

Homemaker's Hub

Newsletter

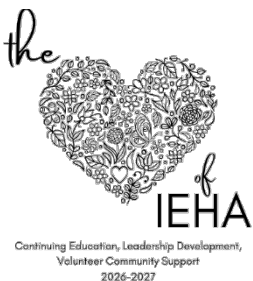
Indiana Extension Homemakers Association ®

July 2026

Volume XLV, Issue 1



Michelle Roberts
IEHA President
2026-2027



ieha-families.org



Patty Coonrod, Editor

Dear IEHA Members,

It is truly an honor and a pleasure to serve as your Indiana Extension Homemakers Association State President for the 2026-2027 year. I am especially grateful for the opportunity to serve our organization for a second time, having previously held this role in 2022-2023. IEHA holds a special place in my heart, and I look forward to another year of growth, connection, and service together.

One of the highlights from my previous term was the Pocket Heart initiative, where, through simple acts of random kindness, we were able to scatter over 50,000 pocket hearts across our communities, our 50 states, and even reach other countries in just one year! The impact of those small gestures was incredible, and I am excited that we will continue this meaningful project in the coming year. In addition, we will explore and share new ways to spread kindness – reaching our friends, neighbors, and even those we may never meet, but who may need it the most.

This year's theme, **"The Heart of IEHA"**, reflects what brings us all together. Each of us joins IEHA for different reasons – education, leadership, community service, personal growth, and even friendships. Yet at the core, we are united by a shared passion for making a difference in our families and communities. We also recognize the value this organization brings into our own lives, enriching us individually as much as collectively.

As we begin this new year, I encourage each of you to reflect on this question:

at is your Heart of IEHA?

I am looking forward to traveling across the state, visiting your counties and districts, and seeing firsthand the wonderful work you are doing. Hearing your ideas, stories, and successes is something I truly cherish. I will also be there to help support you through the struggles that your clubs or counties may be facing.

Thank you for your continued support and for the time, energy, and dedication you give to IEHA. Together, we will continue to make a meaningful impact.

From my heart,

Michelle Roberts



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Purdue Extension Transformation Update

Thank you to the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association for your continued partnership and the many ways you strengthen communities across Indiana. Your support remains vital to Purdue Extension’s mission.

As shared previously, Purdue Extension is undergoing a transformation to ensure long-term sustainability. While funding has remained largely unchanged for two decades and costs have risen significantly, our core commitments remain the same: serving all Indiana communities with trusted, research-based information, maintaining a local 4-H presence in every county, and sustaining strong county partnerships.

Through recent pilot efforts, regional collaboration has already expanded access to expertise, increased program participation, and strengthened community impact. Building on this success, Extension will transition to a regional model—operating across 12 regions while maintaining local offices and relationships. Full implementation is expected to begin in January 2027. Counties remain essential partners, and programs will continue to reflect local priorities, with enhanced regional coordination to broaden reach and impact.

We are also working closely with the IEHA Board to refine the partnership agreement and identify opportunities to strengthen our collaboration. We’ll provide updates on this process over the coming months.

We appreciate your continued partnership and look forward to working together to serve Indiana families and communities for generations to come.

Thanks,

Michele Baker

Associate Executive Assistant to Dr. Angie Abbott

Associate Dean, Director of Purdue Extension

College of Agriculture

Associate Executive Assistant to Lisa Graves

Interim HHS Program Leader and Assistant Director of Purdue Extension

College of Health and Human Sciences

Membership Conference Reports

The Membership committee had a session at the Home and Family Conference. Presenters were Robert White and Melissa Park. There was a short video made by Robert to show us how to welcome our new members. We then discussed some of the mistakes that are made with new members. WE opened the floor to comments and suggestions from the participants. We all learned some valuable info. – Melissa Park

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Cultural Arts at Conference

We would like to thank all of the counties that submitted entries for the Cultural Arts display, in both the regular and special categories. We had a great number of entries in several categories and feel that we were able to offer up a nice display of Homemaker handiwork in our new space at Conference.

Winners are as follows:

Quilts—Linda Hiath from Delaware County for her Rooster Collage Quilted Wall Hanging.

Needlework—Shirley DeLong from DeKalb County for her framed General Store Counted Cross Stitch Picture.

Knitting/Crocheting—Lydia Robertson from Harrison County for her White Knitted Sweater.

Miscellaneous Crafts—Anita Himes from Montgomery County for her Diamond Art Country Farmhouse Picture.

Special Project — Kris Peterson from Elhart County for her Denim Farm Soft Book.

Our committee has one question. *Isn't this woman (Kris) out of denim yet?* (This was her third year of winning in this category!)

All of the entries were great and we are sure that the members in the counties had a hard time judging what would represent their county in the display. Keep up the good work! We look forward to your creative work again next year.

A special THANK YOU goes out to the Cultural Arts Committee who made it all look beautiful and easy. The committee comprised of Mary Delay, Cathy Donaldson, Ruth Ann Hendrick, Rosalie Hunt, Betty Clark and Stephanie Jerabek.

Stephanie Jerabek, CA Chair/Senior DR

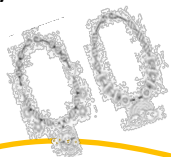


IEHA Cultural Arts Special Project *Jewelry*



The 2026-27 Cultural Arts Special Project will be Jewelry. Items such as necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings, brooches may be made from any medium, using any technique. Whether it is strung beads or a woven brooch, there is sure to be an item for any age that you will want to create.

Display materials will be allowed, if you wish, but cannot exceed 12 inches by 12 inches by 12 inches.





BY THE #S

47448	Nashville, Indiana
50	Rooms Full at The Seasons - and many more at various other hotels
3	Days
2	Nights
182	Attendance
14	County with Largest Attendance – Vanderburg
54	Counties Represented
217	Longest Drive to Attend - Steuben County (1 Way)
4	Most Repeated Last Name – Hunt (not relatives)
8	Most Repeated First Name – Linda
1018	Meals at The Seasons
154	Craft/Heritage Skills Classes Taken
28	Speakers and Presenters
91	Suggestions that the Rooms were Too Cold!
91	Suggestions that the Rooms were Too Hot!
73	Bags Made for Riley – some with details still to be finished
665	Bras Donated for “I Support the Girls” and Community Centers
230	“Bloomers” Donated for “I Support the Girls” and Community Centers
\$223.16	Donated to Coins for Friendship
\$285.12	Donated to Nickels for Indiana Leadership
\$2654.00	Silent Auction Total
\$4449.22	Logo Sales
Wow!	\$\$ Spent Shopping in Nashville
LOTS!!	Fun and Fellowship with IEHA Friends!
2027	See You Next Year! – June 7-9, 2027 – Nashville, IN

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Each year students have the opportunity to receive one of five (5) \$500.00 **STEPS TO SUCCESS & VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL** scholarships awarded by IEHA. We are pleased to announce the 2026 winners.

Jake Phegley

Terre Haute— Vigo County — Terre Haute District
Indiana State- Content Creation & Media Production

Hayden Lechlitner

Nappanee—Elkhart County—Fort Wayne District
Indiana State- Applied Medicine

Emerson Alexandra Lillybelle Krull

Milford— Kosciusko County — Fort Wayne District
Purdue University-Speech, Language & Hearing Minor-Sign Language

Colton Bucher

Milford— Kosciusko County — Fort Wayne District
Miami University- Marketing

Sophia Smith

Syracuse —Kosciusko County — Fort Wayne District
St. Mary's College- Writing/Journalism with Minor in Social Work

RUTH BUXTON SAYRE SCHOLARSHIP

Cassandra Braun

Pinckneyville, Illinois
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL-Biochemistry/Pre-Med

Lytic Irish

Terre Haute, Indiana
Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN – Sport and Event Management

Hannah Jacobs

Frankfort, Indiana
Purdue University, West Lafayette--Nursing

Isabel Sayre

Otterbein, Indiana
Indiana University or Ball State—Advertising and Media Production