

January 2026 Goldnotes

Sheboygan County Association for Home & Community Education Presidents Message



Dear HCE Members,

How hard has it been to write 2026 instead of 2025? In January, I pay attention to that detail on checks (although I write few) but sometime in March or April, I may find myself still writing 2025. One of my resolutions should be “pay attention” to the details.

Sheboygan County HCE is off to a great start. Many of you attended the Education Meeting on Stars and Stripes Honor Flight. If you missed it, you will enjoy the summary included in this Goldnote. I would encourage you to take advantage of each of the programs that have been arranged for this year.

I would like to encourage you to participate in the many opportunities we have to learn, lead and serve through our organization.

Joyce Smies
Sheboygan County HCE President



2026 WAHCE State Conference

Join us for an “HCE: Party on Gibson Street” at the 2026 WAHCE State Conference in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on September 21-23, 2026. We will be celebrating the Golden Age of HCE (the 1920’s era) and you are invited to join us for ROARING good time!

Hotel Specifics: The Lismore Hotel-a Double Tree by Hilton, 333 Gibson Street Eau Claire, WI 54701. Guest can start making reservations now by calling the hotel directly at 715-835-8888 and select option “0” to be directed to the hotel front desk. Reference group code “HCE”. Room rates start at \$119 per night. More details in upcoming Goldnotes.



Great news....SE District has a new Banner. We were trying to accomplish this since the beginning of 2025. We needed to change it as Rock and Walworth county HCE's disbanded and their names had to come off of the banner. Thanks goes out to Anne Meyer for her ideas, design and work. She did a great job. Don't forget to thank her for all this work.



- Monday - February 9 – 10:00 AM**
Tech Talk
Extension Room 5020/5022
- Monday - March 9 – 10:00 AM**
Cooking Substitutes
Extension Room 5020/5022
- Monday - March 9 – 11:30 PM**
Executive Board Meeting – Bring sack lunch
Extension Room 5024
- Monday - April 13 – 10:00 AM**
Meaningful Memories/Brain Health
Extension Room 5020/5022
- Monday - April 13 – 12:30 PM**
Executive Board Meeting
Extension Room 5024

**2026 Sheboygan County
Association for Home & Community
Education Officers**

Joyce Smies
President

Marie Kalies
Vice President (Program)

Myra Eischen
Secretary

Nancy Wagner
Treasurer

*Newsletter Edited By:
Joyce Smies
Julie Boedecker
Thank you for all of your help.*

Save the Date

The Spring SE District Meeting will be hosted by Kenosha County on April 15, 2026 at Paris Village Hall, 16607 Burlington Road, Union Grove, Wi. More details will be coming.



WI Association HCE Webpage:

www.wahceinc.org

**WI Association Sheboygan County
HCE Webpage**

<https://wahceinc.org/sheboygan-county-hce/>

UPDATE

2026 will be UPDATE’s 53rd year of sharing news of our WAHCE organization across the state. Subscription prices increased to \$10 (1 year) and \$18 (2 year). This is a great way to stay up-to-date on what is happening throughout the state.

Stitches of Love Report 2025

Submitted by Ann Meyer

We have donated a total of 392 hats so far this year.

The breakdown is:

- 70 Bucket hats
- 168 Pillbox hats
- 154 Knitted/crocheted

Stars and Stripes Honor Flight Presentation

Guest Speakers: Owen Veldboom and Family

We welcomed Owen Veldboom and his family from Oostburg, WI, who shared their experiences and insights about the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight.

About the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight

The Stars and Stripes Honor Flight is dedicated to honoring veterans by providing them with a life-changing trip to Washington, DC. During this trip, veterans visit the national memorials and experience a full day dedicated to honor and gratitude.

History and Eligibility

The first Honor Flight in Wisconsin took place in 2009, following the program's initial launch in Washington, DC in 2005. Every veteran who served in any branch of the military between 1941 and 1975 is eligible to participate in an Honor Flight. Currently, the organization is focusing on recognizing Vietnam Veterans.

Guardianship and Training

Veterans are required to have a guardian accompany them on the trip. Guardians must be under a certain age, physically capable, and cannot be the veteran's spouse.

Honoring and Welcoming Veterans Home

The Honor Flight provides Vietnam Veterans with the warm homecoming and sense of closure that many never received. Upon returning, veterans are greeted by large crowds of family, friends, local bands, and even active-duty service personnel. The atmosphere is celebratory, and the guiding principle of the organization is, "Every Day is a Bonus." Attendees were encouraged to reach out to any veterans they know and urge them to sign up for the program.

Support and Donations

As a gesture of appreciation, the thank you stipend given to our speaker was donated to the Stars and Stripes organization in the name of Sheboygan County HCE. Impressively, 97% of all donations go directly toward covering the costs of the flight.

Learn More

For additional information about Stars and Stripes Honor Flight, please visit:

<https://www.honorflight.org/>



Jim DeMaster, Dawn Salzman, and Owen Veldboom

Community Outreach for 2026

Kindred Heart Families

Kindred Heart Families is a free resource for Wisconsin's foster parents, relative and non-relative placements, grands raising grands and adoptive parents to access clothing, children's accessories, toys, and children's furniture and more, to help take care of the foster children entrusted to them.

Contact information is on page 7 of your program book... or you can get more information at kindredheartfamilies@yahoo.com or kindredheartfamilies.org.

There are 6 different donation groupings... Welcome bags, Birthday bags, School Daze, Busy bags, Toy drive, and Personal hygiene items and Pantry staples. A listing for each of these groups has been given to club representatives and some individuals.

Any donations can be brought to board meetings or educational meetings or dropped off at Immanuel Lutheran School, 1626 Illinois Avenue, Sheboygan, on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday from noon to 5 pm.

We will collect items monthly by these groupings:

February- Personal hygiene and pantry staples

March and April- Birthday bag items

May, June, July- School daze and Busy bags and Welcome bags

September, October, November - Toy Drive

February collection - Personal hygiene items (new and unopened) include shampoo and conditioner, textured hair products, body wash, bar soap & bath loofahs, toothpaste, toothbrushes & floss, hairbrushes & combs, deodorant (teen friendly), Razors & shaving cream, feminine hygiene products, lotion and chapstick.

Pantry staples (non-perishable, unexpired) - peanut butter and jelly, canned fruits and vegetables, boxed meals (mac & cheese, pasta, rice), cereal & oatmeal, soup and canned meats (chicken, tuna, beef), shelf-stable milk and juice boxes, snack packs (granola bars, crackers, fruit cups)

March and April collection - "Birthday in a Bag". This includes ALL NEW itemsTote bag, tissue paper, balloons, crepe, banners, party hats, blowers, party favors, party plates, napkins, cups silverware, table cloths, birthday cards, and gifts-toys games, puzzles.



Collect Printer Ink Cartridges

Save empty printer ink cartridges and bring them to any meeting. Joyce Smies will collect them to bring to SE district meetings or state conference. Share this with your family and friends. Don't send these off to the land fill—they are recycled and earn \$ to donate to the Ventures in People (Haiti). Note: toner cartridges are not accepted.

NVON

In 1984, WAHCE was no longer affiliated with a national HCE association. In 1995, National Volunteer Outreach Network, Inc. (NVON) was established, and Wisconsin was one of its 10 charter members. Two more states have since joined. "Member organizations working together to promote communication, education and volunteerism for all people" was adopted as NVON's Mission Statement July 18, 2001.

"Break the Stigma, Ignite Hope, Mental Health Matters" is the current project.

The goal is to increase awareness in our communities through education and programs, mental health first aid training, sponsoring community events, and partnering with other organizations to promote mental health awareness.



Wisconsin will host the NVON Conference in Wisconsin Dells on July 14-16, 2026 at the Wisconsin Hotel and Conference Center (formerly Wintergreen). You can make reservations at 608-254-2285. Mention NVON Conference to get the conference rates. Eileen Gottbeheat and Shirley Steinhurst are co-chairs of the conference.

International Report

At each Educational Meeting we pass around the containers for Pennies for Friendship and for our County project. (This year it is Kindred Hearts). You are encouraged to drop in your spare change. Over the course of a year, these "pennies" add up and are sent to the state to be combined with collections from all the counties. Last year the amount collected and distributed was \$10,148.32! That is an impressive amount of "pennies".

The money is distributed to three different organizations that are endorsed by WAHCE. They are:

ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World)—focusing on empowering rural women, addressing systemic issues and enhancing community development.

Ventures in People (VIP-Haiti)—working very hard to keep our education programs active. WAHCE sponsors 6 students each year.

Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners—Items collected at the warehouse in Appleton have been shipped this past summer. The future of shipping to Nicaragua is still uncertain.

Upcoming Educational Meetings

Monday, February 9, 2026

Tech Talk

Deadline for reservations is February 2, 2026

Monday April 13, 2026, 10:00 AM

Meaningful Memories/Brain Health

Deadline for reservations is April 6, 2026

Monday, March 9, 2026, 10:00 AM

Cooking Substitutes

Presented by Myra Eischen

Deadline for reservations is March 2, 2026

For reservations, call or text Marie Kelies, 920-676-7871, with names of members attending.

**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	
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	15E*	Other-Machine/Computer Pattern Design
2G*	Any other photo not listed	9C	Textile/Fabric	15F*	Pieced-Machine/Freehand
3*	CRAFTS	9D*	Any other item not listed	15G*	Other-Machine/Freehand
3A*	Glass Craft	10	PAINTED OBJECT	16*	Other - Embellishments
3B*	Plastic Canvas	10A	China	16A*	SMALL QUILT – Less 60" x 80"
3C*	6 Cards – Paper only, hand drawn	10B	Glass	16B*	Tied Quilt
3D*	6 cards – Paper only, stamped	10C	Fabric	16C*	Hand Quilt
3E*	6 cards – Mixed media	10D	Wood	16D*	Pieced – Machine/Computer
3F*	4 cards – fun fold cards	10E	Ceramic/Kiln Fired	16E*	Other – Machine/Computer
3G*	Craft made from recycled materials	10F*	Any other item not listed	16F*	Pieced – Machine freehand
3H*	Any other craft not listed	11	KNITTING	16F*	Other – Machine freehand
4*	DIAMOND ART	11A	Wearable Item	16G*	Other - Emellishments
4A*	From a kit – full picture	11B	Wearable Accessory (hat, scarf, etc.)	17*	QUILTED WALL HANGING
4B*	From a kit – part picture, may include lights	11C	Afghan	17A*	Hand Quilted Fabric
4C*	From a kit – other not a picture	11D*	Any other item not listed	17B*	Machine Quilted Fabric
4D*	Original design – not a kit	12	CROCHETING	17C*	Other – Embellishments
5	JEWELRY	12A	Wearable item	18	QUILTED TABLE TOPPER/ RUNNER
5A	Bracelet	12B	Wearable accessory (hat, scarf, etc.)	18A	Hand Quilted
5B	Necklace	12C	Afghan	18B	Machine Quilted
5C	Earrings	12D	Doily/dresser scarf	18C*	Other - Embellishment
5D	Set of 2 or 3 pieces	12E*	Any other item not listed	19*	BONUS ITEM "Celebrate HCE"
5E*	Any other item not listed	13	HAND STITCHING		
6*	POEM	13A	Embroidery		
7*	PROSE	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 12/15/2025.

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 & 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, unmounted 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 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 4x6 picture is required 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 4x6 Picture is required 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.

January 12, 2026 Sheboygan Co. HCE board mtg.

Joyce Smies, president opened the meeting and led the association creed.

Roll Call: Julie Boedecker, Kathi Bonde, Carolyn Dreier, Pam Fiedler, Myra Eischen, Marie Kalies, Kay Keyes, Ann Meyer, Joanne Schroeder, Joyce Smies, Nancy Wagner, Joan Walvoord, Deb Zimmerman were present. Joanne Gadike was absent and Marilyn Voskuil was excused due to the death of her husband.

Minutes were read, a motion was made and seconded to accept

Treasurer's report was read and filed.

Cultural arts: New form was handed out.

Stitches of Love: 27 pill boxes received and more knit/crocheted received today.

HCE book club: Next meeting Feb. 5

Family and community life: lists of what's needed for Kindred hearts will be in newsletter.

WI Bookworms: reading has started. Worms will be distributed to readers.

International: Good news for Nicaragua project, containers shipped.

VP Programming: working on 2027 programs- let her know if you have ideas.

Membership: continue to invite people. Put ads for meetings in small community papers.

State wants more information on website- only ok'd programs to be included no other personal information for our county. A huge thank-you to Ann Meyer for revamping and updating the SE banner- beautiful work thanks for sharing your talents.

Christmas tree at Museum and Christmas party were both nice. Thanks to those who participated. Make reservations for 2026 at Generations, Plymouth.

Audit of books will be done by Joann Gadike and Joanne Schroeder.

Pennies for friendship for 2025 will go to the Haiti project to support 6 children.

Program books were slimmed down, no issues with what was deleted.

2026 Rally Day- Lakeview, Fair booth- Pretty Good Eggs, Member to Member: Franklin

Spring SE district- Paris Village Hall Union Grove April 15.

Fall SE district- Sheboygan Co.-Joyce will contact Michelle LeMahieu to speak on Dementia Community. Myra suggested that if we wanted a tour of the facility- maybe we could have meeting at Take Flight Enterprises or Campus Life to be close to building site. She will call and check on prices and availability.

State Conference for 2030 will be in SE district.

NVON conference will be held July 14-16 in WI Dells

All articles for the newsletter which will go out the end of January, March, May, July, September, October should be emailed to Emily Lamb by the 20th of that month. Joyce will let her know that executive board members are authorized to have items printed and charged to our account. Please continue to use discretion of what you have printed as they are .25/page.

Everyone should contact Marie Kalies to sign up for educational programs, not Emily.

A change was made in timing of the board meetings. Most members felt that there was too much time wasted between educational meeting and board meeting. It was decided that we will try to start the board meetings at 11:30am lunch can be finished during the meeting. Meetings will conclude by 1:30pm. Please continue to bring a sack lunch for yourself to eat after the educational meeting.

A round table discussion was implemented and you can bring up items not discussed or thoughts to be pondered and voted on at the next meeting.

Association prayer was led by Joan Walvoord.

Joyce Smies adjourned the meeting.

Myra Eischen, HCE secretary