



# CROSSE COUNTY NEWS

May 2025



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April showers bring May flowers, so the saying goes. My iris's have been blooming for 2 weeks along with my bleeding heart. And I have been keeping an eye on my special peony as the shoots grow taller every day.

May brings us to the Spring Meeting/Banquet on the 12<sup>th</sup> at the Holland Town Hall at noon. The executive committee is planning a salad and dessert luncheon which is at no charge to members. There will be an interesting speaker, and the cultural arts entries. See further details in this newsletter.

As we move forward, we will be having a Fun Day in July and I am planning a trip in August.

Remember to keep trying to recruit new members, invite them to one of our events to spark their interest. And have a safe and pleasant summer.

Sheryl Smith, President





## LAHCE


Spring Banquet/Meeting  
Monday May 12, 2025, 12PM

Salad and dessert luncheon with beverages  
provided by Executive Board.

Speaker from BMO Bank talking about Identity  
Theft and Fraud followed by business meeting  
and committee reports.

Cultural Arts entries should arrive by 11:30 AM.

Leah Bork, International Chair is asking that  
members bring sewing items to fill our shoebox  
donation to Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners.





## BOOKWORMS UPDATE

At this time, I am not certain about the LAHCE Bookworms Program and our partnership with the La Crosse Headstart. The Trump Administration and Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have closed 5 of the 12 regional offices of Headstart, including the Midwest office in Chicago that approves the budget for our local Headstart office in La Crosse. The Director, Amundson, told me they have had no response to phone calls asking for information and do not know if they will be funded for the 2025-2026 school year.

In the past, I have had a list of the books we will be reading to the children, a zoom meeting with the WAHCE Bookworms coordinator and the paperwork to order the new books. Books must be ordered from Scholastic by the end of May to be shipped to Headstart in August. None of that has happened this year.

Marcia asked that we contact our federal legislators to support the continued financial support of Headstart, which I did on behalf of LAHCE with the strong support of our Executive Committee. As of this writing, I have had no response from Senator Johnson or Congressman Van Orden. Senator Baldwin does support Headstart. You can contact her to thank her.

As a Bookworms reader for several years, I can attest to the importance of Headstart. Their early education programs make a big difference in the lives of the children and families they serve. They provide a great early education program as well as structure and discipline to children's lives and help to introduce the children to kindergarten in the public and private school systems.

I encourage each of you to send a letter, text or email to your federal representatives in support of the continued funding of Headstart. We are advocates of home and community education and need to speak out now! Please add your voice to those who support Headstart.

Cathy Onsager, Bookworms Co-chair





## INTERNATIONAL REPORT

2025 is the 60th anniversary of being Partners/Nicaragua. We will be filling a shoebox of sewing items for their Community Center (Learning Centers) this year. I am asking members to donate an item for it, such as thread, scissors, needles, pins, measuring tapes, buttons, etc. Please bring these to the Spring Meeting/Banquet or Fun Day.

Also, Ventures in People-Haiti is having a recycling fund raiser, asking for used ink cartridges. If anyone has any, do not throw them away, but give them to HCE via your club Chair by Sept, 1,

Leah Bork, International Chair

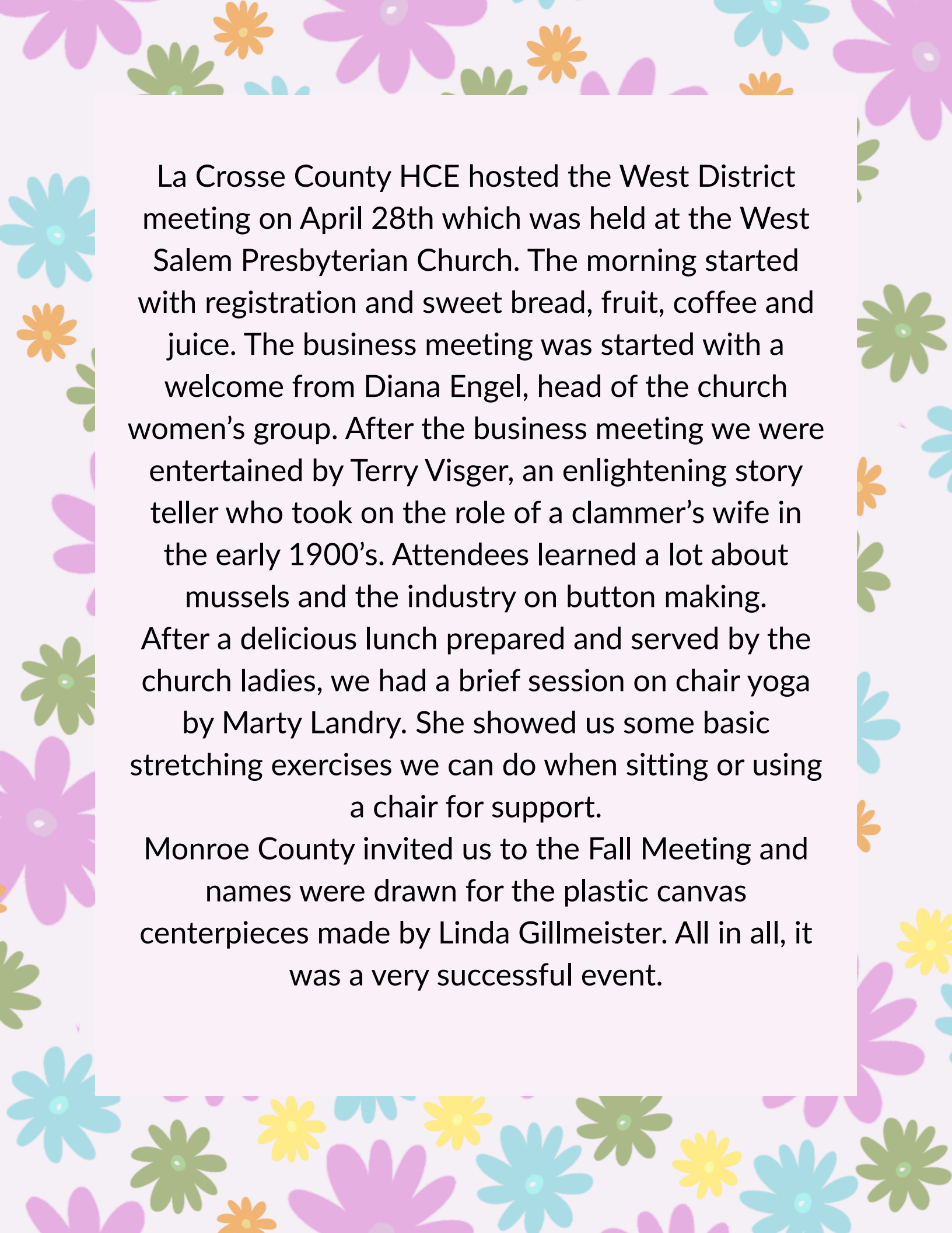
## CULTURAL ARTS REPORT

Cultural Arts items should be brought to the May meeting by 11:30. Twelve will be eligible to go to the state competition. If we have more than 12 items, they will be judged by the attendees.

Be sure and have category sheet filled out, registration forms need to be on pink paper and they will be completed and signed at the meeting.

Linda Gillmeister, Cultural Arts Chair





La Crosse County HCE hosted the West District meeting on April 28th which was held at the West Salem Presbyterian Church. The morning started with registration and sweet bread, fruit, coffee and juice. The business meeting was started with a welcome from Diana Engel, head of the church women's group. After the business meeting we were entertained by Terry Visger, an enlightening story teller who took on the role of a clammer's wife in the early 1900's. Attendees learned a lot about mussels and the industry on button making. After a delicious lunch prepared and served by the church ladies, we had a brief session on chair yoga by Marty Landry. She showed us some basic stretching exercises we can do when sitting or using a chair for support.

Monroe County invited us to the Fall Meeting and names were drawn for the plastic canvas centerpieces made by Linda Gillmeister. All in all, it was a very successful event.





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