

# National Volunteer Outreach Network, Inc.

## 2018 State Displays

### Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council



Last July several of our members attended the NVON Conference in North Carolina. Arkansas Extension Homemaker Council president, Johnette Johnson and I, Karen Bell Fox, were honored to walk into the opening session bearing our Arkansas flag.

As always, while traveling, our members solved most of the world’s problems and discussed a few we thought AEHC had. A lot of new ideas were obtained at the 2017 NVON Conference and our members went back to Arkansas with a renewed enthusiasm for all we do.

October 2017 was a really great month for AEHC. Our round of District Rallies followed the theme “Ready, Set, PREPARE; as our major focus for leader training was Disaster Preparedness.

This past year it was decided to honor our 25 year members for the first time. There were 360 members recognized at our 3 district rallies. And those are the ones who registered by the deadline. As always there were a few glitches but our members continued to smile as they were recognized for the years of service to our organization. This fall we will still be playing “catch up”.

Next on the state wide agenda was the receiving and judging of 103 project books. It seemed to take a village of AEHC volunteers to complete this project but we had great leadership from the Vice President, Cheryl Stewart and co- chairman, JoAnn Carr and Marnette Reed.

March brought our one day workshop with the emphasis on “Thank you for Your Service”. Johnette introduced her grandson, Dr. Rusty Johnson, as our keynote speaker. Dr. Johnson is the Tissue Procurement Coordinator for the Arkansas Region Organ Recovery Agency (ARORA). His program on organ donation was very humbling and enlightening.

All during the year our president elect and the planning committee were working toward another exciting and rewarding state convention. The theme for 2018- Growing with Communication. A few changes made to the venue; a guided tour of the Fordyce Bath House and West Mountain and more early bird creative skills classes. Our keynote speaker Randy Frazier’s topic was “What I learned from 9000 years of Farming”. Charles Graham, renowned vocalist, closed our 3 day convention. With Strong support from the Arkansas

Cooperative Extension Service AEHC's goals and expectations were exceeded.

A new scholarship was awarded this year; the Betty F. Oliver Scholarship, to honor our late advisor. With this addition our scholarships now total \$5500.

New to our state convention was access to an outsourced online registration program. By using this pilot program we were all taken out of our comfort zone. As we continue to grow with our communication skills we are definitely expanding our members' technological capabilities.

Our AEHC Advisor, Dr. Laura Hendrix and Racheal Price, program technician, are working on another pilot program to text updates to all AEHC members. Our Facebook page is always updated with activities and we are increasing the number of viewers daily. Many of our members already use email, Facebook, Text, twitter, snapchat and Pinterest.

Total volunteer hours reported for 2017 were 644,735 which gives back to the state of Arkansas a value of \$15,563, 902.00.

Membership for the year end was 4,085.

After our 2018 state convention our newly elected and installed officers hit the ground with new enthusiasm. With a platform of rebranding and giving ourselves a much needed facelift, there are several items on the agenda to include a state wide program- "Yellow Dot", changing our marketing and membership focus toward homesteaders, retired professionals, and younger members.

July 2019 will bring a great group of men and women to Arkansas. AEHC is the host state for July 23-25, 2019 NVON Conference in Springdale, Arkansas. We are showcasing a very beautiful part of Arkansas as part of the conference. Hope to see you there.

### **Illinois Association for Home and Community Education**



Over the last three years I have traveled over 17,000 miles, visited over 50 counties and had several oil changes to the car, traveling around the great, big, beautiful state of Illinois and meeting many lovely, warm, and friendly people! It has been an experience that I will cherish all of my life.

The last three years have gone by rather rapidly, a lot has happened in the IAHCE organization. We have declined in membership but we have gained in a renewed form of enthusiasm, positivity, and eagerness to sustain this great organization.

We have learned that it is okay to have fun in HCE, to share a joke or two and just "think outside the box" a little more. We can change things, they do not have to be as they were 100 years ago in some cases but we must never lose sight of how important adult education is to the human welfare and our own self-improvement as we make changes. We must continue to "support one another" as we continue to work as a team to make HCE grow and prosper.

607,517 total CVH hours reported this year from 2200 plus members just a little over 1/3 of the membership. Let's do the math and figure what it would be if 6000 members submitted their hours. 276 hours per 2200 members equals the 607,517 so 276 times 6000 equals 1,656,000 hours! Wow! When I read the service reports that the counties send to me summarizing their participation in service projects to the churches, schools, community, and 4-H I am in awe! Our ladies stay very busy, sort of makes me look like a slouch! If I shared all the different projects that the membership participated in this past year we would run over schedule. I really love seeing all the support, financially and physically, that is given to the 4-H. The support

runs from adopting a 4-H club, financially and assistance with projects, to paying HCE dues for the leader of the club. Kuddos to that county, great idea paying the dues! Numerous food pantries benefit from the generosity of the HCE organization with the monetary, food, toiletry kits, and labor supplied to them. I was especially touched by the way this group honors and supports the Veterans and First Responders in numerous ways, one county made 70 Honor flight quilts, which I thought was a great accomplishment! In keeping with Sharon Davis, the IAHCE Family and Community Issue state director, focus for last year, honoring the First Responders and Veterans, Perry County had yard signs made that read, “we love and support our first responders”, sponsored by HCE was printed in smaller print at the bottom. Perry County decided that this idea needed shared throughout the state and over 400 signs were dispersed to other counties in Illinois. It was a great feeling to see these signs along the highways and in towns throughout the state as I traveled the state, such good PR.

I lost count of the clothing protectors, lap pads, fidget blankets, small quilts for Ronald McDonald House, neck coolers for the military, backpacks for abused children, knitted caps for newborns, dresses for Africa, pads for homeless and other items made by the membership to give to others in need! All these accomplishments illustrate this organization’s team work and the “support we give one another and others”!

Our International Director, Pat Weitzmann, carried forth with our International Exchange program and arranged for two of our members to travel to the Baltic States as two of the Baltic State ladies had traveled to Illinois early in 2017. These two ladies selected to go to the Baltic States are now traveling Illinois sharing their experience with the IAHCE membership. Illinois also hosted Sara Kenny, from Australia, this March and are taking applications from our membership for an exchange to Australia in 2019, hopefully to coincide with the ACWW Triennial.

As I ended my first term as president and began my second term, I stressed to the membership the fact that the state board and myself are there to “support you”! We will do what it takes to aid in the success of the IAHCE but I cannot do it without the support of the IAHCE membership.

To use but sort of alter the words to a song by the Proclaimers – 500 Miles,

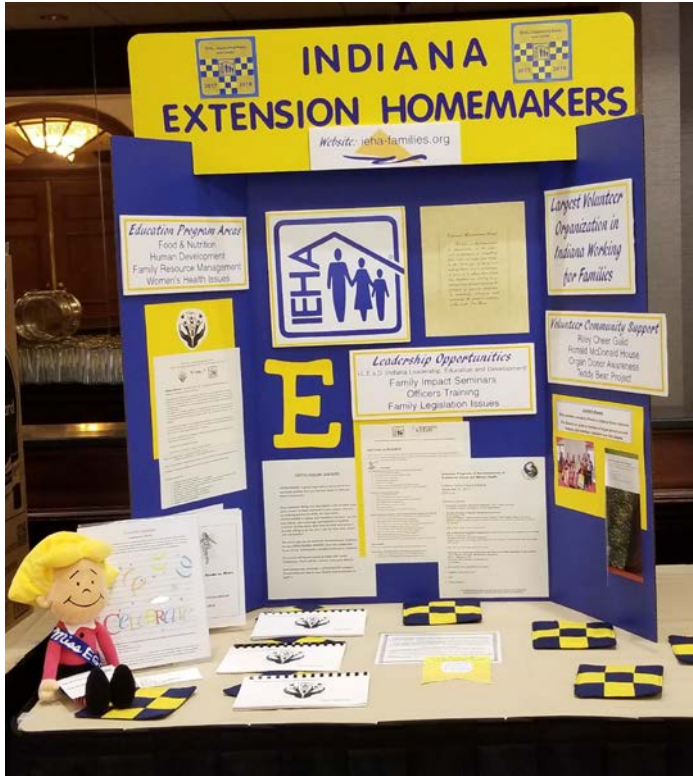
But I would walk 500 miles

And I would walk 500 more

Just to be the person who walked 1000 miles,

To show my “support for the IAHCE”

## Indiana Extension Homemakers Association



The program year for the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association began July 1, 2017 under the leadership of State President, Stephanie Jerabek, who resides in Huntington, Indiana. Stephanie, a 19-year member of IEHA, chose the theme, “IEHA...Supporting Home and Family.” The focus for the fall District meetings centered around what the members contributed and the organization’s structure. Members were given four diagnostic questions and asked to discuss them in small groups to help evaluate strengths and weaknesses in the organization. The resulting information helped to steer the IEHA leadership in organization and programming.

Many of the projects from previous years were continued. Membership continued with the mascot doll Miss E.G.O. (Everyone Gets One), giving her a first name, CAM (Celebrate a Member.) Members were asked to nominate an outstanding member who supported membership activities within their county and actively recharged everyone with membership excitement. Charters for five new clubs were written this year. of the organization.

A member Enthusiasm award was also given to members who excelled in their personal support and enthusiasm toward the goals and programs

The “Threads of Compassion” project continued to support tissue donors’ grieving families through hand-made shawl donations to the Indiana Donor Network. Several hundred shawls were donated toward this project this year.

Donations to the Purdue Cancer Endowment Fund continued. When the fund was established in 2010, a goal of \$25,000 in five years was targeted. In June of 2018, Indiana Extension Homemakers passed the \$200,000 mark in donations to this fund. A corporate donor has also come forward and will match all funds raised this and the coming program year.

Indiana Extension Homemakers helped sponsor the annual Family Impact Seminar at the Indiana Statehouse, Indianapolis in November, where experts in the field spoke to the topic of “Diversion programs at the intersection of substance abuse and mental health.” Indiana Legislators and homemakers were part of that discussion along with social agencies, specialists and service providers. This program initiates up-to-date information to legislators as the determine Indiana policy and legislative structure.

Work continued with the pilot leadership/educational program called “I CAN.” A private Facebook page was created for members of the participating counties to share information, ideas and suggestions. The program was developed out of a need for community members to learn basic cooking, sewing, home care and craft techniques and to empower the IEHA membership in leadership skills. Each participating county sets up a series of lessons, partnering with other area resources for supplies and locations. Three counties have had standout success and the program will be made available to any Indiana county that wishes to participate

President, Stephanie Jerabek, and President-Elect, Cindy Saferight, traveled the state for Fall District meetings in all ten districts, with Vice President, Anne Moore joining them for the Spring District Meetings.



The state membership was 8340 members for this program year, representing 89 counties and 705 clubs statewide. The i-LEaD Leadership Training Program was re-started at our annual Home and Family Conference with over 30 participants.

Along with the state, national and international projects, the clubs participated in a variety of projects supporting our mission of continuing education, leadership development and volunteer community support. Hundreds of items, including fleece blankets, tote bags, puppy pillows, quilts, walker caddy bags, premie caps, bereavement gowns, cancer caps and pillows were made and distributed statewide in Indiana communities. Fundraising dinners, apple dumpling and pumpkin roll sales and donations to food banks, backpack programs and military and veteran assistance programs were also prominent as Homemaker activities throughout the year.

During this program year, \$1000 was raised for the NVON Water Around the World Project; \$469.00 was raised for the Zero Hunger Challenge; \$343.00 was raised for the ACWW project Women Walk the World; \$161.00 was raised for ACWW Project #1023, Home Gardens for Dalit Women in India. Coins for Friendship for ACWW and Nickels for Indiana Leadership were also collected.

Indiana Extension Homemakers have supported home and family well this year and look forward to the opportunities ahead in the 2018-2019 program year.

### Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association



Kentucky Extension Homemakers have had an increase in membership this year of 35 members for a total of 14, 462! Our State Meeting, held in Louisville, at the Crowne Plaza, drew 592 registrants, 108 of those being first time attendees. We presented a check to our charity, University of Kentucky, Mackey Cancer Center, Ovarian Cancer Research for over \$44,000. At the State Meeting, our Silent Auction brought in \$2,241 for the final push to complete the Library in the village of Adjeikrom in Ghana, Africa. Our theme basket raffle raised \$2,483. for the Ovarian Cancer Research, We had 283 12" X 12" Quilt Squares donated that sold at silent auction for \$1,702. that went to defraying the cost of the convention, helping to keep our registration cost low.

This year, I have learned a lot about who I am and why **homemakers** are so important to our homes, our families, our Country, and our world. Reaching new levels in our journeys, however attained, sorrowfully or jubilantly, teach such lessons that books and lecturers could not have give. We cannot escape our past, so that being said, I can only marvel at, in Dr. Seuss words, "Oh, the Places I Can Go!"

It takes over a full page to list all the activities and travel I have attended, spoken at, enjoyed and learned from this year. I attended and shared about our State Board at four Area Homemaker meetings across the State, from Fulton to Campton and Greensburg to Paris. Attending and speaking at five County meetings, I enjoyed learning what other clubs across the State are doing and really ate some great food! My husband, Dwight, traveled with me and three Board members to Raleigh, North Carolina to the NVON meeting where I could not help but brag about Kentucky's over 14,400 membership and our 40 year anniversary of continued yearly contributions to Ovarian Cancer Research. I also, assisted Shelby County FCS Agent in presenting a Learning Session at NVON on our KY Pride Program. In October, we traveled with a fellow **homemaker** to Huntsville, Alabama for the Country Women's Council yearly meeting, again our numbers impress other states and organizations. Representing our organization at the State Extension

Council and FCS Advisory Board at both the Spring and Summer meetings, were both a learning and sharing experience. Judging at four County Fairs in foods, flowers and plants and art, once again, as educational and rewarding, as challenging. Representing KEHA across the State and Nation, makes us so much more aware of the value of our organization.

Meeting old acquaintances and making new one, hearing your stories, sharing experiences and enjoying your comradeship has been my greatest pleasure. Many hours were spent on Conference calls, for Board decisions and projects that did not require actual travel and face to face contact, saving KEHA money as well as, Board members time. Many other hours were spent on phone calls or text messages between Members, County and Area Presidents and Chairmen in answering questions and/or advising on Association concerns. Many more hours were spent texting and on phone calls with UK Advisor Kim Henken, and many of our County FCS Agents, without whose help and assistants our Homemakers Organization could not exist! I feel so honored to work with these tireless, dedicated folks.

One of the best accomplishments this year, I believe is the appointment of our New Marketing & Publicity Chairman, Jennifer Williams. Her first focus in your new position has been rebranding our organization, with a strong emphasis on the part of our name, Makers. We are Makers of homes and families, the first and basic unit of strength and education for our country. Makers of communities where respect, honor and dignity are established to help form the strength of our Great Country. Yes, we still, make cookies, cakes and pies, crafts and quilts, but we make so much more! We are Makers of Americans, the World Leaders of Civilized beings. Makers of Men and Women who will continue our fore fathers visions and work establishing our heritage. What better honor could we hope to accomplish and achieve in our lives, than to be **homemakers**?

Looking forward, I am so excited about the progress our KEHA Board Leadership Goal Team have made over the last three years. We have identified the needs and are working to develop a UK and State Leadership Training, comparable to the Family Community Leadership (FCL) Training many of us participated in back in the late 70s and early 80s, funded by a Kellogg Corporation Grant. As yet, we have not attained this level of funding, but we are working on developing a program at State Level, that would require payback training to Areas and then to County and Club levels, including all of our Homemaker Membership. Leadership Training is imperative to our organizations future!

We cannot continue in today's society, as the leaders of a grassroots organization, educating and empowering families, as the foundation of a strong, powerful nation without strong Leadership meeting. We can all be Leaders. Some of us may need a little more developmental training, but we, as **homemakers**, can easily step up to that challenge and opportunity. Let us all "Be a Leader" in our **homemaker** Organization!

## North Carolina Extension and Community Association, Inc.



We enjoyed hosting NVON last July in our state capital of Raleigh. The attendance for the conference was very good. The workshops and educational seminars were very informative and useful. The craft classes were very well received. Many of these ideas and programs have been used throughout the year. We thank everybody for coming to Raleigh, North Carolina.

We have had District Days in our five districts in April. Our themes and educational speakers were very interesting. "Bounties from the Sea" with education on sea turtles and pirates; "Dance your Way into ECA" with a speaker telling us about the opioid problems in our area, and a lesson in Line Dancing;

"Eat Local, Eat Healthy for Healthier Living" with a program on Osteopathic Medicine where we learned that a broken heart can cause many physical ailments and how the doctor needs to care for your physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing; "Educating the Future" which emphasized how important an education for everyone is, and "A New Faces Using Different Methods to Grow from ECA" with a very uplifting speaker on life. We have cultural arts at each of these district days with the first-place winners going to state meeting which will be October 29-31 at Nags Head. The theme for state meeting is "ECA Oceans of Learning." We look forward to being at the beach for state meeting this year.

We continue to support Boys and Girls Home of Lake Waccamaw with gift cards, food, household items and baby needs. This is an ongoing project we have had for many years. These are very deserving children who are from abusive homes that are given a loving home to live in and get an education so they can be happy, safe, and successful.

We have some very good programs we are working with in our own communities. These are a financial program for school students where they learn how to live on a set income and all the responsibilities of adulthood, Women's Leadership, Master Foods Volunteer where we learn the correct way to prepare and serve food so we can teach others, Human Trafficking, and five protective factors to help prevent child abuse and how it affects our lives as we age. These are all very important programs we will take to our communities.

Our ECA members continue to be very active with many projects. We continue make lap quilts, fidget quilts for nursing homes, have fundraisers to support our work, have displays at county fairs and local farmer's markets, teach cooking classes, do all types of crafts, educational trips, international programs, providing for low income families, address cards for nursing home residents, provide schools supplies, give grants and scholarships, provide items to safe houses and women's shelters and many other things.

Here in North Carolina we stretch from the mountains to the ocean and our volunteer work goes all across our lovely state. We are here to learn and to help others in any way we can in our communities. May we all grow, learn and educate where we live.

## South Carolina Family and Community Leaders



In June 1921, South Carolina Council of Farm Women was organized at Winthrop College to develop, strengthen and correlate the work of county associations and their efforts to assist people in promoting all interests pertaining to the higher standards of living in homes and communities. In our 96-year history, we have been called: SC Home Demonstration Council, SC Extension Homemakers Council, SC Association for Family and Community Education and currently SC Family and Community Leaders. We represent the common interests of 35 county organizations, 76 clubs and 866 members in planning cooperative educational work with advice from Extension representatives in determining all statewide policies.

Our state prepares education lessons for clubs to use for monthly meetings to better themselves and their families. On SCFCL's website, we link education lessons from NVON member state's websites which reach a wider range of additional education topics for our members to access. We collectively work on special projects each year to help members keep abreast of state, national and international affairs. SCFCL tries to incorporate ACWW's recommendation and resolution issues in preparing our lessons. We encourage representatives to attend the national and international meetings and to exchange ideas, to work together for mutual benefits and to take an active part in the movement toward international understanding and unity, thereby making a contribution of world peace.

Our state is divided into 3 districts: Coastal, Central and Foothills.

Each district hosts a spring and fall meeting with attendance of about 90 members at each meeting. A great time to learn, take home education materials, enjoy a delicious meal and share hospitality from different regions around our state. We have found that these district meetings are attended by many locals that might not be able to attend the Annual Meetings.

Some interesting facts from current members who shared their birth year:

Age groups for those who were born in the following years:

1916-1

1917-1

1918-1

1920's-36

1930's-93

1940's-156

1950's-70

1960's-26

1970's-7

Males-39

As you can see, our membership is made of mostly baby boomers. They have been the meat of development, opportunity and backbone for over 75 years. We have membership drives, membership Christmas socials, membership tea parties, and almost anything we can think of to get new members. We have increased our



membership by 47 this year. We are trying to use social media for communicating with our members since 90% have cell phones. We have about 30% of our members with email addresses so we are trying to bridge the gap not only to communicate more economically but to be more concerned of our environment.

Not only are our members dedicated volunteers through hard workers but are generous to the needs of those not as fortunate. In 2018 SCFCL donated \$1,410.95 toward the Water Around The World, NVON's Project in Common, which was collected from change collections at meetings to cake bake sales. Also we generously give 2 4-H scholarships to deserving rising junior or senior high school student interested in furthering their education in the fields of Consumer Science or Horticulture. These recipients address our Annual meeting with their field of interest, their college or university of choice and give appreciation for our support. We can see first-hand how our support is making a difference.

Other volunteer projects:

Recently members of one county made 100 custom made pillowcases. Each pillow case used 3 different fabrics totaling 1 yard per pillowcase. All the material was donated. This project took several days. The first day fabric was coordinated, cut, ironed and organized. The second day was the sewing, labeling and pressing. The third day pillowcases were packaged. Department of Social Services in that county hands these pillowcases to children who are taken into foster care. These children may be removed from their dangerous situation in a minute's notice with little to nothing but the clothes on their back. The pillowcase may be used as a pillow or a bag to carry with them to their new location.

Our members participate in Fish Fry's, Barbeque Cook off's, Soup and Cornbread lunches, Christmas Bazaar's, New member Tea's, Senior Home Bingo's, take Magazines to hospitals, provide transportation for elderly, decorate meal trays for community nursing homes, decorated Bears which are given to needy kids of the Salvation Army Christmas gift project, collect pop-tops from aluminum cans which are donated to local Ronald McDonald Houses, just to mention a few.

We are truly a caring, giving, and most generous group of people. Members donate thousands of hours of volunteer time toward bettering families and communities and we live up to our creed: Let me share SCFCL's creed with you: *We strive to promote the quality of life for all citizens in our communities through dedication, education and service, fulfilling these endeavors with love, compassion and understating, we shall respect the rights and privileges of those we serve.*

**West Virginia Community  
Educational Outreach Service, Inc.**

On behalf of the more than 2,800 members of Community Educational Outreach Service clubs in forty-four West Virginia counties, I am pleased to bring you greetings and an opportunity to share a few of the things happening in WVCEOS.

Members across our state continue to strengthen individuals and families through continuing education, leadership development and community involvement for the betterment of all. It all began in West Virginia in 1914 with Farm Women's Clubs and yet today the mission of our organization remains steady and strong.



We are very proud of the Celebrate Volunteer Hours (CVH) documented each year. In 2017 there were 579,000 hours of volunteer work reported by CEOS members in thirty-four counties. This represents

\$12,147,420.00 of volunteer service to our communities. Certificates with seals are awarded at annual conference to each county, club or individual who reports their volunteer service.

The 2017 WVCEOS Annual Leadership and Enrichment Conference was held on October 3-5 with more than 200 attending. “Together We Can” was the theme and during this three-day conference participants could take part in numerous learning sessions for officers, lesson topics, educational committee training and a variety of workshops with a multitude of topics covered. Conference also included the annual business meeting of the WVCEOS, recognition of 50-year members, entertainment and much more. Plans are well underway for this year’s conference which will be held October 2-4 with the theme being “Colorful Leadership of CEOS”.

Twenty West Virginia CEOS members were honored at Fall Conference for having reached 50-years of membership. Each received a certificate and commemorative pin. In addition, other milestones in membership were recognized as follows: 13, 55-year members; 7, 60-year members; 4, 65-year members, 3, 70-year members and 1, 75-year member.

The NVON Project in Common, “Eat Local, Eat Healthy”, continues to be welcomed by WVCEOS members. The Chief of Staff for the Commissioner of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture was the cap note speaker at our annual conference in October. CEOS members have grown their own, participated in local farmers markets, wrote skits for club and county events with “Eat Local, Eat Healthy” themes, and participated in a multitude of ways. At a recent state board meeting, I presented a tomato plant to each board member attending – just another effort to “Eat Local, Eat Healthy”.

Area meetings held this spring were attended by more than 600 CEOS members. West Virginia CEOS has six areas, or regions, within our organization, each comprised of six to nine counties. Each area has a meeting in the spring, with the host county having primary responsibility for the day’s program. Most areas also have fall meetings or mini-workshops with lesson training sessions or council meetings held. Program topics and areas of interest are varied. Area representatives report to our state board happenings on the area level.

West Virginia CEOS emphasizes educational committee work in the areas of: Family, Continuing Education, Marketing and Membership, and Purposeful Reading. A State Committee Training and Planning Meeting is held each April at which time each committee designs their plan of action and forms for reporting work done on club and county levels. Objectives included using technology for daily living, preserving heritage, service and education, family wellness, leadership development, marketing and membership, and literacy, just to name a few. Our members have an opportunity to showcase their talents in creative writing and poetry with contests held each year.

A few of the 2018 educational lesson study topics written by WVU Extension Specialists or Agents were: Sleep from A to ZZZZ; Healthy Cooking Oils-The Mystery Solved; Home Economics from the Great Depression to Today; Appalachian Genealogy- Root to Rise; Paper Craft Heritage; CEOS Women of West Virginia; Cast Iron Cooking; Slow Cooking in a Fast-Paced World; and Telling the Story: Native Americans in West Virginia.

West Virginia CEOS Clubs have supported the International Scholarship Program at West Virginia University since the 1949. This year, Line-Audrey Nkule Sonkeng, from Cameroon, the WVCEOS International Student for 2017-2018 completed her tour of counties in West Virginia. During the two years, Line-Audrey wrote a lesson study topic and made presentations about her home country as she traveled around our state visiting with CEOS club members and the public. This spring Line-Audrey graduated from the WVU Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources with a degree in Mining, Civil, and Environmental Engineering.

Earlier this spring the scholarship selection committee chose Parintorn “Pim” Pankaew, a music therapy major from Thailand, as our scholarship student for 2019-2020. We look forward to learning about her home

country.

Annually CEOS county councils and community clubs generously provide scholarships and other support of 4-H programming throughout our state. In 2018 West Virginia CEOS awarded scholarships to three college students who are majoring in Nursing and one scholarship to a student majoring in a program area of Family and Consumer Sciences.

We are proud of the many programs and projects carried out by CEOS members throughout our state. This slogan designed by the marketing and membership committee adequately summarizes our work.....

***West Virginia CEOS is***

***“Fun, Friendship and Fellowship through Learning, Serving, and Caring”.***

**Wisconsin Association for  
Home and Community Education**



Wisconsin is very proud of the accomplishments and dedication that its members have achieved.

The members have been busy with a variety of projects and programs both within our communities and internationally. The WAHCE Membership Committee continues to promote its “Membership Challenge” to our counties. The “Challenge” was to encourage counties to develop an outreach program or project within their county to increase awareness and understanding of HCE’s role in the community and promote membership.

This past year we are happy to report that 31 out of our 51 counties increased their membership in 2017. We have 123 new members. Although this year our membership count is 3158, down 232 from 2016. A few programs that are attracting new members are: promoting “Eat Local, Buy Local”. A few of the counties seem to be attracting concerned citizens who want to join HCE in the effort with their Sustainability project, a few counties have started project-oriented groups such as, quilting, knitting etc., to attract members. We are concerned as to how to retain and maintain membership in our organization. This year a new program was introduced by the Vice President of Family and Community Education called “HCE Healthy Lifestyle” program. The program focuses on all members being active and eating healthy and local food.

Wisconsin continues to track volunteer hours with our “Impact of HCE” program. In 2017 our counties reported they donated 58,221 Community Outreach volunteer hours with a monetary value of \$5873,315,.00. WAHCE county donations statewide equal \$37,097.00 Some of the projects include items for cancer patients, cuddle pillows for the Ronald McDonald house, pillowcase dresses and backpacks for children in Haiti, tote bags and personal items for women’s shelters around the state. Walker bags, Wheel Chair Bags, Catheter bags for local nursing homes and extended living facilities

We continue to support our Wisconsin Bookworms™ program which is in its 20<sup>th</sup> year reading over 672,058 books to 79,145 children. This year WAHCE counties paid out \$105,313.00 in support of this program and the children of Wisconsin.

Internationally we have donated \$13,309.00 to Pennies for Friendship, \$2,782.00 for water filters in Nicaragua and we have a check to present today to NVON for \$2210.74 for the water filter project. We have donated to Women Walk the World. We have collected and donated endless boxes of eyeglass cases, sewing machines, sewing, baking, and hairdressing supplies to be packed and shipped to Nicaragua. These boxes go

on to the learning centers where the Nicaraguans teach sewing, baking, and hair dressing skills to help Nicaraguans earn a living. Counties contribute toward the cinderblock stove. This year one county took on an ambitious project of collecting money to purchase scissors for the sewing centers. They are being successful both with monetary donations and scissors being donated.

We host a State conference in September for all members of the state. This past year we had 370+ members attend the 3-day conference. The members participate in workshops, seminars, tours and banquets. All aiming at sending educational material and lessons to the counties throughout the state.

Our counties have been very involved with the ACWW resolutions projects.

Our Scholarship program is one of the best in the state. Not only does WAHCE give out a \$1000.00 scholarship each year but each county offers scholarships to their communities for a total of over this year of \$30,000.00 throughout the state. This is just a sample of what WAHCE does.

The state of Wisconsin's motto is FORWARD and that is exactly how WAHCE moves within our state.