



# CROSSE COUNTY NEWS

*May 2026*



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our April showers seem to have been in the form of some pretty severe storms and flooding around the area, I hope our members didn't have any significant damage.

Our Spring Annual Meeting will be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May. Details are in this newsletter about the speaker Nancy has arranged for and the cultural arts competition. Lunch will be provided by the executive board and there will not be a charge for it. Feel free to invite a friend who may be a prospective member, just let your club president or myself know so we can have enough food.

March 19<sup>th</sup>, we made sandwich meals for our unsheltered friends. Sixty bag lunches were prepared consisting of a ham and cheese sandwich on a bun, a container of macaroni salad, (containers were donated by Whiskey River Bar and Grill of West Salem), chips, and Kwik Trip cookies. I had gotten a grant from Kwik Trip which paid for the cookies, buns and butter. Sue and Brian came with the WINN van and picked them up for distribution. Sue reported the meals were well appreciated. This has been a part of our Services of Love Project for this year, but we hope to continue making these meals with membership approval.



On March 12<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup>, we once again went to Caretta Senior Living and played Bingo with the residents. There were 6 HCE members who have helped out. I hope to continue this as the residents really enjoy having us come, and we love doing this with them. I will continue to send the emails out with future dates that we will be there and hope other members can join us if their schedules allow. It is from 1-approximately 2:30 PM.

April 13<sup>th</sup>, Linda Gillmeister and I went to West District meeting in Strum. The speakers were quite interesting, the lunch was tasty, and we both won door prizes.

Check your booklets for other upcoming events and mark them on your calendars such as our Fun Day in July.

Sheryl Smith, President

# CELEBRATING THE ONE MILLION BOOK MILESTONE!

Wisconsin Bookworms  
Building Children's Literacy Since 1998

For America's low-income families, the biggest obstacle to literacy is the scarcity of books and appropriate reading material for young children. The Wisconsin Bookworms reading program was developed to provide free books to children who may not otherwise be able to afford them, and volunteer readers to share the excitement and adventure of reading. Next year we will be reading to 4000 children state-wide, 136 here in La Crosse County at Headstart with eight volunteer readers.

At the end of the 2025-26 school year, a total of 1,017,155 books will have been read and given to 112,155 children since 1998. More than ONE MILLION BOOKS...how incredible! The children are so excited to receive a book to take home and share with their families.

One of WAHCE's goals is to provide education to strengthen families and communities and to partner with organizations and agencies that have similar aims. To accomplish this, we submit grant applications to local businesses and charitable organizations. Here in La Crosse County, they have been more than generous. And, Wisconsin Bookworms receives support from UW-Extension for development of activity sheets that extend the books' educational value.

Our 2025-26 Bookworms program is almost over. I will be ordering books chosen by a state committee for the 2026-27 school year in May. I want to thank our volunteer readers for the wonderful job they do! They are so dedicated. I am also a reader, and I get so much joy from reading to my class...along with hugs and thank yous !

Cathy Onsager

## International Report

ACWW will continue their project on Women' Health for 2026. They are teaching classes in Tanzania to both men and women to change attitudes about all kinds of domestic violence which can be an issue in physical as well as emotional health. They are asking us to 'Take a step against Violence.'

Be aware of our surroundings, if you see something, say something. Make a phone call, send a text or email. Your voice matters, not only for own safety but for others as well. Any cooking items that you wish to donate for our Shoe Box project, can be brought the day of our Spring luncheon or Fun Day. Also still collecting used ink cartridges.

Leah Bork, International Chair







## CULTURAL ARTS REPORT



By now, most of you should have your cultural arts items either completed or almost completed. Entries should be at the Holland Town Hall by 11:30 on May 11 so they can be viewed by other members. If there are more than 12 items, they will have to be judged since only 12 can go to the state conference. I will have the pink entry forms available so they can be signed for submission to the state cultural arts chair.

I will also be planning a craft day in June doing flower pounding and will announce that date at the May meeting. Information will also be mailed to all members.

Linda Gillmeister, Cultural Arts Chair



SPRING ANNUAL MEETING  
Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> , 2026  
12 noon, Holland Town Hall






Lunch will be provided by the Executive Board consisting of Sloppy Joe sandwiches, macaroni salad, chips, dessert, coffee, and water. Feel free to invite a friend, but be sure and let a board member know so we have enough.

Following lunch our speaker will be:  
Mai Tai Yang from the Hmong Community Center, her topic: “Laos to La Crosse”. This proves to be a very interesting presentation.

After lunch, we will hold the annual business meeting. There will also be a display of cultural arts items.

Hope to see a lot of you there!



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