

National Volunteer Outreach Network, Inc.

2024 State Reports

Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council



Arkansas has 75 counties which are divided into 3 districts: Delta with 62 clubs, Ouachita with 78 clubs and Ozark with 101 clubs. We have a total of 241 clubs and 2805 members statewide.

Volunteer hours for the past year totaled 398,147.5 hours statewide, with each club choosing their own projects. Some of these were Teaching Dolls for local hospitals, pillows, blankets and other items for heart and cancer patients, homemade bags, blankets and other items for the homeless or foster children, and numerous workshops to teach skills like canning, sewing and crafts. In Arkansas, each volunteer hour is valued at \$33.49, for a total value statewide of \$13,333,959.80. In 2023, EHC groups awarded 27 scholarships with a total value of \$15,550.



We are still feeling the impact of Covid 19 with an increased use of technology to stay connected. Many members now share information via email, text, Facebook, and Pinterest. Some groups are meeting on Zoom and Facebook live as well as in person. Our webpages and material have been updated for accessibility. Currently we have 538 subscribers to our text group, 495 subscribers for the email list and 1526 followers to our Facebook page.

In many counties, EHC partners with 4-H to help teach skills to the youth in our communities. We assist with 4-H club activities and with judging the O’Rama Competitions at the County level. This also lets the older youth know that there is a group they can join as they age out of 4-H to continue their continuing education and leadership development and it helps foster continuing community service projects.

We held our annual state meeting on June 4-6. We had 206 members who registered for the 3-day meeting with 74 members who chose to attend only one day of the conference for a total of 280 total attendees. The meeting included 13 education classes and 5 creative skills classes with our ever-popular Bingo and Anything goes Talent show nights for entertainment.

Submitted by Deb Teague, AEHC President



Florida Association for Home and Community Education

For the 2023 annual report, the Florida Association for Home & Community Education (FAHCE) is proud to highlight a variety of ways that our membership continues to fulfill our mission of strengthening individuals, families, and communities through continuing education, developing leadership and community action.

While our membership numbers are not large, we held a steady membership ending the year with 165 members in 12 counties.

Those 165 members reported a total of 16,030 CVUs (Community Volunteer Units) providing support to their communities through a variety of educational programs, outreach events and hands-on demonstrations. Through these efforts, 28,730 individual people were impacted.

Additionally, the membership actively supported many local non-profit agencies through donations of time, money and talents. Some of the many projects and events included:

- ~ Bibs for Nursing Homes and Elementary School Exceptional Students
- ~ Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Luncheon for Senior Citizen Centers
- ~ 4-H Sewing Workshops
- ~ Personal Hygiene Kits for Domestic Violence Shelters
- ~ Donations of diapers, wipes and other baby items for Pregnancy Centers
- ~ Peanut Butter Drive for local food pantries with matching donation from Peanut Grower's Association
- ~ Participation in County and State Fairs to demonstrate heritage skills
- ~ Donations of school supplies to local area schools

FAHCE passively supports the community through collection of items that are typically disposed of:

- ~ Outdated prescription eyeglasses for the Lion's Club
- ~ Pop Top Tabs for Ronald McDonald House
- ~ Used greeting cards for St. Jude's Children's Hospital Arts program
- ~ Cell phones for Domestic Violence Victims

Fundraising efforts include Spring and Fall Bingo Sessions, Quilt Giveaways, and Raffle Basket Sales. All funds raised support our scholarship programs. In 2023, FAHCE gave \$1,000 scholarships to two qualified applicants.

There were approximately 55 members who attended the 99th FAHCE Conference and one member who attended the ACWW Triennial Conference in Malaysia. District meetings were held with approximately 75 members in attendance.

The amount of support that the University of Florida's Family, Youth and Community Sciences (FYCS) Department and the Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Extension Services provides in support of FAHCE cannot be measured. Between Extension Agents, educational programs and University resources, we have everything we need to continue our mission.

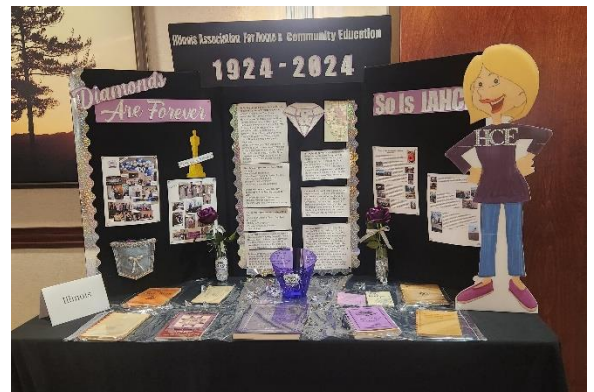
We will be looking forward to celebrating 100 years of FAHCE in 2024.

Illinois Association for Home and Community Education



Greeting from the state of Illinois!

In 2023 as we traveled the Road to 100 in our 99th year, we shared many words of wisdom. Some from years of experience and some from the advice of the women who came before us. In 1997 IAHCE President Joan McEachern, was quoted as saying “The continuing search for knowledge and a volunteering spirit is a powerful combination that can make a positive difference in our lives every day.”



The year-end reports show that our members made a positive difference by providing quality educational lessons and programming which resulted in once again holding steady with minimal loss and much gain! **IAHCE ended with 64 counties; 4,056 members; 322 Actual Gains; and a net loss of 80.**

In 2023 HCE members once again provided support in their communities! **Twenty counties reported serving approximately 323 community organizations with approximately 179,806 items donated. Fifty-seven counties reported a total of 412,291 CVH (Certified Volunteer Hours).** This means innumerable individuals were helped in a variety of ways – for example: scholarships, hats, blankets, stockings, clothes, toys, bibs, walker bags, cards, books, food, etc.! This does not account for county scholarships given to deserving Illinois students nor monetary donations to various organizations throughout Illinois. **IAHCE gave \$500 scholarships to four qualified high school graduates.**

The University of Illinois Extension continues to offer lessons on the internet as well as in-person presentations in some areas. Counties reporting giving many lessons of interest from local sources as well as taking education trips within Illinois as well as in surrounding states.

The 99th IAHCE Conference attendance in 2023 increased. In May of 2023, five IAHCE members attended the ACWW Triennial Conference in Malaysia. In July of 2023, thirteen HCE members attended the NVON Conference in West Virginia. The five district directors visited the counties installing officers. I visited 11 more counties last year for a total of 37 counties in my first 3-year term.

The membership embraced the NVON Project in Common, “Bee-Cause Pollinators Feed the World”! Each county was asked to raise money to support the project in common. It is my pleasure to announce the “queen bees” of Illinois exceeded the challenge of \$1.00 per member. **The first donation check of \$2,508.96 had a double match by Heifer International. The end of year check of \$2,607.94 had a quadruple match by Heifer International!** Counties continue to support the good works of ACWW by continually collecting each month and at special events. Every little bit counts and continues to help someone in need in another country!

The IAHCE Board met in-person 4 times last year and as well as by video conferencing. It should be noted that they are dedicated to serving the membership with enthusiasm and diligence.

The whole IAHCE Board encourages our members to continue the quest for knowledge, their desire to make a difference in their community, and building membership in HCE well into the next century for IAHCE.

Abraham Lincoln said, “The best way to predict the future is to create it.”

Submitted by Angela Hicks, IAHCCE President



Indiana Extension Homemakers Association

Indiana Extension Homemakers marked their 111th year at their Home and Family

Conference in June, 2024. We continue to work on our mission statement: “Strengthening Families through Continuing Education, Leadership Development and Volunteer Community Support”. Each county has offered many educational lessons, volunteered at local charities, and has worked on leadership activities. In addition, we support many state organizations, such as the Riley Hospital Cheer Guild, Indiana Organ Donor Prayer Shawl program, as well as the Center for Families Organization from Purdue University, and the First Books Reading Program for pre-kindergarten age children. In each case, we end up receiving way more that we are giving, because the blessings received are more that we give.



This year we focused on “Getting Connected and Staying Connected”, or the internal need we have to share our lives with others. IEHA is a natural venue for accomplishing this need. If Covid showed us anything, it was that we need people, friends and family. IEHA focuses on developing a small group environment (the local club) through common interests, or specialized activities, such as quilting or book clubs, there is a place for everyone to belong. We also learned to continue to develop relationships with each other through sharing ourselves and our interests,

IEHA also offers a statewide perspective by organizing two meetings in each of 10 districts to share information from each club, county, district and state organizations. Each district meeting had its own theme, from Rosie the Riveter, Women in History, Faith, Family and Friends to the impact and rewards received from intergenerational meetings.

We continued to “Share Kindness” from the 2022=2023 theme by making pocket hearts and randomly giving them away. Well over 200,000 hearts have been given away – locally and internationally. Everyone who received a heart had their day brightened. Pocket hearts were made available at doctor’s offices, veterinary clinics, and libraries. Several people tagged our Indiana Extension Homemakers Facebook page to let us know of their experience.

One effort not to be ignored is our endowment fund for the Center of Cancer Research at Purdue University. At its beginning we thought we might be able to obtain donations in the \$25,000 range. However, our members moved forward to collect more than 10x that amount. While no cure has been identified yet, great strides have been made in developing treatments for those afflicted with this disease,

We continue to grow, and encourage establishing new clubs, as well as strengthening our existing organizations.

Submitted by Peg Peter, outgoing IEHA President



Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association

My second year as President of KEHA has been a great one. I have seen many of our members step up to leadership roles and take responsibility where it was needed. Attending 12 of our 14 area meetings was especially rewarding. As president, meeting members and visiting across the state has been a wonderful experience. I witnessed recognition and awards given to reward members for their contributions and volunteer hours in their communities. Several attendees of the Kentucky Leadership Academy held in March 2023 have stepped up to take offices at the county, area, and state levels. This training is working. This is evidence of strong programs and growth of individuals. Recovery efforts are still ongoing in Western Kentucky from the multiple tornadoes and Eastern Kentucky from the devastating floods last year. Progress is happening!



Our state membership increased again this year to 11,310 members. Our dedication to the University of Kentucky Ovarian Cancer Research has been outstanding. We donated nearly \$45,000 this year. To date we have donated over \$1.67 million dollars to this research program. Our scholarship program is strong with several state and many local scholarships given each year. In Leadership Development, our members reported over 720,000 volunteer hours this year. If converted to dollars per hour, this would be worth \$19.3 million dollars donated to our communities. You make a huge difference!

Officer and chairperson training was reported in all clubs, counties, and all 14 areas. Parliamentary procedure was taught and implemented in most clubs. Many individuals stepped up to present lessons and crafts who had not done so in the past. Most clubs reported they had taught the lessons provided by the University of Kentucky on the subjects that the members themselves had requested when surveyed. Some of the lessons were: technology updates, fraud and scam prevention, leadership skills, edible plants, gardening techniques, physical exercise, healthy eating habits, mental health, food preservation, and many more.

The nine educational programs are strong and provide information, guidance, and contests in which individuals and clubs can participate. Our Cultural Arts programs are thriving on all levels. Last year, 664 entries were competing at our state meeting in 2023, and of these 420 won ribbons. Over 6,000 classes were taught across the state in some form of art which was part of our state program of work. The Environment, Housing, and Energy program of work promoted programs on radon gas, waste management, safe energy, emergency preparedness, safer homes, and community cleanup programs. Food, Nutrition, and Health reported members had over 3,143 mammograms this year and had over 7,000 ovarian screenings and 60 first-time screenings. Physical activity and healthy eating were stressed and over 1,000 children were given healthy food through the food backpack program. Our international program is strong with donations for Coins for Change/Rural Women in Action, Kentucky Academy in Ghana, the bee politization project, and education about many countries around the world. Some clubs study a different country every month. Information was provided at all area meetings on ACWW, NVON, and CWC. More than 20,000 volunteer hours were used in 4-H programs by homemaker members, and 5,148 youth were engaged in 4-H programs. Over \$30,000 was raised and given as camp scholarships. This year, the Family and Individual Development program of work focused on self-care and pampering and strengthening families to alleviate some of life's pressure and stress. A total of 8,317

members responded or participated in the program. Management and Safety reported many lessons on fraud, safety in the home, mental health and stress relief for individuals. Health cards were distributed that detailed medicines and medical conditions that should be known in medical emergencies.

Many members participated in activities such as: jewelry making, crafts, photography, special lunches or dinners to raise money for charities, recipes for life, bake sales, coat and clothing drives, blessing boxes, quilt donations, hats and blankets, helping in food kitchens and food giveaways, veterans' meals and programs, helping with and donating to nursing homes and Hospice, window displays, radio programs, blood drives, first aid and CPR training, and many more. Our KEHA members are invested in their communities. The number of people taught and helped has been tremendous.

Mrs. Kelly May, KEHA state advisor, and the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment has been so supportive. Kelly is knowledgeable, friendly, and a real pleasure to work with. We would not be successful without her. We have Extension Agents in nearly every county in the state. These agents and the University staff provide training, guidance, programs, and information on a variety of topics free to our members. We are so lucky in this state to have this leadership and support structure. This is what keeps us strong. We use our time and talents to help others. We are teachers, students, helpers, and friends. We are Kentucky Extension Homemakers, and we are needed!

Submitted by Brenda R. Hammons, Kentucky President



Michigan Community Education Outreach

After the 2023 NVON Conference MCEO continued to plan our 2024 Convention for the first week of October. Hosted by East Central District, it was held in Owosso, Michigan.

At the Board Meeting during Convention our president resigned as of December 31, 2023. She had one more year in her term. The MCEO Board appointed me to complete that term.

Another change that occurred at that meeting was to combine the North Central and West Upper Peninsula Districts into one. Its name is the Northern District. There are now only four Districts in the State. A new District Director was appointed to cover the Northern District.

Our membership for this year is somewhat higher than last year's at 150.

Throughout the winter our convention committee has worked on the 2024 Convention. The site of the Convention is Albion, Michigan, located in Southwest District. The theme is "Everything Old Is New Again". It will be held the first week of October.

Three newsletters have been produced since the last NVON Conference. Copies can be found on our website. www.mceo.website

In May our District Meetings were held. The Executive Committee attended all four of these meetings. Our Vice-President of Education prepared a morning presentation for all districts called "The Newest Craze...Anxiety", about anxiety in teens and children. Our Target Banner was displayed at each of the four



districts and explained. This format of information was received well by those present. The afternoon programs were widely varied. 1)One was on “Rosie the Riveter”, about the women during WWII who worked in the factories to complete planes and munitions for the War Effort. 2)Another was on how to communicate with Alzheimer’s patients. 3)One presenter was the owner of a garden center. She gave us a look at new flowers on the market and several tips about gardens, including recipes and treatments that can be made at home for improvements in our plants. 4)One group hosted a musical program similar to the “Sweet Adelines”. Each District Meeting provided useful and educational information plus a terrific time for everyone.

Our annual raffle was completed in 2023 with good sales. We print 1000 tickets and sell as many as we can by the end of July. In August through the first week of October we do 10 weekly prize drawings of \$100.00 each. This is our only Statewide fundraiser, but several individual MCEO groups do fundraisers for themselves.

We are proud to say that we have seven representatives here from Michigan this year...our best showing since we joined NVON.

We encourage volunteerism as much as possible to benefit our communities. Though we do not log them now, we know that thousands of hours are contributed annually. Churches, schools, women’s resource centers, pregnancy centers, service groups, Commissions on Aging, veterans, and much more receive the benefits of MCEO donations of time, goods, and finances. We may be small, but we ARE mighty!

Submitted by Sheri Drake, MCEO President

North Carolina Extension and Community Association, Inc.



NCSU, including all its colleges and NC State Extension have undergone strategic planning. As a partner, we had an enormous opportunity and spent 2023 in strategic planning mode.

Nonprofits, to remain viable need to periodically reevaluate their structure, vision, purpose and direction. It allows us to set priorities, focus our energy and resources, strengthen our operations, ensure that are working toward common goals, and assess and adjust the NCECA’s direction in response to a changing environment.

During the process, we worked with Community and Rural Development specialists at NCSU. We surveyed agents and our membership via a paper evaluation. We presented and had focus groups with our FCS Agents, those with ECA in their counties and those without. We held both virtual and in-person sessions for our members. Once we gathered the information, a Strategic Plan was developed, tweaked, voted on at State Conference and tweaked some more! In January 2024 we began the journey of implementing the plan.



Our Bylaws, Policies and Procedures and other documents had to be revised and will be voted on at our State Conference in July.

We are excited about the energy and direction that NCECA is taking. We have loosened our archaic requirements for leadership that were put in place when most of our members were stay at home housewives. Most of our members now come from the world of work and bring with them many leaderships skills and organizational knowledge. We also will embrace technology by offering more virtual learning opportunities and lessons on demand. The attendance at our five district meetings averages about two or three times the

number attending State Conference; therefore, our State Conference will be a biennial event with more emphasis placed on beefing up our district meetings.

During this time our long time NCSU Association Advisor underwent a change as well. We are thrilled to have Peggie Garner, a retired County Extension Director assume this responsibility!

All the while, our 95 clubs with 1100 members continued to work diligently, as those members before them, to identify the needs of their communities and rally the resources to meet those needs. They exemplify the mission of NCECA “to strengthen families and communities through leadership development, community action and educational support from NCSU and NC A&T State.”

Members have contributed over 75,000 hours in support of NC State Extension programming and over 100,000 hours volunteering with our community partners, such as schools, senior centers, civic organizations, food pantries, civil servants, community gardens, etc., thereby contributing \$4.4 million to North Carolina.

When we were not strengthening our families and communities and strategic planning, we were planning conferences. To avoid executing two large conferences in one year, we moved our State Conference from October to July to kick off the NVON Conference. Our members contributed many volunteer hours to ensure we are gracious hosts as we welcome you all to beautiful North Carolina!

Submitted by Wanda Denning, NCECA President



South Carolina Family and Community Leaders

Did you ever think you would belong to an organization that was 103 years strong? What was the attraction to join? How long have YOU been a member? Have you recently asked someone to attend a meeting and have them join YOUR club? SCFCL has increased by 51 new members totaling 501 members so far this year. Maybe your club or county can organize a “membership drive” or “party” inviting someone from your church, a neighbor or a friend to visit. They might be your next NEW MEMBER.

SCFCL gives “Individual Membership Certificates” to members who have reached the 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, and, 70 year marks in membership. At the end of last year, we awarded 6 (25 year certificates), 4 (30 year certificates), 4 (40 year certificates), 2 (45 year certificates) and 5 (65 year certificates). Now where can you find wonderful, interesting, long time, dedicated members like these if you don’t recruit them?



In January, we initiated an old project of keeping track of our volunteer hours. It has been many years since we kept track. We updated our old forms, introduced them to our members, and placed the forms on our website for easy access. Each county has a representative to complete the online form in June and December. More than half the counties filled out the forms and we’re very pleased with the times recorded. Since January 1, our members have volunteered 8,057 hours @ \$31.50ph for a total of \$253,805.00 donated free toward communities in our state.

A suggestion from several members at a district meeting last year was to receive the by-annual newsletters by email (Go Paperless). We now offer for members to sign up to receive newsletters by email and it is working out very well. Anyone/visitors can download the newsletter by visiting (scfcl.com) and it's even in color.

One copy of the 2024 Education Lessons was given out to county presidents at the 2023 Annual Meeting. Lessons cover a wide range of topics which includes the following lessons: All About Air Fryers; Balance and Coordination; Eating Healthy with Diabetes; Hidden Treasures in the Gardens of South Carolina; Plant-Based Diet; Preparation for Spring Herb Garden; Sourdough Starter-More Than Just for Bread. Lessons are suggested by members, selected by the SCFCL Education Committee, prepared by members, professionals or Extension Staff then reviewed and given to each county president at the Annual Meeting. 2025 Lessons have already been selected, prepared, reviewed and being printed for distribution in October at the SCFCL Annual Meeting. It is hoped that by supplying Education Lessons, information learned will improve the quality of life for members, their families and beyond.

2022-2024 State Project, Bee-Cause Pollinators Feed the World information is also on the SCFCL website. Over \$277 dollars has been contributed toward the Heifer International Project (\$1.00 per member donation) fund. SCFCL hopes by the end of 2024 that we will have 100% participation for these efforts. Report forms and a list of suggested activities can be downloaded. SCFCL Facebook contains photos of activities and events performed by members for sharing.

We have 40 clubs across the state with members keeping busy volunteering in communities where they live. Education Lessons are used to educate members on topics of interest to better improve the quality of life for them and their families. Some of the activities they support are: SisterCare, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army Teddy Bears for Christmas, Christmas Stuffed Stockings filled with items for kids, volunteer at nursing homes, organize and fill food into bags for Food Banks, drive handicapped friends to hospital visits, fundraise for scholarships, host for community events, just to mention a few. We have several members who have done outstanding service projects in their county (all in one year) for instance, Renare Fulton crocheted 78 lap blankets and Ferrie Ward crocheted over 200 baby caps donating these to those in need.

With our state segmented into three districts (Coastal, Central, Foothills), each district meets in the spring for members to share events, activities and projects with attendees. It is an opportunity to briefly brag about a successful project or highlight an upcoming event of interest. The meeting is also a time to share SCFCL awards, needed organizational concerns, socialize with long-time friends and enjoyed delicious, covered-dish meals prepared by host members.

Our 2024 Annual Meeting is October 25 in Newberry, SC. Newberry County members stepped up to make the meeting possible when the Conference Chair and County Treasurer, Doriece McMorris passed away suddenly. Thanks to the support of our State Advisor, the meeting will go on as planned. During the 2023 one-day meeting, over 80 members from all counties enjoyed fellowship, learning and sharing of new ideas. Host, Sumter County invited Dr. Windsor Westbrook Sherrill of Clemson University to present the keynote address highlighting SCFCL's 100+ year history and our partnership with Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. Another highlight was to allow each county to honor a member or members in the county with a display of how valuable they are/were to the county. The displays brought back many memorable moments we don't want to forget.

SCFCL supports two \$1,000 scholarships for SC high school 4-H students when attending a college of their choice. The student's scholarships are announced at the Annual State 4-H Congress Awards Banquet at Clemson University. SCFCL members are proud to support 4-H kids as they are our leaders of tomorrow.

This year SCFCL had a recipient of the Buff-Swicegood Travel Study Award, Betty Osgood from Charleston County. She used the award money for her travel-study trip to Fairbanks, Alaska February 26-March 4. It was the "Alaska 4-H Summit" where she hoped to learn the geography of the area, culture of the people, expand

leadership skills, learn new program ideas not only for 4-H but especially for SCFCL. She will make a PowerPoint Presentation at SCFCL's Annual Meeting and prepare an education lesson from experiences she learned during her trip. During the trip, it was frigid COLD, minus 34°, but she came home in good shape with all fingers and toes with a greater appreciation of our pleasant South Carolina weather.

It takes lots of help to make an organization successful. As you can see, SCFCL has been around for a long time with many dedicated members working toward the mission to improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities through fellowship, education and service.



SCFCL LOGO

The CIRCLE OF ROPE represents the organization's heritage. The individual strands that make up the rope represent people who, through the years, have worked together for a common goal thus creating a strong organization.

The TRIANGLE represents the three-fold motto of the organization: dedication, education, and service. It extends beyond the circle indicating that the organization reaches out beyond the family to the people of our communities, nation, and world.

The LETTERS (SCFCL) represent the name of the organization, South Carolina Family and Community Leaders.

Submitted by Pat Breznay, SCFCL President



West Virginia Community Educational Outreach Service, Inc.

The West Virginia Community Educational Outreach Service has reached another milestone in their history. In 2024, our organization is celebrating 110 years of strengthening homes, and positively influencing our communities through leadership and volunteer programs.

As the 2023-24 President of the West Virginia Community Educational Outreach, I have had the privilege of traveling throughout the state to various area meetings, planning meetings, conferences, etc. and have met positive, active members who are working to promote continuing education, leadership development and community involvement.



Membership numbers are holding steady with a total 2024 membership of 1803. 100 of these members are 50-year members and beyond.

Our Marketing and Membership Committee's main objective is to recruit and retain members by increasing motivation and communication, and branding and revitalizing our organization.

As a part of our Families and Health Committee's Plan of Action, members have made and contributed care kits to various agencies for displaced children, awarded 4-H camp scholarships, provided tray favors for local nursing homes and hospice centers, made monetary and food items donations to food pantries throughout the state, contributed to "Blessing Boxes" for the needy, supplied drinking water to local fire departments, etc.

Our Continuing Education Committee strives to promote educational opportunities for all.

Each year, a virtual Spring Mini Conference is held, and our Fall Leadership and Enrichment Conference is held at WVU Jackson's Mill in October. Each conference provides various educational opportunities for our members.

In partnership with the WVU Extension, our members are provided monthly lessons that are written by our WVU Extension Agents.

Through our Purposeful Reading Committee an on-line book club meeting is held each month where selected books are reviewed and discussed.

The Purposeful Reading Committee also provides an opportunity for members to showcase their writing skills by promoting a short story and poetry contest. Entries are submitted to the committee by September 1 of each year and the winners are announced at our Fall Leadership and Enrichment Conference.

In keeping with our mission and purpose of strengthening families, promoting lifelong learning, leadership development and community involvement, the West Virginia Community Educational Outreach Service offers four academic scholarships to West Virginia college students in the Human Services/Education and Nursing fields of study. This year three scholarships were awarded in the Human Services/Education field of study and one in Nursing.

I am happy to report that members of the WVCEOS reported a total of 383,000 volunteer hours of service to their communities, etc. in 2023.

In partnership with the West Virginia University Extension Service, we pledge to be productive contributors in meeting the needs of our changing and diverse society.

Submitted by Clinedda Austin, WVCEO President

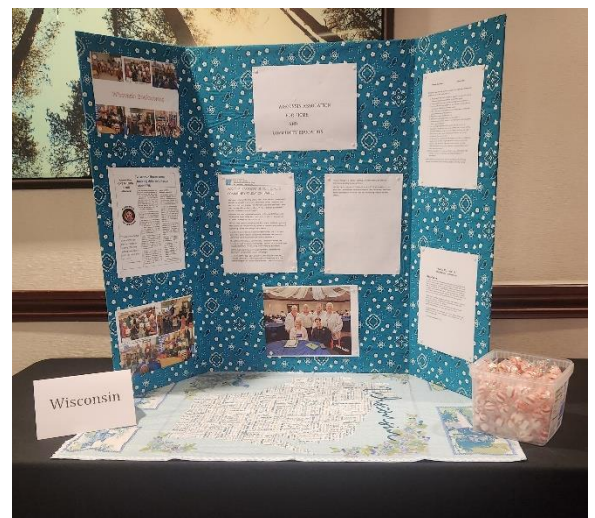


Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education

We have a new Membership Chair, Sheryl Smith. She has come up with a lot of new ideas to promote our origination. One of them is to put signs up in our yards that say HCE Member Lives Here. They are like the ones that say 4-H member lives here. We have ordered 100 of these signs to sell at conference this year.

Southeast has been busy working on the conference, for this year. It will be at the Paper Valley Hotel and conference Center in Appleton. It's called Experiencing the Magic of HCE.

We will have 2 educational programs. First one is called Milk, Mail, and Medications. It's about preparing to care for the what, why and how of supporting a loved one through a health crisis.



Second one is called Social Isolation and Loneliness. The US Surgeon General has declared social isolation and loneliness a health crisis. Learn more about this epidemic and how to deal with it.

The WAHCE International Committee has sent money for the bee keeping through the Wisconsin/Nicaragua partners. In Nicaragua it cost about \$600.00 for 1 hive including the bee keeping equipment.

WAHCE is also sending gardening equipment to the Home and Community Centers in the villages in Nicaragua.

At the end of the 2024-2025 school year, the amount will be 987,000 books to 104 children. The Wisconsin Bookworms program is fast approaching the One Million Book milestone! YEAH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This is ending my 3 years as WAHCE State President, it's been an interesting and learning experience.

WE will be hosting the NVON Conference in 2026, at the Wintergreen Hotel and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. We have a few ideas for the conference. It will be a fun and interesting time for all who attend.

Submitted by Eileen Gottbeheat, WAHCE President
