



VISION



Volume 9 Issue 2

May 2026

NVON Newsletter



President's Thoughts...

Together Everyone Achieves More ---TEAM

The past few months have proven that as an organization working together, we can achieve more. NVON state societies have worked tirelessly on their own rallies, conferences and statewide projects while continuing to support our Project in Common *Break the Stigma, Ignite Hope, Mental Health Matters*.

In preparation for the ACWW Triennial World Conference member states that had no one able to attend shared their votes by proxy with other state society members that were registered. **THAT** means all ten of the NVON state societies and I as, NVON president, were represented in the voting during the business session.

During the conference there were reports from all of the Area Presidents and other great speakers from across the world, and a lot of time to meet and visit with members from the 51 nations attending.

There were 21 Resolutions presented during the week. Our own society secretary and member of the Illinois Association for Home and Community Education (IAHCE) Carol Harms has worked tirelessly on a resolution concerning Childcare deserts. As NVON president I presented the motion and Carol, seconded the motion. Carol was able to defend the motion and the motion passed. Please refer to the ACWW website for Resolution Number 14.

NVON members represented our organization well throughout the Ottawa conference from the beginning flag presentation during the business meetings to the retiring of the flags and close of meeting.

Jane Chapman from IAHCE was ACWW Area U.S.A. President. At our next zoom meeting June 11th, we will discuss the project that Jane has chosen for us in the states.

Communication is a key part of teamwork. While attending the Triennial the NVON 2026 Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education (WAHCE) conference committee co-chair member Eileen Gottbeheat was also busy working on the upcoming conference July 14-16 at Wisconsin Dells, WI. Eileen was in contact with conference co-chair, Shirley Steinhorst and Jane Grabarski, registrar while also participating in the Triennial.

The 27th Annual NVON conference hosted by WAHCE is now at capacity for lodging, and some tours and classes, with alternative accommodations available for late registrants. Please see the NVON website NVON.ORG for further conference updates. If you have not made plans to attend this conference please do so as you are a valuable member and will contribute to the conference. There will be lots of fellowship, education, food, entertainment and of course taking care of NVON business.

Thanks for being great members of the NVON *TEAM*,

Karen



Together Everyone Achieves More

Work Hard. Dream Big. Never Give Up.



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May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Announcing Mental Health America's 2026 theme:

More Good Days, Together

This reflects the heart of our mission:

Helping people have more good days by meeting them where they are, supporting them as whole people, and understanding that “good” is defined by their unique experience and goals.

At Mental Health America, we know that there is no health without mental health. 1 in 5 people experience a mental health condition each year — and 5 in 5 are managing their mental health every day. Everyone has good days and hard days with their mental health.

This year's theme encourages us all to reflect on what a “good” day looks like, both for ourselves, and for our communities. Together, we can use that insight to connect people to the right support at the right time, and shape advocacy, education, and community engagement to make more good days possible for all.

The path may look different for everyone, but we all deserve more good days together.

Make today a good one and get involved the full article can be found <https://mhanational.org/news/more-good-days-together-2026-theme-announcement/>

Wisconsin Dells Army Duck & The Bowman House Museum Tour



Tuesday July 14
12:00 – 3:30 pm
\$40 per person



One of Wisconsin Dells' most popular Wisconsin Dells attraction for 70+ years, providing a sightseeing experience unlike any other. Sandstone rock formations that are over 14,000 years old such as Grotto Island, Twin Ink Stands, Sugar Bowl, and Lone Rock. Two Splash Downs into Sasquatch Lake and use the Duck's six-wheel drive capabilities to traverse Dell Creek. Our 55 minute, land-and-water Duck rides has been the most unique and original way to experience the Wisconsin Dells for over 70 years.

After the Duck Ride, a shuttle will take you to Bowman Park for a visit to the historic Bowman House Museum— a must-see in downtown Dells. This beautiful home, built in 1904, is a striking example of prairie style architecture.

27th ANNUAL NVON CONFERENCE
July 14-16, 2026
Together Everyone Achieves More, "Never Give Up"

The Wisconsin Hotel & Conference Center
60 Gasser Rd, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965
(608) 254-2285

Hotel Information: Block name: NVON Conference Block Code: 2607NVONCO Group rate until May 1st, 2026.
Please leave your name, phone number if we do not answer and we will call you back as soon as possible.

Additional Hotel Rooms:

Staybridge Suites Wisconsin Dells
1345 Great Wolf Dr, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965
Front Desk Phone (608) 253-1700

Registration Form \$25 Late Fee (postmarked after June 1)
Conference T-shirt Order Form Order Deadline June 22

For additional information contact:

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RAFFLE

\$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

1st Place - Quilt: "Scattered Leaves" Spectacular pieced graphic quilt. Red, White, & Blues. Modern yet vintage. 80" X 80"

2nd Place - Picnic Basket includes a 4 place setting with glass dishes, wine glasses, real silverware, napkins, place mats, and a hand quilted picnic blanket!



**** Winners will be drawn Thursday evening, July 16th ****

2026 Conference Agenda

Together Everyone Achieves More, “Never Give Up”

Monday, July 13

- 4:00 pm Hotel Check-in
 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm ** Registration ** State Display Set-up ** Receive Silent Auction Items **

Tuesday, July 14

- 8:00am – 4:00 pm ** Registration ** State Display Set-up ** Receive Silent Auction Items **
 9:00am – 11:00 am Craft Workshops
 *Chain Painting— FULL *Gnome Ornament * Games

Lunch on your own

- Noon – 3:30 pm Wisconsin Dells Army Duck & The Bowman House Tour
 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Craft Workshops
 *Water Aerobics *Plarn Plastic Yarn Project
 6:00 pm Wisconsin Night— Donna Oschner — Frank Llyod Wright
 8:00 pm NVON Board Meeting (Exec Committee, State Presidents and 2nd voting delegates)

Wednesday, July 15

- 8:00 am – 4:00 pm ** Registration ** State Display Set-up **
 6:00 am – 8:00 am Breakfast Buffet
 9:00 am – 11:00 am NVON Conference Opening Session and Business Meeting
 12:00 Noon Luncheon – Crystal Treu "You're Stronger Than You Know!"
 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm ** ACWW Silent Auction - Bidding Begins **
 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Educational Seminars
 *Craft-Diamond Dot Art *In Every Story There's Strength *Necedah Wildlife Refuge—FULL
 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Education Seminars
 *Craft-Warm Glow—FULL *Wisconsin Helping Nicaragua *Circus World Museum
 6:00 pm Dinner Buffet – Barb & Ken Wardius "Wisconsin Lighthouses: A Photographic and Historical Guide"
 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm ** ACWW Silent Auction – Bidding Opportunities **

Thursday, July 16

- 8:00 am – Noon ** Registration ** State Displays Set-up **
 6:00 am – 8:00 am Breakfast Buffet
 9:00 am – 11:00 am NVON Business Meeting
 12:00 Noon Luncheon – Gabby Myers "Cranberry 101"
 ** AEHC Invitation to 2027 Conference**
 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm **ACWW Silent Auction – Last Chance to Bid, Closes at 3:30pm (Pick up after Banquet)**
 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Educational Seminars
 *25 Year Perspective of Quilting *How to Help Others When I'm Not OK *Break the Stigma
 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Educational Seminars
 *Craft-Friendship Necklace *Don't You Dare Give Up *The Amish in Wisconsin— FULL
 5:00 pm Group State Pictures—location TBD
 6:00 pm Dinner – Jennifer Drayna "Cranes of the World"
 ** Drawing for Quilt ** Installation of Officers ** Closing Ceremony**

After the Banquet, winning bidders please pick up your ACWW Auction items.

State Displays should be removed.

Thank you for visiting Wisconsin! Have a Safe Trip Home!

ENTERTAINMENT/SPEAKERS



Tuesday evening's Wisconsin Night Speaker Donna Oschner will present a PowerPoint presentation on Frank Lloyd Wright.

Frank Lloyd Wright (FLLW) is a famous architect born in Wisconsin. A number of his homes and buildings are recognized nationwide. Some of his buildings are over 100 years old, they still remain modern looking today. He studied engineering at UW Madison for a few semesters and later apprenticed with Louis Sullivan in Chicago. FLLW had a keen eye in design.



At Wednesday's luncheon Crystal Treu will be presenting her story about overcoming breast cancer. Her program is titled "**You're Stronger Than You Know!**" Join us to hear Crystal discuss her experiences and share how the support of others helped her discover inner strength. After serving as the primary caregiver for her husband through his three cancer diagnoses, Crystal had to learn to accept care and support herself. We invite you to attend as she shares her inspiring journey.



Wednesday's Supper brings Barb and Ken Wardius, authors of "Wisconsin Lighthouses: A Photographic and Historical Guide," they will present a 45-minute slide and lecture program on Wisconsin's historic lighthouses. The presentation features original photographs, live narration, music, and covers about one-third of the state's lighthouses, including Cana Island, Wisconsin Point, Sand Island, Rockwell, Rawley Point, Milwaukee North Point, and others. Audience questions are welcome after the program.



Thursday's Luncheon, Gabby Myers, Research & Education Manager at the Cranberry Research Center in Black River Falls. Gabby will present "Cranberry 101" presentation, highlighting Wisconsin's state fruit, its production, and history. She manages research and educational initiatives for the Wisconsin Cranberry Research and Education Foundation, supports external projects at the Cranberry Innovation Center, and coordinates tours and industry events. Gabby holds a PhD in agricultural engineering from Iowa State University.

We all need GRIT



G – Guts
R – Resilience
I – Initiative
T – Tenacity

News from Associated Country Women of the World



The International Year of the Woman Farmer recognizes and celebrates the critical contributions women make to agriculture and food systems worldwide. It is a global opportunity to raise awareness, amplify women's voices, and advance action that supports women farmers at every level.

Women farmers play a vital role in food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural economies. From growing and processing food to managing households and communities, their work underpins resilient food systems and supports livelihoods across generations.

Despite their contributions, women farmers often face significant barriers, including limited access to land, education, financing, and decision-making opportunities. Their work is frequently underrecognized, even as they carry a disproportionate share of agricultural and caregiving responsibilities.

ACWW plays an active role in advancing the goals of the International Year of the Woman Farmer by amplifying the voices and experiences of women farmers worldwide. Through storytelling, partnerships, and targeted projects, ACWW's work aims to increase visibility, strengthen recognition, and support meaningful action that reflects the everyday realities of women in agriculture.

Keep an eye on acww.org throughout the year for upcoming initiatives, stories, and projects celebrating the International Year of the Woman Farmer. We'll be sharing new opportunities to learn, engage, and support women farmers worldwide.

2026 ACWW Triennial resolutions presented by USA Society Members

Resolution 14: Childhood Desserts

Mover: National Volunteer Outreach Network

Seconder: Illinois Association for Home and Community Education

ACWW and its member societies call on all governments at both local and national levels to take comprehensive action to eliminate childcare deserts, including those living in rural, urban and marginalized areas. This includes addressing barriers to affordable and equitable childcare services influenced by a lack of licensed childcare service providers, lack of stabilized care and absence of high-quality childcare options, which have a disproportionate impact on women, particularly rural women. We call on governments to provide reliable, affordable, and accessible childcare services, particularly for women living in rural and other under-served areas and communities. Governments are encouraged to consider solutions that include investment in childcare infrastructure, support for flexible and community-based care models, and targeted training programs for childcare service providers at the local and national levels.

Resolution 20 : Reducing digital harms via social media

Movers: Country Women's Council, USA

Seconder: The Country Women's Association of Victoria, Inc.

The ACWW and its Member Societies call on all governments at all levels to implement and enforce policies that reduce digital harms, particularly via social media, and promote adolescent mental well-being online. ACWW members commit to advocating for safe, inclusive, equitable digital environments for young people - especially young rural women - through public education, community engagement, and support for youth-led digital literacy initiatives.

These are just two of the 21 resolutions introduced during the nine business sessions held over four of the conference's five days, with one day reserved for area tours. Some proposed updates to the constitution, while others addressed issues such as collecting data on flood-prone rivers, iodine deficiency among rural women, equitable access to vaccines, funding for sexual and reproductive health and rights, sustainable funding models to address violence against women and girls, and disclosure requirements for the commercial use of digital editing and AI-generated content. Although some of these issues may not affect us personally, they are global concerns.



Tuesday July 14, 2026

Morning crafts 9:00 am — 11:00 am Crafts

FULL—Chain Painting — \$10.00 per person. Instructor: Sheryl Smith

Participants will use acrylic paint and ball chains to design floral-inspired artwork on canvas. As the process can get messy, protective clothing and gloves will be provided for everyone.

FULL—Gnome Ornament — \$6.00 per person. Instructor: Glory Bizub

Come join us in creating a one of a kind (3-inch) ceramic Gnome of your dreams.

Games — Bring a bag of wrapped candy to play! One game to play is Left, Right and Center. It's a dice game. Tons of fun. Cards will be available, if people want to play card games. Dominoes, and puzzles.



Afternoon crafts 1:00pm — 3:00pm

Water Aerobics — Instructor: Dawn Stone

Join us for water aerobics at the indoor pool, featuring structured water-based exercises set to music. No swimming ability is required, as all activities take place in shallow water.

Plarning — Instructed by Becky Gutzman

Becky will teach you how to make plarn—plastic yarn made from recycled grocery bags. This workshop shows you how to turn bags into plarn and crochet it into mats for homeless shelters or fun tote bags and baskets. All materials are provided, except you must bring your own crochet hook or knitting needles. Basic crochet skills are helpful. The workshop is free.



Wednesday July 15, 2026

2:00 pm — 3:00pm

Diamond Dot Craft Workshop — Led by Darlene Schumacher, this class will guide participants in creating a choice of two picture frames. The supply fee for this session is \$20.00.

FULL—Every story contains strength — Guided by Dot Dunn Hart

Participants can share their experiences with trauma from their own lives. By sharing our stories, we support one another.

FULL—The Necedah National Wildlife Refuge - a Volunteer's Dream! — Led by: Deb Biechler from the Necedah Wildlife Refuge-- Creating community and using your gifts as a volunteer. How volunteers and the beauty and awe of the refuge combine to work magic.



3:30pm — 4:30pm

FULL—Warm Glow — led by Eileen Gottbeheat, features a wool craft project where participants create a fall wall hanging using appliqué and embroidery. The cost for this session is \$15.00.

Wisconsin Helping Nicaragua Women & Families — Amy Wiza will present on programs in Nicaragua that develop skills, character, and leadership. NVON and WAHCE have supported Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners by providing water filters, sewing machines, supplies, and humanitarian aid for Nicaraguan families.

Circus World Museum will be speaking about the history of the Ringling Brothers Circus in Baraboo. Experience the amazing at Circus World! 64 acres showcasing the incredible history of the American Circus is yours to explore. From the world's largest collection of restored historic circus wagons to seven National Landmark structures that more than a century ago were the wintertime home to the Ringling Bros. Circus.



Thursday 16, 2026

2:00 pm-3:00 pm

What Quilting Means: A 25 year Perspective — Jane Weiss will show quilts that she has made over the past 25 years, sharing her thoughts and observations about what quilting means to the people who do it.

How to Help Others When I am Not Okay — Heather Quackenboss is the Extension Educator from LaCrosse County. We are doing our best to take care of everything and everyone and often forget about ourselves. How do we regulate our nervous systems, avoid burnout, and remain true to who we are? Learn about compassion, resilience and get rid of what we cannot.

Break the stigma Around Domestic Violence — Jess Kaehny is the Community Education Program Manager at H.O.P.E House. As a domestic violence advocacy center that covers 5 rural counties in Wisconsin. Hope House seeks to break the stigma around domestic violence and ignite hope in people who have experienced it. Learn the realities.

3:30pm -4:30pm

Friendship Necklace — Sandy Pohl is owner of K9-Ewe. In this class we will make a very unique necklace. Each class member will pick from a bin of beads, that will be provided by the instructor. Beads and everything needed will be provided. The supply fees for this class is \$20.00.

Don't You Dare Give Up-The Power of Persistence" — Teresa Newcomb is a Life Coach. In the work of serving others, even the strongest hearts can grow weary. Don't You Dare Give Up is a Heart-centered and practical workshop designed especially for volunteers and outreach teams who give so much of themselves to others.

FULL—The Amish in Wisconsin — Larry Scheckel The Old Order Amish came from Ohio and arrived in southern Monroe County and northern Vernon County starting in 1966. They have grown to 3200 families with a population of over 3,500. Hear about their unique way of life: courting, marriage, baptisms, weddings, funerals, schools, dress, German language, the Ordnung (set of rules for Life).





Ottawa 2026
ACWW 31st Triennial
World Conference

31st Triennial World Conference
26 April - 1 May 2026
Ottawa, Canada

National Volunteer Outreach Network, Inc.

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NVON Newsletter



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6640 North 1100 East
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Pre-Order your 2026 Conference T-Shirt

Gildan brand 50/50
Sizes S to 6X
\$20 each



Include your T-shirt order and payment with your 2026 Conference Registration Form.

June 22nd is the DEADLINE to receive orders.

Shirts will be delivered at Conference.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Size _____ Payment included _____

Make checks payable to: **WAHCE**

Mail check or money order with
registration form to:

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National Volunteer Outreach Network, INC.

VISION

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

NVON Member State Conferences/Meetings

Arkansas EHC

June 2— 4, 2026
Wyndham Riverfront
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Florida FAHCE

2027 TBD
Best Western Gateway Grand
Gainesville, Florida

Illinois IAHCCE

March 16—18, 2027
Thelma Keller Convention Center
Effingham, Illinois

Indiana IEHA

June 15— 17, 2026
The Seasons Lodge
Nashville, Indiana

Kentucky EHA

2027 TBD
Hyatt Regency
Lexington, Kentucky

Michigan CEO

Sept. 30 — Oct.2 2026
Double Tree
Bay City, Michigan

North Carolina ECA

District Dates for 2027
* Northeast—TBD
* Southeast—TBD

South Carolina FCL

October 22, 2026
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Columbia, South Carolina

West Virginia CEOS

October 6— 8, 2026
Jackson's Mill
Weston, West Virginia

Wisconsin AHCE

September 20—23, 2026
Lismore Hotel
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

2026 NVON

CONFERENCE

July 14—16, 2026
Wisconsin Hotel & Conference center
Wisconsin Dells, WI

2027 NVON Conference

July 13—15, 2027
The Cabins at Dry Creek
Mountain View, Arkansas

2028 NVON Conference

July 18—20, 2028
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bay City
Bay City, Michigan

32th ACWW

Triennial

World Conference

2029 TBD
Killarney, Ireland