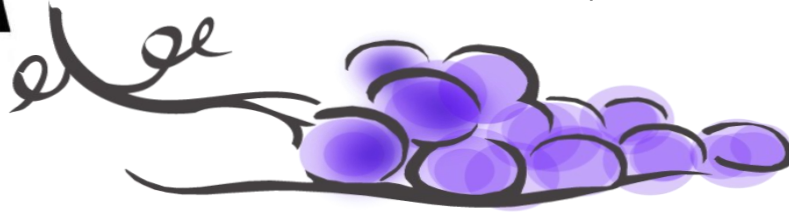




The Grapevine



February 2026

President's Message

Happy Valentines day to all.

Our "Spring Fling" will be on April 18 at the Posey Patch Registration at 9:30 and 10 to start. We will have the delicious brunch again. Looking forward to the many great cultural arts items on display. We are hoping to have some entertainment while we wait for the judging of cultural arts to finish. The community project is for the food pantries. we will be making up birthday cake kits. Asking for cake mix, frosting, birthday candles and small paper plates or cash donations. The rest of the items will be purchased from our treasury. Remember to sign up and pay \$5 to Joanne Trunkel by April 7. Seating is limited.

Just a reminder to start looking at the scholarships available to college students. We have 4 at \$750 each.

From last months Grapevine sign up for the Sourdough Bread class on March 7 at 9 am. Register at the extension office by calling Val at 715-743-5122. Must register by February 27.

From Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners the items that were collected in shoeboxes last September can now be taken to the warehouse in Stevens Point. They will be delivered soon. Thank you for your donations.

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Attached Separately:

2026 Scholarship Flyer to allow distribution by members

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 February 3, 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 January 13, 2026 meeting were read and placed on file. The Treasurer's report was given by Lois Beck in Debra Gries' absence.

Director Reports:

Vice President for Family and Community Outreach: Sourdough Bread Project Lesson will be held Saturday, March 7, 2026, 9:00 am to noon at the Clark County Courthouse Auditorium in Neillsville.

Dairy Bar: None.

Bookworm: Received funds from Community Foundation. Information for ordering next books will be out soon.

HCE Day Event: HCE Spring Fling at Posey Patch, April 18, 2026 with 9:30am registration and program starting at 10:00am. Registration deadline set for April 7th. Registration will be limited. Will be collecting donations for a community service project: Birthday Cake Kits which will be donated to the food pantries in the County. Will collect the following items at HCE Spring Fling for the kits: cake mixes, frosting, birthday candles, and party plates. We will honor Betty Loos for her years of service on the HCE Board. Peggy Buchda will look into having a small musical presentation at this event. Ideas for a speaker or demonstration to fill some of the time while the judges are judging the cultural arts items also being considered. 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. 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: International Report excerpts from Update regarding containers, ink cartridges and Ventures will be put in the next Grapevine.

Scholarship: It is time to start spreading the word about the scholarships that are available.

Continued Business/New Business: None.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm with the Homemakers Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Hansen, Secretary



Club Happenings



The hilltop homemakers held a White Elephant Auction. We each brought in 2 to 5 gently used items wrapped nicely. Then we auctioned them off sight unseen. Most items went anywhere from 2 to 10 dollars with one package going for \$14. Then we opened them to show off the treasures we purchased. See photo of Rita displaying her items. Over all we raised around 160 dollars, which we have chosen to donate to the House of Mercy.

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)



HCE DAY SPRING FLING

**April
18**

**Check-in
9:30 AM
Starts
10:00 AM**

**Posy Patch
Greenhouse**
*N1839 WI HWY 73
Owen, WI*

\$5.00/ Person

Limited Space Available-
Register with
Joanne Trunkel by April 7
715-267-7264

SERVING BRUNCH,
COFFEE & JUICE



**WELCOME
TO ALL**

Join us in our
community project
collection; items being
collected:

- CAKE MIX
- FROSTING IN A CAN
- BIRTHDAY CANDLES
- SMALL PLATES
- CASH DONATIONS

We will have Door prizes!



International Report

PENNIES FOR FRIENDSHIP DISTRIBUTION

The WAHE Conference Silent Auction proceeds were added to the Pennies for Friendship collections that were sent to WAHCE in 2025 by HCE members, counties and districts. The total amount was split three ways – with approximately 1/3 of the total being given to each of these organizations: ACWW, Ventures in People, and Wisconsin/ Nicaragua Partners.

VENTURES IN PEOPLE (VIP-Haiti)

The School Bell Rings! (Excerpts from an article in the Fall 2025 VIP newsletter)

October 6th was the official starting date for school children in Haiti. Because the gangs have taken over the city of Mirebalais... We are fortunate that the children in our VIP program have principals and teachers, along with parents, who have been willing to work with VIP's Education Coordinator Louis, Tenior Guerrier. Together they have worked very hard to see it that our education program remains active... Space has been found for the 202 children in our program this year. Our children are learning!!! Louis reminds us that despite what Haitians have to face each day, they continue to have HOPE.

WAHCE sponsors six students with Pennies for Friendship donations to VIP each year.

The **used ink cartridge collection and fundraiser and fundraising project** for VIP—Haiti will continue in 2026, so please keep saving your used ink cartridges. (Please note: Toner cartridges and large printer- ink containers are not included in this recycling program.)

Drop-off will take place at the 2026 WAHCE Conference in Eau Claire.

WISCONISIN/NICARAGUA PARTNERS

In October, Amy Wiza reported that ten shipping containers that had been sent to Nicaragua in summer had finally been released from customs. Amy said, *"Thank you for your prayers and words of support during difficult days of uncertainty on the outcome, we continue to hope for the best."* In early November, the containers were moved to Managua and the process of unloading and distribution began.

Amy also said, *"...**you may bring items you have collected to the warehouse.** The future of shipping to Nicaragua is still uncertain, but one thing we know for sure, if we have items people need, we will help wherever we are able to."*

Diane Koch

WAHCE International Chair

Upcoming Events

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

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

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

MASTER YOUR SMARTPHONE

UPCOMING
CLASSES



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**