th. We are, therefore, not going to hold a Spring Event. Three big events in one month is quite challenging – so I hope you all understand. Planning for the 2027 Spring Event has already begun.

The Kenosha County Center is undergoing a major renovation late this summer so we will not have our usual access to hold meetings. Some of our programs will be at the Kenosha Public Library and the Paris or Village of Bristol Halls. They are all handicap accessible and have lots of parking.

Jen Weinstein has joined the Extension Line staff along with me and Marcia Richards. Thanks, Jen, for stepping up. Marcia and I look forward to working with you.

Hope Spring comes soon. I hope to see a lot of you on the 31st for our Annual Meeting and at upcoming events.

Donna Zarovy, KCAHCE President



Where to find KCAHCE:

- ❖ On Facebook: [Kenosha County Association for Home and Community Education](#).
- ❖ On the WAHCE county website: <https://wahceinc.org/kenosha-county-hce/>

A Few Words from Membership Chair Jerin Moore ...



The roof of the home symbolizes our past heritage with Extension Homemakers. The letters H (Home) C (Community) E (Education) make it a suitable logo by the state, county, and club. The house without walls confirms a commitment to membership open to all regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin.



Six clubs comprise **Kenosha County Association for Home and Community Education (KCAHCE)**. Each has its own personality and meets on different days and times, both east and west of I-94. Invite a friend to join you at an education program, or at your monthly individual HCE Club meeting.

Volunteer on a Committee to share your talents, input, and interests.

Membership dues are \$20.00 per year which includes local, district, and Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education (WAHCE) dues.

WE are proud to be KENOSHA COUNTY HCE, founded in 1951, and would like to WELCOME YOU!

Contact Vice President Jerin Moore at 262-697-3459 or President Donna Zarovy at 262-945-7502 for questions and more information about KCAHCE.

MISSION STATEMENT

HCE offers opportunities for:

- *Learning in a social setting*
- *Sharing what we learn*
- *Caring to make a difference in our Homes, Communities, and the world.*



Membership Awards

Jerin Moore, HCE VP and Member Chair, presents **Member Milestone Awards** to members for 'one to sixty-five years of volunteer service' in our Kenosha County HCE community! We are stronger through our learn ▪ care ▪ share mission. Each awardee pictured with Jerin Moore.



65 years:
Rosella Wilson (JJ's Club),
Dorothy Merten (Merry Makers Club)



20 years:
Sandy Wolff (Merry Makers Club)



15 years:
Regina LaForge
(Country Cousins Club)



10 years:
Mayva Fish (K-Town Friends Club)

1 year milestone members: Cara Christensen, Ellen Kupfer, Cathy Orisek, and Jen Weinstein (K-Town Friends Club), Barbara Ludwig (Merry Makers Club), Angela Nevoso, Crosstown Neighbors and Jeanette Beard and Annette Reese (JJ's) who transferred from Walworth County HCE.

Club Name Change:

Bristol Club recently voted to rename itself to **K-Town Friends** to better represent the group's demographic. With 24 of the 26 living in Kenosha, Pleasant Prairie, Racine, and Somers, the Bristol name no longer seemed fitting.

The K-Town Friends Club is diverse in so many ways. It is comprised of former nurses, educators, non-profit leaders, administrators, and sales execs. It is diverse in its interests as most of its life-long learners continue volunteering and serving at shelters, pantries, community events, in leadership roles, and studying foreign languages. Two of its members are still working in the educational and non-profit sectors. The club is also diverse in experience as its ages range from 39 to 101. They share rides, continue to get acquainted, and learn ▪ share ▪ care together! This eclectic group continues to lunch at noon on the 2nd Monday of the month at various spots around Kenosha.

~~Jerin M., K-Town President

2026 New K-Town Members

This edition of The Extension Line will feature the new members from K-Town Friends. New members from JJ's Club and Merry Makers will be featured in the Spring edition.



Dawn Bench

Dawn has been a volunteer for Kenosha Welcome Center (formerly Grace Food Pantry) for 6 years, greeting and helping carry in and distribute donations. Jeri invited Dawn to join with others for some "Star power fun" making paper stars. An invitation to join HCE followed naturally, and Dawn has quickly become one of the group. Dawn and her late husband raised five children. She has six grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Besides helping others, Dawn's passions include gardening and making new friends. Welcome Dawn! We're happy to have your Star Power in HCE!

Mary Carpenter

Mary Carpenter, with a heart of gold, hails from Deerfield, Illinois. She moved to Kenosha with her husband 35 years ago. Now, four kids and two dogs later, it's time to help the community. A retired saleswoman, Mary is always hard working and quirky. Fun is what attracted her to join HCE with Jeri Moore and Jen Weinstein. She loves meeting new people and networking. Her favorite things are being in and around water enjoying the sun and sky above. Part mermaid, Mary loves "to make waves and looks forward to meeting all of you!



Therese Principe

After moving from Illinois to Kenosha as a child, Therese was educated at Catholic elementary schools and St Joseph High School. Therese has three children, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Before retiring, Therese worked 30 years as an RN in Telemetry and Critical Care at Kenosha Memorial. She has been a volunteer throughout her life and loves art and giving back to others. A little side note is that she drives a 2004 C5 silver aluminum Corvette, "Backs the Pack," and follows the Cubs! Therese -- we welcome your creative and giving spirit!

~~ Jerin M, Membership Chair

Welcome to Alana ...

Alana Perez-Valliere has called Wisconsin home her entire life and is honored to help our families thrive as the **Human Development and Relationships Educator for Kenosha County**. Her educational background includes a BA in Leadership from UW-Parkside and a certificate in Financial Counseling. Alana is currently training to become a Professional Coach through UW-Madison.



Prior to this role, Alana spent over a decade as a Nutrition Educator with FoodWise in Kenosha and Racine counties. Those years taught her that, through education and trust, we can create an environment where everyone flourishes. Alana is deeply passionate about empowering our community to achieve financial security.

When she's not working, you can find Alana foraging, reading, gardening, traveling, or simply making memories with family and friends.

Alana is looking forward to working with the KCAHCE organization!



Cultural Arts:

Time to finish your cultural arts projects. The show will be held May 5th in conjunction with the education program. **Entry forms are due to Rita Larson by April 15th**. Forms will be available at the Annual Meeting or electronically upon request to Donna.

There are some new categories this year and changes in some of the categories. Be sure to read the forms carefully. We hope to have lots of entries.

~~ Rita Larson, Cultural Arts

KCAHCE Education Programs:

We are excited to announce the education programs for 2026. The location for some of them is not yet set. The Kenosha County Center is undergoing an extensive remodeling, and we cannot use it for about six months. The exact titles for the May 5th and November 5th programs are not yet determined. We will relay them as soon as possible.

- **February 5 1:00 pm "Improving Balance / Fall Prevention"**
Aurora Medical Center, 12500 Aurora Way, Pleasant Prairie.
- **March 5 11:30 am "Happy Houseplants" program and "Flower Power" kickoff**
Milaeger's, Sturtevant (lunch and program; \$10 Fee/RSVP required)
- **April 15 9:45 am Southeast District Meeting, Kenosha HCE Hosts**
Paris Town Hall & Fire Station
- **April 25 10:00 am Families Branching Out**
Kenosha County Center
- **May 7 6:30 pm Speaker: Alana Perez-Valliere, Extension Financial Specialist.**
Kenosha County Center, Topic TBD
- **May 7 5:30 pm Drop off articles for Cultural Arts Show**
6:00 pm Cultural Arts Show Judging
Show open after education program.
- **September 3 6:30 pm "Nordic Food & Fun During the Holiday Season" (Badger Talk)**
Marcus Cederstrom, Speaker. Location TBD
- **October 17 12:00 pm Fall Focus**
- **November 5 1:00 pm Presentation from the Kenosha Public Library staff, Topic TBD**
Kenosha Northside Library, 1500 27th Avenue, Kenosha
- **December 3 "In the Nick of Time" holiday crafts – Volunteers are requested to share a holiday craft with the group – Contact Jerin**

~~ Jerin M., VP Programs

Flower Power Kick-off:

The scholarship fundraiser, **Flower Power**, will be held in conjunction with the educational program **Happy Houseplants** on Thursday, March 5 at Milaeger's (8717 WI-11, Sturtevant).



- 11:30** Gather and shop
- 12:00** Lunch (pulled pork sandwiches, chips, soda and cookies)
*\$10, RSVP required
- 12:45** Announcements, **Milaeger's Flower Power** kickoff (brochure distribution)
- 1:00** **Happy Houseplants**

New for 2026 -- Jen Weinstein of the K-Town Friends will be the coordinator for Flower Power.

Brochures containing order information will be distributed at Milaeger's. The brochure will also be on our website www.wahceinc.org/county-hce-kenosha or via email upon request to Jen, Jerin or Donna.

Jen Weinstein, 847-219-3005 Jerin Moore, 262-697-3459 Donna Zarovy, 262-945-7502
~~ Donna Zarovy, Editor

Families Branching Out 2026:



Can you believe it?! This is our fifth **Families Branching Out!** It will be held April 25th at the Kenosha County Center. We have a great committee, and planning will begin with a brief chat at the Annual Meeting. If anyone can help plan, implement, set up, or take down, please let us know! Jeri and Donna will co-chair.

The majority of the 2025 exhibitors will be returning this year. We plan to supply them with lunch. HCE will have a craft and book reading corner. Once again, we would like to supply the youth with backpacks, books, and miscellaneous items.

Fundraising has begun. If anyone has a suggestion where to apply for funding, donations, etc. please let us know, too.

Our 2025 Families Branching Out project received a **Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education Services of Love Award**. There were three projects that received this award and each were given a \$100 check. Congratulations KCAHCE members.

~~ Donna Z. and Jerin M.

Wisconsin Bookworms:

Wisconsin Bookworms has been providing **FREE** books to preschool children since 1998. Statewide, we will be reading to over 4,000 children this year. At the end of the 2025-2026 school year, a total of 1,017,000 books will have been given to 112,155 children since inception. **ONE MILLION BOOKS** – how incredible!



Kenosha County has participated in the project since 1999. This is our 26th year of reading. We are reading at Brass Community School, Chavez Learning Center, Holy Cross Church, and Beloit Community School. We Beloit Community School this year thanks to reader Annette R. Annette joined Kenosha County HCE two years ago after the Walworth County club disbanded. She has read at the school for several years and will continue to read to children in two classrooms.

A special thank you to the 2025-2026 readers. If you have any suggestions for places Donna can apply for funding, please let us know.

~~ Heidi N. & Donna Z.

2026 WAHCE Annual Business Meeting and Conference Invitation and Hotel Reservation Information:



Join us for an **HCE: Party on Gibson Street** at the 2026 Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education Annual Business Meeting and Conference in Eau Claire, WI, September 21-23, 2026. We will be celebrating the Golden Age of HCE (the 1920's era), and we invite you to join us for a ROARING good time!

Hotel Specifics:

The Lismore-by Hilton, is located at 333 Gibson Street, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Guests can start making their reservations now by calling the hotel directly at 1-715-835-8888 option (0) and mentioning the **WAHCE Conference**. Full bedrooms are at a rate of \$119 per night. Queen and king rooms are at a rate of \$139 per night. Ask the hotel when booking if you have questions about which size would suit your needs best. **The cut-off date for reservations is August 21, 2026.** Any remaining rooms will be released at that time.

Self-parking is available in the city-owned parking ramp attached to the hotel. Those staying at the hotel will receive a \$5 discount per day, which is credited to your room stay.

One-day parking is available by registering your vehicle and paying at the kiosk located at the base of the elevators off the parking ramp. Cost is 50 cents/hour (24 hours) which maxes out at \$10 per day.

For any questions, please contact us by phone or email.

Conference-specific email wahce2026@yahoo.com
Roberta Shaffer, Conference Chair 715-791-2476 bertashaffer@gmail.com
Kristy Sand, Conference Co-Chair 715-554-1349 kcants@hotmail.com

Extension Line Committee

Welcome to The Extension Line staff – Jen Weinstein. Marcia and I look forward to working with you and enjoy your creativity.

Clubs are encouraged to submit articles and pictures from their meetings. A special thank you to KCAHCE members who helped assemble this newsletter. Also, special thanks to Jerin Moore for all the photographs. Please send all address corrections or articles to us. Thank you!

Donna Zarovy, zarovy@frontier.com Marcia Richards, richardskreuserm@gmail.com
Jen Weinstein, jnweinstein71@gmail.com

Congratulations Kailie

Congratulations to Kailie Billingsley, one of the 2025 Kenosha HCE scholarship winners. Kailie was the 2025 Kenosha County Fairest of the Fair. The Kenosha County Fair Association said “she has done an exceptional job this year through her numerous public appearances, interactions with community members, and her involvement with the Kenosha County Fair.”

Kailie competed at the Wisconsin Association of Fairs for the title of Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs at their convention in the Wisconsin Dells this month and was selected the 2026 Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair! What fantastic news!



KCAHCE is proud of Kailie and proud that she received our scholarship to further her education!

Note: The KCAHCE scholarship applications are in the folders distributed at the Annual Meeting and may be obtained from Rita Larson, Scholarship Chair, or on the website at www.wahceinc.org/hce-county-kenosha.