

**Fond du Lac County
HCE Officers**

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Betty Birschbach

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Shelley Tidemann

President's Report

I am looking forward to the East District Meeting on April 22. It is interesting to see what other clubs are doing and share ideas.

I am learning the responsibilities of being your president. I will now have time to put all those papers together in the book that Marianne has passed on to me! Great job on passing the club minutes to me. Be sure to let me know if I am to respond to something and I don't.....

Hope to see you all at the banquet on May 7th.

Have a great summer.
Emma Jung

2009 Calendar of Events

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|--------------------|--|
| May 7 | HCE Night, American Legion Hall, Fond du Lac |
| June 2-4 | College Days, UW-Madison |
| July 13-15 | NVON Conference, Illinois |
| July 15-19 | Fond du Lac County Fair |
| July 16-17 & 23-24 | – Grandparent University |
| Aug. 15 | Submit Articles for FOCUS Newsletter to UW-Extension |
| Aug. 17 | Executive Board Meeting, UW-Fond du Lac – 6:30 pm |
| Aug. 21 | Brat Fry, Town Hall, Eden |
| Sept. 3 | “Prescription Drugs & Herbal Remedies” Leader Training, UW-Fond du Lac – 7:00 pm |

Fundraisers for 2009

Don't forget to bring your club's \$10 item for the **Bucket Raffle at HCE Night**. Please bring your ice cream bucket with your club name on it. Tickets will be available at \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

After a discussion at the Spring Council meeting, it was decided to make a change for the day and place for the **Brat Fry** this summer. It will be held one day only on **Friday, August 21**, at the Town Hall on Hwy. 45 in **Eden**. A work schedule and sign up sheet will be available at HCE Night on May 7. Any questions, please call Mary Ryan at 923-3528.

Mary Ryan, FDL Center I
Willing Workers Club President

Club Community Program Award

This award is to recognize individual clubs for volunteering and providing services that benefits or involves their local community.

There will be six awards of \$50 each for the Club Community Service award. Awards will be given out at the State Conference in September 2009.

Betty Birschbach, Chair of Program

\$200 Ardith McDowell Scholarship

Deadline has been extended to Sept. 1

Due to a lack of applicants, we will allow more time for our members to read the guidelines and fill out the application. You can find it in the Communicator as well as on line at www.wahceinc.org.

It can be used for your travel expenses to attend the **ACWW Triennial** in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in April of 2010. We will award the Scholarship Money at our State Conference in Superior this fall.

Susan Beck, Scholarship Chair
3109 Mill Road, Jackson, WI 53037
262-677-4733 -- beckschick@yahoo.com

Welcome New Member

Mary Gulig – Calumet HCE

Wisconsin Bookworms™

In May, we will have completed our NINTH year of reading and providing free books to Head Start children.

A **BIG** thank you goes to our Wisconsin Bookworms™ volunteer readers who make this project so special: Joan Becker-Pinch, Donna Bray-Peachy, Julia Cartwright, Mary Champeau, Marion Dahms, Anita Demoske, Marianne Geiger, Julie Green, Opal Griffiths, Jackie Hansen, Charmaine Jenkins, Linda Jorgensen, Shirley Maltby, LaVerne Markert, Delores Miller, Joyce Ritzema, Doris Rymer, Charmayne Searl, and Carol Thome.

Funding for this project is on-going and provided by individuals, service organizations, fundraisers, and grants. Donors in 2008 included: Calvary HCE Club, Kiwanis Club of Fond du Lac, Kiwanis of Fabulous Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac Area Foundation, Fond du Lac Morning Rotary Club, Fond du Lac Noon Optimist Club, Fond du Lac Optimist, Fond du Lac Rotary Club Charities, Inc., Mary Halfman, Service League of Fond du Lac, and Soroptimist International of Fond du Lac.

Marianne Geiger, Bookworms Chair

Country Roads HCE

We have been learning interesting and new things this winter. A granddaughter of our member, Nova Vellema, presented a program on adoption as she works for Bethany Services. She was interesting and knowledgeable and it seemed everyone knew someone involved with an international adoption.

Two of our members, Elsie Winkel and Delores Miller, attended the November workshop at Char Honold-Searl's house with 11 other HCE members and helped cut out many pairs of mittens for Head Start children and also some large bibs for nursing home patients. Some of the people took bibs and others took mittens to finish. Five members sewed while the rest cut the fabric; a wonderful cooperative effort for our group.

In December we held our rousing Christmas party at the home of our gracious hostess, Gloria Drews. After a delicious potluck supper, we played Bunco, which was great fun. January's club choice was a presentation by Elsie Winkel's son of his bicycle trip all the way across America in the name of poor people. The group raised millions of dollars for the fight against poverty and saw the United States in a different way, from the seat of a bicycle.

In February we had meetings to plan the banquet and learning how to save energy. There are always new ideas if we are open to learn and we are.

In March we received information on many flowers which are supposed to grow in our area. Now we have to get up and plant them when and if it ever warms up.

We also will be helping out at the East District meeting which Fond du Lac County will host.

- Delores Miller, Secretary





WAHCE East District Conference

The WAHCE East District Conference was held April 22 at UW-Fond du Lac. **“Caring & Sharing with HCE”** was the theme which was evident throughout the day. A total of 85 HCE members attended from eight counties.

Peggy Laehn was the keynote speaker sharing information on the Ronald McDonald House. Workshops consisted of the Presidents’ Meeting, Cultural Arts “Make & Take”, Family Living & International on Mexico, Membership, and Wisconsin Bookworms™. Music was provided by the UW-Fond du Lac Chorus under the direction of Pat Eby during the luncheon.

Committee members worked together as a team and were pleased with the results of the conference. There was something for everyone to do. Those attending for the first time were happy that they participated. Our HCE representatives were: Donna Bray Peachy, Betty Birschbach, Marianne Geiger, Sue Gierach, Charmaine Jenkins, Emma Jung, Marion Lancor, Shirley Maltby, LaVerne Markert, Tharcilla Matznick, Delores Miller, Joyce Ritzema, Doris Rymer, Charmayne Searl, and Roger Searl. Special thanks goes to LaVerne Markert for the lovely table favors and plant centerpieces-prizes and to Roger Searl for being the photographer.

All in all, it was a delightful day and something we can be proud of.



Lois Dalke, East District Director, conducting the County Presidents Meeting



Cultural Arts presenter Helen Haney being introduced by Charmayne Honold-Searl, FDL County Co-President & Cultural Arts Chair



Cultural Arts Workshop



Anita Schuller, East District Membership Chair, conducting workshop.



Keynote speaker Peggy Laehn being introduced by Charm Searl. Peggy shared slides and told about the Ronald McDonald House.



Marianne Geiger, East District Wisconsin Bookworm™ Chair, conducting the workshop.

College Days 2009

An Educational Adventure for Adults

Register by May 18 for chance to experience highlights of UW campus

This summer, plan to take an education vacation on the beautiful University of Wisconsin-Madison campus.

The 46th annual College Days, to be held on June 2, 3 and 4, offers participants the opportunity to experience college life, stay in new university dorms and attend programs taught by local experts and UW-Extension and UW-Madison faculty.

The schedule includes seminars and tours to interest everyone. Hear experts on a variety of current topics such as investing in today's volatile economic markets; UW-Madison's environmental stewardship; how to create your own will or advance directive; and stem cell research.

Learn about places near and far during seminars on the lost mansions of Milwaukee's Grand Avenue; daily life in ancient times; and Russian art and architecture. Try your hand at silk scarf painting. Or learn about glass bottle production and collection; how to write in the age of e-mail; and basic computer use.

"The College Days seminars cover nearly everything--from 'need to know' topics, to the fun and unusual," says Michele Dickinson, outreach specialist with UW-Extension Family Living Programs, which hosts the event. "These are topics you'll want to learn about if you're 20 or if you're 70."

College Days highlights features that are unique to the university; for example, in a session called "Sharing in the Discovery: Introduction to Stem Cell Research at UW-Madison," participants will learn about the history of stem cell research, tour the labs, and have an opportunity to work with stem cells.

Opening speaker First Lady Jessica Doyle will welcome participants and talk about the importance of education in the state's economic recovery. Joan Houston-Hall, Chief Editor of the "Dictionary of American Regional English," will explain some of the different ways we use the English language across the United States.

Participants can tour the state Capitol, the Chazen Art Museum, the UW-Madison Agricultural Research Station, Second Harvest Foodbank, and more. The evenings will provide entertainment with games and live music.

College Days has become an annual tradition for some participants. "Friends come together, sisters come, mothers and daughters come," says Dickinson. "We find that our participants like taking classes from UW faculty and getting together with other people from around the state."

For more information about College Days or to receive a brochure, call toll free 1-888-391-4255 or visit the web at www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/conference/. The registration deadline is May 18.



FOCUS

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Serving members of the Fond du Lac County Association for Home and Community Education, Inc. with an educational and leadership focus through continuing education. The Association works for the preservation and improvement of home and community life. Membership is open to all persons without regard to race, color, ethnic background or economic circumstances.

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