



# PRESIDENTIAL POINTERS

Newsletter

Indiana Extension Homemakers Association®



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IEHA President : Linda Carunchia

Co-Editors: Patty Coonrod & Michelle Roberts

## Presidential Thoughts ...



**Linda Carunchia**  
**IEHA President**  
**2024-2025**

Hoping everyone enjoyed conference. I think it was one of the best. Many thanks to Michelle Roberts and the conference committee. If you have ideas for speakers, crafts or heritage skills, please let us know. It takes countless hours and countless opinions to make conference run smoothly.

The year started July 1 and it certainly has been busy. We are trying to get Blue Book pages and Directories ready for all of you. Again!!!! If you have not been on the website lately; please take a look!! It has been updated and we feel it is user-friendly. Our young man volunteer is doing a super job while attending college and working full time this summer. Thanks Ryan DePew. He also came to the conference after work two evenings and did the computer work for Silent Auction again.

Cathy Wilkymacky and myself are looking forward to getting to all of the District Meetings this Fall. Keep in mind that we LOVE themed events!!!

My wish for all of you is that you go out and share your MAGIC. Each and every one of you is very special and have something to share. Even if it is only a smile- you have created MAGIC. Let your communities know about the hidden treasure of IEHA. Help them “Discover the Magic” of IEHA. I’m sure that the “Boxes of Care” will be greatly appreciated by those who receive them. Thank you for working on this project. We as a group must continue to put ourselves out there. We have opportunities not yet thought of. Some counties are going to farmer’s markets, helping with prom nights, working fairs, serving food. Wear your t-shirts proudly, make up county specific brochures with your clubs and meeting times listed. Hand them out; talk about us because we never know where our next member may be.

*“At first people refuse to believe that a strange new thing can be done, then they begin to hope it can be done, then they see it can be done---then it is done and all the world wonders why it was not done centuries ago.” — Frances Hodgson Burnett*

Let’s all put our “Magic” to work, try strange new things and see where the year takes us. Most importantly; remember to laugh and have fun.

Linda Carunchia



## **Home & Family Conference 2024**

If you weren't in Noblesville, Indiana at the Embassy Suites on June 10-12... You missed out!!

Home & Family Conference was a success. So many things were offered this year at the conference. We had approximately 200 members registered this year. Here are a few highlights.

Day on the Town Day Trip was so much fun as we toured The Center for Performing Arts. We toured the facility and learned about its history as well as what currently takes place there. We sat down in the theatre and heard how the facility not only has performances, but how they can transform it into a beautiful wedding venue. We went upstairs to the Songbook and saw what was on display. From there we toured the Archives, which is not normally open for tours or to the public. They had a fascinating array of items from famous composers, singers, and actors. They explained how they preserve the items and shared the many collections that they are working on. What a wonderful experience! We had a delicious lunch at Muldoon's on Main and then had some free time to get desserts and goodies at neighboring shops.

For those that didn't participate in the day trip, there were many crafts and heritage skills available to our members. From crossbody bags to jewelry, iris paper folding to trinket dishes, charcuterie demonstrations and more were offered.

Of course, Monday night at conference must include games of Bingo and Scream-O!

The Annual Business Meeting began our Tuesday morning. Dr. Angie Abbot spoke to attendees and informed us about some of the things that Purdue University is currently working on. We look forward to hearing more information in the future.

Julie Bucktenkirch, was our Tuesday Keynote Speaker. She spoke to us about "How to get Happy-ier". Let's face it, who doesn't want to be happy? She helped us navigate through a way to lasting happiness by helping us understand what truly makes us happy and why.

Tuesday afternoon was filled with many Concurrent Sessions. These educational sessions were led by HHS Educators, Focus Group & Activity Committee Chairs, as well as outside speakers. Members received a lot of information through these sessions, and we hope that they will take that information back to their local clubs and counties!

The Melody Makers Choral Concert finished off our Tuesday. As always, their beautiful music did not disappoint!

Wednesday, our final day at the Conference, started with a Leadership Session open to all attendees. We heard from Phil Anderson who shared with us "Cultivating Leaders: When Nostalgia is Not Enough". He spoke about the many traditional organizations that are struggling to find new members and leaders. He explored mentoring and meeting, leading and learning, and volunteering.

We finished off conference with our Celebration. We heard from Peg Peter, 2023-2024 State President about her year around the state. Cultural Arts Winners were announced, and their beautiful work was shown. Recognition was given to those IEHA State Board members that have finished their term. Installation of the IEHA State Board for 2024-2025 was completed and we hear from Linda Carunchia, State President 2024-2025.

We want to thank all our extension homemakers that came to this year's conference. We hope that you enjoyed your time learning, sharing, seeing old friends and making new ones. We thank the Conference Committee for all their hard work in the preparations for this year's conference.

We look forward to seeing you at next years Home & Family Conference 2025 being held June 2-4 at the Embassy Suites and Conference Center in Noblesville.

Michelle Roberts, Conference Chair

## **Status of State Officer Changes since Conference**

Everyone will soon be receiving new Directories. Do not be alarmed! Positions have changed since Conference due to a couple of resignations. The Directory will be correct. Jaynie Keniston resigned as Vice President. Michelle Roberts stepped back into the Vice President role and resigned as Treasurer. Ellen King stepped back into the Treasurer position. The nominating committee and state board followed all protocols and voted to accept this unanimously.

Please make sure that if sending forms into the Treasurer they need to continue to go to:

Ellen King 9995 S. State Road 25, Rochester, In. 46975



## **First Books for Kids**

This year has been very busy for our volunteer readers. Now that we are in full swing again, the volunteers have been extremely excited to be back in the Head Start classrooms. The students and teachers are also excited to have the volunteers back. They look forward to the volunteer's arrival on certain days, read a book and do extra activities.

This year we had the pleasure of having Purdue's, Center for Early Learning, inquire if our program would be interested in donated books from their program. Of course, the board said "yes". The Book "Too Many Pillows" was distributed to 21 counties, per their request. A total of 1600 books!!!! Thank you, Center of Early Learning. The counties receiving books were Shelby, LaGrange, Clinton, Boone, Steuben, Hancock, Hendricks, Miami, Howard, Madison, Rush, Newton, Noble, Sullivan, Huntington, Stark, Vermillion, Monroe, Jennings, Vanderburgh and Clinton. The students really enjoyed the books.

We are fast approaching our 25<sup>th</sup> year and I want to take this opportunity to **Thank** all the volunteers who continue supporting this program. The success of this program comes from all the volunteers who give their time to read and enhance the learning skills of the students.

Don't forget to use the new logo and forms that were developed. They can be found on the IEHA website, ([ieha-families.org](http://ieha-families.org)), through your District Representatives or the Board.

Thank you again for supporting the "First Books for Kids" program.

Jo Almond - Founder/coordinator

Linda Gause – Committee member

## **Silent Auction**

Another successful Silent Auction was held at the 2024 Conference. The income was \$3,233 from 111 items donated.

Thank you to all those who donated items, bid on the items, those who worked a shift, and the Silent Auction Committee. We couldn't have done it without you!

## Scholarship Winners ...

### Ruth B Sayre Scholarship

The Ruth Sayre Scholarship is awarded by the Country Women's Council, USA, based on applications, to a woman who is a legal resident of the USA, has a financial need, and has the ability to complete her degree. Each year the state of Indiana submits every scholarship application received by March 1. Of the several applications submitted, three women from Indiana received a \$500 scholarship, paid directly to their educational institution.

Congratulations to these winners.

**Windsor Bonner**, Leesburg, IN—Attending Ball State University, majoring in education.

**Libby M. Haab**, Milford, IN—Attending Huntington University, majoring in Animal Science and Agribusiness.

**Lyric Ryan Irish**, Terre Haute, IN—Attending Indiana University, majoring in journalism.

### Steps to Success Vocational / Technical Scholarship Award Winners

Each year students have the opportunity to receive one of five (5) \$500.00 scholarships awarded by IEHA. We are pleased to announce the 2024 winners.

**Maggie L. Haney — Randolph County – New Castle District.** Maggie is a graduate of Monroe Central High School. Maggie plans to study Speech Pathology at Indiana University Bloomington.

**Samantha Rose — Kosciusko County – Michigan City District.** Samantha is a graduate of Wawasee High School. Samantha plans to study Psychology at Ball State University.

**Libby Haab — Kosciusko County – Michigan City District.** Libby is a graduate of Wawasee High School. Libby plans to study Agriculture – Animal Science & Agribusiness at Huntington University.

**Justine L. Ocken — Whitley County – Fort Wayne District.** Justine is a graduate of Whitko High School. Justine plans to study Studio Art with a minor in Entrepreneurship at Ball State University.

### Vocational/Technical Scholarship

**Elijah M. Davis — Fountain County – Lafayette District.** Elijah is a graduate of Fountain Central High School. Elijah plans to study Automotive Technology at Danville Community College.

## **Enthusiasm Awards**

Each District is asked to nominate the most IEHA-enthusiastic member in their district. Here are the winners from the 2024 conference and why the person submitting their name felt they were enthusiastic about IEHA. I hope in 2025 we will have 10 nominees for these awards. They are awesome homemakers!!

**Wanda Vandeventer – Bedford District**—Wanda and her husband moved to this area three years ago to be closer to their daughters and their families. She had a hard time finding a club in Clark County. She inquired in Floyd County. No luck. Through her church and community singing group she was finally led to Lois Ketterer. The rest is history. She immediately jumped in and helped us out at the county fair, our Fall Bazaar, opened her home to us for meetings and then became our cultural arts person. Her enthusiasm for Homemakers is contagious and has lifted our club out of the doldrums!

**Jan Davis– Fort Wayne District**—Jan is excited to come to IEHA meetings, even coming in late after an appointment. Jan is willing to volunteer for projects and committees. She had enthusiasm when helping with the fair committee, which led her to taking charge of the food and the pie eating contest at the fair. Jan has an attitude of “lets get things done”, and in a positive way.

**Sally Thieme – Indianapolis District**— Sally recently returned to East Wayne Homemakers and immediately became active. She spruced up our flower show with her marketing expertise. She volunteered to chair Holiday Ideas with a Grinch theme and involved many members in planning, implementing and enjoying the evening. She willingly accepted the Leadership Focus position on the County Boar and is working to have I-Lead return locally. After only a few meetings with East Wayne, she brought in two new members and encouraged the club to go back into “active” status rather than associative status. She is also organizing a trip to Berea, KY to observe how they teach others to be self-sustaining and is willing to share programs in the county that are similar to I-Can.

Sally was recently elected to be President of her local club, is District Secretary-elect and agreed to join a Marion County Club to help their restart. She is a positive person who greets everyone with a smile and is deserving to this Enthusiasm award.

**Brynda Crafton – Kokomo District**— Although Brynda has not been a member of Clinton County Extension Homemakers very long, she is definitely a most deserving candidate for the Enthusiasm Award. She jumped right into our CCEH projects with both feet. She was almost immediately elected President of her club (Hickory Homemakers). Last summer, she took charge of the CCEH Fish Fry at the county fair, organizing and purchasing all the supplies (and making the most wonderful coleslaw). We made a profit of over \$3,000, largely due to her efforts. Brynda also volunteered to be in charge of the Knit and Crochet Open Class exhibits at the fair. She planned to serve as the County Vice-President next year. Unfortunately, she recently received a diagnosis of inoperable Stage 4 lung cancer and must not focus on her health. We are devastated for her, but so impressed with her positive attitude and enthusiasm in combatting this illness. We are holding her close in thought and prayer.

*(Continued on page 6)*

**Enthusiasm Award (Continued from page 5)**

**Chris Hodges – Lafayette District** — Chris is a one-of-a-kind person. Chris suffers from macular degeneration, making her unable to attend winter meetings and activities. When clubs were asked to make pocket hearts for our county, district and state, Chris went to work crocheting pocket hearts. She kept making them, and making them, and making even more of them. Her crochet hook went crazy. She made over 300 pocket hearts for the Blue Star Moms of Indiana to put in the veteran's Christmas cards. Chris has crocheted well over 3,500 pocket hearts. Her enthusiasm has spread kindness.

**Gloria Hoppe – Terre Haute District** — In Owen County we have a member who is always smiling and courteous to everyone she encounters. Gloria Hoppe is a member of the Calico club and is always willing to step up and volunteer. She has not missed volunteering at the County Red Cross Blood drive in three years. She also assists at the middle school to work with teenagers in an “adulting class”. Gloria makes friends everywhere she goes. It is contagious, before you know everyone is smiling and laughing and telling stories like lifelong friends. She is a member that just renews your energy. Her positive attitude gets us all motivated.

### **2024 Home and Family Conference First Timers**

Congratulations to the following list of winners for the First Timer's Award to the Home & Family Conference.

**Melissa Sears** – Bedford District

**Kelly Bobbitt** – Evansville District

**Victoria Foster** – Fort Wayne District

**Jeanie Poole** – Indianapolis District

**Karin Fowler** – Kokomo District

**Lee Ann Vail** – New Castle District

**DeeAnna Muraski** – Michigan City District

**Megan Parmenter** – Terre Haute District

You will note there are only eight First Timer Awards. Each District has the ability to submit a winner for their district from the applications received. If you know of someone who has not been, but would like to attend Conference, have them submit an application. (Applications and rules are available at [ieha-families.com](http://ieha-families.com))

### **“I Want to Go Again Award”**

**Sponsored by IEHA Past Presidents'**

**Terri Dicus** – Evansville District

If you know of someone who has not been to conference for awhile and would like to attend, have them submit an application. (Applications and rules are available at [ieha-families.com](http://ieha-families.com))

Strengthening families through continuing Education,  
Leadership Development, and Volunteer Community Support.  
[www.ieha-families.org](http://www.ieha-families.org)

## **Focus Groups & Activity Committees...**

### **Education Focus Group Hosts Organ Donation Program**

The Education Focus Group hosted an interesting and informative program on Organ Donation at the 2024 Home and Family Conference. Lindsey Johnson, Manager of Donor Registry and Partnerships at the Indiana Donor Network, shared valuable information about all the possible organs, tissues, and eyes that can be donated, stressing that you are NEVER too old to be a donor. With over 1,000 Hoosiers waiting for life-saving organs, some dying because a donated organ was not available in time, it is important for everyone to consider signing up as an organ and tissue donor.

Ms. Johnson also praised the IEHA membership for their support of the Threads of Compassion program which provides comfort shawls to donor families at the time of their loved one's donation. The shawls offer comfort at a time when there are simply no words to say. Once again, our membership did not disappoint—there were numerous boxes and bags of beautifully knitted and crocheted shawls brought to our conference for Ms. Johnson to take back with her. She shared that they could not have come at a better time, as their supply was dwindling. Keep up the great work everyone!

New brochures and forms for the Threads of Compassion program will be distributed to the District Representatives for all County Presidents to add to their Blue Books this fall. If you are interested in becoming an organ donor or would like additional information, check out the Indiana Donor Network website at <https://www.in.gov/indianadonor>

The Education Focus Group will be considering new areas of interest for next year's conference. If you have any ideas you would like to share for the focus group to consider, please send them to Vice President, Michelle Roberts.

Submitted by:  
Cathy Wilkymacky, Chair

### **LEADERSHIP FOCUS GROUP**

The group decided to end the Enthusiasm Awards and move forward with “Dreamers and Doers” Awards.

Do you know someone you would like to recognize for their work as a “Dreamer” or “Doer” for IEHA?

A “Dreamer” would be a member who has ideas or conceives projects to improve or enhance IEHA. They plan their work to execute their dreams and do not expect quick fixes or miracles. This member may have great ideas and no knowledge or physical capabilities to complete the dream themselves.

A “Doer” would be a member who acts, does or performs. They do jobs promptly or efficiently. They are an active part in accomplishing a goal set by others. They may be found behind the scenes doing things others would or could not do.

1. County President can nominate one member for Dreamer Award and or one member for a Doer Award.
2. The same person could be nominated for both the Dreamer and Doer Award.
3. Nominations are to be turned into your District Representative by Mar. 1
4. One member will be chosen as a Dreamer and one as a Doer in each District.
5. Awards will be presented to the winners at Home and Family Conference.

Nomination forms will be available on the website @ [www.ieha-families.org](http://www.ieha-families.org)



## **Volunteer Community Support**

The Volunteer Community Support Focus Group (VCS) is in the process of revising the form used to collect data from each club to make it easier to use. Each county reports to each district, who then reports to the state to assemble all the projects and hours worked. We are also revising our plan of action page. Both will be available when you update your blue books.

Peg Peter, Immediate Past President, IEHA

## **The Young Homemakers Activity Committee**

The Young Homemakers Activity Committee teamed up with the Membership Focus Group for a concurrent session at Home & Family Conference this summer. The session was titled “Not Your Typical Homemaker Club”.

Mary Ann Ripperger, Membership Focus Group Chair, began the session going over key points of welcoming new members into our clubs and counties. She provided a packet with great information that could be tailored to each county which could be given to new members as they join IEHA.

Michelle Roberts, Young Homemakers Activity Committee Chair, followed Mary Ann in presenting a panel of four extension homemakers that belong to Specialty Clubs around the state. Each panel participant spoke on how their specialty club was started, how they attracted more members, what their typical club meetings look like and how they incorporate Education, Leadership Development, and Volunteer Community Support into their program year. With the short time left, attendees were able to ask questions to the panelists.

I would like to thank Stephanie Jerabek, Huntington County; Debbie Turner, Switzerland County; Barbara Meyer, Carroll County; and Delilah Swinford, Madison County, for their participation in the session.

If you have questions about IEHA Specialty Clubs and what that could look like in your county, please contact Michelle Roberts (contact information in directory). I would be happy to talk with you and/or put you in touch with someone that can help you.

Michelle Roberts, Young Homemakers Activity Committee Chair

## **IEHA FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS-2024**

Already hearing about some really neat ideas coming for the Fall District Meetings. Keep in mind that I LOVE themed events!!!

Oct. 1	Tuesday	Terre Haute District	Parke County
Oct. 2	Wednesday	Evansville District	Gibson County
Oct. 3	Thursday	Bedford District	Jackson County
Oct. 7	Monday	New Castle District	Rush County
Oct. 8	Tuesday	Madison District	Ohio County
Oct. 9	Wednesday	Indianapolis District	Johnson County
Oct. 10	Thursday	Kokomo District	Carroll County
Oct. 15	Tuesday	Lafayette District	Pulaski County
Oct. 16	Wednesday	Michigan City District	Porter County
Oct. 17	Thursday	Fort Wayne District	Allen County