

Changing With Today

COLUMBIA COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings HCE friends!

As the clouds began parting after our April showers—actually, downpours and severe storms—we were fortunate to enjoy a beautiful, sunny day for our Rendezvous Arts Contest/Show and Southwest District meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2026.

Many thanks to our Executive Board for the significant planning that made this day truly represent the heart of HCE. From arranging speakers and topics, providing a light breakfast, organizing cultural arts projects and judging, setting up the food pantry donation area, and creating beautiful decorations (including the delightful bookworm cupcakes!), everything came together perfectly. Our Rendezvous was a wonderful success for the 68 HCE members from Columbia County, the Southwest District, and our guests.

We were privileged to learn from four incredible women: Sarah Hagenow, 78th Alice in Dairyland; Christine Lindner, former Alice in Dairyland and current Marketing Manager for Alsum Farms and Produce; and Julie Schoeneberg and her daughter Elizabeth from Creek Bed Farmacy. Each of these exceptional women brought

May 2026

knowledge, passion, and a unique perspective—creating a meaningful learning experience for all who attended.

Their contributions were both figurative and literal. When I offered to help Christine carry items into the building, I quickly understood her relief at not having to manage 70 bags of potatoes alone—each attendee went home with a bag of red potatoes! Sarah brought energy and excitement, highlighting the importance of Wisconsin agriculture to our tables and beyond. Julie and Elizabeth delivered an outstanding presentation about their farm and business, emphasizing the importance of land stewardship and sustainability for future generations.

Following the presentations, CCAHCE presented a \$100 donation to Creek Bed Farmacy to support their children's activity area. Julie shared that she already has plans to enhance one of the spaces with this gift. A second \$100 donation was presented to Melanie Lichtfeld, Il Bit Ranch, to support another horse show on August 15. Melanie is also seeking volunteer seamstresses to assist with student costumes for the "Parade of Breeds." If you are interested in helping, please contact her at iibitranch@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE/ UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars:

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

Sept. 1, Leader Training, 1:30 p.m., Indian Agency House

Sept. 21-23, 2026 WAHCE Conference, Eau Claire

No newsletter mailed in June and July

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

Facebook group: Columbia County Home & Community Education

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What I took away from this memorable Rendezvous—along with the excellent lunch—is a deep appreciation for something truly special in Wisconsin. These women are educated, passionate, and supported by strong families and communities. They represent the strength and future of agriculture.

And one more thing I learned—those potatoes were very heavy!

Warm regards,
Kim Sweney
Co-President CCAHCE

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

Cultural Arts & Textiles Contest and Show

Thank you to all that participated in the Cultural Arts & Textiles contest and show. This year we have a wide variety

of items going to the state show:

Margo Holzman—poem
Lori Rausch—small coin purse
Fern Bessac—deerskin marble pouch
Kim Sweney—yo-yo flowers on handbag
Jane Vandenberg—bed quilt
Lori Rausch—button flower bouquet
Donna MacLeish—child's denim overalls with frog embroidery
LuAnn Olson—counted cross-stitch Santa
LuAnn Olson—Celtics black-work sampler
Mary Werner—branch wall hanging

—Cheryl Neef, Kay MacLeish
Cultural Arts Chairs

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

Cream Puff Schedule

The Columbia County Fair is July 29-August 2. If you didn't sign up for helping in the cream puff booth at Rendezvous, you can still sign up at the leader training on May 5.

If you are unable to work a shift at the fair, stop by the Bidwell Building and buy a cream puff. If you are dairy intoler-

ant, like I am, come in anyway and leave a tip or donation. This extra money pays for a child that wants a cream puff and doesn't have enough money or any money. We especially like to help out the 4-H kids.

This is HCE's only fundraiser. Please support it any way you can.

—Bobbie Goodman
Fundraising Chair

2026 WAHCE Conference

Sept. 21-23

Eau Claire

This is a celebration of the Golden Age of HCE (the 1920's era), and you are invited to join the event for a ROARING good time!

The deadline date for conference registration is Aug. 15.

The cutoff date for hotel room reservations is Aug. 21.

All conference information and registration forms are available at the WAHCE website: <https://wahceinc.org/2025-conference-information/>

Did You Know?

This year's While House Christmas tree will come from Silent Night Evergreens, Endeavor. Thanks to Sarah Hagenow, Alice in Dairyland, for sharing this bit of information during her presentation at Rendezvous.