

# National Volunteer Outreach Network, Inc.

## 2016 State Displays

### Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council



The Arkansas Extension Homemakers report 4,412 members (up from last year) with 341 clubs. We had 705,275 volunteer hours for the year July 1, 2015 – July 1, 2016.

Our AEHC State Meeting at the Hot Springs Convention Center was great this year with 484 members, guests, class presenters and speakers attending. The University of Arkansas System President, Dr. Donald R. Bobbitt, attended and helped present awards to our Service Award recipients: 50 years - 8, 60 years – 3 and 70 and plus years – 4. Scholarships were presented in the amount of \$5,000.

Dr. Tony Windham, Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Extension, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, and Dr. Rosemary Rodibaugh, Interim FCS Unit Leader, University of Arkansas System Division of

Agriculture also attended to assist us and help us remember our treasured former leader with a wonderful video memorial. Betty Oliver, who passed away about a month before our meeting, was a 59 year employee of the University of Arkansas working in the Extension System for all 59 years. Starting out as a FCS Agent in a small county and ending as the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Coordinator, she was the longest tenured employee of the University of Arkansas. She will be greatly missed.

For the second year straight we had a record number of Project Books (115) submitted to be judged. Each project book represents a community project or educational event by one of our 341 clubs or county councils such as tote bags for children's shelter, knitted caps for Knitting for Noggins, caps for preemies, Quilts of Valor, after school backpacks, food pantries, meals on wheels, Operation Santa Claus gifts for underprivileged children, classes for sewing, cooking and canning, lap robes for Nursing Homes, teaching dolls, pillowcase dresses for Africa, turbans for the Cancer Institute, Women's Crisis Center, food drives, pop

tops for the Ronald McDonald House, to name just a few.

Our Cultural Arts Project at our State Meeting this year was wonderfully successful. Each county made and brought small, soft flannel, pastel-colored blankets to be given to the University of Arkansas Medical Center for parents of still born babies. The parents hold the babies in one of these little blankets for just a few minutes before giving them up. Our project produced 770 blankets to be donated along with several hundred preemie caps and preemie blankets to be given to the Arkansas Children's Hospital.

The theme for our District Meetings for this year was "It's Tool Time, AEHC Style." Our state is divided into three district and the attendance for all three district meetings was up this year. The meetings were planned and coordinated by our Vice President and Education Committee which includes our three District Directors and Associates. Our members learned more about Extension Homemakers and how to use tools provided for longevity and growth of our clubs and councils. Some members like to attend the District Meeting more than the State Meeting as it is a one-day meeting as opposed to the three-day state meeting.

We now have a new slate of officers and new members of our Planning Committee for the next two years. We are excited to begin a new and progressive new year of helping those in our communities, counties, state and even the world.

## Illinois Association for Home and Community Education



To have every home...Economically sound, mechanically convenient, physically healthful, morally wholesome, mentally stimulating, artistically satisfying, socially responsible, spiritually inspiring, founded upon mutual affection and respect!

The "Aim of the Homemaker" was written in 1918 by Miss Juliet Lita Bane, an Illinois State Extension leader, and recited at most HCE meetings in the state of Illinois by HCE members. I have learned through my travels throughout the state this last year and through reading the service reports that the county

president's sent to me that Illinois HCE members are truly living "The Aim of the Homemaker".

This is evident thru the \$14,220.93 collected for the Pennies for Friendship project, \$634 donated to the CWC Mongolia Greenhouse project, the over \$11,000 donated over the last three years for the NVON water filter project, plus the over \$15,000 donated to other charitable organizations in many of the counties. These organizations ranged from 4-H programs, to Veterans, to food pantries, abused children, and the box top program that many schools participate in. We are an **economically sound** and a generous organization!

The many scarves, hats, lap blankets, mittens, wheel chair caddies, clothing protectors, pillowcases, and Christmas stockings show that our group is very **mechanically convenient** and can find their way around machines!

Counties participated in the Women Walk the World program, held informational programs on "bullying", collected food for food pantries, helped with blood drives, mentored at schools, held programs about service

dogs, and held county wide walking challenges to encourage more activity showing that we are very tuned into being **physically healthful** to ourselves and fellow man. We are not couch potatoes!

**Morally wholesome** is shown by the many activities that help the needy, the elderly, the schools, the 4-H program, and the military. All of the Illinois HCE membership, I am sure, sleep very well at night knowing that they have been morally doing the right thing for their selves, their communities, and their country.

They are keeping their selves and others **mentally stimulated** through all the programs they sponsor teaching others how to make pie crust, how to use a sewing machine, how to create crafts, how to “dump ingredients” to make a delicious meal. In other words, sharing all those “simple bits of knowledge” items that everyone needs to know for everyday living! “Simple bits of knowledge” was a program presented by the IAHCE District directors and presented at the three District meetings held throughout the state.

Our members do craft projects, quilting for fund raising, sewing quilts for Ronald McDonald House, making fidget blankets for the babies and the nursing homes, and making neck coolers for the military. The list will never end when it comes to this organization’s **artistically satisfying** effort for others in need. They have also blended in trips to enjoy the artistic beauty that surrounds them. They have taken the time to smell the roses and enjoy the moment!

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in. You have shown this by the 563,593 hours of volunteering hours reported in 2015 that exemplify the **social responsibility** that our organization and its members have to the their communities and HCE!

I think anyone would be **spiritually inspired** when they recite the Colic by Mary Stewart. It summarizes and enforces the Aim of the Homemaker by asking God to keep us from the pettiness that could break down our efforts to live the Aim. The Colic encourages us to remain large in thought, in word, in deeds, and to be generous and kind! We must do all of this with **mutual affection and respect**.

## Indiana Extension Homemakers Association



The Indiana Extension Homemakers Association President Jeanine Arnett's theme "Making Friends Worldwide" was embraced throughout the 2015-2016 year. In Jeanine's word she chose "Making Friends Worldwide" as her theme this year because we live in a world where we can have friends from many different countries thanks to technological advances. If you look at all of our affiliations, from NVON (National Volunteer Outreach Network), to CWC (Country Women's Council), to ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World), we have the opportunity to meet and make friends from around the world. If not literally, then by reading about the strides and accomplishments women are making around the world for themselves and their families, especially in third world countries where women are considered second class citizens.

This Year began with Jeanine and myself attending the NVON Conference in Martinsburg, WV. Followed by a very busy fall with 10 fall district meetings. During each meeting Jeanine

requested members make a one-time donation to the Mongolian Greenhouse Project, Indiana Extension Homemakers collected over \$1700.00 donations to the ACWW/CWC project.

The guest speakers at each fall district meeting spoke on domestic violence prevention. Jeanine also put a challenge to the membership to make and donate shawls of compassion to the Indiana donor network she challenged each county to make 15 shawls. Shawls were collected at all 10 fall districts meetings and delivered to the Indiana Donor network. Members were told as well that Indiana Donor Network does have yarn to make the shawls with and members were encouraged to ask for the yarn. After the fall district meetings over 300 shawls were donated, and by June 14<sup>th</sup> our membership has donated over 850 shawls.

Our membership continues to participate in many Volunteer Community Support projects. We have members in 89 of the 92 counties. They reported over 75,000 items donated, approximately 145,000 volunteer hours, and over \$160,000.00 donated to worthy causes. They also reported they sponsor over 175 scholarships totaling \$65,000.00. Recipients of time and money include Riley Children's Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, backpack program, local food banks, nursing homes, local schools, museums, 4-H programs, and other worthwhile charities and organizations.

Six years ago, the state officers set up the Purdue Cancer Research Endowment Fund. This is totally funded through donations. The membership has embraced this endeavor by having fund raisers such as dinners, golf outings and a 5K fun run and walk. In just three years, the 5K has raised over \$16,000.00. We have also had

two state sponsored fund raisers: a decorated jar and a decorated tissue box contest. To date, after just six years, we have raised \$160,000.00 we will continue to embrace and contribute to this endowment fund. The “First Books for Kids” program has just finished its 16th year. The volunteers read to children who are in the Head Start Program throughout the state. We have given out over one-million books to children. This program continues to remain strong due to the volunteers who are committed to reading every month during the school year. We have had an exciting year, and look forward to next year “To Pass onto Others...”

### **Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association**



In 2009, as a means of promoting Kentucky’s agricultural products and to encourage consumption of local produce, the state’s agricultural industry adopted the slogan “Kentucky Proud.” However, I am convinced “Kentucky Extension Homemaker Proud” would also be the best way to describe Kentucky Extension Homemakers and their activities. For more than 90 years, our homemakers have provided services which have benefitted their families, their communities, their state and their world.

Although this past year our membership may have edged below 15,000 people, dedicated KEHA members have logged more than 622,000 hours of volunteer service. We have provided Community Baby Showers, Expectant Mother’s

Nights Out and parenting classes for first time parents. To encourage Kentucky youth, almost every county supports the “Backpack Project”, “Angel Tree”, “Toys for Tots”, 4-H Camp Scholarships and “Project Graduation”. Other counties have organized Preschool Literacy Programs, taught Recycling Projects to Grades K-6, hosted “Manners are Cool” for 4th graders, sponsored Teen Clubs in Schools and initiated a Babysitting Club which resulted in a Safe Sitter Certification for participants. We have served as 4-H Sewing Club instructors, made “Project Linus” blankets, organized a Holiday Store (for kids) and collected Coats for Kids.

Homemakers across the state have served their community by raising funds for Food Banks, Shelters for Mothers and Children, and offered assistance programs for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Our seniors have not been overlooked; we have worked Meals on Wheels, made holiday gifts for assisted living and nursing home residents and made lap throws for Hosparus patients. Some clubs cleaned roadways in the “Adopt a Highway” program, planted trees with 4-Hers for Arbor Day, raised funds for local Fire Departments and Humane Societies. To show our gratitude to those who have served, some of our counties sent Holiday Cards to Active Duty Military men and women, provided activities for military families, prepared Necessity Shoe Boxes for VA patients and held an annual Veterans Day Reception for all who had served.

We have reached out internationally, raising funds to build a library for the Kentucky school in Ghana and supporting “Coins for Change” and the “Water Step” program to fund fresh water programs with the resale of

unwanted shoes. We have made pillowcase “Love Dresses” for Haitians girls, and the supported the clean water filter projects originated by our affiliated international organizations.

In response to the health concerns of a state plagued by pockets of poverty, KEHA has been very active in raising money and community awareness for “Relay for Life”, Diabetes Education and “Pocketful of Hope” for assistance to cancer caregivers. Many have participated in the Women’s Health Registry to compile data on pressing health issues.

One of the programs of which I am personally most proud is one that benefits Extension Homemakers plus many of their neighbors and friends. This year marks the fortieth year of the support and cooperative effort between KEHA and the UK Markey Clinic’s trial Ovarian Cancer Screening Program. Initially, the campaign to involve Homemakers was spear-headed by Virginia McCandless, a Mason County homemaker who, although a strong supporter of the screening program, was personally diagnosed too late to save her from the disease. Following her lead, during the ensuing forty years, Extension Homemakers have contributed more than one million dollars to support the program’s expansion to add seven satellite screening stations to the less accessible areas across the state. Even though the program has not yet earned the same general acceptance in the fight against female cancers as mammograms, it has definitely made inroads into earlier detection of one of the deadliest. Since its inception, the program has given more than 280,000 screenings to more than 45,000 women. During the past 12 months, 14,638 have been screened and 103 malignancies have been detected. That means there are 103 mothers, sisters and daughters who, like me, have a far better chance to fight the “silent killer” and enjoy a longer, more productive life. The long term survival rate of those discovered through the UK screening is 85% as compared with a 39% survival rate of patients diagnosed through traditional examinations.

Yes, I am indeed “Kentucky Extension Homemaker Proud” and will be so as long as I live.

### **North Carolina Extension and Community Association, Inc.**



The North Carolina Extension & Community Association has 216 clubs with 2214 members as of June 30, 2016. With only 1411 members reporting we gave well over 6 million dollars in volunteer time to fellow North Carolinians during the past year. We have provided well over 25,000.00 in scholarships to high school graduates as well as adults wanting to continue their education. This year our Foundation also awarded 10,000.00 in grants to 13 counties across our State to provide projects that would help our communities in various ways. We have also raised money for the Water around the World project as well as Pennies for Friendship.

This year we have promoted our project in common around our State and our members are promoting this cause thru out our State.

North Carolina ECA saw a need to take on another project this year that we are currently working on. We

have joined with PATH (Partners Against Trafficking Humans), which is a program to make youth and parents aware of the problem of Human Trafficking. We also have signed off on a grant application with North Carolina Department of Administration that would enable us to have funds to train our ECA members to go out into the communities and give programs to help make the public aware of this problem in our State. As this project progresses we will share with the other NVON states the need for them to do the same.

For the past few years North Carolina ECA has been presenting programs to its members to help them certify as a “Master Volunteer”. This year we distributed “Passports” for them to receive stickers for each class they have taken and when their Passport is filled they will be certified to present programs across the State.

North Carolina is very excited to be hosting the NVON meeting next year and we are working hard to make it a great meeting. We hope all of you will come and bring others with you.

### **South Carolina Family and Community Leaders**



2015 brought changes to SCFCL. Declining membership led to some that were inevitable. One example is our new one day, yearly Business Meeting that replaced our former 2 to 3 day Conference. When attendance became less because of rising costs for food, lodging and travel, the decision was made to try the 1 day meeting in a central location. The result was a 65% increase in members attending. A special activity, a fashion show featuring examples of clothing and what members would have been involved in during each decade of the almost 100 years we have been an organization was a surprise treat for members. A luncheon speaker from Clemson University’s Sandhill Research Center followed the business meeting. This change turned out to be a positive one.

Our District Meetings have also been revamped. The emphasis is now more on the counties than on reports from state board members. Counties are encouraged to bring examples of projects they are working on, whether it is lap robes for nursing homes, pillowcase dresses for girls in Africa, gifts for children’s hospitals, or personal hygiene items for homeless shelters. We’ve heard about many project ideas that become inspiration for other counties and clubs. Sharing ideas for membership drives is also encouraged. Clubs and individual members are now recognized for their work at their own district meeting, another positive change.

We now have a smaller membership base, which can mean not only fewer active clubs but also fewer active members and county and club officers. To alleviate the stress on these members, we reduced the number of reports and award competitions required and replaced them with an easily completed county participation form that all counties could take part in even if they have small memberships. The comments from members have been very much in support, another positive change.

The changes that are not as positive are, of course, a result of the lower membership role. This causes clubs, counties and the state board, to have problems finding people to be officers and committee members. It

causes a decrease in funds to be spent on state projects and other items. It leads to a decrease in the number of clubs and active counties with clubs. It also can lead to a lack of enthusiasm in clubs. To this end, we will begin concentrating on ways to encourage new membership.

Members continue to support the Water Around the World project. They have many community programs they contribute to. They support various 4H projects and continue to raise funds for two 4H scholarships presented by SCFCL each year. Some counties also present individual scholarships to students.

SCFCL has a long, rich history beginning with the original tomato and homemaker clubs. It continues to be a great force for good in our communities and a wonderful source of expertise to educate both youth and adults in our state in matters of home and community development. We will continue to strive to keep our organization active and vital.

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



As it was in its' beginning in 1914, the mission of West Virginia CEOS is to strength individuals and families through Continuing Education, Leadership Development and Community Involvement for the betterment of all. The primary purpose of CEOS is education. We are proud of the many programs and projects carried out by CEOS members throughout our state.

Celebrate Volunteer Hours (CVH) are documented each year and in 2015 there were 589,877 hours of volunteer work reported by CEOS members in thirty-three counties. This represents \$13,301,726.35 of volunteer service given to our communities. Certificates with seals are awarded to each club or individual who reports their volunteer service.

In partnership with WVU Extension and several other organizations, West Virginia CEOS

received funding from a grant to support the “Love Your Heart” program. Several counties have held events that emphasized healthy eating, exercising, blood pressure screenings, and in general, health fairs. This has been very well received by our membership.

West Virginia CEOS is very supportive of the NVON Project in Common – “Eat Local, Eat Healthy”. Counties went to work right away promoting farmer’s markets and restaurants that use local products. Our members and their families are gardening with some utilizing improved methods recommended by the WVU Extension Service. Articles regarding our “Project in Common” have been in two issues of our state newsletter – The Openline. Two of our state’s four educational committees have incorporated “Eat Local-Eat Healthy” into their plans of work for 2017.

West Virginia CEOS has six areas comprised of seven to nine counties within the organization. Each area



has a spring meeting where they have a business meeting and sharing session of worthwhile projects along with a meal and entertainment. Reports are then made to the state organization on what transpired at these meetings. In addition, some areas have fall meetings and mini-workshops with educational lesson training taking place. The area meetings as well as the other projects that our members are involved in give more of our members an opportunity to step into leadership roles within the organization.

Since the 1940's, West Virginia CEOS has provided an educational scholarship for an international student studying at West Virginia University. The scholarship student, currently from Libya, over a period of two years, travels throughout our state presenting programs in host counties. In addition, the student also writes a lesson on their country of origin which is studied in community clubs throughout the state. West Virginia CEOS also provides scholarships to three students who are in the Family and Consumer Science program of study, or a related field, and one scholarship to a student in a nursing program. County CEOS Councils and community clubs provide scholarships for the 4-H program throughout our state.

Our state president chose "Domestic Violence Awareness" as her state-wide project for 2015 and 2016. Her goal is to educate the public about domestic violence and the support of victims affected by domestic violence through local agencies. Our membership has done a marvelous job in support of her project starting at the club level, and continuing through the county, area and state levels. On the state level, in October 2015 we had a speaker and related event at our State Fall Leadership and Enrichment Conference to raise funds for our president's project. Plans are to do the same at our state conference this fall.

In summary, I would like to share with you the slogan designed by the West Virginia CEOS Marketing and Membership Committee and adopted by our state organization in 2015.

This slogan, we believe, is significant, as it in a few short words tells a story about Community Educational Outreach Service Clubs in West Virginia. *Thank-You!*



### Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education



This year I am serving my 1<sup>st</sup> year as President of the WAHCE. The theme I selected for my 3-year term is "HCE Working Together Can Create Positive Change. Let's Make It Happen." It is extremely important that we do work to find stimulating interests to draw in newer members. We here in Wisconsin, find our membership is aging and the original intent of the quote "Homemaker Clubs" was for learning to sew, can, mend etc., that need no longer exists. So we need to find change that will stimulate younger lady's interests and make it happen. This year

we had 32 counties that did show an increase in membership. Although statewide we did show a slight decrease of about 200 members from 2015.

This year we had 39 counties participating in our program “On the Move and In The Groove” These 39 counties recorded 33,000 hours of Moving and Grooving. We wish we could get all clubs in the state to send back this information, it would then really be impressive as to how ladies are trying to change their habits toward a healthier lifestyle.

We again are asking our State members to participate in the “Impact of HCE”. It is a way in which we want to recognize the contributions of our HCE members. We feel it is extremely important this year with all the budget cuts that our Governor has made to the Extension service. For 2015 our 36 counties reported donating 86,280 community outreach hours which when converted to a monetary sum using the figure of \$15.00 per hour - would equal a value of \$1,294,200.00.; Here are a few of the projects listed for this program: Emergency pillows for women & children at the Women’s shelters were made and packed with the essentials needed for a 1 or 2 day stay; Donating food to food pantries; Quilts were made for the needy such as a home burning or a family in crisis; We have knit & crocheted volumes of care shawls for the hospitals and care centers of the area. I wish we could list all the wonderful projects being carried out by our ladies. This information when provided to County and State leaders, we hope will have an impact as to how our organization does make a difference in our communities.

WAHCE continues to work with Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners by: collecting medical supplies such as sheets and various items for the medical centers plus we have made Quiltlets for medical centers in Nicaragua, we collected supplies for their learning center such as books, book bags filled with supplies, etc., We collected fabric, sewing machines, threads, lace and whatever other supplies are needed for their Sewing centers, Items for their Beauty schools, a variety of baking supplies needed for their Baking & Cooking centers, Ambulances & Firetrucks for their Emergency centers; Many areas made Pillows for cancer patients; Pillow case dresses for Nicaragua & Mexico were sewn and sent; Each year the Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners Warehouse storage area sends many semi loads of supplies to Nicaragua. This past year WAHCE donated \$893.00 for the Cinderblock Stove Project in Nicaragua.

Our ladies also participated in ACWW’s Women Walk the World program by raising approximately \$300.00.

The Pennies for Friendship donation this year was \$4,439.00. Undesignated pennies were sent to Heifer International and the Mongolian Greenhouse Project. We have a check to present today to NVON for \$1848.00 for the Water Filter Project. Which I will be presenting tonight.

Our State Program gives out awards for the many services carried on by clubs in the state. The Services of Love program is one that encourages members to get involved with their local area by volunteering and providing services to various agencies in the county. Many projects such as: knitting or crocheting mittens for schools, knitting or crocheting the skull caps for soldiers, fixing shoe boxes to go to poor regions of our state or an adjoining state, giving gas cards to the people in need, making and taking memory books to the nursing homes with people with memory problems. The list seems endless as to all the wonderful projects written about for this program or the projects listed for the Impact of HCE. The Home and Community Education is such an important part of the community; we are so fortunate to have so many wonderful ladies in our clubs carrying out these volunteer projects.

We continue to support education by giving out Scholarships. Many Counties throughout our state as well as the WAHCE offer scholarships to graduating Seniors.

We are in our 18<sup>th</sup> year with Wisconsin Bookworms™. It is an important program for HCE. It encourages

young people to love reading and a way to provide them with 8 books to begin their collection over the course of the school year. This year we provided 4,941 sets of books for a total of 39,528 books. The value of this program is \$118,584.00. This year the week of May 2 – 6, we celebrated our 750,000 book being read in Wisconsin. We are very proud of all the volunteerism that occurs to complete all the wonderful projects going on statewide.