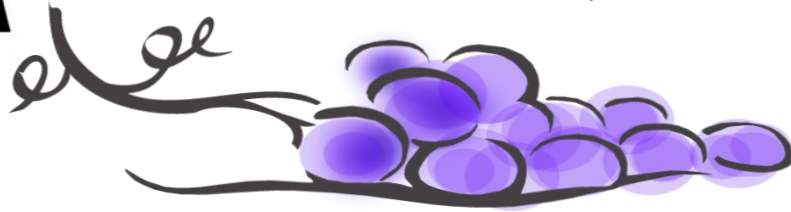




# The Grapevine



**August 2025**

## President's Message

Happy fall to all. The fair is over and time for school to start.

The ice-cream was a big hit again this year. Thank you to everyone who worked a shift or 2 And a huge thank you to Donna and her FCCLA students who make it all happen. Thanks again There were 3,454 items sold, that's a lot of ice cream

On October 2 we will host a class on Genealogy. It will be an Introductory coaching session so you can get started on your family history projects. It will be taught by Alora Rueth, a Wisconsin State Genealogy society newsletter editor. The class will be October 2 at 1:00 at the Loyal City Hall. Everyone is welcome, we would like you to register by September 26 with the UW extension office 715 743-5121.

Thank you to Country Lane, Hilltop and Town and Country for making shoe boxes for Nicaragua again this year. They will be taken to the state meeting in September.

Congratulations to the scholarship winners from this year. They were Kaylee Hamm, Anna Lindner, Mua Rueth, and Drew Stiegliz. We did receive a good number of applications. If you weren't chosen this year you can try again next year.

There were 400 sets of books ordered for the Book Worm project. If you are interested in reading to 4 year olds, contact Peggy Buchda 715 743 6650, she could use more readers.

The new standing rules were reviewed and approved beginning January 1, 2026.. Be sure to come to the October 7 business meeting at 6:00 pm at Greenwood Fire Hall to hear the changes. We do have information from the state organization that it will be voted on at state conference September 15 - 17 to raise the dues \$2.00. If this is approved out dues will go up by \$2.00 from \$10.00 to \$12.00. Still a bargain for \$12.00 a year.

Have a great September, see you at the Fall Business meeting October 7, 6:00 pm.

Lois Becker, president

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meeting Minutes.....	Page 2
Club Happening.....	Page 3
Scholarship update/ Bookworms.....	Page 4
Upcoming Events.....	Page 5-8

### ***Growing Stronger, Reaching Wider, Caring To Make A Difference***

***HCE Offers Opportunities For:***

- Learning in a social setting.***
- Sharing what we learn.***
- Caring to make a difference in our homes, communities, and the world.***

# Meeting Minutes

HCE Executive Board Meeting Minutes August 19, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm at the home of Roberta Hansen by President Lois Becker with the Flag Pledge and the Homemakers Creed. Members present were: Lois Becker-President, Joanne Trunkel-VP for Program & Community Outreach, Betty Loos-Historian, Roberta Hansen-Secretary, Peggy Buchda-Bookworm, Donna Odeen-Dairy Bar Coordinator and Crystal Walters-Family Living Educator/HCE Advisor; present by telephone: Debra Gries-Treasurer.

The Secretary minutes from May 6, 2025 meeting were read and placed on file. The Treasurer's report was read. The 2026 budget was discussed. Peggy Buchda made a motion to accept the 2026 budget as presented with the changes that were discussed; Joanne Trunkel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## Director Reports:

Dairy Bar: Donna Odeen gave an update on the Dairy Bar numbers after the fair. Invoices for the coupons redeemed have been sent out. They went through approximately 135/140 buckets of ice cream and 30 gallons of milk this year. That is a lot of milk when you use it ½ cup at a time. 1138 malts/shakes were made and sold. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped at the Dairy Bar. A special thank you to the FCCLA members who helped at the Dairy Bar. Joanne Trunkel made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the FCCLA; Peggy Buchda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vice President for Family and Community Outreach: October 2, 2025 – 1:00pm – Loyal City Hall – Genealogy presentation by Aloa Rueth.

Bookworm: 400 8-book sets have been ordered. They should be here soon. Activity sheets are currently being put together. Labels will be picked up at State Convention.

## Committee Reports:

Historian: No update.

Marketing: Mary Kipp wrote a nice article for the Update.

Cultural Arts: Everything is ready for the State Convention. Joanne will contact those with items going to the State Convention to make sure their items get there safely.

International/Citizenship: Shoeboxes for Nicaragua will again be collected at the State Conference. Joanne Trunkel will be delivering the Shoe Boxes for Nicaragua to the State Convention

Scholarship: 10 scholarship applications were submitted this year. Four applications were selected to each received a \$750.00 scholarship. Thank you cards from scholarship winners were received and read. We will be reviewing the scholarship application process at our November HCE Board Meeting.

## Continued Business/New Business:

The Clark County Association for Home and Community Education updated Standing Rules were reviewed. Joanne Trunkel made a motion to accept the updated Standing Rules to be effective January 1, 2026; Peggy Buchda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Fall West District Meeting will be held October 6, 2025 at the Warrens Community Center, Warrens, WI. More information will be coming out soon.

The HCE Fall Business Meeting will be October 7, 2025, 6:00pm at the Greenwood Fire Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roberta Hansen, Secretary



# Club Happenings

## Hilltop

Hilltop members enjoyed an informative and fun gathering in May. We met at the Highground Veterans Memorial Park and had a tour of the new Museum Gallery building. It was amazing and informative. We encourage all to make a visit to the Highground! We then went to the Speakeasy and enjoyed a nice meal together. In July we met at Schuster Park. Everyone brought some finger food to share as we caught up on our busy summers. We then turned our attention to boxing our donations for the Shoeboxes Project, assembling 7 boxes which will make their way to Nicaragua and be distributed in Home and Community centers. We are looking forward to our next meeting in September!

## Live 'N Learn

At the April meeting, Barb Kingsbury presented the project on the two week mission trip which she and her husband participated in to India. She gave a descriptive account of the culture, food, religion, and beliefs of the Indian people. She showed items from India; one was a toy for the children at St. Anthony's. Their hosts were very hospitable and helpful to the group. While there, they were able to visit with Father Leo, who had served At. Anthony's Parish and Father Baskaran, who had served in Thorp. Donna Odeen talked about the Loyal's FLCCA chapter's participation in the State Conference and the awards and recognition they received. We also talked about HCE Day at the Posy Patch, and how everyone who attended, enjoyed it. Patty Rinka attended and Donna Odeen was a judge.

At the May meeting, Mary Kipp presented the project on Celebrity Scams. These have become more prevalent with AI. Celebrities are often presented as supporting some type of health care cure. The celebrities do not know that they are being scammed and do not have any knowledge of what is being sold. One of the latest deep fake scams was Al Rocker talking about a cure for hypertension on Facebook. He does not have hypertension and did not have a heart attack. To the average person, his picture and voice were remarkably close to his. He only became aware of it when friends called him and said they knew people who had ordered the product. According to the Federal Trade Commission, people lose more than \$2.9 billion a year to scams. Our club will participate in the Shoe Boxes for Nicaragua and the Ink Cartridge Recycling Program to raise money for the Haiti General Fund. Patty presented for International/Citizenship on the proposal to cut Federal funds for PBS and Public Radio, and how to contact legislators regarding this proposal.



## Grapevine Deadline

**Please send Clark County Extension any items your club may want posted in the Grapevine no later than the 15th of the month and we will post them in the next edition!**

## Scholarship Update

The Clark County HCE scholarships have been awarded to 4 deserving college students to help them further their educations. Each student has received \$750. The winners were chosen from a field of several worthy candidates. Those awarded the scholarship are:

Drew Stieglitz who graduated from Loyal High School in 2023. He is attending Ripon College and pursuing a degree in Exercise Science-Human Performance. After graduation from college he hopes to obtain a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

Kylee Hamm, is a 2024 Neillsville High School graduate. She is attending the University of Wisconsin La Crosse pursuing a degree in Exercise Sport Science. Following her college graduation she plans to enter a Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

Mya Rueth attended Loyal High School and graduated in 2024. She is attending Chippewa Valley Technical College, pursuing a degree in Animal Science Management. Mya has two grandmas who are members of Clark County HCE. They are LuAnn Rueth who is active in Town & County and Mary Kipp who is active in Live & Learn. Mya plans to stay in Clark County and farm, raising beef cattle, selling fresh produce and doing custom work.

Anna Lindner is a 2023 graduate from Loyal High School. She is attending the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire and is pursuing a degree in Speech Language and Hearing Sciences. Anna is the granddaughter of Julia Esselan who is a Clark County HCE member at large. After graduation Anna plans to work in an elementary school as a Speech Language Pathologist.

## BookWorms

The Clark County HCE Bookworms project will soon be in full swing distributing 400 sets of books to Clark County Head Start and 4K students. The books have been ordered and we are awaiting delivery. HCE labels will be provided at the annual conference and the books will be distributed following that. We are extremely grateful to Atmus Filtration Technologies for taking delivery as well as labeling and counting the books! The project could not be successful if it were not for some extremely generous donors including:

Owen-Withee Lions Club  
Abbotsford Lions Club  
M.E. and Jim Sjolín

Members of the Neillsville library book club including Laurie Carlson, Toni Sturtz, Lorna Vazquez, Nancy Kopp, Sherrill Anderson, Phyllis Schoen, Vicki Oldham Curtiss Lions Club Neillsville area Red Hats Clark County Community Foundation Clark County United Way Atmus Filtration Technologies Loyal Lions Club Neillsville Optimist Club Listeman Foundation

In addition Clark County HCE designated money to support the Bookworms project. Books will be distributed to the one Head Start Program in Clark County and to 12 schools for a total of approximately 24 classrooms. Over the school year each classroom is given a set of books and each child takes home a set of books to begin their own library.

When possible a volunteer reader visits the classroom to read a book and possibly provide an accompanying activity. We are very lucky to have several people who have volunteered to be school visitors this year. They include: Deb Brey Neillsville, Debbie Perkl Granton, Gloria Hamm St. John's, Betty Loos Loyal, Mary Kipp St. Anthony's and Margie Olson Greenwood. We would welcome volunteers to read at other Clark County schools or at Head Start in Dorchester. If anyone would like more information please contact Peggy Buchda at 715 743-6650.

Peggy Buchda  
Bookworms chair





# Upcoming Events

## Genealogy Event *with HCE*

**FREE**

*Join Clark County HCE and Alora Rueth for an introductory  
class on how to begin looking up your genealogy*

*To Register or with Questions calling UW-Extension  
Crystal Walters at 715-743-5121*

*October 2, 2025*

*1:00 PM*

*Loyal City Hall*



# Upcoming Events

## Rent Smart

Helping to make renting a great experience for you  
*Taught by Extension Educator: Crystal Walters*

### What you will learn:

- Planning for and meeting monthly expenses
- Tips for finding and maintaining affordable housing
- How to complete an application and why landlords screen applicants
- Strategies for building positive relationships with landlords and neighbors
- Responsibilities and rights of landlords and tenants

### Are you:

- Renting for the first time?
- Transitioning from home ownership to renting?
- Dealing with poor rental or credit history?

**Join us and learn how to  
RENT SMART!**

-Greenwood Library, Greenwood  
-McMillan Memorial Library,  
Wisconsin Rapids  
-Everett Roehl Public Library,  
Marshfield

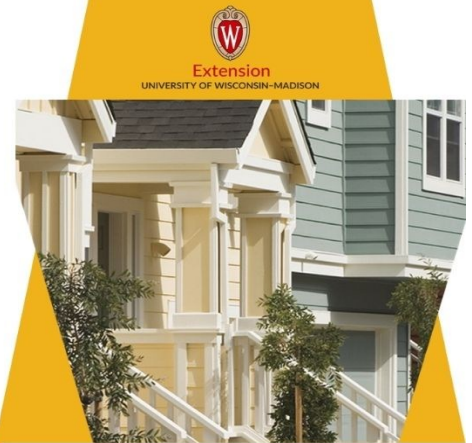


**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED  
NO LATER THAN NOON THE DAY PRIOR!**

To Register for Clark County Classes call Clark County Extension 715-743-5121

To Register for Wood County Classes call Wood County Extension at 715-421-8440

"The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law."



**Classes offered Monthly  
(Call for dates/Times)  
Offered in three locations**

## Chocolate Dessert Contest Recipes

Recipes will be posted in the NEXT newsletter. We have had some system errors and lost our work on the current booklet of recipe winners and are in the process of rebuilding.

Please be patient and we will get this out as soon as we are able

Sincerely,

The Extension Staff





*Join us and begin*



# Planning AHEAD

*for the end of this life*

## What is Planning AHEAD?

**PlanningAHEAD** is a 7-session course (one hour each) that guides participants through the topics on the right.

This course features a workbook to help people with the tasks and decisions associated with end-of-life.

## Who is the program for?

**This program is for people who:**

- Are interested in planning for the end of life to make things easier for family members
- Have lost a loved one
- Are in the process of losing a loved one and are dealing with the transition

## When is the program?

**Wednesdays 5:00-6:00 PM**

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>**

**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>**

## Location and Registration:

**Life Tributes Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
901 South LaSalle St. Spencer, WI 54479**

## To Register

**Contact: Crystal Walters, HDR Educator  
UW-Extension Clark County  
crystal.walters@wisc.edu  
715-743-5121**

## Planning AHEAD program topics



**Getting Started**



**Handling Financial  
Changes**



**Advance Medical  
and Legal Directives**



**Estate Planning**



**Choices in  
End-of-Life Care**



**Final Wishes**



**Understanding Grief**



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

"The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law."





Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
CLARK COUNTY

# MASTER YOUR SMARTPHONE

UPCOMING  
CLASSES



SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

10:00-11:30 AM

**BASICS** NEILLSVILLE COURTHOUSE  
AUDITORIUM

OCTOBER 14, 2025

2:00- 3:30 PM

**BASICS** THORP LIBRARY

OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

2:00-3:30 PM

**SOCIAL  
MEDIA** THORP LIBRARY

CONTACT CRYSTAL WALTERS, HDR EDUCATOR  
UW-EXTENSION CLARK COUNTY  
715-743-5121  
CRYSTAL.WALTERS@WISC.EDU

**REGISTER BY CALLING CLARK COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
715-743-5121**

"THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON DIVISION OF EXTENSION PROVIDES EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN  
EMPLOYMENT AND PROGRAMMING IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL LAW."