



HOMEMAKER'S HUB



Indiana Extension Homemakers Association®

March 2026

Volume XLIV, Issue II

IEHA President : Cathy Wilkymacky

Co-Editors: Patty Coonrod & Michelle Roberts



Cathy Wilkymacky
IEHA President 2025-2026

It has been quite a while since you've seen a written publication from us, but that is through no one's fault. It has been a series of unfortunate events, but they have given us time to reflect and make some changes to the way we are going to be distributing "the news" in the future. More about that momentarily.

Let me catch you up on everything since last summer...well, not everything—it all won't fit! Our Home and Family Conference closed out a magical year, led by our (Immediate Past) State President, Linda Carunchia. It was an amazing experience traveling throughout Indiana and discovering so much IEHA magic being sprinkled across the state. I am excited to pick up where Linda left off and hope we can continue to share the IEHA magic through the *seeds we are planting*.

It's hard to believe that the 2025-2026 program year is more than half over. July was filled with attending the National Volunteer Outreach Network Conference in Springfield, Illinois, and the Associated Country Women of the World USA Area Meeting in Erlanger, Kentucky. Of course, in between, we squeezed in the first State Board meeting for the 2025-2026 year. Attending the various conferences was a very rewarding time—there were inspiring speakers and lots of idea sharing. It's rewarding to see that Indiana is doing so many wonderful things that are in line with the mission and vision of our affiliate associations.

The Fall District Meetings were a whirlwind of traveling, enjoying dinnertime with the host counties, and experiencing exciting themes and programs. I was able to share some information about the continuing national and global initiatives of our affiliate organizations from the summer conferences, as well as share information from our own organization's community outreach and the impact we collectively have. I also heard several stories from counties that are collecting the "bloomers" and other things to "share" and fill the needs in their own communities. It is exciting to see my vision coming to life. Now, I can hardly wait for the spring meetings!

Immediately following the Fall District Meetings, we welcomed many IEHA members for Focus Day in Hendricks County. Focus Day is a time for planning, with each focus group and activity committee reviewing their plan of action, setting goals for the upcoming year and deciding on programs for the 2026 Home and Family Conference. It was great seeing interest from our membership, and we truly value their ideas and opinions. We hope you will consider joining us next fall as we do it all again.

I have already heard from several counties that they are embracing this year's theme, "*Planting Seeds that Grow Forever*." We, as homemakers, are doing this every single day—planting seeds in countless, and often unknown ways through our focus on education, leadership development, and volunteer community support. What we do really matters, and I encourage our membership to think about the seeds they are planting through their thoughts, words, and deeds. The most ordinary things we might be doing may seem to go nowhere at first, but very well could be planting a seed we cannot see right now. Seeing something beautiful grow from the seeds we plant is pretty close to magic!

Keep doing great things!!

Cathy Wilkymacky, State President 2025-2026
www.ieha-families.org

Presidential Pointers becomes Homemaker's Hub

As mentioned in the President's Thoughts above, we have the opportunity to change things up a bit. For years, the Presidential Pointers newsletter has been a staple in conveying information to our membership. However, the name gives the impression that the information is for the president's eyes only, which is NOT the case. The Board voted at the February 2026 Board Meeting to change the name to Homemaker's Hub—a place where everyone can look for information. The plan is to post information on the ieha-familie.org website and will not be emailed out to county president's for distribution to the club presidents. We will be able to post information in a timely manner, rather than waiting for "the next edition" to be put together. We think conveying information to everyone will be better for the entire membership, noting that even if someone doesn't have access to a computer in their home, they can still get the information from others in the county, as well as at the county Extension Office. Let's give the new idea a chance to take off!

Spring District Meetings

Host counties are already deep into planning for the Spring District Meetings. Mark your calendar so you don't miss out on any of the fun!

March	27	Friday	Madison District	Ripley County
	30	Monday	Lafayette District	Montgomery County
	31	Tuesday	Michigan City	Starke County
April	1	Wednesday	Fort Wayne	Wells County
	7	Tuesday	Bedford District	Harrison County
	8	Wednesday	Evansville District	Warrick County
	9	Thursday	Terre Haute District	Vermillion County
	10	Friday	Indianapolis District	Hancock County
	13	Monday	Kokomo District	Fulton County
	14	Tuesday	New Castle District	Blackford County

2026 IEHA Home & Family Conference June 15th-June 17th, 2025

The Home & Family Conference Planning Committee has been diligently preparing for this year's exciting conference. Detailed information will be shared during your Spring District Meetings. Your officers will provide everything you need to know, including registration fees and forms, descriptions of all concurrent sessions—so you'll know what to expect and who will be presenting—along with an overview of available heritage skills and craft workshops. You'll also receive a biography of our inspiring keynote speaker, who we're confident you'll enjoy, plus much more!

Room Reservations will open Spring 2026.

Please contact the hotel directly to reserve your room.



IEHA HOME AND FAMILY CONFERENCE IS COMING!!!

JUNE 15-17-2026

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

GRAB YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS!

We are headed to NASHVILLE!

(Indiana that is!!-Beautiful Brown County, Indiana.)

The 2026 Conference Committee has been working hard to bring you a great time. The reason we have a new venue is because we as an organization can no longer continue to pay out of the treasury nearly \$20,000. yearly. We need you to understand that your registration fee actually only covered your meals. There were also session room fees, tables, chairs, speakers, any AV and sound. Therefore, registration will remain the same price of \$200.00! What an amazing price for a great 3 days. As you will see the hotel room rates are much less than before. Registrations will be out soon.

Conference is being held at the Seasons Lodge and Conference Center, 560-IN 46 in Nashville, In. Room rates are \$109.00-\$129.00 per night plus tax. You can book rooms anytime. @ 812-988-2284. Use group #2680. Check in is 4 pm.-check out is noon. Plan ahead because this year's conference has sessions starting at 2pm on Monday!

Here is a taste of what we have to look forward to: International Study Program, Growing our IEHA Family, Aging in Place, Promoting Family Dinners Across America, Apples Around Indiana, Save the Girls, (bring your good used bras with you-we are collecting for this organization), How Stress Affects Health, Sleep on it! (Why sleep matters), Chair Yoga, Food as Medicine, Scams and Protection from them, Director of Isaiah House (They create a homelike setting for children removed from DCS until foster or kinships can be obtained.) As always Silent Auction-bring your items-, Cultural Arts-(This year's Special Project is a homemade children's toy or book (see guidelines on website) and of course LOGO sales! An afternoon of shopping has been built into the schedule on Tuesday and heritage crafts and skills have been moved to evening hours so all can participate.

We are continuing open mic night as well as games and gadgets.

Heritage Skills and Crafts so far will include stone mosaics, embroidery, face and lip scrubs, corn husk dolls, alcohol ink art, quilting for people who don't quilt and decorative napkin folding.

SO!!!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN NASHVILLE!



TABLE DISPLAY AT CONFERENCE

The Table Display at the Home and Family Conference provides counties with the opportunity to present successful programs or projects. This initiative facilitates the exchange of information and ideas among participating counties and is open to all. Specific dates and times for Table Display setup will be announced at a later date.

Applicants not selected for a Conference Table Display may not resubmit the same project in the following year. All applications must be received by April 1st. Eligible programs or projects should have been completed between July 1st of the current year and June 1st of the next year. Selections will be based on originality, merit, and homemaker involvement. Successful applicants will be notified by mail.

Applications go to Michelle Blough at: michelleann.blough@gmail.com by April 1



The Seasons Lodge in Nashville, IN

560 SR 46
Nashville, IN 47448

Group Code : #2680

The cutoff date to make reservations in the block is May 1st @ 11:59pm.



FIRST TIMER AWARD

IEHA offers ten \$175 awards for attending the Home and Family Conference, with one Extension Homemaker from each district chosen. Only those who have not attended the full conference before are eligible.

Guidelines:

- ◆ Each county selects one winner; applications go to the County President by February 15.
- ◆ Send county winner forms to the District Representative by March 8.
- ◆ The District Representative and, if possible, their Extension Educator judge entries; additional judges may be added if needed.
- ◆ The District Representative sends the district winner's form to the State First Timer Chair by April 1.
- ◆ First Timers will give a brief report at the Fall District workshop.

“I WANT TO GO AGAIN”

Award sponsored by IEHA Past State Presidents

Winner receives \$175 towards registration for this year's Home & Family Conference after proof of registration. The award recognizes active IEHA members who haven't attended the conference in at least 3 years.

Qualifications:

- ◆ Previous attendance at Home & Family Conference required.
- ◆ Active participation in local club and county organization.
- ◆ All ages eligible.



Cultural Arts Special Category 2026



The “special project” for Home & Family Conference 2026 will be a **children's hand/home-made book or toy**. Guidelines: Sizes up to 18” x 18” x 18” is the maximum, however you can make it smaller.



You can use any medium you like- wood, paper, canvas, crochet, knit, quilting, whatever you desire. Any toy or book for any age. The earliest toys were made from materials found in nature, such as rocks, sticks, and clay.

For the books- no commercial printing/publishing, but parts can be printed from a home printer and printed transfers can also be used.

Remember: Each county may enter only one Cultural Arts exhibit **PLUS** one special project for a total of two projects per county.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Jerabek, Cultural Arts Chair, at 260-344-0011 or ssjerabek@gmail.com Let's see what we can do!

STATE OFFICER CANDIDATES 2026-2027

PRESIDENT ELECT CANDIDATE — Deborah (Debbi) Green. Debbi is from Fortville, In., Hancock County, Indianapolis District. She is the current IEHA Vice President. She has worked tirelessly in her own county having been President, Vice President, Co-chair of Chicken Noodle Dinner, Achievement Celebration, Christmas Party and County Centennial Celebration. She has worked on the State Focus or Activity Groups of Membership, Leadership and Education. She was Indianapolis District Representative from 2023-2025. She has been an Extension Homemaker for 20 years belonging to the Ahwenasha Extension Homemakers Group. Debbi recently retired from managing a small state-licensed business. Debbi makes the best cinnamon rolls.



VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE — Martha Alle. Martha is from Evansville, In., Vanderburgh County, Evansville District. She has been County President, Vice President and is currently the County Treasurer. Martha has worked on county committees of Crafting for a Cure, i-CAN, Women Walk the World, Fine Arts and Craft Show, Budget and By-Laws, Nominating, Achievement Banquet, Galentine's Day, Public Relations and Membership. She currently serves as her District's Secretary. She is a past Evansville District Representative and worked on the State Membership Group. Martha has been a member of Creative Critters for 14 years. She has been awarded an Enthusiasm Award. She is a retired Certified Public Accountant with 35 years of finance and management experience.



TREASURER CANDIDATE — Ellen King. Ellen is from Rochester, In., Fulton County, Kokomo District. Ellen is the current IEHA State Treasurer. She has served her county as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. In her county she serves on the Open Class and Spring Fling Committees. At the District level she has served as District Representative, District Secretary and District Treasurer. Her IEHA State Board Service has included Vice President, President Elect, President and Past President as well as Treasurer. She also has served as the Website Director and is the i-LEaD State Director. During her tenure with the State Board, she has served as chairs for Volunteer Community Support Group, Leadership Focus Group, 100th Anniversary Opening Luncheon, Education Focus Group, and Style Show. She has also worked with Logo and Cultural Arts. Ellen has been a member of



the Busy Bells Extension Homemaker Club for 48 years. She has been the Varsity Cheer Coach at Caston High School for 40 years while working as an Office Director for an Eye Care Facility.



Host-A-Hoosier

It is time to start planning for your county to participate in the Host-a-Hoosier program. By participating you will have an opportunity to share ideas, problem solve, travel, adventure, fun and fellowship with another county.

Invite two county officers (or more, if agreed upon by both counties) to visit your county. You will exchange with a county from another district. You have the opportunity to select the distance you would like to travel and whether you would be willing to stay overnight.

Objectives and Guidelines as well as an application can be found at: www.ieha-families.org. Please consider including your county in the fun and adventure of learning about other county Extension Homemakers.

Applications are due April 15, 2026.

FOCUS GROUPS & ACTIITY COMMITTEE NEWS

Announcement: Committee Membership Opportunities for 2026-2027

Focus Groups—including Education, Leadership and Volunteer Community Support—as well as Activity Committees such as Cultural Arts / Heritage Skills, Silent Auction, Marketing / Logo Sales, and Membership are seeking new members for the 2026-2027 term. All current members are eligible to apply; holding a county officer position is not required. Focus Groups convene one or two times per year with their respective chairpersons, while Activity Committees may meet once and maintain subsequent communication via email, mail, or telephone. Attendance at the Home and Family Conference is strongly encouraged, along with participation in relevant Focus or Activity sessions. Appointments are for one year and are made by the President Elect with input from the State Board.

Applications must be submitted at the Spring District Meetings or no later than April 15, 2026. Applicants are required to reapply each year and may not serve more than two consecutive years on the same committee; submission of an application does not guarantee selection. Application forms are available on the website ieha-families.org, through your HHS Educator, the Presidents' Blue Book (under the Forms Tab), or from your District Representative.

Contributing to IEHA provides an opportunity to play an active role within the organization. We look forward to receiving your application.



The **Education Focus Group** met at Focus Day in October 2025. We reviewed the current Plan of Action and made no changes. Members wishing to review the Education Focus Group's current objectives and goals can obtain a copy from your County President.

Keeping in line with our mission to strengthen families, we will be focusing this year on families and children within the Indiana Foster Care system. It is the group's intention to inform of our membership about the foster system and to explore ways in which we can support current and future families and children within the foster community. We are sponsoring a concurrent session at the Home and Family Conference focusing on transitional homes for foster children. Our presenter will be Tamara Timm, Indiana Director of Isaiah 117 House. This organization provides a comfortable home setting for children waiting placement for foster or kinship care. Currently there are 10 homes located around our state. Some of our clubs already support these homes. We also plan to compile a list of not-for-profit organizations within our counties that support foster families/children as an outlet for our voluntary community support.

Debbi Green, IEHA Vice President, Education Focus Groups Chair



The **Membership Committee** met in November and we updated our plan of action to include encouraging members to have a social media presence online. We felt this would enable us to get our information out about IEHA. We are also going to have a session at conference this June stressing the importance of how to engage new people in our clubs. Come check us out.

FOCUS GROUPS & ACTIITY COMMITTEE NEWS

The **Public Relations Activity Group** worked last year on updating the website with some of the history of the organization. A photo/video release form was created for clubs and counties to use as needed. A copy of the form will be on the website and in the updated Blue Book materials. With so many groups using Facebook and other social media platforms, the committee felt that a release would be helpful for activities and events that the general public may attend.

At the bottom of the forms tab on the website there is information on using the Canva program to create printed fliers, pamphlets, and other information. Some basic information has been included in the updated Blue Book materials.

The Public Relations Committee welcomes your participation on the committee. The Focus Groups and Activity Committees will meet in person on October 29, 2026. Contact me, 2025-26 President Cathy Wilkymacky, or 2025-26 President-Elect Michelle Roberts, if you would like to participate. If you have a suggestion of a way to improve our publicity, please contact me. My information is on the committee page in the 2025-26 Directory.

Michelle Blough, Committee Chairperson and Michigan City DR



The **Young Homemakers Activity Committee** met at the annual Focus Day on October 16th.

The committee consists of three members: Sally Thieme, Chair from Hamilton County; Jaynie Keniston, Lafayette Senior DR; and Melissa Brown from Putnam County.

Our goal is to attract and encourage younger members to the IEHA. This would be achieved by adapting the Affiliate Club program used in some Indiana counties. It is our hope to spark the interest of younger members and encourage the involvement of existing members to share their time and talents.

To achieve this task we talked about the implementation and expansion of Affiliate Clubs throughout the state. An Affiliate Club has traditionally been used to promote a common interest or talent. Members pay dues, attend county activities and have representation at their council meetings. Demonstrations revolve around the club's interests and do not require the Purdue demonstrations.

Affiliate clubs are a great way to encourage a group with a common interest to fold into the IEHA program.

This process would look like the following:

- ◆ Form a new Affiliate Club committee
- ◆ Survey existing members gifts and talents
- ◆ Identify the type of Affiliate Club
- ◆ Recruit new members
- ◆ Identify where, when, and why
- ◆ Create an exciting launch
- ◆ Let's do it again!

Hamilton County has had success with a similar model in the formation of their Culinary Club. This club recruited members from an existing young mothers club. The club is in it's second year with 31 members attending.

SCHOLARSHIPS

IEHA is dedicated to strengthening families by promoting ongoing education, as outlined in our Mission Statement. We encourage you to help share information about our scholarships. To maximize awareness, please distribute details within your counties and clubs, and consider posting on Facebook or other social media channels. Our members are creative and can find effective ways to reach those who need support most. IEHA provides several scholarships for individuals wishing to continue their education but who require financial assistance. Below, you'll find detailed criteria and deadlines for each scholarship.

- ◆ The **Career Advancement Scholarship** is offered to Indiana residents who are twenty-five years of age or older. Eight scholarships will be awarded in total, each valued at \$500; six are general scholarships while two require specific additional qualifications.

Applications must be submitted to the Immediate Past State President and postmarked by March 15 of the upcoming academic year to be considered.

- ◆ **General Scholarships** – Up to six (6) scholarships are available for qualified applicants.
- ◆ **Ann Hancock Scholarship** – In addition to meeting the general eligibility criteria, applicants must be pursuing a degree in a medical field.
- ◆ **Eleanor Arnold Scholarship** – Applicants must fulfill the general requirements and be members of IEHA.
- ◆ The **Steps to Success Scholarship** is designed for high school graduates who plan to attend an accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school. One scholarship is designated specifically for a vocational or technical school applicant. Each scholarship provides \$500. To apply, students must submit their applications to the IEHA Immediate Past State President, ensuring they are postmarked no later than May 1 of the upcoming school year. The IEHA website (ieha-families.org) offers applications, completion instructions, and judging criteria. Contact information for the IEHA Past State President is also available on the website.
- ◆ The **Country Women's Council USA** is pleased to offer the **Ruth B. Sayre Memorial Scholarship** annually to a woman who is a legal resident of the United States, demonstrates financial need, and possesses the potential to complete her education. The scholarship provides up to \$500 per year, with funds disbursed directly to the recipient's educational institution for use toward tuition and/or books. Recipients are eligible to reapply in subsequent years. Applications and additional details are available at <http://cwc.usa.org>. Completed scholarship applications along with all required attachments must be submitted to the state president by March 1.

Silent Auction

Put on your Creative Juices and get creative with your Silent Auction item.

Remember it helps with the Conference expenses.

How about a Movie Basket, Beach party, a Dessert Basket a sewing basket,
or Quilting items.

What would you like to bid on?

Donna Pugsley Silent Auction Chairman.



**IEHA MEMBERSHIP REPORT
2025-2026
5108 MEMBERS**

BEDFORD DISTRICT

COUNTY	CLUBS	MEMBERS	MB
Clark	2	26	0
Harrison	6	66	0
Jackson	5	31	0
Lawrence	1	6	0
Scott	3	39	0
TOTALS (4 COUNTIES)	17	142	0

EVANSVILLE DISTRICT

COUNTY	CLUBS	MEMBERS	MB
Daviess	2	27	0
Dubois	2	16	1
Gibson	6	61	0
Knox	3	31	0
Perry	1	10	0
Posey	5	53	0
Vanderburgh	12	137	6
Warrick	7	69	5
TOTALS (8 COUNTIES)	38	404	12

FORT WAYNE DISTRICT

COUNTY	CLUBS	MEMBERS	MB
Adams	3	19	0
Allen	7	66	4
DeKalb	8	83	0
Huntington	8	62	0
LaGrange	3	40	0
Noble	4	42	4
Steuben	3	38	1
Wells	3	31	0
Whitley	6	96	3
TOTALS (9 COUNTIES)	45	477	12

INDIANAPOLIS DISTRICT

COUNTY	CLUBS	MEMBERS	MB
Boone	8	94	5
Hamilton	11	171	0
Hancock	9	116	1
Hendricks	8	129	7
Johnson	7	170	12
Marion	1	20	0
Morgan	5	48	0
Shelby	9	96	6
TOTALS (8 COUNTIES)	58	844	31

KOKOMO DISTRICT

COUNTY	CLUBS	MEMBERS	MB
Carroll	3	23	0
Cass	6	69	0
Clinton	9	85	0
Fulton	2	55	0
Grant	3	26	4
Howard	7	57	3
Miami	5	51	5
Tipton	3	18	0
TOTALS (8 COUNTIES)	38	384	12

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT

COUNTY	CLUBS	MEMBERS	MB
Benton		8	0
Fountain	5	40	0
Montgomery	6	74	3
Newton	6	50	0
Tippecanoe	11	177	10
Warren	2	4	0
White	8	78	3
TOTALS (7 COUNTIES)	38	431	16

MADISON DISTRICT

COUNTY	CLUBS	MEMBERS	MB
Bartholomew	18	170	0
Brown	4	33	0
Decatur	7	48	0
Jefferson	1	16	0
Ohio	2	21	0
Ripley	3	19	0
Switzerland	5	47	0
TOTALS (6 COUNTIES)	40	354	0

MICHIGAN CITY DISTRICT

COUNTY	CLUBS	MEMBERS	MB
Elkhart	17	176	5
Kosciusko	10	99	22
Lake	4	89	2
LaPorte	6	79	6
Marshall	3	56	0
Porter	3	31	0
St. Joseph	11	92	2
Starke	3	30	0
TOTALS (8 COUNTIES)	57	652	37

NEW CASTLE DISTRICT

COUNTY	CLUBS	MEMBERS	MB
Blackford	5	68	0
Delaware	7	73	3
Fayette	4	50	0
Franklin	5	45	0
Henry	7	78	0
Madison	14	160	0
Randolph	10	91	0
Rush	5	88	0
Union	3	30	0
Wayne	6	71	3
TOTALS (10 COUNTIES)	66	754	6

TERRE HAUTE DISTRICT

COUNTY	CLUBS	MEMBERS	MB
Clay	4	18	3
Greene	4	46	0
Monroe	9	124	0
Owen	4	38	0
Parke	2	15	0
Putnam	10	111	0
Sullivan	6	29	0
Vermillion	2	30	0
Vigo	8	99	0
TOTALS (9 COUNTIES)	49	510	3

MEMBERS AT LARGE

TOTALS		1	
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