



January 2026

President's Message

Happy New year to all. Our first board meeting of the year had to be postponed for a week because of ice. I'm so sick of ice, but it looks like we are in for a cold spell and I will probably be complaining then.

We did work on a project lesson. It will be on sourdough bread. It will be sometime the beginning of March. Check in this newsletter for a date and time.

Also discussed HCE day and decided on the Posey Patch Tea again. It will be in April. We will have the cultural arts judging and we are working on other ideas.

If anyone has an idea for a speaker or project for future lessons, please let VP Joanne or myself know. HCE is your organization and we on the board are getting burned out and need your help. Thanks in advance.

Lois Becker ,President

The Grapevine

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Page 2.....Meeting Minutes
Page 3.....Club Happenings
Page 4....Sour Dough Class, HCE Day Spring Tea
Page 5-6.....Upcoming Events

Attached Separately:

- Member at Large Application
- Cultural Arts & Textile Arts Registration
- Home Project Opportunities

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 January 13, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm at the Greenwood Fire Hall 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, Mary Kip Marketing/Membership/Historian, Roberta Hansen-Secretary, Peggy Buchda-Bookworm.

The Secretary minutes from November 4, 2025 meeting were read and placed on file. The Treasurer's report was handed out but we were unable to connect by phone with Debra Gries. Will review at next meeting.

Director Reports:

Vice President for Family and Community Outreach: Looking at holding a Sourdough Project Lesson. Looking at the following as possible dates: February 28, March 7 or March 14 with possible time 9:00 – 12:00. Location to be determined.

Dairy Bar: Discussed bank account balance. Will review accounting at next meeting.

Bookworm: Discussed status of fund raising and future options.

HCE Day Event: After discussion decided to look into holding another HCE Spring Tea at Posey Patch in early April. Will contact Posey Patch for cost figures with possible date of April 11th or April 18th. Meal to be determined. Also discussed having a small musical presentation, speaker or demonstration to fill some of the time while the judges are judging the cultural arts items. Depending on cost, we decided to charge a \$5.00 registration fee and HCE will pay the balance per person. Participants will need to register and pay in advance so we have numbers attending. Deadline to register to be determined. Registration will be limited. Check-in will start at 9:30am with the Tea starting at 10:00am. Will discuss/finalize at next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Historian: None.

Marketing: None.

Cultural Arts: Will be judged at HCE Day Event. Will start looking for judges once have the date set.

International/Citizenship: Looking into ideas for sponsorship for the upcoming year.

Scholarship: None

Continued Business/New Business:

Sandford Health – Marshfield Clinic Health System has updated their Home Project Listing. They are accepting donations for the items listed. Will include updated list in the Grapevine.

Will put Member-at-Large application in the Grapevine.

West District Spring Meeting: Monday, April 13, 2026, Strum, more information to come.

Next HCE Board Meeting will be February 3, 2026, 6:00pm at the Greenwood Fire Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm with the Homemakers Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Hansen, Secretary



Club Happenings

Donna Odeen, FCS Instructor and FCCLA Advisor hosted the November meeting in her classroom at the Loyal High School .

She gave updates on her classroom projects including plans to prepare a Thanksgiving Dinner with the students and make apple pies with the apples they canned in class. She also showed us the new FCCLA shirts. HCE is listed on the shirts with the sponsors of FCCLA. Their members continue to volunteer to work at the Dairy Bar. Her class also prepared two charcuterie boards for us to enjoy.



Mary Kipp read for Bookworms at St. Anthony's



In December the Hilltop homemakers wrapped pajamas for the angel tree project before moving on to a potluck meal and Christmas gift exchange.

Beginner Class

Sourdough Bread

How to class using active and
discard sourdough starter



Saturday, March 7th, 2026

9 a.m. – noon (please do not arrive before 8:30 a.m.)

Clark County Courthouse Auditorium

(517 Court Street, Room 101 Neillsville, WI 54456)

DETAILS:

- Explore the art of sourdough bread making with Valerie Wood. You will learn a variety of tips, tricks and definitions in this beginner class. Learn about the tools and alternative options to save cost and space in your kitchen.
- **MAKE** and **SAMPLE** a variety of active and discard recipes.
- Take home a recipe book and your very own starter from one of Val's established starters!

RSVP to reserve your spot by Friday, February 27th by calling 715-743-5122 (Val)

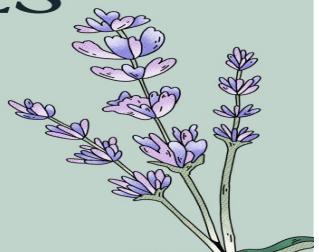
2026 HCE DAY *Spring Tea Party*



**POSEY PATCH
GREENHOUSE
MORE INFO TO COME**

WILL BE APRIL 11TH OR 18TH

WATCH FOR UPDATES



Upcoming Events



STRENGTH TRAINING CLASS STRONG BODIES



BENEFITS OF STRENGTH TRAINING:

REDUCED RISK FOR CHRONIC DISEASES:

- DIABETES
- HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE
- HEART DISEASE
- OSTEOPOROSIS
- ARTHRITIS
- SOME CANCERS

INCREASED:

- STRENGTH
- MUSCLE MASS
- BONE DENSITY

REGISTER WITH UW-EXTENSION CLARK COUNTY:
CRYSTAL WALTERS, HDR EDUCATOR
517 COURT STREET, ROOM 104
NEILLSVILLE, WI 54456
PHONE: 715-743-5121

SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION: \$20

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

Upcoming Classes:

- Greenwood High School (Old Gym-Door #11)- Tues./Thurs. 11:00-12:00 PM- Starts January 6th
- Colby Senior Care- Mon./Wed. 9:30-10:30 AM- Starts January 5th
- Granton Zion Lutheran Church- Mon./Thurs. 11:00-12:00 PM- Starts March 2nd
- Owen-Withee High School- Tues./Thurs. 8:30-9:30 AM- Starts- February 3rd
- Loyal Library- Tues./Thurs. 10:00-11:00 AM- Starts- February 3rd

Online (virtual) classes are available- Please reach out to Crystal Walters if interested at: 715-743-5121 or crystal.walters@wisc.edu



Strong Bodies volunteers needed!

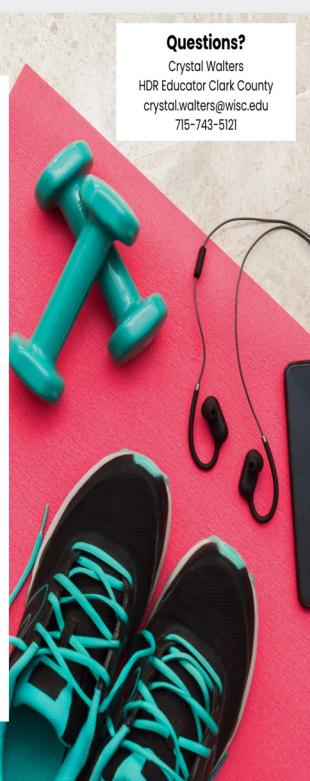
Clark County is desperately in need of volunteers to help keep the programs going around the county

2026 Strong Bodies Leader Training Dates:

- April 15th, Madison
- July 30th, Eau Claire
- November 4th, Appleton

REGISTER NOW 

<https://health.extension.wisc.edu/strongbodies/leaders/strong-bodies-strong-people-leader-training/>



Questions?
Crystal Walters
HDR Educator Clark County
crystal.walters@wisc.edu
715-743-5121

OPEN OFFICE hours WITH CRYSTAL WALTERS

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATOR FOR UW-MADISON
DIVISION OF EXTENSION

Do you have questions about your....

- Smartphone
- End of life planning
- Budget planning
- Pressure Canner Testing
- Food Preservation Equipment Rentals
- Rental Agreement
- Strong Bodies classes

UPCOMING FEBRUARY DATES:

Thorp Library- February 17th & 24th (2:30-4:30 PM)

Loyal Library- February 18th & 25th (2:00-4:00 PM)

Greenwood Library- February 20th & 27th (2:00-4:00 PM)

Owen Library- February 19th & 26th (1:00-3:00 PM)

CONTACT US

 [ClarkCoExtension](#)
 715-743-5121
 crystal.walters@wisc.edu

Upcoming Events

Join us and begin
planning **AHEAD** for the end of this life

Future Classes:

Colby Senior Care

510 W Wausau St. Colby, WI

(Thursdays) March 5– April 16

3:00– 4:00 PM

Register with: Crystal Walters, Clark County at 715-743-5121

Aspirus Stanley Hospital

1120 Pine St. Stanley, WI

(Wednesdays & Thursdays)

April 15, 16, 22,23,29,30 and May 6

11:00 AM– 12:00 PM

Register with Amber Gilles, Chippewa County Extension

715-726-7952

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

MASTER YOUR SMARTPHONE



BASICS
FEBRUARY 17TH, 2026
1:00-2:30 PM
THORP LIBRARY

SOCIAL MEDIA
FEBRUARY 24TH, 2026
1:00-2:30 PM
THORP LIBRARY

BASICS
MARCH 18TH, 2026
10:00-11:30 AM
GREENWOOD LIBRARY

SOCIAL MEDIA
MARCH 25TH, 2026
10:00-11:30 AM
GREENWOOD LIBRARY

BASICS
APRIL 10TH, 2026
10:00-11:30 AM
NEILLSVILLE COURTHOUSE

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**