



CROSSE COUNTY NEWS



NOVEMBER 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE




This fall has been a busy season for me. I attended the State WAHCE Conference that was held in Wisconsin Dells in mid-September. I really enjoyed touring the historic Bowden House and the Ducks excursion over land and on the Wisconsin River. It was such a beautiful day to be out and about!

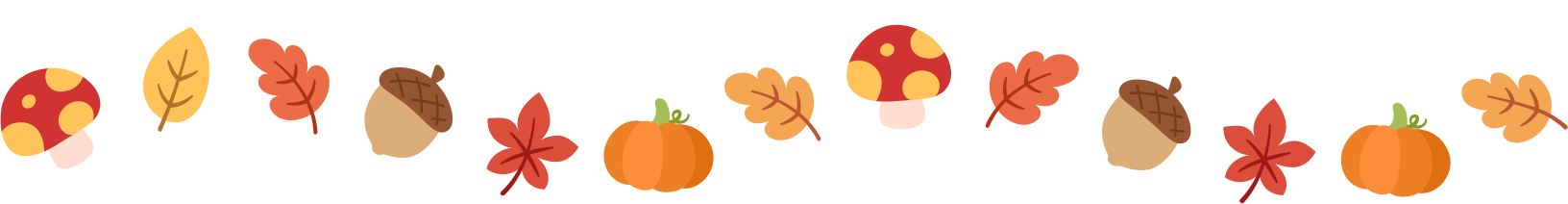
The Conference was amazing. Great sessions for crafters, inspirational speakers, educational meetings and the fun of getting together with old friends and making new ones. The venue and rooms were very nice, and the food was the best I've ever experienced at a conference! Five LAHCE members attended this year. I encourage you all to consider going next year when it will be held in Appleton.

The first week of October I attended the West District Annual Fall Meeting in Loyal. It was a long drive, over 2 hours. Five of us attended. We were hoping for some fall colors along the way, but it was not to be. I guess fall colors are later than usual this year. As I write this on October 22nd, the colors have really popped here in La Crosse County. Fiery reds, golden yellows and bright oranges exploded in the last few days. I do love FALL! Anyway, we had a speaker at the district meeting who told of her trip to South Africa for a photo safari. It was so interesting and the photos she shared were extraordinary. She shared some native cuisine (dried grubs) which I declined...you can ask Sheryl Smith how they tasted!

The day after the West District Conference, we held our LAHCE Annual Fall Meeting at the Holland Town Hall. Our speaker, Heidi Svee, was from a women's shelter, New Horizons, in keeping with our International Program, Domestic Violence Against Women and Girls, which is not only a local problem, but national and international as well.

The business meeting included reports from committee chairmen, reports from two members who attended the state conference, and approval of the 2024 LAHCE budget. As our membership continues to decline, so does our revenue from dues.





We discussed a few ways to raise funds to compensate. The funds retained in the county are used to purchase the supplies to do our Services of Love and Stitches of Love projects, pay speakers for our educational programs, cover office supplies and buy material for the book bags we sew for the Bookworms Program at Head Start. Members who attended the meeting were not interested in holding any fund raising events.

Instead they voted unanimously to increase dues to \$25 per member/year. I hope that does not discourage anyone from continuing as a member. The work we do is so important to the community. In fact, even if you are no longer able to attend meetings, I hope you will continue to be a member and pay dues to support our community service. We also accept additional donations. If you have friends or family who would like to help, please let them know that they don't have to be members to support our good deeds!

This is the last President's Message from me. I have served two 2-year terms. Sheryl Smith was elected as your new county president. I was elected to serve as the new county secretary. Sylvia Finch continues as the county treasurer. Those of us who serve on the Executive Committee are committed to serving you, our members, and the community. We look forward to 2024 and all that it has to offer.



Cathy Onsager, LAHCE President



EDITOR'S REPORT

The year is flying by and will soon be moving into 2024. Hope the winter is not too rough on us.

I attended the state conference in Wisconsin Dells in September. It was fun seeing old friends and making new ones. The Southwest District did an excellent job on planning the conference. The only complaint was that the meeting rooms were stretched out in two different ends of the center which made for a lot of walking for me with my bad knee. I was very thankful that I had my cane with me.

West District meeting in November was a long day, being held in Loyal which is 2 hours away. The morning speaker was very interesting as Cathy said in her President's report, the boiled and dried grub tasted like cardboard, not very palatable, maybe a little salt would have helped. The business meeting went well, it was my first since becoming district secretary. Mary Ann Bays, district director installed our treasurer as well as some committee chairs.

So now I will be taking over as president again of the county the first of the year, and also have been talked into taking the position of membership chair on the state board, I have a hard time saying "no" and really enjoyed being on the board previously. So here's to a coming year of staying busy.

Sheryl Smith, Editor



STITCHES OF LOVE AND SERVICES OF LOVE

At the state conference, we received awards for both our projects from the previous year. Our Stitches of Love project was the adult clothing protectors made from men's shirts, and our Services of Love project was the donations we made to the Salvation Army shelter and the silk corsages and boutonnieres we made for residents of Bethany St. Joe's.

On Monday, November 23rd, 6 members met at my home and we started our Stitches of Love project for 2023-24, fleece mitten-muffs which will be donated to a nursing home. We had some members cutting out the pieces and others sewing, also 3 members took them home to sew. One other member gave me money to purchase fleece. We are hoping to deliver these in December.

Following this report are pictures of the event.

Our Services of Love project will be "A Book, a Blanket, and a Buddy in a Bag" which we started this year and are continuing as long as there is a need.

Sheryl Smith



PROGRAM COORDINATOR REPORT

A reminder that the Onalaska library has Senior Moment programs every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

The November programs are:

Nov. 1 Holocaust Remembrance

Nov. 8 History of McGilvary Road

Nov. 15 One Room Schools

Nov. 29 Coulee region Giving Hearts Choir

You do not need to register to attend.

Nancy Kuczynski, Program Coordinator

INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Pennies for Friendship

Distributions for 2022

WAHCE programs:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Days for Girls | \$431.52 |
| Heifer International | 100.00 |
| Ventures in People-Haiti | 336.47 |
| Nicaragua-Water Filters | 809.48 |
| Bee keeping | 490.96 |
| General | 949.12 |
| Learning Centers | 412.78 |
| Undesignated | 6,488.88 |

ACWW Programs:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Women Walk the World | 50.00 |
| Sustainable Agriculture Development | 45.00 |
| Sustainable Water, Sanitation, Energy | 50.00 |

Total 10,164.21

2023 ends our project on Saving Our Pollinators. But the need is still there, so keep on planting flowers. Chocolate needs pollinators!!

Leah Bork, Chair

CULTURAL ARTS REPORT

Hello everyone,

I hope you have all been able to enjoy the beautiful Fall colors we have this season.

Quilling Workshop

Have you seen cards or pictures done with tightly coiled strips of paper in multi-colors glued onto card stock? This is known as quilling and is coming back into popularity.

We will be having a cultural arts craft day on November 16th at 1:00 PM at the Holland Town Hall. Jean Mengelt is a self-taught quiller, will be showing us how it's done and everyone will be creating a card or two with an Autumn theme. Materials will be furnished and attendees will leave with some supplies to use on their own. The workshop will last approximately 2 hours and there will be refreshments afterwards. The cost will be \$5.00 per person for the needed supplies. Invite a friend to join us, the more the merrier.

Please RSVP to me, Linda Gillmeister at Lindagillmeister@gmail.com. You can also text me at my cell number 608-769-9856.

Hope to see you there.

Linda Gillmeister, Cultural Arts Coordinator

BOOKWORMS

Our 2023-24 LAHCE Bookworms Program began in October. We have 9 readers sharing 7 books in 12 classrooms at Head Start; approximately 175 students.

Volunteers read to the children once a month from October through April. Students each get to keep a book. We also have volunteers that sew a bookbag for each child to store the books at home.

I would like to introduce Kathy Brudos, who has volunteered to be the new Bookworms Coordinator! Kathy was a member of the Table Rock Club which disbanded last summer. She is now a member at large.

Welcome to the Executive Committee, Kathy, and thank you for stepping forward.

Sheryl Smith and I will continue to work with Kathy, writing the grants and coordinating with the WAHCE, Scholastic Books, Head Start staff and volunteer readers to continue to bring this extraordinary education program to the children at Head Start.

Cathy Onsager

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