



CROSSE COUNTY NEWS

December 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The holiday season is upon us with very cold temperatures and wind, so it's a good time to stay indoors and work on projects. I have several cultural arts projects I want to do for competition so will be working on those.

The diamond dot workshop we had in November was very successful and we may be getting a couple new members to join our county. I posted the event on Facebook and had some friends respond and come. This is a good way to try and recruit new members, let your friends know what we are doing and what a great time we have, plus the satisfaction of helping others.

On January 22, we will have a Stitches of Love work day at my house to cut out and sew the wheelchair/walker caddies we will be making. I have made contact with Amy's Closet and we will be partnering with them after the first of the year to help families in need. At our December board meeting, Leah suggested we see if there are some needs for the homeless. I contacted Sue Graf with WWNN and she said they need handwarmers and powdered drink mixes to put in water. The board did an email vote and we are filling this need.

It is a new year and county dues should be sent to Sylvia Finch by December 31st for the upcoming year or paid to your club president so she can forward. Sylvia's address is 210 Schaller St. Tomah, WI 54660.

This April we are the hosting county for the West District Spring Meeting. It will be held at the West Salem Presbyterian Church. I will be reaching out to members to help with this as we get closer to that date. I have arranged for a morning speaker and the church ladies will be catering. I am hoping we will have a good attendance.

Several events are being planned for the upcoming year, your club president will be giving you your booklets and the members at large will be receiving theirs also. So, to end this, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and new year!

Sheryl Smith, President



2025 MEMBERSHIP

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families. I love this holiday so much and am looking forward to Christmas. This year I expanded our craft day diamond dots project to make Christmas cards for my family. I made the diamond dot tree ornaments, then cut off the top eyelet and glued them to card stock. I added some holiday stickers and a message. Voila! Personalized cards. And it was so much fun!

2025 will be upon us before we know it. That means it's time to renew our LAHCE membership's. If you belong to a club, your club president should be collecting the dues at your meetings. If you are a member at large, you can send your membership dues of \$25 to me at the address below before January 31, 2025. A portion of the membership dues goes to the state and district. The balance is used to support the community service projects we do each year, like Services of Love and Stitches of Love, and for a scholarship of \$150 to be shared by county officers who attend the state conference and another scholarship of \$150 available to an LAHCE member who attends the state conference.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Cathy Onsager, Membership Chair
326 Clark St N
West Salem, WI 54669

CULTURAL ARTS MESSAGE

I hope everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving and are all ready for Christmas.

In November, Sheryl Smith helped me coordinate a craft day making diamond art items. We made refrigerator magnets and ornaments, which everyone who attended really enjoyed doing. They all turned out really nice.

There will be some changes in the categories for the cultural arts competition in the spring and at state conference, so watch for future publication of the newsletter for these changes.

Have a Merry Christmas everyone and stay safe!

Linda Gillmeister, Cultural Arts Chair





MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Starting in 2025, we are going to have some member profiles in the newsletter, starting with the executive board. There will be 2 or 3 in each newsletter. Members will be able to share their experiences in HCE. We will be pushing to get new member's, I would like to see us up to 30 members. WE are losing a couple members because of age and one who is moving out of state. So spread the word, show friends and family the newsletters so they can see what we are doing and why it is great to be a member.

Sheryl Smith, newsletter editor



SERVICES OF LOVE PROJECT

Each year our LAHCE Board approves a project not related to sewing that benefits people in our area that could use a bit of help. The Services of Love Project approved for 2025 is 100 handwarmers and 5 boxes of 60 packets of flavored powdered drink mix they can add to bottled water.

We will be donating the items through WINN (What I Need Now) and the director, Sue Graf, who works directly with the homeless community. Sue told our County President, Sheryl Smith, that handwarmers and flavored powder drink mixes were the top two needs of the homeless at this time.

If you have an idea for a Services of Love project we can do, please email your idea to me, Cathy Onsager, at catw3764@gmail.com.



BOOKWORMS

I want to thank one of our members, Lola Kleinsmith from the Happy Hollanders Club, for personally supporting our commitment to Head Start and providing books for the youngest children who attend.

As you know we have the Bookworms program for the children ages 3-4. Sheryl Smith writes grants to buy a set of books for each child and 9 volunteers go to the classrooms each month from October through March to read to the children.

A few months ago, Lola contacted County President Sheryl Smith to tell her about a grant program supported by Thrivent Financial where she is a member. As a member, she can apply for a \$250 Visa Debit Card to be used for charitable purposes. She asked if there was anything we could use it for. Sheryl contacted Marsha Amundson at Head start and Marsha said they could really use hard cover children's books for their "littles" classrooms. The "littles" are children under the age of 3.

So, Lola went on line and requested the grant which was quickly approved. She used the debit card to purchase books from Amazon. Sheryl picked up the books and delivered them to Head Start last month. I was happy to join her at the presentation. Marsha supplied verification of the donation for Altra.

Thank you, Lola, for taking the initiative and time to apply for the grant, buy the books and inspire the "littles" at Head Start to love books. And thank you to Thrivent Financial for providing the \$250 grant. Your community service and generosity deeply appreciated!

Cathy Onsager, Bookworms Co-chair



REMINDER

**COUNTY DUES SHOULD BE PAID TO OUR
TREASURER BY DECEMBER 31ST ON \$25 PER
MEMBER EITHER BY MAILING DIRECTLY TO
HER OR THROUGH YOUR CLUB PRESIDENT.**

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture
University of Wisconsin-Extension
La Crosse County Offices
212 North 6th Street
La Crosse, WI 54601



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