



# VISION



Volume 8 Issue 7

January 2025

NVON Newsletter



“Judge not by your harvest, but by the seeds you planted”  
PLANT MANY SEEDS  
~ Jane Chapman ~  
NVON President

## **Jane’s Seeds for Thought...**

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a very special and happy holiday season! Mine was very nice but not being a shopper it is a stressful time for me! If I would start sooner it might help, week before is not good!

“Make Time”, is the new theme for the 2025 Illinois HCE year. The more I think about that theme the more I see the importance in it and how It really works in well with the new Project in Common for NVON – Mental Health Awareness and Mental Health Well Being.

When I was working, I had a customer call me and asked me to come to his farm to help him make some decisions about what to use on his crops. It was springtime and we were extremely busy at work and really couldn’t get away at that time. I told him I could come later in the day and I thought he seemed okay with that, although he was a little reluctant to agree. Before I could get out to see him, he committed suicide. I think about this incident every once in a while, and seeing the new IAHCE theme is one of those times,

when I think why didn’t I “make time” to go see this farmer when he called. I am not sure it would have made any difference as he was having marital problems besides it being springtime and a very busy time for farmers plus, he stressed easily. I have learned since then that the biggest cause of death of farmers is suicide. Why didn’t I “make time”?

Another time my husband and I were leaving to go somewhere and we passed a neighbor whose fencerow was on fire. We both commented about it and wondered if we should check it out but we also knew that this neighbor burned things all the time. Well, when we returned home later in the day, my neighbors barn had burned down. The wind got up and carried that fencerow fire, which was a good distance from the barn, to the barn and caught it on fire! Again, that IAHCE theme “Make Time” makes me aware that we could have possibly saved the barn if we had made the time to just call and inquired.

How many of you ‘make time” to plant seeds about your organization to non-members? How many of you “make time” to do your part in helping the membership grow? How many of you “make time” to visit with your elderly family member or neighbor? How many of you “make time” for our family or even yourself? Perhaps we all need to sit down as we start this new year and make a list of the things we will “make time” for in this new year that we intended to do, but never made the time to do, this past year!

Wreaths Across America (WAA) is one of the most rewarding experiences that I have ever participated in. If you do not know what it is, I will tell you. On December 14, 2024 at 4,909 locations across America over nine million wreaths were laid on Veteran’s graves. All these wreaths were to be laid at the corresponding time of noon in Washington, DC where the wreath laying ceremony at Arlington Cemetery began. I got the cemetery that I oversee involved in the WAA and we laid two hundred wreaths at the cemetery in the rain and cold. I was amazed at the number of people who came out in the elements to help lay the wreaths and attend the

*(Continued on page 3)*



## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OUTREACH NETWORK BOARD

### Executive Committee

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### State Presidents

#### Arkansas Extension

##### Homemakers Council

July 1, 2024- June 30, 2026

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Phone: 870.637.2191

[debjteague@yahoo.com](mailto:debjteague@yahoo.com)

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Jan. 1, 2024 - Dec. 31, 2027

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March 2021 - March 2027

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#### Indiana Extension

##### Homemakers Association

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

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[markandlindac@gmail.com](mailto:markandlindac@gmail.com)

#### Kentucky Extension

##### Homemakers Association

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025

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Phone: 859.338.1533

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##### Education Outreach

Jan. 1, 2024 - Dec. 31, 2025

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Phone: 231.459.8633

[dsdrake527@gmail.com](mailto:dsdrake527@gmail.com)

#### North Carolina Extension and

##### Community Association, Inc.

Jan. 1, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2026

**Dorothy Wagstaff**

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[dorothy\\_wagstaff@yahoo.com](mailto:dorothy_wagstaff@yahoo.com)

#### South Carolina Family and Community Leaders

Jan. 1, 2018 - Dec. 31, 2026

**Pat Breznay**

6 Valhalla Court

Columbia, SC 29229

Phone: 803.736.6535

[pbreznay@sc.rr.com](mailto:pbreznay@sc.rr.com)

#### West Virginia Community

##### Educational Outreach Service

Jan. 1, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2026

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Clarksburg, WV 26301

Phone: 304.623.0615

[wolfsinwv@yahoo.com](mailto:wolfsinwv@yahoo.com)

#### Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education

Jan. 1, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2028

**Phoebe Shourds**

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### Appointed Board Members

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(Continued from page 1)

ceremony that was held prior to the laying. The ceremony is part of the WAA as the script honors all the branches of the military with a special wreath and the branch flag attached. We were able to have representatives from the Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, Space Force and Air Force present. We had local boy scouts present the colors and fill in for the missing branches of service plus the MIA/POW one. On our own we placed three other wreaths during the ceremony honoring the sixty-five Civil War Veterans we have buried there, the two DAR ladies and a former commander of the local VFW. The person presenting the Civil War wreath was dressed in Union army attire. The Star-Spangled Banner was played on a violin by a local youth and Taps was played at the end by a local youth, both 4-H members.

What is amazing is that our wreaths came all the way from Maine. They are balsam wreaths with a red ribbon attached. The wreaths are to be placed so the ribbon is at noon, it symbolizes the blood shed by the Veteran. The wreaths arrived in a huge tractor trailer rig that was headed to his home in Iowa. The drivers as well as the trucking company are all donated. Another local Catholic Cemetery that was participating for the first time had their wreaths delivered to the Catholic school. All the school children came out and cheered for the driver! He came to my house after that and was still excited about the school delivery and all the little kids sitting along the curb cheering for him! I highly suggest each of you get involved next year, the date is December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The mission of the WAA is – Remember-Honor-Teach- and believe me it taught my self and many others the true meaning of honor and respect for this country and the ones who died for us.

I hope many of you are planning on attending the NVON conference this coming July. Illinois is the host state and have worked very hard to make this a conference that is fairly low cost but still high class. Low cost is hard to find now days, especially in Illinois. Remember to share the conference info with all the membership in your respective locations as they are all members, too, even though they may not receive this newsletter! “Make Time” to get the word out about the conference, the new Project in Common, as well as the fact that BEE -CAUSE Pollinators Feed the World is still going on and raising funds for beehives.

Later, Jane

## NVON PROJECT IN COMMON

The new Project in Common for NVON kicked off January 1, 2025, and will run through December 31, 2027. This Project’s focus will be Mental Health Awareness and Wellbeing. The Theme is

### ***Break the Stigma, Ignite Hope. Mental Health Matters.***

The goal is to increase awareness in our communities through:

- \* Education and programs
- \* Mental health first aid trainings
- \* Sponsoring community events
- \* Fundraising for local and national mental health groups
- \* Partnering with other organization and businesses to promote mental health awareness.

There are 8 Dimensions of Wellness:

- \* Physical Wellness
- \* Emotional Wellness
- \* Social Wellness
- \* Intellectual Wellness
- \* Environmental Wellness
- \* Spiritual Wellness
- \* Occupational Wellness
- \* Financial Wellness



All dimensions interconnect with one another and are equally important in obtaining holistic well-being. We can reach ultimate wellness by fully understanding and working towards optimizing each dimension.

*Learning about the various dimensions can help you choose how to make wellness a part of your everyday life.*

(Continued on page 7)

# 2025 NVON Conference

## Planting Many Seeds . . . Expect Growth

### July 8 – 10, 2025

Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center  
3280 Northfield Drive  
Springfield, IL 62702  
217-523-7900

**Book by June 7, 2025** Room Rate \$109 + taxes King or 2 Queen Beds

- Hotel Amenities:
- \* Free Parking
  - \* Free Wi-Fi
  - \* Extended Continental Breakfast
  - \* Indoor Pool
  - \* Fitness Center
  - \* Compact refrigerator & microwave
  - \* Restaurants within walking Distance

Experience the charm of Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center nestled in a quiet setting 8 minutes away from downtown Springfield, IL. Located right off of I-55 at exit 100B (Sangamon Avenue), you are minutes away from the Illinois State Fairgrounds, Abraham Lincoln Capitol Airport and all other points of interest in Springfield. Complimentary Shuttle Service to the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport and Train Station accessible by contacting the hotel.

Booking link: You can find this information on the NVON website use code: IAHCE070725

Getting to Springfield, Illinois:

- \* By Plane – Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport, 1200 Capital Airport Dr., 217-788-1060, flyspi.com
  - \* American Airlines – aa.com
  - \* Allegiant Airlines – allegiantair.com
  - \* Breeze Airlines – flybreeze.com
- \* By Train – AMTRAK, 100 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., amtrak.com
- \* By Car – Follow your GPS to

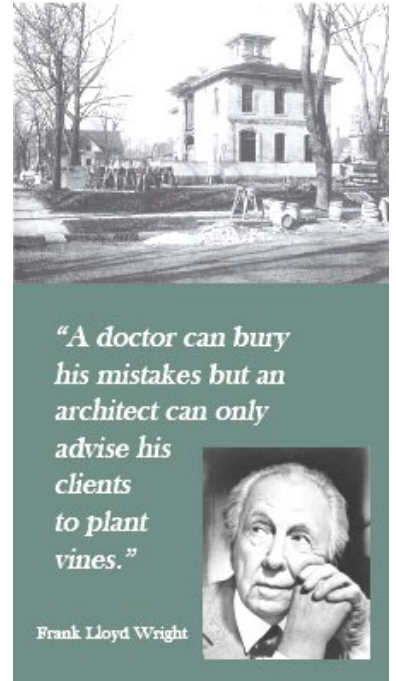
Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center  
3280 Northfield Drive  
Springfield, IL 62702  
217-523-7900



## TOURS

**TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025**

1. The Dana-Thomas House - The **Dana-Thomas House** (DTH) was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1902 for Susan Lawrence Dana, a forward-thinking socialite living in Springfield, Illinois. Tour the home. Limit of 15 per tour. Tour and transportation \$20 per person. Lunch will be at the Conference Center.



2. **Lincoln Library/Museum, Old State Capitol, Lincoln Law Offices, Old Train Station** – You will be transported to the downtown Springfield area to enjoy a walking tour of Springfield. See as much as you wish! Limit of 30. Transportation \$10 per person. Lunch will be at the Conference Center.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025**

### Spouse Tour

“Get Your Kicks on Rt. 66” continues for a nostalgic trip to **Motor Heads, Rt. 66 Display at the Fairgrounds, Ace Signs**. Transportation \$10 per person. Lunch will be at Conference Center.



## ENTERTAINMENT/SPEAKERS

**Illinois Day Tuesday, July 8, 2025**

**Luncheon Entertainment** — After lunch join us in the hotel parking lot for a “Get Your Kicks on Rt. 66” Show and Shine Car Show. Step back in time to view the vintage cars of yesteryear! Dress up if you like or come as you are! Enjoy a cool and refreshing Kona Ice which is nutritious and delicious as you walk around viewing the vintage cars!



**Dinner Entertainment** — **Mary Todd Lincoln** played by Ms. Pam Brown of Springfield, IL . “Taking Leave” May 22, 1865, Mary is preparing to leave the White House for the last time. Her heart is heavy, and her memories are great.

**Wednesday, July 9**

**Luncheon Speaker** —Cheri Burcham, University of Illinois Extension Educator and IAHCE Liaison – **Weathering the Storm**



Cheri Burcham is responsible for family life programming in the counties of Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie, Shelby and other parts of east central Illinois as needed. Cheri’s emphasis is on healthy lifestyles throughout the life span which include family relationships, communication, caregiving, stress management and human development including early childhood and healthy aging. Her passion is to help people to be their best selves and to promote a healthier, independent older population.

**Evening Speaker** —Dawn Morris, Red Cross Executive Director – **The Heart of Volunteering: Planting Seeds of Hope**



Dawn Morris is the Executive Director of the South and West-Central Illinois Red Cross Chapter, serving 33 counties in both Illinois and Missouri.

Before coming to the Red Cross almost 6 years ago, Dawn was the Executive Director of a much smaller organization. Her focus was on serving poverty-stricken women and children in crisis. Dawn was a domestic violence professional, trainer and facilitator for Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World. Gaining substantial experience working with the houseless population.

Nothing has been more fulfilling in her life than the role of being a mother. She is the proud mother of three young men and the Jamma of 10 beautiful grandbabies. However, this motherly love goes beyond her immediate family- she continues to lead the Red Cross Organization just as she has led her children- with love, empathy, and an open mind. Dawn is nothing more than an ordinary person, who believes our world is a better place when compassion can travel where it is needed the most. Which is why Dawn is always one of the first to raise her hand and deploy. She has deployed to the Oregon Wildfires, Hurricane IDA, Kentucky Tornadoes, Hurricane IAN, with her most recent being the Lahaina Wildfires.

Dawn has completed three full marathons, several half marathons, a triathlon and a 9/11 memorial run which included 110 flights of stairs.

## Thursday, July 10

### Luncheon Speaker — Sue Busler, Pastor and Retired USAFR Colonel

#### Pearls of Wisdom

Sue typically uses humor to convey her message to the audience in such a way that each of you will walk away with a smile and feeling positive!

Mrs. Busler is a Distinguished Military Graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, Class of 1980, the first class with women. In addition to a Bachelor of Science Degree in Humanities from USAFA, Sue also holds a Master of Science Degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She is a former Colonel at USAFR Retired.

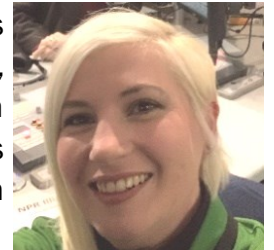


Sue works at Certified Lay Speaker United Methodist Church and served as a volunteer with various organizations. Most importantly, she is a wife, mother, and grandmother who instills humor into everyday life sometimes with the help of her family!

### Evening Speaker — Lauren Gleason, Volunteer Coordinator IDNR – OLM

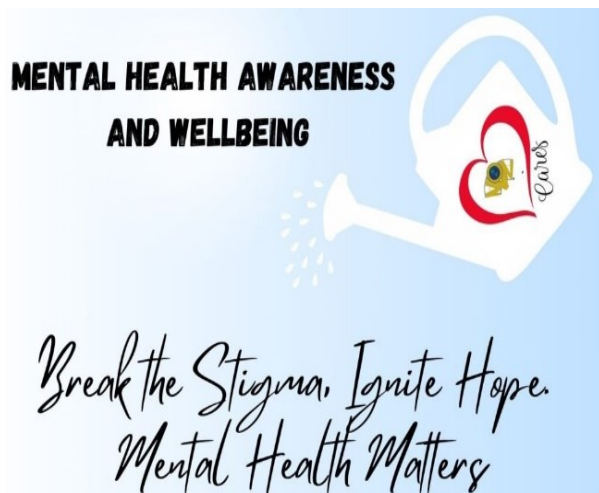
#### State Historic Sites at Springfield – Lincoln's Legends and Lore

Lauren is the volunteer coordinator for the State Historic Sites of Springfield. She has been with the sites in various roles for 7 years. Lauren began as an historical interpreter, giving tours of our sites to visitors. Then was on the building and grounds team helping with site beautification, maintenance, and restoration projects. Currently, she oversees volunteer recruitment, training, and scheduling for the various sites and coordinates with the support organizations to implement special event and holiday programming.



She is originally from Taylorville, IL and went to college at LLCC, ISU and UIS studying Anthropology and Sociology with a minor in Philosophy. Lauren is aiming to go back to UIS next fall to pursue a master's degree in public administration. She lives in Jerome with her husband Ryan, who also is a State of Illinois employee.

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Project information and links are available on the NVON Website. Please visit their page and click the links for further information for yourself as well as information that can be shared with your clubs and counties. There are specific topic links such as *Farm Stress & Mental Health: Where Can You Turn?* and *Creating a Healthier Life: A Step-By-Step Guide to Wellness*. There is a Mental Health Awareness and Mental Health Wellbeing Report Form available .

We encourage you to visit NVON's website and check out this project, share with your clubs and counties, and make plans to learn more about this important topic that affects each one of us.

# EDUCATION SEMINARS & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS

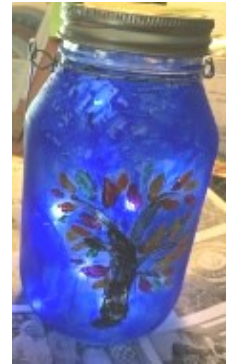
WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025

2:00 – 3:00pm

**Wits Workout Seminar** – Chelsey Byers and Molly Hofer, University of Illinois Extension Family Life Educators. Come and learn about *Wits Workout*, an interactive brain health curriculum. *Wits Workout* is designed to be led by volunteers or other community leaders. *Wits* is designed in a “workout” format consisting of four interactive pen-and-paper activities and a short educational topic that addresses cognitive health. *Wits Workout* helps bring older adults together to increase their socialization and intellectual engagement, which are both lifestyle contributors to brain health.

**Oscar Mayer Weiner Mobile Seminar** – Amber Johnson – FRANKtastic lesson on the history of this WIENERific icon. Amber will RELISH sharing her extensive collection of memorabilia. Come MEAT the “Wienermobile Queen” herself! FRANKs a BUNs.

**Mason Jar w/ Lights** – Paint a mason jar and add solar lights to finish off project. You can use stencils if you can’t draw, or you can free hand your own design. Taught by Dorothy Holt, Massac County HCE, Illinois. Limit 30 people. Cost \$6.00.



3:30 – 4:30pm

**Chocolate Seminar** – Stephanie Jerabek, CWC USA Vice-Chairman  
CHOCOLATE: Do I have your attention now? Learn about the exciting history of chocolate, how it is made and why we love it. Samples available. \$5 fee

**Natives as Pollinators Seminar** – Robbin Nickelson, Happy Trails Garden & Design  
This program will encourage incorporating native plants to the landscape supporting local fauna and other environmental causes. We’ll discuss some differences in Nativars vs. true Natives and review some of the best pollinators for your area. The steps landowners should take to be successful in transforming their current landscapes to more eco-friendly habitats, will also be shared.



**Stitched Christmas Cards** – Crafters will make 2 stitched Christmas cards with provided materials.

Taught by Janel Kassing, Randolph County HCE, Illinois. No limit. Cost \$5.00



# EDUCATION SEMINARS & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS

Thursday, July 10, 2025

2:00 – 3:00pm

**Food Labels and Proper Food Storage Seminar** – Stephanie Jerabek, CWC USA Vice-Chairman

What you need to know about the labels on the foods you purchase and how to store your foods properly.

**Bees...Me? Seminar** – Wayne Beck, Community Education Coordinator of the Family Beekeepers of Illinois (FBI)

Learn how bees affect our food supply, a bee's life cycle, the social caste in a bee colony, basic beekeeping equipment, and a hive full of bee trivia. The presentation will include an observation hive and honey sampling directly from the hive.

**Blingy Wine Bottle** – Transform an empty blue wine bottle into a decorative centerpiece using purchased BLING. Taught by Sally Dennis, Macon County HCE, Illinois. Limit 10 people. Cost \$10



3:30 – 4:30pm

**The Hummingbird – Living on the Edge Seminar**– Jo Fessett from the Illinois Audubon Society

The hummingbird is a favorite backyard visitor. But behind that tiny jeweled, ever moving body lies a tough little character. Learn about their natural history, how to attract them to your yard and what lies ahead for these charming creatures who must continually adapt to the effects of climate change.

**Petersburg...My Heart's Home Seminar** – Kathy Olesen

What does the Circus, A Record Setting Quarter horse, the MOST Tomato Canning in the World and the Home of Edgar Lee Masters AND Abe Lincoln have in common....Petersburg. Come learn the colorful history and find out about the present and future of his beautiful central Illinois town.

**Diamond Painting** – Learn to paint with “diamonds”! Diamond paint a set of 2 Mandela style coasters. Taught by Emily McDowell, Madison County HCE, Illinois. Limit 10 people. Cost \$5.00.



# AGENDA

## Plant Many Seeds – Expect Growth”

### Monday, July 7

Early Arrivers

3:00pm

Hotel Check-in

5:00pm – 9:00pm

\*\* Registration \*\* State Display Set-up \*\* Receive Silent Auction Items \*\*

6:00pm

Meet & Greet – Cold Hors d’oeuvres served

### Tuesday, July 8

8:00am – 4:00pm

\*\* Registration \*\* State Display Set-up \*\* Receive Silent Auction Items \*\*

9:00am – 11:30am

Tours

12:00 Noon

Lunch at Hotel

1:30pm

NVON Board Meeting

2:00pm – 4:00pm

“Get Your Kicks on Rt. 66” Show and Shine Car Show in Parking Lot

6:00pm

Illinois Night – Mary Todd

### Wednesday, July 9

8:00am – 4:00pm

\*\* Registration \*\* State Display Set-up \*\*

9:00am – 11:30am

Spouses Tour – “Get Your Kicks on Rt. 66”

9:00am – 11:00am

NVON Conference Opening Session and Business Meeting

12:00 Noon

Luncheon – Cheri Burcham, University of Illinois Extension Educator & IAHCE Liaison

1:30pm – 5:00pm

ACWW Silent Auction - Bidding Begins

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Educational Seminars

\*Wits Workout \*Oscar Mayer Weiner Mobile \*Craft-Mason Jar w/Lights

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Education Seminars

\*Chocolate \*Natives as Pollinators \*Craft-Stitched Christmas Cards

6:00pm

Dinner – Dawn Morris, Red Cross Executive Director

8:00pm – 10:00pm

ACWW Silent Auction – Bidding Opportunities

### Thursday, July 10

8:00am – 4:00pm

\*\* Registration \*\* State Displays Set-up \*\*

8:00am – 11:30am

ACWW Silent Auction

9:00am – 11:00am

NVON Business Meeting

12:00 Noon

Luncheon – Sue Busler, Pastor and Retired USAFR Colonel

1:30pm – 3:30pm

ACWW Silent Auction – Last Chance to Bid, Closes at 3:30pm (Pick up after Banquet)

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Educational Seminars

\*Food Labels and Proper Storage \*BEES...Me? \*Craft-Blingy Wine Bottles

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Educational Seminars

\*Hummingbirds – Living on the Edge \*Petersburg...My Heart’s Home \*Craft-Diamond Painting

6:00pm

Dinner – Lauren Gleason, Volunteer Coordinator IDNR-OLM-State Historic Sites

After the Banquet, winning bidders please pick up your ACWW Auction items. State Displays should be removed.

***Thank you for visiting Illinois! Have a Safe Trip Home!***



National Volunteer Outreach Network, INC.

HANDBOOK ORDER FORM

Mail NVON Handbook(s) to:

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_
CITY \_\_\_\_\_
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_
E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NVON Handbook (s) Requested \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$3 each
Postage and handling per book @ \$1 each \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed

Mail order form with check to NVON President

Jane Chapman
936 Hollyhock Road
Coulterville, IL 62237
Phone: 618.317.2727
E-Mail: eianec50@gmail.com

The NVON Handbook is printed every three years during the year of the President-Elect by the President. The Handbook is updated annually and placed on the website. The Handbook contains the history of NVON and its historical documents. It contains its Bylaws, mission statement, official colors, and the meaning of the NVON logo. The NVON Board's contact info is included along with a list of NVON Past Executive Committee Members and Appointed Positions, NVON Meetings held at CWC, NVON Conferences and their themes, NVON Projects in Common, NVON Voting Delegates at Triennial Conferences, NVON Members elected to the ACWW



National Volunteer Outreach Network,

VISION

NVON Newsletter

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VISION Subscription is \$18.00 for three years, Nine Newsletters,

January 1 — December 31.

Make checks payable to: National Volunteer Outreach Network, Inc.



National Volunteer Outreach Network, INC.

# VISION

NVON Newsletter

NVON VISION Editor  
c/o Patty Coonrod  
6640 North 1100 East  
Idaville, Indiana 47950



## Member Organizations working together to promote Communication, Education, & Volunteerism for all people

### NVON Member State Conferences/Meetings

#### Arkansas EHC

June 3-5, 2025  
*Holiday Inn, Little Rock  
Airport Conf. Center  
Little Rock, Arkansas*

#### Florida FAHCE

April 7-9, 2025  
*Best Western Gateway  
Grand  
Gainesville, Florida*

#### Illinois IAHCE

March 11-13, 2025  
*Thelma Keller Convention  
Center  
Effingham, Illinois*

#### Indiana IEHA

June 2-4, 2025  
*Embassy Suites  
Noblesville, Indiana*

#### Kentucky EHA

May 6-8, 2025  
*Hyatt Regency  
Lexington, Kentucky*

#### Michigan CEO

October 8-10, 2025  
*Lakeside Resort &  
Conference Center  
Albion, Michigan*

#### North Carolina ECA

District Dates for 2025  
\* Northeast—March 20  
\* West—March 28  
\* South Central—April 9  
\* Southeast—April 10  
\* North Central—April 29

#### South Carolina FCL

October 21, 2025  
*Bamburg Country Club  
Building  
Bamburg, South Carolina*

#### West Virginia CEOS

October 7-9, 2025  
*Jackson's Mill  
Weston, West Virginia*

#### Wisconsin AHCE

September 15-17, 2025  
*Tundra Lodge  
Green Bay, Wisconsin*

#### 2025 NVON CONFERENCE

July 7-10, 2025  
*Northfield Inn Suites, &  
Conference Center  
Springfield, Illinois*

#### 2026 NVON CONFERENCE

July 8-10, 2026  
*Wintergreen in the Dells  
Wisconsin*

#### ACWW

Area Meeting  
July 22-24, 2025  
*Holiday Inn,  
Cincinnati Airport  
Erlanger, Kentucky*

#### 31th ACWW

Triennial  
World Conference  
April 26 -May 1, 2026  
*Westin Hotel  
Ottawa, Canada*