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Homemaker Reflections

IOWA COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

August-September 2026

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Greetings to Iowa County HCE members,

It is near the end of summer and “the living is easy.” But I think it should say “the Living is BUSY!” How can it already be August? And that means it is time for our fall HCE lessons and activities.

**** 3 HCE members will attend the State HCE Conference in Eau Claire, and several will attend the fall District HCE meeting in Monroe. Watch for reports on these events.**

****The September lesson, History of Toys, will be an opportunity to reflect on the history of Toys, think about and compare toys you played with and consider how toys have changed. Bring a toy or a memory of a toy to share with other members.**

***For the October lesson, the Hollandale Village Hall will be filled with a display of Christmas ornaments from the 19th and 20th centuries. The Lesson leader, Bob Brenner, will lead a discussion of how Americans have decorated their trees through the years. Everyone is invited to join our fall meeting with a holiday theme.**

**** For November, your club is invited to choose a lesson or activity you will enjoy. We hope your club will find something to enjoy as a group—even watching your favorite holiday TV movie together!**

Always remember...

Life is short, live It

Love is rare, grab It

Anger is bad, dump it

Fear is awful, face it

Memories are sweet, cherish them

Hoping you find opportunities for fun, family, and making memories during the remainder of the summer!

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Upcoming Dates for Iowa County HCE

Wednesday, September 2: Project Lesson -History of Toys, 1:00 pm in HHS

September 21-23: 2026 WAHCE State Conference, Eau Claire

History of Christmas Ornaments, Thursday, October 8, 1:00 pm—Hollandale Village Hall

October 8: HCE Board elections

Iowa County HCE Board: Monday, October 22, 1:30 pm in HHS Building

Fall Southwest District Meeting, Wednesday, October 14, Monroe

November Project Lesson-Club Choice

Iowa County HCE Board: Monday, December 7

SEPTEMBER PROJECT LESSON -- Our History of Toys—

Remember and share as we discuss, look at and compare toys **from the past and present**, as well as toys from both then and now. Bring a memory or a toy from your past to share with the group. Join Deb Ivey at 1 pm on Wednesday, September 2 at the HHS Building in Dodgeville for this lesson.

OCTOBER PROJECT LESSON—Christmas Ornaments

Bob Brenner will present how Americans have decorated their Christmas trees over the years including an exploration and demonstration of the various kinds of Christmas ornaments from the 19th and 20th centuries through our present time. Join Bob at 1:00 pm on Thursday, October 8 at the Hollandale Village Hall in Hollandale (200 5th Ave.). **Everyone is encouraged to attend, bring your whole club as this will be a fall meeting to get us into a holiday mood.** We will have an opportunity to vote for our board members in person. We will have refreshments too!

BOOKWORMS CONTINUING --

The Scholastic Books have arrived, and Iowa County HCE will share the books and read each month to the Head Start children. **HOWEVER, Wilma Dolan has retired after 25 years as our reader! A HUGE THANK YOU TO WILMA!!** SO... we need a Bookworms Chair and a reader once a month October to April to visit the Dodgeville Head Start Class and read books. Arlene Eckstrom was appointed to act as the temporary chair. We will elect our Bookworms Chair/Board Member at our October meeting. Let Arlene know if you are interested in being a reader.

SPRING COUNCIL REPORT--In April, the annual Spring Council meeting was held at the Cobb Community Center, including a business meeting, a **Hootenanny** led by the Love Sisters, and door prize Bingo. A good time was held by all. **Membership awards were presented to Darlene Lindemann for 61 years, Becky Stauffer for 51 years, Sarah Weier for 41 years, and Willie Leonard for 40 years.**

CULTURAL ARTS SHOW by Lynette Miess--Our cultural arts show was held at our Spring Council meeting on April 9, 2026. Cindy Reynolds Doyle was our judge. We had 12 entries and they all received first place. Since they were all under different category classes, they were all eligible to be entered at the state cultural arts show. How exciting is that! Cindy was very impressed with the quality of our workmanship.

CULTURAL ARTS SHOW continued:

The items entered were:

Photos-Girl with flower-Sarah Weier
Sunset reflections-Sarah Weier
Embroidery-Pink flowered pillowcases-Willie Leonard
Cross Stitch-pink and blue flowered pillowcases-Willie Leonard
Diamond dot art-Flowers/butterflies-Arlene Ekstrom
Hummingbirds-Lynette Miess
Christmas snowman-Lynette Miess
Sewing-fall wreath-Lynette Miess
Safari baby quilt-Rhonda Mitchell
Country Cardinals quilt-Lynette Miess
Knitting-sweater-Ann Johnsrud
Radiant star quilted table topper-Ann Johnsrud

There was a tie for the Best of Show award for Ann's table topper and Lynette's hummingbird diamond dot picture. [Congratulations!](#)

A big thank you to everyone who entered their items. It is wonderful to have such a variety of entries.

SCHOLARSHIPS-in May, two \$300.00 Iowa County HCE scholarships were awarded to high school students, Hsilee Kohout and Madelyn Steffes.



Hailee



Madelyn

Hailee Kohout, a 4-H member of Red Barn attended Highland High School where she earned a 3.887 GPA and was very active in music, sports, forensics, Spanish club, FBLA, and FFA. Her community service, church activities, tutoring, and summer job impressed the committee. She studied several languages including American sign language. Hailee will attend UW-Madison with a triple major with hopes of being an International financial advisor to businesses and individuals.

Madelyn Steffes earned a 3.79 GPA from Mineral Point H.S. and was active in Music, Drama Club, FFA, and Forensics. She was a Kiwanis Award winner, an Earth Wise officer, and a County Line 4-H Ambassador who shows cattle including at World Dairy Expo. She completed the first step to becoming a future EMT in the Youth Emergency Service Program. Madelyn volunteers at the Community Connections Clinic, performs with the City Band, and in church choir. She had several part-time jobs. She will attend UW-Madison with a Psychology major; wants to be a mental health therapist and work in a rural area.

Our alternate from Highland H.S. and Red Barn 4-H is Caitlyn Fritsch. She will major in Forensic Investigation at UW-Platteville.

This article was printed in the Fall 2026 UPDATE*

IOWA COUNTY HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Iowa County HCE celebrated another successful year in the fall of 2025 and spring of 2026. Despite many changes and challenges, our organization continues as a leadership, educational, and service organization in Iowa County.

Monthly program lessons, offered in many ways, are still a major part of the educational programming. Fall 2025 topics included Hoarding, Collecting or Clutter, Buttons and a Button Craft and Club Choice. 2026 started with a mailed lesson on The Little Heart Project in February.

In March, members visited Aspen Ridge for the lesson –Green Companions: Exploring the World of House Plants. Each member received a plant to take home!

In April, the annual Spring Council meeting was held at the Cobb Community Center, including a business meeting and a Hootenanny led by the Love Sisters. A good time was held by all. Membership awards were presented to Darlene Lindemann for 61 years, Becky Stauffer for 51 years, Sarah Weier for 41 years, and Willie Leonard for 40 years.

Participants also enjoyed the Iowa County Cultural Arts show entries that were displayed and selected both a quilted table topper and a diamond dots picture as Best of Show. The entries were judged prior to the Council meeting, and 12 were selected for the State Show at Eau Claire in September.

Iowa County HCE presented two \$300 scholarships to deserving college students. Funds raised at the annual Culver's Share Day are used for these scholarships.

Iowa County HCE continues their long tradition with Wisconsin Bookworms. HCE purchased the books, and our reader delivered them to the teacher and read the books to the children when possible. Funding from the United Fund of Iowa County assists with the purchase of the books.

Several Iowa County HCE members attended district meetings and the 2025 State HCE Conference. We continue to learn new lessons and activities to use in Iowa County. Jeanne Lisser and Deb Ivey presented two sessions of the "Generations of Change" lesson at the State Conference. Lynette Miess and Deb Ivey assisted with the Cultural Arts judging and the display at the State Conference.

Continuing an effort started in 2022, Iowa County HCE honored the Dodgeville Chronicle, the local weekly newspaper, with the "2026 Friend of HCE Award" for their long-time support for HCE.

HCE continues to be a strong organization thanks to an outstanding HCE board and committed club members who help Iowa County HCE to continue "to make a difference for our members and our communities".

Deb Ivey, Iowa County HCE President

**UPDATE is the WAHCE newspaper*

Iowa County HCE Board Elections – October 2026

We are seeking nominations for the following offices: Vice President, Treasurer, Cultural Arts Chair, and Bookworms Chair. Officers and Chairs will serve for two years – January 2027 through December 2028.

If you wish to nominate someone for an office, please be sure the person is willing to join the board and submit their name and office via mail or email to Jeanne Lisser at lisserj44@hotmail.com or 300 5th Ave, Hollandale, WI 53544 by September 1. The final slate of candidates will be sent to you by email (or mail if you don't have email).

Since we will have a fall meeting on October 8 at the Village Hall in Hollandale, we will hold our Iowa County HCE Board elections in-person that day. If you are unable to attend, you may vote by mail or email to Jeanne Lisser at lisserj44@hotmail.com or 300 5th Ave, Hollandale, WI by October 1.

Current Nominees are:

Vice President (elected for 2-yr term - 2027-2028)

Candidate: Elaine McCann

Treasurer (elected for 2-yr term - 2027-2028)

Candidate: Jeanne Lisser

Cultural Arts Chair (elected for 2-yr term - 2027-2028)

Candidate: Lynette Miess

Bookworms Chair (elected for 2-yr term - 2027-2028)

Candidate: Arlene Eckstrom