

National Volunteer Outreach Network, Inc.

2019 State Displays

Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council



August 2018, The Executive Board meeting was started with the idea of rebranding; Using Enriching Home and Community Education (EHC) in all of marketing ideas.

October was our annual round of District meetings. “Heard it through the Grapevine, Part II” followed the state meeting theme of “Growing through Communication.”

With rally locations in Ouachita, Ozark and Delta districts our 25-year plus members were awarded with certificates and pins. Dr. Debie Head, FCS Associate Department Head presented “Communication Elucidation” and Dr. Laura Hendrix, Associate Professor, Personal Finance and Consumer Economics and our AEHC Advisor “Connect with EHC.” Fun entertainment was given by our members.

November was retreat time. The Ozark Folk Center, Mountain View, Arkansas, in the beautiful, serene surroundings of the Ozark Mountains opened its doors. Our members enjoyed three days of crafting, entertainment and fellowship (which always includes eating, for some reason).

December, our AEHC officers broke new ground. 1st time in the history of AEHC a series of Strategic Planning meetings were held with officers and FCS agents led by UAEX staff.

January and February 2019 Executive Committee meetings, state conference planning and project book judging continued.

February, follow up on strategic planning meetings and reports were given.

March brought our one-day educational workshop “*Learn, Laugh and Live Well.*” with emphasis on upgrading our educational and leadership classes. Our members chose to use all our UAEX specialists’ programs with four programs during the year, to be given concurrently for more visibility and help with marketing of AEHC.

Also, in March, a sea of red AEHC logo shirts and jackets were seen at the state capitol lobby for a “meet and greet” with our state legislators. Plans are for this to be an annual event.

Our new state-wide project was presented “Addressing Food Insecurity in Arkansas.” In reading some of our project books I believe our members are already aware of this need, but we hope to promote further educational awareness.

Our members now have their own Public Speaking Guide. It was written to help some of our members overcome “stage fright,” to become better communicators and to use proper etiquette when conducting meetings.

May is always designated AEHC month in Arkansas. Mayors and county judges sign proclamations in their cities and counties. Some commemorate with receptions and AEHC displays during this month. Governor Asa Hutchinson signed a letter and shared a photo op with Dr. Debi Head, Rachael Price, Gail West and myself. AEHC gets good media coverage in state and local papers.

All this leads to our June Annual State Conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas. “*Better Together*” was the theme. As you can see around you “Better Together” certainly applies in all organizations.

Our conference included a great keynote speaker, guest speaker, project book awards, scholarships and membership awards along with wonderful creative skills classes, tours and educational classes.

Our members were honored to have Linda Kaletch, NVON President, and her granddaughter Mackenzie as guests. Who would have thought the “real” talent and the Anything Goes Talent show prize winners would be from Kentucky?? Way to go Linda and Mackenzie.

Throughout the year our executive officers visit board meetings, council meetings, parties and fundraisers and most of all, have been in communication with an officer or two in each county. I have created a contest to see who has talked to more county officers and members than myself in between board meetings. The best prize so far has been a five lb. box of chocolates. That made the board members perk up and think about calling their members.

An “elevator” speech contest is planned to roll out this fall with the intent to create 15 or 20 second talks about AEHC; who we are, what we do and *when* we do what we do!!!!

The following statistics are taken From Dr Hendrix’s impact statement;

As a result of participation in EHC

- Members are 87% more active as volunteers or leaders,
- 53% make positive changes based on information they learned and
- 40% feel they make a difference in their community.

There have been:

- 3,296 classes given,
- 33 college scholarships given at a value of \$22,500
- 54,407 direct contacts and 147,823 indirect contacts
- A total of 325,454 volunteer hours valued at \$8,035,459.

Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council is honored to be hosting the 21st Annual National Volunteer Outreach Network conference in Springdale. There have been many hours of prayer, work, worry, frustration and joy. But an event like this always seems to pull our AEHC members closer and “Better Together”.

Welcome to Arkansas. Hope you are having a great time, seeing new sights, renewing old friendships and learning new ideas.

Illinois Association for Home and Community Education



Happy New Year, everyone!

“Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Let’s write a good one.” *Brad Paisley*

No, I have not lost my mind but to me when you hold a conference and elect new officers it is the beginning of a new year.

The past year has gone exceptionally fast, I think. I have had the opportunity to visit many counties, travel to the NVON conference in Pewaukee, Wisconsin the CWC conference in Davenport, Iowa and the ACWW Triennial in Melbourne, Australia. I still have about 17 counties to visit yet over the next two years in order to achieve a goal I set to visit all the member counties in the state. I made it to 7 new ones this year!

My visits this past year took me from Pulaski/Alexander in the extreme south to JoDavies in the extreme northwest and many others in between. I was delighted to be able to attend several of the 100th anniversary celebrations that the counties put on. I truly enjoyed seeing the county board participate in skits at McLean and Livingston counties, viewing all the old pictures of past HCE, HEA, and Home Bureau events, being enriched culturally with the old pressure cooker and clothing of the early 1900’s at Adams county, listening to the great Barbershop quartet that sang in Macon County, and just enjoying all the different and unique ways that each county celebrated their 100th.

While I been was busy traveling the state the IAHCE membership had been busy too! It is awesome to see how far reaching their educational and service projects are, and I can tell that IAHCE members are making a big impact in their communities, our country, and our world.

Some examples of how they impacted their communities the last year:

Jasper County provides books to each kindergarten children in the county and one for each classroom, plus sharing time with the students by reading the book to them. They also helped 101 families and 226 children at Christmas with gifts and food!

Franklin county raised money by having rummage sales and food sales to aid in purchasing a handicap swing for a park in their county.

Kane County is big into recycling glasses, phones, stamps, greeting cards, florist vases, etc. which were used to benefit people in the community.

Monroe County hosts monthly birthday parties at a nursing home.

Jackson County with the Honoring Children Eternally which helps families that lose infants at birth or shortly after. They make gowns out of old wedding dresses for the infant’s burial, make a memory box as a way for the family to keep mementoes of the infant, and providing blankets.

Other ways that counties have impacted their communities are monetary donations, and actual food to food pantries, honoring first responders with blankets, food and drinks; treating Veterans by taking them out to

lunch or sending cards or treats to Veterans homes, making Quilts of Valor and blankets for Honor Flights; helping 4-H. with projects, judging or being a superintendent at show days, monetary donations, assisting at food stands.

Many held special events in honor of the Illinois Bicentennial by dedicating a bench made from plastic bottle caps in a local state park, drawing contests for school children, and by including facts about Illinois in their county newsletters.

You honor our countries current military by providing gifts at Christmas, neck coolers, and monetary donations to military support groups.

Internationally the contributions they make to the Friendship Project Funds is amazing. The Zero Hunger Challenge they stepped up and out did their selves with their generosity, dresses for Africa, donating to the Water for All project, and the Women Walk the World are just a few ways they impacted the world.

I would like to expand on the Zero Hunger Challenge a little. Each member organization of the CWC was given a small water bottle that when full held approximately \$50. The money collected would be split between the ACWW Zero Hunger Challenge and the Feeding America Program. I gave each member county in the IAHCE organization a water bottle and challenged them to return it full to our annual conference in March. I was hoping for around \$3500 or so. Well, I was totally overwhelmed when the final tally was over \$9,000 and all 72 member counties in the state contributed. What added to the accomplishment was a little over \$13,000 was collected by the CWC and Illinois contributed 70% of that total!

No matter what is asked, IAHCE members step up and do the task faithfully. Yes, they have all gone through life changes over the years but one thing stays the same and that is their need to serve and their compassion for others.

I found this inspiring quote in a January newsletter and I thought it fitting as we began a new year in IAHCE and now in NVON, to encourage our memberships to grow, to step outside their comfort zone by changing and accepting change not only in HCE and NVON but their lives.

“I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing the world. You’re doing things you’ve never done before, and more importantly, you’re doing something. So, that’s my wish for you and all of us, and my wish for myself. Make new mistakes. Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody’s ever made before. Don’t freeze, don’t stop, don’t worry that it isn’t good enough, or it isn’t perfect, whatever it is: art, or love, or work or family or life. Whatever it is you’re scared of doing, do it. Make your mistakes, next year and forever.” *By Neil Gaiman*

So, let’s not wait until tomorrow to begin filling the blank pages of our book, write down some mistakes you want to make this coming year. Use your many abilities and talents to make many new mistakes this year and write a good book in 2019 and years to come!

Thank you and again, Happy New Year!

I want to close with saying a big “THANK YOU” to all of you that contributed to the Zero Hunger Campaign. The success of it was overwhelming and beyond my expectations. The final tally I have is \$8,664.31 with 70 of the 72 IAHCE member counties participating!

Indiana Extension Homemakers Association



The Indiana Extension Homemakers are comprised of 10 Districts, 82 Counties, 653 Clubs and 225 Mailbox Members with a total Membership of 7,608; sounds impressive yet our numbers are dwindling.

Our world is changing at a blindingly rapid rate, we live in a faster paced world; hurried along by advances in technology, medicine, agriculture, politics etc. Advances change our lives; change our opinions, change the way we think and how we live. Our Homemakers are changing, they are caught up in the “hurry” that is everyday life. We have to acknowledge “Today’s Changing Homemaker” in order to pass onto others our support of home and family.

“Today’s Changing Homemaker” and “Save the Bees” were the themes of our 2018-2019 State President, Cindy Saferight. Her logo was captured within a hexagon or honeycomb; home to a bee. The movement of the bee is symbolic of the evolution and change of the traditional family.

“There are new homemakers on the horizon and we must embrace the changes if we are to survive as an organization that supports families; and speaking of survival, if the BEES do not survive, neither will we.”

Despite the declining membership the Indiana Extension Homemakers are extremely active in their communities. Initiating new programs as well as continuing State sponsored programs. First Books for Kids, one of IEHA’s longest continuous running programs will begin its 20th year in 2020. The program was initially started to help children “realize the wonders of reading and how it can open the world of imagination” Volunteers read age appropriate books to children in the Head Start program or kindergarten age children, volunteers leave a copy of the book in the classroom or supply a book per child to be taken home. The program receives wonderful reviews from teachers, parents and volunteers.

We can all strengthen our leadership skills by continuing to learn and grow. The I-LEaD (Indiana Leadership, Education and Development) program is now more accessible to our membership, by being offered as an all day session at Home and Family Conference. Levels 1-3 will be offered at next years Conference.

Our Homemakers contribute to the Purdue Cancer Research Endowment and to date have contributed \$190,263.52. Crafting for a Cure was President, Cindy Saferight’s idea for raising funds for the Endowment this year. She invited each club in the state to make and donate up to 25 items to be sold at this years Home and Family Conference. 70 counties participated in the project with representation from about 125 clubs. What a turn out! We were able to raise \$4,030 that will be doubled by the Walther Foundation. A tremendous amount of beautifully handcrafted items were sold. Items that were left over will be available for sale at the Indiana State Fair; as we have been invited to set up shop in the Fine Arts Building the first weekend in August.

Our members are generous in their donations to the Riley Hospital for Children Cheer Guild offering toys, games, puzzles, activity sets, pounds of pop tabs, bereavement gowns and cash funds. Due to changes in Riley’s donations acceptance policies many items that were handmade are no longer accepted so our members have been finding more local recipients of those items.

We continue to partner with the Indiana Donor Network to provide comfort Shawls for the “Threads of Compassion” program. Shawls are given to the families who have lost a loved one and have donated tissue or organs to the living. Our members have donated over 2,000 shawls.

The Public Relations Focus Group was re-established this year, for the purpose of raising the public profile of our organization, to help members in their efforts to increase membership by creating tools to advance the public’s understanding of what WE are all about. The use of Public Service Announcements whether in print publications, local radio or prerecorded video are major assets. The State Brochure was brought into the 21st Century with new verbage and images aimed at a new generation of Homemakers. The newly designed IEHA website is online for members to check out and utilize. The dynamic format will hopefully reflect our membership as Energetic and Enthusiastic! Public Relations also manage the Facebook page and our new Instagram Account so pictures, articles or events can be shared statewide.

At our Spring District Meetings; President, Cindy Saferight introduced the NVON Project in Common, Double Your Influence, Add 2, by asking the membership to consider for a moment that the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association was a puzzle. She asked, where did they fit in? What did IEHA have to offer, that motivated them to join? Each attendee was given a puzzle piece and asked to write their answer on the back. A puzzle for each District was assembled for a Membership display at Home and Family Conference. Many answers were similar; Friendship, Learn new things, Learn to Sew, A night out, My Mother was a member, Crafts, Adult time and her favorite: To spend time with my wife!

At the same time the Membership committee was asking each County to create an imaginative, colorful and creative “Puzzle” to show how their members “Fit” into Extension Homemakers. Posters were to be free standing and no larger than 16 x 20. The Posters were displayed at Home and Family Conference and a winner was chosen by the Membership Committee. The winning County will receive a gift certificate for purchasing Logo items to be used for new membership.

So, you may be asking where do the bees fit, in the scheme of things and why should we care? There exist over 4,000 species of bees in the United States, each with it’s own purpose and strengths, they work together for the common good and betterment of their communities. They collect pollen and nectar and take it back to the hive for nourishment, qualities shared by both Bees and Homemakers.

Creating A Buzz in 2019

Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association



It has been a busy year for Kentucky Extension Homemakers. We just had our State Meeting in May and it was a great one! Our theme was “The Sun Shines Bright” and there were 575 people registered with 94 of them being 1st time attendees. It was a full week. A check for \$46,567.69 was presented to the University of Kentucky Ovarian Cancer Program raising KEHA’s lifetime contribution to this program at just under \$1.5 million. This program provides free screening to more than 15,000 Kentucky women each year from every county in the state.

Because of this screening, the 5-year survival rate of women whose ovarian cancer was detected by screening is about 85%, or over double that of women who did not have screening. Isn’t that wonderful?

Members from across the state crafted 357 finished quilt squares that were put in a silent auction which raised \$2504 and will be used to support our State Meeting programs. Our theme basket raffle to benefit the

Ovarian Cancer Screening Program raised \$2647 and our Silent Auction raised \$1626 to aid in hosting the 2021 NVON Meeting. Our members have been busy.

We have also been very busy volunteering our time and talents for our organization and in our communities. Volunteer hours for 2017-18 totaled 478,570.

In addition to all that, we started a new activity where members were encouraged to knit or crochet squares and bring to the meeting. There, we had a Knit and Crochet Corner where attendees could take a break and either make more squares or sew squares together to make comfort blankets for young patients at Norton Children's Hospital in Louisville. Their generosity resulted in 55 blankets completed for donation. Additional squares and yarn were provided to members in attendance to finish comfort blankets to be donated to facilities across the state. What a wonderful project and one we will continue next year.

We are proud to report our 2018 membership of 13,909 members. This is down a little from the previous year, but we have two existing membership programs in place and our 2nd Vice-President has introduced a new one called "Growing Our Membership." We, like all of you, hope to increase our numbers in the coming years.

Another exciting program voted in at our business meeting is the new "KEHA Leadership Academy". This is a program to train, mentor and guide the KEHA membership to support the mission of volunteerism and leadership now and into the future. This was designed by a committee of KEHA Board Members. Applications will be submitted this fall with the first Academy Training Conference to take place in the Spring of 2020. We are very excited about this.

We just launched a new KEHA Facebook page which was developed by our Marketing and Publicity Chair and has been well received and heavily utilized. Our Facebook page is available at www.facebook.com/OfficialKEHA.

I want to share a few numbers from our eight Educational Areas that have been reported.

- Cultural Arts and Heritage-More than \$30,000 in funding to support Extension and community projects was generated through sales of craft items.
- Environment, Housing and Energy-Clubs and county organizations provided monetary and in-kind donations totaling more than \$13,200 for community beautification projects.
- 4-H Youth Development-KEHA members contributed more than \$21,000 for 4-H camp scholarships for kids who otherwise might not get to attend.
- Family & Individual Development-More than 200 clubs held multi-generational programs.
- Food, Nutrition & Health-More than \$44,000 was raised and donated to the UK Ovarian Cancer Screening and Research Program.
- International-More than \$5000 was donated to finalize construction of the library in Ghana. These were funds collected in 2016-17 and proceeds from the State Meeting Silent Auction last year.
- Leadership Development-\$62,000 in scholarships for higher education were awarded through KEHA clubs, counties and areas.
- Management & Safety-3012 KEHA members learned methods to manage their holiday expenses based on information received through Extension.

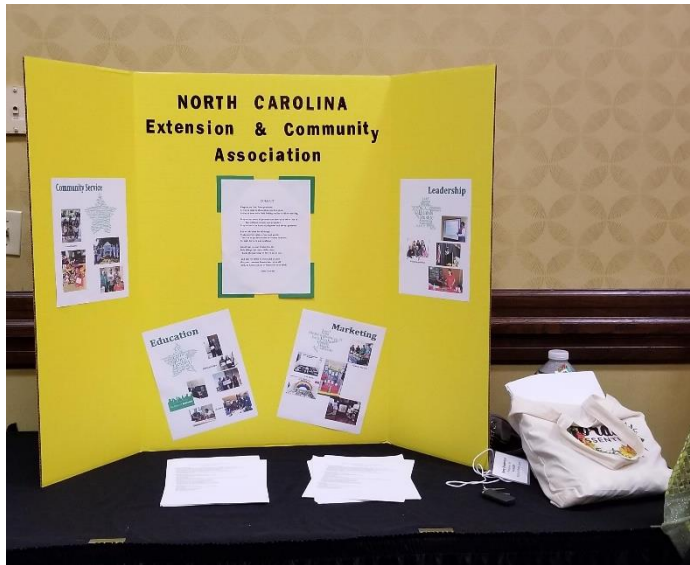
These are just some of the ways we contribute to our communities across the state.

And, lastly, we have been asked by the U.S. Census Bureau to partner with them to create a unique quilt featuring one square from each of Kentucky's 120 counties. This quilt will travel across the state, demonstrating that each county matters, and reminding viewers that every person must be counted for Kentucky to have appropriate congressional representation and federal funding. KEHA is spearheading the

construction of this special quilt with each county providing a quilt block that emphasizes the unique characteristics of the county.

Kentucky Homemakers are very busy and enjoy everything we can contribute to our community.

North Carolina Extension and Community Association, Inc.



The North Carolina Extension & Community Association (NCECA) has 169 clubs, 1,905 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. This is also a great time of fellowship.

Our NCECA has worked very hard on the state projects. One is “Eat Local, Eat Healthy for Healthier Living.” Another is the Boys and Girls Home of North Carolina.

This has been one of our projects for many years. 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: jewelry, basket weaving and other classes for adults who are mentally challenged; providing meals for women working on homes during Habitat National Women Build Week 2018; make clothing protectors for nursing homes and Holy Angels; making quilts and other items, participating in Farmer Markets, County Fairs; helping; with 4H group special projects; making quilted bags with matching quilts and donating along with personal care items, books and toys to children in foster care; taking trips and tours to places of interest in our state and other states; providing college scholarships; contributing to the state of art research and teaching kitchens at North Carolina State University Extension Program; having yard and bake sales as well as other fundraising projects to provide resources for these projects as well as our many other projects..

Our 2018 Annual State Meeting was held at Nags Head on the Outer Banks of our coast. Our 2019 Annual State Meeting will be held in the mountains at Lake Junaluska (less than $\frac{3}{4}$ an hour from the Tennessee state line.) Our state is a long state from east to west and is a very diverse state.

When Great People Work Together Great Things Happen

South Carolina Family and Community Leaders



South Carolina Family and Community Leaders currently have 855 members always fluctuating due to coming and going of members. South Carolina has 46 counties of which 32 counties have clubs. The state is divided into 3 regions or districts; Coastal, Central and Foothills. The districts meet twice a year in the spring and the fall and have found that more members attend the district meeting since it is closer to their homes and no overnight costs. During the meetings we present awards for years of membership 25-75 years and number of new members per county. Comradery, fellowship, community service and learning something new are reasons why our members continue to belong and have for almost 100 years.

Our Annual Meeting is coming up Monday, October 21 and Tuesday October 22 at the Inn on the Square in Greenwood, South Carolina. Our theme for this meeting is “Planting the Seeds of Learning.” With this theme in mind Park Seed Company is headquartered in Greenwood and is one of America's oldest and largest mail-order and eCommerce seed companies. They specialize in garden seeds, offering more than 1,100 varieties of flower, vegetable, and herb seeds, plus a large selection of bulbs, live plants, and gardening accessories. During the month of June as the city hosts its Festival of Flowers, the city comes alive with animal topiaries, street corner gardens, water features and a huge plant sale. A jewel of a place to have a meeting in a county tucked away with that hometown atmosphere. Come join us, it promises to be a memorable meeting to “Plant the Seeds of Learning.”

SCFCL’s mission is to improve the quality of life for individual, families and communities through fellowship, education and service. The SCFCL Board and Education Committee with the help of Clemson University Cooperative Extension Staff prepare and present 12 education lessons to our membership each year. We strive to incorporate the issues from the Associated County Women of the World’s Recommendations and Resolutions as well as current topics important from today’s issues. Please visit scfcl.com and see the diversity of lessons we supply to our members and a whole lot more.

One of our service projects is “Diapers and Pads, Handmade by SCFCL.” This project brings awareness for the need of reusable personal items for girls/women and reusable diapers for babies/children in third world countries since they do not have access to the disposable items nor places to dispose of these used items. We recognize the need to help those babies, girls and women with these items. Babies/children around the world require the use of diapers before they are “potty” trained. Girls/women require person hygiene items as well. Through generous donations of fabric, time and money, these reusable diapers and pads can be handmade. Making these items help our sisters in faraway countries with reusable not disposable ones. Several companies and missionaries in our area send/take these items to those in need. This successful project has brought our members together through service and especially through fellowship.

Each club and each county have their own unique needs and interests. Some counties have “Soup and Cornbread” lunches, bake sales to help a needed family burned out of their home, collections of soup labels to purchase school equipment, aluminum can pop-tops for a Ronald McDonald House, empty medicine bottles to send half way around the world for repurposing or just making goodies to take to a nursing home for special holiday favors. The generosity of our members is always phenomenal. What a great group of people to be associated with.

Since a lot of our members started as 4-her’s, it is a special concern to support 4-H through education. SCFCL members collect “Nickels for SC Youth” with voluntary donations toward two \$1,000 scholarships to

high school students toward the college of their choice. We realize that if we support our young people of today, they will be better leaders for tomorrow.

We no longer track volunteer hours but everywhere you look a SCFCL member is seen making a difference in their community all over our state. I wonder what would happen if there were no longer volunteers like SCFCL, NVON and others across this country? We can continue make a difference in our communities, our states and our world by just going out and asking someone to become a member. When was the last time you invited someone to join your club?

West Virginia Community Educational Outreach Service, Inc.



Greetings from the West Virginia Community Educational Outreach Service and its' more than 2,600 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 Volunteer Hours (CVH) reported a total of 548,000 volunteer hours, which represent \$11,462,800.00 of volunteer service to our communities.

The WVCEOS Leadership and Enrichment Conference was held October 2nd. - 4th., 2018, with more than 200 members attending.

Members were able to attend classes ranging from officer and lesson leader training to educational committee classes and numerous craft classes. Plans have been made for the 2019 annual conference to be held, October 8th. - 10th., with a theme of "WV Stands for, We Volunteer".

WVCEOS members participate in several community service projects. Some of which are: volunteering at county fairs; donating boo bears (1000) to hospitals, fire and police departments; making "Barrel Bags" (500) for displaced children and filling them with age-appropriate items and crocheting red hats (200) for the project, "Little Hats, Big Hearts", which are donated to hospitals in February for newborn babies.

Members also raised over \$35,000.00 in support of breast cancer by having elimination dinners, pink luncheons, purse raffles, silent auctions and fashion shows. \$2500.00 was also raised for the Back Pack program. WVU Extension agents and specialists authored lessons for 2019. Some of the titles were: "A Spoonful of Sugar"; "West Virginia State Folk Festival and History of the County Belle"; "Granny Ladies, A History of Traditional Healing in Appalachia"; "Butterfly Gardens, to Preserve the West Virginia State Butterfly"; "Keep Your Motor Running" (it's not what you think) and "Apple Cider Vinegar Myths and Facts".

Paritorn "Pim" Pankaew, a music therapy major, from Thailand is the WVCEOS International Student for 2019. "Pim" has written a lesson and made a presentation regarding her country which she has shared on her travels to several CEOS counties.

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

Members of the West Virginia CEOS believe in our mission and purpose of strengthening 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.

Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education



Wisconsin was very proud to host the 2018 NVON Conference. “Learning, Leading, Serving, Enhance Leadership Skills” was more than the theme, it was the event itself. Speakers from the University of Wisconsin, the local community, local and national organizations and WAHCE members provided educational and heritage skills workshops. Tours highlighting the Milwaukee area and the trip back in time to Old World Wisconsin were enjoyable.

This was one of the most successful conferences money wise in the last several years. We budgeted for 130 people and had over 150.

The hotel worked with us on the food and space, speaker fees and AV equipment rentals were within budget, and our vendor fair was well attended by vendors and shoppers. All of those things resulted in a profit of over \$2,000.

Our Services of Love, Stitches of Love and Club Educational Awards all are testimony to the many fine projects our members have done. To name just a few, knitting mittens for local schools, conducting a clothing exchange for members in the community and then donating unsold items to schools and Foster Parents, collecting linens and personal care items for local shelters, furnishing books for neo-natal intensive care units and providing educational programs to the community. Wisconsin is very proud of the accomplishments and dedication that its members have achieved.

Although we had an increase of 113 members in our 48 counties, our membership count dropped 271. Our total membership is about 2,900. Our Membership and Program Planning Committees are working together to create fun, educational and innovative programs to attract new members. Aging members are a problem as is with all NVON states.

Wisconsin continues to track volunteer hours with our “Impact of HCE” program. In 2018 about 50% of our counties reported they donated 17,325 Community Outreach volunteer hours with a monetary value of \$971,070. WAHCE county donations statewide equal \$55,772. Some of the projects were highlighted above.

We continue to support our Wisconsin Bookworms program which is in its 22nd year reading over 31,578 books to children this past year. Readers read books to children in Head Start and local grade school and then the children get to keep the books. We were overwhelmed when some children said they never owned a book before. Some said they took the books home and taught their parents to read English. This year WAHCE counties paid out \$99,335 in support of this program and the children of Wisconsin.

Internationally we have donated \$8,970 to Pennies for Friendship, \$2,243.05 for water filters in Nicaragua and we have a check to present today to NVON for \$2,243.05 for the water filter project. We have donated to Women Walk the World, Days for Girls, Heifer International, and several ACWW sponsored projects.

Wisconsin is a huge supporter of Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners. We collected and donated endless boxes of sewing supplies, sewing machines, baking supplies and other items to be packed and shipped to Nicaragua. There were also cash donations for purchasing a “starter flock” of chickens for a family.

We host a State conference in September for all members of the state. This past year we had 275 members attended the three-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.

Eating local foods has been a NVON goal, in which WAHCE participates. Statewide 15% get most of their food from within 100 miles. Twenty-nine percent get about half and 29% percent get some local food. Sixteen percent are unsure how much of their diet is local.

Our Scholarship program is one of the best in the NVON states. Not only does WAHCE give out a leadership scholarship each year, but each county offers scholarships to their communities for a total this year of \$33,675 throughout the state.

The theme for my term as WAHCE President is “HCE Springs into Action”. We do that locally, statewide, nationally and worldwide. This is just a sample of what WAHCE does.