

# National Volunteer Outreach Network, Inc.

## 2020 State Reports

### Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council



In July 2019 Arkansas was immensely proud to host the NVON 21st Annual Conference in Springdale Arkansas, “Today’s Woman Striving to Strengthen Her Community”. We had 6 exciting tours to offer. The Walmart Museum, Compton Gardens, Springdale AR/MO Railroad, the Peel Mansion, Crystal Bridges Museum, and the Native American History Museum. We had several Craft Classes, where we were able to make Wool Dryer Balls, a Beaded Serving Spoon, a Flower Garden Quilt Piece, a Scarf Necklace, and the most popular and best smelling was an Insta Pot Demonstration. The whole wing smelled delish! The Education Classes offered a variety of options, from Essential Oils to Chair Yoga.

At our 3 District Rallies in October, we had a theme of “We Nourish Arkansas Roots”. The speakers were from the Arkansas Food Bank and they expanded on the need for our Extension ladies to learn about Food Insecurity in our state. We also honored our 25-year members, by giving them a pin and a certificate.

In February of 2019, Arkansas held a Strategic Meeting facilitated by Professor Karen Ballad and Assistant Professor Julie Robinson. The focus was, to break into small groups and come up with Ideals, Communication, Leadership and Accountability. Then coming back together to a whole group to discuss what we had learned.

In March, just a day or so before our world as we knew it changed. We had our annual Spring Educational Workshop in Ferndale. “Working Together Today for a Better Tomorrow”. We broke out into 8 concurrent sessions to allow our members to learn about the duties for the offices they hold. We also had two guest speakers, Emily Smith and Debra Joyner explain to us the importance of reporting our 2020 Census on April 1st.

Arkansas Extension Homemakers rallied to the call for masks across the state. Over 4000 masks have been made so far!

April 25th was our statewide Food Insecurity Day. With the Corona 19 Virus however, we had to rethink our plan of collecting food. So, instead of our ladies collecting food in our neighborhoods, we decided to donate food to our local food banks. Then were to report our donation and volunteer hours to our state Food Insecurity Chairman. In just 5775 hours, Arkansas Extension Homemakers donated around 30,700 meals for families across Arkansas.

Sadly, we had to postpone our annual state meeting till August 12th and 13th due to the Corina Virus. We had to shorten our meeting to a half day to “work” and one full day to have an abbreviated but effective meeting. We will be practicing Social Distancing.

Submitted by Cheryl Stewart, AEHC President

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## Illinois Association for Home and Community Education

“I cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples,”  
Mother Teresa.

I hope during the past five years that I have served as the IAHCE President that I have caused a few ripples; a few big waves and I hope to create a tsunami in this last year of my term as state president. My theme the first three years of serving as president was on teamwork and how much easier it is to accomplish a goal through teamwork. One definition of teamwork is a group of people who believe in and are committed to the value of working together to achieve a common goal in a spirit of cooperation where information is shared and decisions are mutually decided upon. Teams accomplish goals which individuals cannot accomplish on their own. We carried this theme forward by encouraging counties to work as a team and not as individuals when it comes to decision making, lessons, and securing new members. The main underlying purpose of the state board is to encourage new members, for without new members we have no organization.

The beginning of my second term I chose “change” as my theme. We either change as an organization or die! Change to many is like saying a bad four-letter word but not to me. I embrace change as a challenge and jump in head first to adapt to change or make changes. As an organization we were stagnating and losing ground so I knew we had to start reassessing what we needed to do to survive and flourish as an organization. We as a board knew that the biggest obstacle to overcome was changing the mindset of the membership because change removes one from their comfort zone and creates more of a challenge to an individual.

So, we started this change process by realigning the districts. The Districts were realigned and a District Director was eliminated thus saving money which is an issue when membership drops. We had a change of focus to the positive side of membership, as we now emphasize more on the new members each county secured over the past year rather than the losses. We also have become more accessible to the membership, letting them know that if they need help, we are there! Fun has been reinstated into the annual conference and into your counties. A joke now and then is okay! Laughter is good for everyone!

Oh, by the way, do you know why cows have hooves? They lactose! Sorry couldn't help inserting a little humor there!

A year ago, we encouraged the counties to try new events, to introduce people to new ideas, and not to just do the programs that have been done for the last thirty years or more. Several counties did create new activities and service projects which they noted on their service project reports. One county had a grand total of \$7,292.00 worth of service projects in 2019! Some of the new projects mentioned were a museum display on “Honor of Home”, over 700 sanitary pads sent to 3rd world countries and \$300 worth of books given to a high school English class.

Other projects completed by the IAHCE membership include; bras to “Women Support Women”, appreciation lunches for local Extension office personnel, numerous times first responders were honored, 2000 pounds of food to food pantries, \$7,200 scholarship were given, and over \$6,500 worth of other donations. These donations are in addition to the great donation to the ACWW thru Pennies for Friendship of \$9,427.00, and the Water bottle project money of over \$8,000! We have continued with the dime collection this current year and sharing the collection with the Feed Illinois food banks and other portion to ACWW.

The IAHCE was gracious enough to allow me to attend the ACWW Triennial in Australia last year and present a resolution on “iron deficiency”. The resolution was adopted by the ACWW for part of their focus over the next three years. Illinois has taken hold of this and presented many programs on iron deficiency at health fairs, county meetings, district meetings, and have even prepared a book about iron deficiency. The other USA resolution adopted at the Triennial on “pollinators” has been promoted immensely throughout our membership, too.

As we go forward, we want you to know that we will do whatever it takes to keep the IAHCE organization strong, prospering, and growing but we are a team so the membership must help. What was needed years ago as far as having a successful family life, strong community service, leadership skills, and a purpose in life has not changed even in this day and age. Everyone still has all those needs but in order to fulfill those needs you must approach it differently today than how those needs were approached several years ago. “If we don’t change, we don’t grow. If we don’t grow, we aren’t living.” a quote by Gail Sheehy.

L R Knost once said, “Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. All things can be mended. Not with time, but with intention. So, go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.”

So, we hope to create a tsunami this next year! So, to go along with our theme for 2020 – “Power of the Past, Beacon to the Future” we asked everyone to “Go Shine Your Beacon for HCE”, and to embrace the need for change with much intention!

Submitted by Jane Chapman, IAHCE President

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### **Indiana Extension Homemakers Association**

Greetings from Indiana! The 2019-2020 year started out on a smooth and well-planned journey then abruptly hit some rough seas, which thrust us into uncharted waters. Those rough seas hit when the Covid-19 pandemic began to spread worldwide and take hold in the United States. IEHA was forced to adapt in many ways to continue on our mission of “Strengthening Families”.

IEHA State President, Anne Moore, had chosen as her theme “Embracing Change to Meet Tomorrow’s Challenges.” The words certainly rang true this year as many events and activities had to be postponed or cancelled. Most notably was the CWC USA Area Conference, scheduled to be held in Indianapolis in the fall of 2020. It was sad to have to cancel the conference but we felt the safety of our membership and guests had to be a top priority in our decision to cancel the conference.

Anne based her pin design and theme on references to the art of sailing. She used two logo designs, one for the member pin and one for print media. On the design used for print media, the IEHA logo was surrounded by the theme and a circle of anchors and sailboats bound the design. She challenged members to “stay anchored by our roots and traditions, but embrace change as we move forward like a sailor adapts to the changing winds.” By doing so, IEHA could grow and thrive as an organization.

A little about us.... Indiana Extension Homemakers Association Is comprised of ten districts, 84 counties, 626 clubs, and 201 mailbox members with a total membership of 7184. Every year it seems we see a decline in membership, but this year two goals were set by the State President to address this problem. First, was to try to add one new club per county in our state, which could potentially add around 400 new members. Secondly, was to try to gain an IEHA presence in the counties in our state that do not currently have any clubs, which are 8 counties. We worked diligently on these goals and will continue working on these throughout the next year. We made progress but still have a long way to go. We encouraged local clubs and counties to work on the NVON Project in Common, Double Your Influence, Add 2.

Mention was made of next year. Because of the pandemic and the inability to conduct our year as we normally would, all of the current Board members agreed to remain in their current positions. Our annual Home and Family Conference, which is held in June, was cancelled. IEHA has district meetings twice yearly in each of our 10 districts. All ten meetings were held in the fall of 2019 but in the spring of 2020, only three districts were able to have meetings. That is when Covid-19 hit and the remaining seven meetings were also cancelled.

A new program, Promoting L.O.V.E of Families, was started this year. The intent was to give clubs, counties, and districts a framework to base the year’s programming on. Each letter in the word LOVE stood for a topic

of focus for this year. “L” stood for Literacy, “O” for Opioid Abuse Awareness, “V” for Volunteerism and “E” for Education. Clubs could choose to work on any of the topics and/or all four. This was totally voluntary but it was requested that participants contact a news source in their area/s and tell what was done regarding the chosen topic/s. It was hoped that collaboration with other groups interested in the same area/s of focus could work together for a common cause. This program generated greater awareness of IEHA and promoted ourselves to our communities and the work we do for Indiana families.

At the spring district meetings, the focus was on Opioid Abuse Awareness. Prearranged speakers had been selected and enlightened our members as to the seriousness of the opioid problem, what was being done to combat the problem, and made us all more aware of how to recognize the signs of people dealing with this problem and ways to get them help. Since seven of the meetings were cancelled, plans are to continue talking about this at the spring 2021 district meetings.

The possibility for IEHA to help ease Hoosier hunger was an idea generated from our Volunteer Community Support Focus Group. A program named “Pastabilities” was started. Attendees to our Home and Family Conference and district meetings were asked to bring boxes of pasta to donate to Second Helpings, a non-profit that addresses Food Rescue, Hunger Relief, and Culinary Job Training. The goal was to collect 1,000 boxes of pasta but since so many meetings were cancelled we decided to continue receiving donations for another year. Hopefully we can collect many more pounds of pasta as this program was cut short due to the inability to have meetings and hold our conference.

IEHA continues with many state sponsored programs. Our First Books for Kids program is beginning its 21st year. Volunteers read age appropriate books to preschool or kindergarten age children, leave a copy of the book in the classroom or supply a book per child to be taken home. This is very popular program and is lauded by teachers, parents, and volunteer readers.

Our members continue to support Riley Children’s Hospital by donating toys, making puppy pillows, tote bags, pillowcases, and fleece blankets.

We also keep busy making comfort shawls for the “Threads of Compassion” program for the Indiana Donor Network. The shawls are given to the families who have lost a loved one and whose loved one donated tissue or organs to the living.

We continue to promote our leadership training program, i-LEaD (Indiana Leadership, Education, and Development). It is offered annually and consists of three levels.

We are very proud of two of our members who have assumed leadership roles in NVON. Thank You’s to Stephanie Jerabek, NVON President, and Nancy Jo Prue, NVON Treasurer, for serving NVON. This year has definitely been a year of challenges but IEHA members have “EMBRACED” those challenges and now are “ACCEPTING” those challenges and “STAYING POSITIVE” to meet those challenges!

Hopes for smooth sailing soon .... after a year of very rough seas!

Submitted by Anne Moore, IEHA President

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### **Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association**

this winning team!

I cannot believe that it has almost been a year since I was installed as the KEHA President. What a year full of exciting adventures and learning opportunities! I have received so much encouragement and support from members across this great state and have made so many new friends. I am learning things each day and enjoying being on

Who would have thought that just a few days after our 2020 Spring Board Meeting that a global pandemic would strike and change our lives causing us to cancel pretty much everything including our State Meeting. I think this was the first time that has happened. I appreciate so much the understanding and kind words from everyone during this difficult time. I also want to thank our Executive Committee and Kim Henken for having virtual meetings and having to make decisions that none of us would have ever anticipated.

I have so enjoyed traveling across our beautiful state, visiting areas, and meeting enthusiastic homemakers who never cease to amaze me with their skills and zest for what they do.

In July 2019, I traveled to Bardstown for the annual transition board meeting where out-going officers shared their wisdom with the new officers. This is always a great experience. Then I headed to Grayson County to meet with the Leadership Academy Team to work out details of the Leadership Academy held in March 2020. What a great event this was! Next, I was honored to be one of the Kentucky delegates to the NVON Conference held in Springdale, Arkansas. The theme for this meeting was "Learning, Leading, Serving: Today's Woman-Striving to Strengthen Her Community". I learned so much from their classes and workshops. We were also honored to share information about hosting this conference in July of 2021 with the theme of "Be the Sunshine-Make a Difference".

In August 2019, the Bluegrass Area invited me to speak at their Leadership Training in Lexington so off I went. I was welcomed with open arms and greeted with such enthusiasm about the new year. They have a great event to train their officers and chairmen. In August I also attended the Kentucky State Extension Advisory Council where I was privileged to meet Dr. Laura Stephenson who brings so much enthusiasm to the job as Director of Extension for the University of Kentucky. She is such a great asset to Extension, and I am looking forward to working with her. In August I was also invited to attend the Master Farm Homemaker Guild's meeting in Meade County. We had so much fun working side by side with other homemakers helping at this event. Who knew hard work could be so much fun?

In September 2019, I attended the dedication ceremony for the 2020 Census Quilt at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah. It was such an honor to represent KEHA in dedicating this beautiful quilt created by our members. This project showcased our tenets of education, leadership, and service. The quilt is an example of teamwork and achieving a common goal.

In September and October 2019, I was very busy, representing KEHA at Area Meetings. I traveled from Purchase Area in the far west to Wilderness Trail in the southeast. I learned so much at each meeting, looked at beautiful Cultural Arts entries and heard great speakers. I took many ideas to incorporate in my home area. We have so many talented members who do so much good across the state and I enjoyed meeting many of them. I was welcomed with open arms at every meeting.

In November 2019, I attended the University of Kentucky Scholarship Luncheon in Lexington where I met the KEHA Scholarship recipient and her family. She was the keynote speaker that day and is such a bright young lady. I know she will go far. I was excited that she was a Dietetics major like myself, so we had plenty to talk about. I also brought greetings from KEHA to the KEAFCS annual meeting in Lexington where I heard exciting things from agents across Kentucky.

Late in 2019, I was honored to serve as a representative of the Kentucky State Extension Advisory Council on the selection committee for the Western Regional Director for Extension. This was such an informative and interesting process and I was honored to represent Extension leaders like our KEHA members.

In February 2020, I participated in the Kentucky State Extension Advisory Council Winter Meeting and continued to learn even more about Extension and what is in store for our future.

Last, but certainly not least, I participated in the first KEHA Leadership Academy held at Blue Licks Battlefield State Park in early March 2020. What a great program to educate and train leaders to carry KEHA into the future. These enthusiastic participants make the future of KEHA look strong!

As you may remember, my plans for KEHA - A Winning Team included 3 main points. The first is **leadership development** and we completed our first Leadership Academy in March, so we are well on our way for developing and retaining current and future leaders. My second point is **training** and that is something we continue to work on. My goal is to have training templates on our website for each area and county to use to develop or maintain officer trainings each year. And the last, but certainly not least point is **member recruitment and retention**. This is always a work in progress because we, like many other states are struggling with maintaining our numbers. We are always looking for ways to Grow Our Membership!

As you can see, my first year was one of learning and meeting many members across the state. I cannot wait to continue this journey of learning from so many of our talented, amazing members.

Submitted by Karen Hill, KEHA President

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### Michigan Community Education Outreach

Since the year started, MCEO continued our transition from our former organization to the current one. Michigan will continue in that mode for the entire year.

At the beginning of the year we were in contact with NVON to see if MCEO would be able to join. Paperwork was gathered and sent to President Stephanie Jerabek. We received NVON's acceptance of membership.

The By-Laws of MCEO were completed so that we could send for our annual raffle license. Our annual raffle is our major source of revenue other than dues. Unfortunately, the raffle was cancelled due to the coronavirus.

I attended two planning sessions for our 2020 convention scheduled for October in Bay City, Michigan. Good progress in planning was made until the committee encountered roadblocks and then had to cancel the convention. The same committee will continue for a 2021 convention at the same venue, however the dates are in September for next year.

We have always contributed to ACWW's projects. In May MCEO sent \$494.26 to NVON for WATER AROUND THE WORLD for water filters.

In May our five District Meetings were cancelled this year. Directors are from the West Upper Peninsula, North Central, East Central, Southwest and Southeast. Normally, our Vice-President of Education and President attend each of the District Meetings annually. The programs and meeting topics are informative and very enjoyable.

Volunteer efforts have been limited this year. Groups made masks for various causes. Shorts were made and supplies were provided to a Wellness Camp in the Upper Peninsula. Donations were made to Books for Kids, pregnancy centers, WellSpring foster care, veterans' organizations and hospice. Some sat on Election Boards for the 2 primaries and will work on Election Day in November also. We are looking at other opportunities for all members to work on.

Submitted by Sheri Drake, MCEO President

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## North Carolina Extension and Community Association, Inc.

The North Carolina Extension & Community Association (NCECA) has 151 clubs, 1,852 members, 12 Lifetime members and 12 Emeritus members. Several of our clubs are special interest clubs.

Our NCECA is divided into five districts across our state. Each of our districts has a special annual meeting so that members from the various counties in the district can come together as one. This is a time of business, educational speakers, updates from the state ECA, cultural arts exhibits and judging of cultural arts. The themes for the District annual meetings are quite different. This is also a great time of fellowship.

The Dinah E. Gore Teaching and Research Kitchens at North Carolina State University Extension were unveiled in February. Many of our ECA clubs have toured and taken part in lectures in these very impressive kitchens. Some of our members have participated in cooking demonstrations there.

Our NCECA has worked very hard on the state projects. One project is the Boys and Girls Home of North Carolina. This has been one of our projects for many years. In fact, in October at our State Meeting, one of our hands-on projects was making fleece lap blankets for the Home. Everyone enjoyed participating in this project and presenting these blankets to a representative of the Home. We have also been working on the Project in Common – Double your Influence – Add 2 to 2.

Our local ECA clubs have many projects going on in their local communities, counties and districts. Some of these projects are: .visiting places of interest in our state, volunteering in many ways with 4-H youth, teaching lap blanket quilting classes, teaching ladies at our state prison how to quilt, one county knitted and crochet 62 afghans for a nursing home, providing college scholarships; having yard and bake sales as well as other fundraising projects to provide resources for these projects as well as our many other projects.. I could list many, many more projects but this give you a bird's eye view of what we do.

Our 2019 Annual State Meeting was held at Lake Junaluska Retreat Center in the mountains of North Carolina (approximately 25 miles from Asheville, NC.) In 2018, we had over 200 people attending our State Meeting this year. Our theme was "Mountains of Opportunity." Our educational classes, heritage classes and other program certainly made us aware of mountains of opportunities all around us where ever we live.

*When Great People Work Together Great Things Happen*

Submitted by Shelby Ford, NCECA President



## South Carolina Family and Community Leaders

South Carolina Family and Community Leaders started 2020 just like other years with enthusiasm of how we can make a difference in the lives of our members and their families and also to make it the best year yet. Our Board met and discussed plans for the 6 district meetings, the annual meeting and finalized member's work on state projects but we were most excited about the upcoming 25th year celebration of NVON hosted by us in July at the Spartanburg Marriott. Final arrangements were in the *Vision* with final plans for tours, table decorations and treats already made.

Then, a buzz was heard around the world about the COVID-19 virus. Meetings started getting postponed, businesses started closing, "people testing" started for the virus and a nation-wide shutdown was being considered. Sure enough, it was serious enough for six-foot social distancing, individual masking, quarantining and the world was in turmoil.

SCFCL decided to investigate options for keeping in touch with members and it seemed the easiest method was having "Zoom" virtual meetings. During our first virtual board meeting it was decided to cancel our spring

district meetings due to our average membership age being 65 years old which is the most vulnerable group contracting the virus.

One of the most pressing questions was about the status of the National Volunteer Outreach Network Annual Conference. After several Zoom meetings between the SCFCL conference committee and the NVON executive committee, it was with great disappointment to cancel the conference and the Spartanburg Marriott let us out of our contract without any fees or costs. What a relief.

In August when the SCFCL Board used Zoom for another meeting, it was voted to cancel the Annual State Meeting (99th Annual Meeting) but setup an online electronic form to vote on important business i.e. State Officers, Bylaws changes and the proposed Budget. Pertinent materials were mailed ahead so delegates would have time to study and be prepared for the online voting which would be automatically tabulated and saved for our records.

As the year progressed, members still volunteered at various locations but in an improvised way. Instead of diapers and pads for Africa, members are now making masks for local workers, businesses and family members. One of our state projects: *SCFCL Gives Hope, Domestic Violence Awareness* is where members collect items for personal use, place them in handmade cloth bags then are given to local women's shelters for those to use if they leave their home in a moment's notice carrying nothing with them. Since this project got a little shortchanged, due to the virus, it will continue in 2021 as are most of our other projects.

The NVON Project in Common, *Double Your Influence...And To/2* emphasizes volunteer retention and recruitment which has been done in spite of the COVID-19 shutdowns. We encourage our members to make new friends and invite them to join as new members and have added 49 new members this year. Great job to our dedicated members for reaching out.

Each year SCFCL donates two \$1,000 scholarships to South Carolina 4-H students who have worked endlessly in their communities and on the state level to achieve one of these coveted awards. Their scholarship goes toward the college of their choice.

Even with the COVID-19 social distancing, our Education Committee selected future Education Lessons for our members. The lessons will be mailed in time to use in 2021 and will be online at: [scfcl.com](http://scfcl.com) (SCFCL's website.)

We had many members pass away this year and even our oldest member Mary Elizabeth "Beth" Jordan Lambert at 102 years old. She was a dedicated member, active and alert until her death in April. She will be truly missed.

This has been a year of unpredictability, unusual and not like any other in recent memory, but with dedication, education and service to our community, state and nation, our members will make this year a year not to forget.

Submitted by Pat Breznay, SCFCL President

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

Greetings from West Virginia Community Educational Outreach and it's more than 2400 members.

The WVCEOS mission is to strengthen individuals and families through continuing education, leadership development and community involvement for the betterment of all.

It is my pleasure to report Celebrate Volunteers Hours (CVH) reported a total of 583,500 volunteer hours, which represents \$13,006,215.00 to volunteer service to our communities.



The WVCEOS Leadership and Enrichment Conference was held October 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> with a theme of “WV Stands for We Volunteer” with more than 150 in attendance. Members were able to attend classes ranging from officer and lesson training to educational committee classes and numerous crafts classes.

Plans were in the process of being finalized when the Coronavirus caused us to seize all plans for the 2020 WVCEOS Leadership and Enrichment conference. Conference for 2021 will be scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at Jackson’s Mill, Weston, WV.

WVCEOS members participate in several community service projects. Volunteering at county fairs, donating lap robes (300) to hospice and the Veterans, collecting unwanted Barbie dolls which then received a complete makeover and were given to

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), hosting book drives for children and collecting more than 5000 books, more than 100 blessing bags were collected for foster children with age appropriate items. Other service projects but not limited were cleaning and replanting flower beds at Jackson’s Mill, Community buildings and maintaining a local cemetery’s flower beds.

Members also raised over \$50,000 in support of breast cancer by having fashion shows, purse auctions, elimination dinners and over \$8000.00 for Relay for Life.

Members contributed to Fire departments, school libraries, and food pantries.

WVU Extension agents authored lessons for 2020. Some titles were:

- “Famous Tree and What Makes Them Famous”
- “It’s electric—What is Instant Pot and How Does It Fit into Your Cooking Style:”
- “West Virginia Authors Ten and Now”
- “Covered Bridges of West Virginia”
- “Communication Between Generations”

Peter Christian Dreher Pozo WVU Extension Service CEOS International Student for 2020 is from Ecuador and is studying Electrical Engineering. Peter has written a lesson and presentation lesson on his country to be shared with the CEOS members.

Due to the coronavirus and pandemic Peter was unable to travel to the various counties as planned. Peter therefore made a video on his presentation.

This year, WVCEOS awarded four scholarships to college students majoring in nursing and family and consumer sciences.

Members of West Virginia CEOS believe in our mission and purpose of strengthen families, promoting lifelong Leadership development and community involvement.

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

Submitted by Connie Wolfinger, WVCEO President

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

This has been a year full of challenges due to COVID-19. The year started out normally with meetings and events, but then COVID-19 hit in mid-March. Meetings have been cancelled, our 2020 WAHCE State Conference was cancelled and we have resorted to other means to communicate with each other. Zoom and conference calls have become the new norm. We

are waiting to see what happens for the rest of the year to decide what to do about upcoming district meetings and activities.

Wisconsin would have celebrated its 80th Anniversary at our annual conference in September. It was difficult to make the decision to cancel it. We will move that celebration to our 81st conference in Stevens Point in 2021. All voting for the annual meeting will be done via mail.

WAHCE gives annual awards for education and service projects. Despite COVID-19, clubs have submitted projects like “Partnering with Future Members thru Volunteerism” where members partnered with 4-H and FFA members to create book bags and tie quilts. Others held a crafty learning day with 19 classes and 78 attendees taught by 12 non-HCE members. A creative group conducted a small animal rabies vaccination clinic. Days for Girls will receive 40 completed kits thanks to HCE members. There were also presentations using the two educational programs from the 2019 WAHCE Conference attended by over 50 people.

In March of 2020, our long-time University of Wisconsin Division of Extension liaison, Shelley Tidemann, decided to retire. Her position has changed with Sara Richie becoming our new Extension Point of Contact. Unfortunately, the University Division of Extension’s budget cuts and reorganization have brought about a decrease in the number of Extension people serving our organization. Over 15% of our counties receive an extremely limited support and some none. We are learning new ways of doing things and partnering with others to accomplish our goals.

Wisconsin is divided into six districts: Northeast, Northwest, Central, Southeast, Southwest, and West. As of July 1, 2020, there are 277 clubs in the 48 counties. We have a total membership of 2,767. Despite the lack of meetings and events, members remain determined to see WAHCE survive and grow.

“HCE Springs into Action” (the theme for my three-year term) is very prevalent. Our WAHCE ladies have been making thousands of masks, collected and distributed food at food pantries, helped in community gardens, provided books to kids, and helped those in need.

Wisconsin Bookworms is a WAHCE educational program with support from UW Madison-Division of Extension. The program is designed to provide free books and an early reading experience for children from limited income families. Seven or eight times during the school year volunteers read award winning books to the children, engage them in a related activity, give them the books to take home and provide educational activity sheets to do with their families. This year we donated some of those books to the kids without reading them. The project is now starting its 23rd year for the 2020-2021 school year. Wisconsin Bookworms reaches on average 5,300 children annually. As of May 2020, we have read 886,655 books to students.

Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners is true and dear to the hearts of WAHCE members. The program focuses on agricultural/natural resources, cultural diversity, health, humanitarian assistance, women and families and youth. Donations of items such as clothing, baking supplies, hospital equipment, furniture, books, and hundreds of other items are donated each year. These donations go to the warehouse in Stevens Point where volunteers sort the items and prepare them for shipping to Nicaragua and other countries in Central America. These donations promote the independence of women as they become bakers, seamstresses, beauticians and teachers. Members in Wisconsin have been generous with their Pennies for Friendship. In July we sent about \$625 in funds to Nicaragua Partners for shipping, collected \$1,754 for water filters, contributed to Days for Girls, Heifer International, Ventures in People and Zero Challenge in Haiti, five ACWW projects, and other funds to be designated shortly to the tune of about \$7,000 totally.

Best wishes to everyone from Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education. We also welcome Michigan to our NVON family. Stay safe and see you soon!

Submitted by Donna Zarovy, WAHCE President

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