

Changing With Today

COLUMBIA COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear HCE Friends,

Happy April! The month that teases us...it's spring! I'm a believer in the old saying "early Easter, early spring," so I hope that spring will soon be here for good. I also believe in planting potatoes on Good Friday! Whatever the weather brings, we have plenty to look forward to.

Kim and I appreciate the great turnouts for our February and March lessons. We hope you find them educational and thought-provoking. If you have been motivated to take some action because of our HCE lessons, please write that down and send it to me. We're hoping to use some quotes of what HCE means today in future promotions.

I hope you've been working on your entries for the cultural arts contest. It is always so inspiring to see the amazing work you do each year. Our Rendezvous is April 16 at Savanna Oaks again this year. We'll be hosting the Southwest District meeting at Rendezvous so it will be fun to "show off" our work to others! I am most excited though for the program we have put together for that day: Something Special from Wisconsin!

We will be hearing from four amazing women ambassadors for agriculture, all of whom have roots here in Columbia County:

April 2026

Sarah Hagenow, the 78th Alice in Dairyland, will educate us about Wisconsin's incredibly diverse agriculture industry. We'll learn about the economic impact, and some of the crops and commodities that characterize this vibrant community.

Christine Lindner, Marketing Manager, Alsum Farms and Produce, will help us experience the journey of how Alsum potatoes make their way from farm to dinner table. Established more than five decades ago and headquartered in Friesland, Alsum Farms and Produce has been providing quality potatoes, onions and fresh wholesale produce since 1973.

Elizabeth and Julie Schoeneberg are part of Creek Bed Farmacy, a family-owned farm, known for seasonal U-pick fruits like strawberries and peaches, and Wisconsin's largest corn maze (18 acres!) This mother-daughter duo will share the real-world challenges, rewards and strategies behind running a successful agri-tourism operation.

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us to support the accomplishments of women, agriculture, and children, "our nation's greatest asset."

Becky Gutzman
Co-president, CCAHCE

SAVE THE DATE/ UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars:

Apr. 1, deadline to register for Rendezvous and Cultural Arts Contest and Show

Apr. 16, Rendezvous/Cultural Arts Contest and Show/Southwest District meeting, Savanna Oaks, Fall River

May 1, Donations to Bookworms, 4-H Youth Encouragement Awards, and Pennies for Friendship due to Carol Beck, Treasurer

May 5, Leader Training, 1:30 p.m., ADRC

May 19, CCAHCE Executive Board meeting, 9:30 a.m., ADRC

Aug. 15, "Parade of Breeds" Horse Show

View forms, newsletters, and WAHCE information at: <https://wahceinc.org/wahce-counties/>

Facebook group:
Columbia County Home & Community Education

Donations Due May 1

Individual members and club members: consider a donation to the Youth Encouragement program, Bookworms, or Pennies for Friendship. Send donations by May 1 to: Carol Beck, CCAHCE Treasurer 5700 Prairie Stone Dr. McFarland, WI 53558

May Leader Training

Tuesday, May 5, 1:30 p.m.
Columbia County ADRC
111 E. Mullett St., Portage

Donna Ochsner will present "Frank Lloyd Wright: His Architecture and Life." Donna was a tour guide at Taliesin for over 10 years. She has toured many Frank Lloyd Wright homes/buildings.

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

Where Do Your Pennies for Friendship Go?

Approximately one-third of the total (\$10,148.32) was given to each of three organizations:

- Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners—\$3,400 (\$1,000 for Community Centers, balance to general fund)
- Ventures in People—\$3,400 (\$1,050 for six students, balance to general fund)
- Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)—\$3,348.32

—Donna Kohnke

Correction to Cultural Arts Category—CRAFTS

In the description for 3—CRAFTS, it says cards must be mounted as a group on a 36"x48" tri-board. This is incorrect. It should state that cards must be mounted as a group on a **24"x24"** tri-board. This size board is available at Wal-Mart.

—Kay MacLeish, Cheryl Neef
Cultural Arts

Il Bit Ranch Horse Show

Last year one of our Rendezvous speakers, Melanie Lichtfeld, shared the story of how she rescued two Ojibwe Spirit ponies. Later in the summer, she invited HCE members to the Il Bit Ranch in Columbus. The Horse Camp students presented a small horse show to



Melanie Lichtfeld and Little Star

feature what they learned about handling horses and what they learned about different breeds of horses.

This year Melanie plans to host another horse show on Aug. 15 at the Il Bit Ranch. She is hoping to partner with HCE for support for the event and volunteers to sew costumes for the Horse Camp students.

Melanie will attend Rendezvous, and more information will be announced about the "Parade of Breeds" horse show.

Wisconsin Bookworms

This year the Bookworms program celebrates having read one million books to Wisconsin Headstart children since 1998. The Bookworms logo will be getting a new look. It will change to include another "worm reader." Stay tuned!



2026 NVON Conference

July 14-16, 2026
The Wisconsin Hotel
Lake Delton
Hosted by WAHCE

For more information and a registration form, go to: www.nvon.org/nvon-conference/
The cost for registration and meals is \$250. Tour fees and workshop/seminar fees cost additional.