

THE HOTLINE

St. Joseph County Extension Homemakers



It is the mission of the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association to strengthen families through continuing education, leadership development, and voluntary community support.

Purdue University is an affirmative action, an equal access/equal opportunity institution.

Upcoming Dates: 2022-2023

Date	Details	Location
Nov 14, 2023	Community Support Group- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come help if you have time! <i>Contact Joann Wiseman (Penn Neighbors) for more information</i>	At Thyme to Sew 1355 N Bendix Dr, South Bend, IN 46628
Nov 28, 2022	Hotline Articles due- mailed or emailed approximately Dec 8th	Mailed approx. Dec 8th
Feb 13, 2023	President's meeting- zoom link	Zoom
Feb 13, 2023	Hotline Articles due- Mailed or emailed approximately Feb 18 th	Mailed approx. Feb 18th
March 15, 2023	Esther Singer Scholarship Due- Due to Melanie Oakley-Capo 475 Elm Road Bremen, IN 46506	March 15th, 2023
March 24, 2023	Hotline Articles due- Mailed or emailed April 1st	Mailed approx. April 1st
<i>March 30 2023</i>	District Meeting Details will be available in January 2023	Kosciusko County

Conversation with Cyndy

Ladies:

I made it a goal to visit all the clubs during my year as President of our organization. Those of you that have welcomed me and allowed me into your club meetings, THANK YOU! I truly believe that every leader should be aware of what each individual group within an organization does and strives to do for its community to make the entire organization better. My time with each of the clubs has been enlightening and wonderful, I will address it later in the newsletter in the club section.

As the holidays are quickly approaching, I will wish each of you much happiness, health, and joy in your lives. As many are less fortunate than us, I would challenge you to create a bit of happiness and light for those with less. A pair of gloves for a youngster, a word search for a member of assisted living, a letter to a member of service, or even those incarcerated. We can make a difference in the lives of those in our community with words of encouragement and by simply engaging.

Happy Holidays and God Bless you and all your families.

Cyndy Keeling

St. Joseph County Homemakers President

Council Meetings of September and October take a different flare from the norm

It was great to see so many of you at the county council's September meeting which Karen Richey of Marshall County demonstrated kitchen technology. Karen and her assistant demonstrated appliances and provided the membership with recipes for Insta-Pot and Air Fryers. All the club presidents have been given a copy of the recipes that were distributed at the council meeting along with a copy of the tips and tricks for the appliances. There was also a copy of the Handkerchief handout included for each club given to each president as well to share with the membership.

In October, our membership discovered a few new craft ideas presented by Liberty member, Bev Robinson, and community member, Amanda McClain. I also shared a quick and simple Santa door hanger idea. Bev Robinson shared her innovative idea of making an angel from dish towels with the group, while Amanda McClain, explained how to create various car air fresheners with scented beads. She explained how they can be made in silicon molds and decorated in various ways and different scents. Members were then treated to homemade cookies and drinks provided by Sandra Oakley and Cyndy Keeling

By-law/Amendments changes during the October council meeting were passed.

- 1) *The dues will be due May 1st. (Change from July 1st)*
- 2) *Officers will be elected at the spring meeting. (This is a change from the March meeting)*

Scholarship Changes:

- 1) *The Scholarship deadline is now: March 15th*
- 2) *The deletion of "only" Indiana colleges/ and or technical institutions to all accredited colleges and/or technical institutions.*



Giving Back to the Community

St. Joseph County Homemakers Community Support Group

Community Support Group will be meeting on **November 14th between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

At Thyme to Sew 1355 N Bendix Dr, South Bend, IN 46628

Please come help if you have time!

Contact Joann Wiseman (Penn Neighbors) for more information



Prayer Shawls for Indiana Organ Donor Network (Submitted by Diana Kuhn)

The Indiana Organ Donor Network Shawls has been supported by the Indiana Extension Homemakers for years. The Network will provide the yarn for individuals to knit or crochet the shawls. You can go to their website and fill out the form for the yarn to be mailed to you. There are patterns that you can download.

(IndianaOrganDonorNetwork.org.shawls Threads of Compassion) You can choose your own pattern. They ask that they be 24 -34 inches wide and 65- 70 inches long. They only take knitted or crocheted shawls. They also request that you wash the shawls before sending them. Della Wittgren from LaPorte is more than willing to take them to Indianapolis. If you wish to help with this project, you can bring them to the Spring District meeting on March 30, 2023, or let Diana Kuhn know and she can take them to the Spring District Meeting. At the Fall meeting in August, Lois Albright from All Friends Homemakers Club donated 19 shawls. Lois started 3 years ago donating shawls and has made over 30 and donated in St. Joseph Extension Homemakers' name. Lois also crochets throws for the Veteran's Homes and Nursing Homes in the area. If anyone has yarn that they no longer want or can use, please think about donating it to Lois or perhaps another club member for a worthwhile project like the "shawls". Others that have made and donated shawls include Brenda Herman and Lynn Lambert (Penn Neighbors) as well as Debbi Pruis (an individual outside of the organization that heard of the program). If there are others that have contributed, let me know and I will list your contribution in the next Hotline.

Club News

Miami Moderns

Miami Modern club met in October at Diana Kuhn's home with the "Hearts of Kindness" as the program/project to work on for the night. Sandy Oakley showed us that you can think outside of the box by painting wooden hearts and decorating them. She attached the message with a ribbon to the wooden heart. Simple and yet very effective. The rest of the members traced felt, cut them out, and used either a running stitch or a blanket stitch to finish them. Some were embellished with little pink roses or buttons. Members will be handing them out to individuals or places of business. Meeting also included an update on everyone's health and recent activities. The November meeting was discussed to remind members to bring hats, gloves, socks, and underwear for school children at LaVille Elementary and LaSalle Elementary in Mishawaka for 2022. Our speaker for November will be Cyndy Keeling on the computer and I-phone technology.

Submitted by

Diana Kuhn

Miami Moderns Member



Figure 1 Scatter Kindness Hearts Variation

Greene Township Extension Homemaker's Club

In March, we met at the home of Kay Liechty. Kay gave a lesson on falling. This is something that we are all concerned about at our age.

In April, we met at the Western Public Library to celebrate our 75th anniversary of being a club. Pat Turk was in charge. Ann Kuntz showed slides from 2010 to the present to some of the activities that we have done in the past. Some members brought newspaper clippings and things that we had made. It brought back many memories.

In May, we met at the home of Janet Ditmire. She gave a lesson on "Things to Make You Happy". As most of us are now widows, it was very timely.

In June, we met at Pegg's for lunch. We then went to the new St. Joseph County Library for a guided tour. We all were very impressed by the new library.

In July, we went to Shipshewana to the Blue Gate Theatre to see the Neil Diamond Tribute. We then ate a delicious meal there. Afterward, we went to E&S Sales for a little shopping.

In August, we met at Macri's Italian Kitchen for lunch. Afterward, we went to the YWCA for a tour. We learned many things about the YWCA that we hadn't thought about before. After the tour, we met in one of their rooms for a business meeting.

In September, we met at the home of Ann Kuntz. Our county president, Cyndy Keeling attended our meeting. Ann showed slides from 2010 to the present of some of the activities that we have done in the past and this summer.

Submitted by:

Kay Liechty

Secretary

All Friends Club:

All Friends Club met on August 23, 2022, at Sherri Kurzal's home. All Friends Club wishes to recognize our fellow member, Lois Wiggins. She has crocheted 75 blankets the size of a twin bed. She donated these items to the Indiana Veterans Home, Rosie Place, and St. Margaret house. During the pandemic and ongoing to date. What an accomplishment and example of great community service representing our Homemakers! Well done, Lois!! The All Friends Club's next event is the All Greene Christmas Auction in November.

Mayflower Club

Mayflower Club cleaned the Esther Singer Building on August 23rd. We started at 10 a.m. and finished in just in over an hour.

The Mayflower Club met at Carol Keppler's home on September 8, 2022. The discussion was led by Becky Wasio on our club hosting cookies and punch for the 9-25-2022 Prairie Bell Concert. Final plans were made for our field trip to see "Menopause" at the Lerner's in Elkhart with dinner at the Elkhart Hotel. Carol led us on how to make "eggshell" vases for rooting cuttings.

The Mayflower Club met on October 13, 2022. We worked on ice cream spoon flower ornaments for our cash and carry table at the All Greene Christmas, on November 2nd. We voted to send our yearly monetary donations to Blue Star Mothers, The Ronald McDonald House, and St. Margaret's House in November.



Membership Committee Update

The following are the ideas and minutes from the meeting that Becky held on October 2nd, unfortunately only Becky and Nicole Meert were able to attend. Becky and Nicole came up with a comprehensive plan for some membership goals. Please make sure that you read these and give Becky and Nicole your feedback.

SJCEH Membership Plan Minutes - 2022 and Beyond- Submitted by Becky Wasio

On Oct. 2nd, Nicole Meert (Prairie Bells) and Becky Wasio (Mayflower and Prairie Bells) met at the Membership Roundtable and created the following short and long-term goals for our county organization.

Current Members - One-Year Goals

1. Keep 90% of current members by July 2023.
2. Add at least one (1) additional benefit for current members by July 2023.

Current Members - Three-Year Goals

1. Keep 80% of current members by July 2025.
2. Hold at least one (1) leadership development training session in St. Joseph County by July 2025.
3. Each club will collaborate (activity of their choosing) at least two (2) times with another club (one club or two clubs) by July 2025.

New Members - One-Year Goals

1. Have ten (10) new members join by July 2023.
2. Recruit five (5) past or current Esther Singer Scholarship winners to join by July 2023.

New Members - Three-Year Goals

1. Based on feasibility, create a membership category for businesses/community organizations by July 2025.
2. 90% of clubs will have a social media presence (Facebook, Instagram, etc.) as a way to promote their club's activities by July 2025.

There are plans created as well as possible ways to achieve these goals. The full Membership Plan can be found online through Google Docs. Here is the link to the full plan. <https://rip.to/i2IAvF>

Send your feedback to Becky Wasio, 574-252-9069, or rkwasio@hotmail.com by November 6th.

Your feedback will help to create the final version of this plan which we will implement as a county organization.



Visits with clubs from St. Joseph County Extension Homemakers Fall 2022

*I have been honored to learn about many talented and fascinating women in my meetings with many of you. I have been in awe of the community service activities of the women in **All Friends**. All Friends does some great work. I learned about Rosie's Place, this is an incredible charity, that I wish I had known about years ago. Their club gives to Camp Mill House, Heart-to-Hospice, Shop-with-Cop, Esther K Scholarship, Veteran's Home, and many more organizations. Lois Wiggins is personally responsible for our county donating 19 shawls to the state this year. She has made a total of 49 that have been donated in recent years. What an incredible sacrifice on her part, she is so talented! In addition, they gave me so awesome ideas for the Extension Homemaker Scholarship fundraiser.*

*I was intrigued and mesmerized by the engaging stories of the Homemaker's past with Madison Mrs. recently renamed **Madison M's**, they not only educated me on some history of the association, but they also planned their year and talked about volunteering with assisted living in the spring. These three ladies (Joyce, Jan, & Janis) have been incredibly supportive of the county activities this fall and me. Thank you for your kind and encouraging words, you have been awesome!!!*

***Greene Township** and their President Ann Kuntz invited me to their club in September. Ann and the ladies of the Greene Club are a treasure! Ann started the meeting by releasing a monarch butterfly she had recently hatched. She has an incredible sunroom with so many beautiful plants. The ladies of the Greene shared with me about the 75-year history of their club and many of their activities. A few of the most interesting items I took away from the meeting were that the members visit many different places as a group, support the YMCA, make Kiffles as a group for the Greene Christmas fundraiser, and the most fun idea is that every Christmas they exchange gifts that begin with a new letter of the alphabet. Ann, thank you for your suggestion for the kitchen technology idea for a lesson!!!! I had the best time sitting and listening to these ladies tell me the history of their club and its activities. They were so kind to include me in their day.*

*I had the pleasure of visiting **Prairie Bells** at their first meeting of the year and picnic. I was privileged to one of their practice bell concert pieces. This is an incredibly talented and diverse group of individuals. Their group is not only made of new members but also, has members from existing groups in the county. The diversity in age and interests is amazing, but the love of music brings these ladies together. Nicole Meert is the President and a rising star in our organization. She is innovative and full of energy and ideas.*

I hope that she and her ideas will be met with open arms as she continues the growth and development of this club. She has stepped up and volunteered to serve as one of the committee members of the scholarship committee. If you can attend a Prairie Bell concert in the future, please do, you will not be disappointed.

The **Penn Neighbors** is a classic group of ladies. I learned about many of the trips the county organization use to take in the past, as well as some of the county meetings that occurred. The Penn Neighbors planned many of their meetings for the upcoming year. Brenda Herman had the Handkerchief handouts from the district meeting for the club to view as a listen and many of the members brought older Handkerchiefs of their own to share with the group. There were many stories and food to share among the ladies. I learn that member, Jo Ann Woolett grew up with my mom and they were very good friends as young girls. Joann Wiseman shared with me the activities of the Community Support group. Thank you, Lynn Lambert, for being such a wonderful, kind listener, you and your entire group are beautiful to your souls.

Next up, Miami Moderns, November 10th, I will be doing a presentation on computer and phone safety for the membership. I look forward to meeting with their members.

As I have been saying, each of these clubs is full of talent and ideas, that have not been “advertised” and no one truly knows how the extent of the abilities and talents you process.

I have included a few pictures from my outings, I have to apologize, I got so caught up in my day, I often forgot to take pictures.

Some pictures from my visits with clubs from St. Joseph County Extension Homemakers Fall 2022



Figure 2 Prairie Bells Picnic



Figure 3 Prairie Bells Practice



Figure 4 Penn Neighbors



Figure 5 Greene Township



Figure 6 Greene Township Ann Kuntz

September Fall Council Meeting

September 29, 2022

The St. Joseph County Extension Homemaker's Council Meeting was held on Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was held at the Esther Singer Building.

The meeting was called to order by President Cyndy Keeling. Twenty-five members attended the meeting. President Cyndy Keeling introduced the guest presenters. Karen Richey a Marshall County Extension Agent and Maria Cobit. They gave cooking information on the Air Fryer and the Insta Pot, with a demo of each. We were able to taste the items they had prepared, and recipes were handed out.

President Cyndy Keeling led us with the Pledge to Flag and the Homemaker's Creed.

A motion was made by Brenda Herman to accept the last meeting's secretary's report and seconded by Sherry Kurzhal.

On September 20, 2022, Joyce Schalliol and Sherry Kurzhal audited the treasury books. They found everything in order.

Becky Wasio presented the Treasurer's Report. The checking balance is \$6328.78 as of September 28, 2022, & Savings Account is \$3524.54 as of September 26, 2022. A motion was made by Alene Klopfenstein and seconded by Brenda Herman.

Becky Wasio presented the proposed budget for 2022-2023. The discussion was held. Questions and discussions were held on the Home and Family Conference expense. This was budgeted for four county officers, and we only have three. It was moved that we change the budgeted amount to \$210.00. Brenda Herman made a motion we accept this change seconded by Nicole Meert.

President Cyndy Keeling presented the potential By-Law Amendments. Mailbox members would receive the Hot Line and have voting privileges.

Change dues to be paid by May 1 not July 1.

Changes to the scholarship due date from April to March 15. This way the winners could be recognized at the Spring Fling and our club would be recognized at the schools. The scholarship winner will not be restricted to attending only Indiana schools.

A change is to be made for the election of officers from the March meeting to the Spring meeting.

A motion was made to amend the new changes by Joann Wiseman seconded by Vicki Lee.

Joann Wiseman reported on the Community Support Group. They meet at Thyme to Sew every other month. They have made blankets, burp pads, bibs, and pillowcases to name a few items that are distributed to different organizations. For more information, you can talk to Joann.

Diana Kuhn reported that her group was making cloth checkerboards and little goodie bags for active service men and women.

Cyndy Keeling reported on the District Meeting held in LaPorte. There were 7 members from St Joseph County attending. State President Michelle Roberts gave a talk on the history of the handkerchief. Each president of the clubs will get a handout on this.

You can make your Scatter Kindness Hearts from any materials you would like.

Becky Wasio announced that the Membership Recruiting meeting will be on October 2, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Alene Klopfenstein entered the discussion of plans for the 2023 fair raffle. Cyndy Keeling to donate half a hog. Maybe we would be able to highlight the things that each of the clubs does to promote new membership.

Joyce Schalliol suggested that we show some sewn projects or pictures at the fair.

Cyndy Keeling stated she would e-mail scholarship entry forms to each school counselor.

We will vote on the amendments on October 19, 2022, our next meeting.

Joyce Schalliol moved we adjourn seconded by Diana Kuhn.

Submitted by

Lorraine Borton

Secretary

October Fall Council Meeting

10/19/2022

The St. Joseph County Extension Homemakers Council Meeting and Craft Day were held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022. The meeting was held at the Esther Singer Building at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by President Cyndy Keeling, who led us with the Pledge to the Flag and the Homemaker's Creed.

The secretary's minutes will be posted in the Hot Line.

The treasurer's reports were handed out to those present at the meeting.

President Cyndy Keeling stated the new **bylaws**, each voted on by those present.

A. Officer Elections moved to the spring meeting rather than the March meeting.

The motion was made by Joyce Schalliol to accept this change seconded by Sandy Oakley

B. Payment of dues due by May 1, not July 1.

The motion was made by Ronda Schafer to accept this change seconded by Sherry Kurzhal.

Scholarship changes

The date of the scholarship application was changed to March 15. Also, change the wording to eliminate only Indiana schools and open to all colleges, technical institutions, etc.

The motion was made by Diana Kuhn to accept this change seconded by Lynn Lambert.

President Cyndy Keeling then introduced the craft demonstrators.

Amanda McClain - Freshy's (Personalized Air Fresheners)

Bev Robinson of Liberty Homemakers - Angel

Cyndy Keeling of Miami Trendsetters - Santa Door hanger Scorching and Thank You ideas

Submitted by

Lorraine Borton

Secretary

Treasurer's Report - Oct. 19, 2022

Checking Account balance: \$6146.37

Savings (Scholarship) Account balance: \$3524.57

Submitted:

Becky Wasio

District Update

The **Spring District meeting** will be held at **Kosciusko County on March 30th**. Details of the meeting and cost will be finalized by January we were told this past week. It appears the cost will be around \$18 per person. I will forward you the information as soon as I know more.



CLEAN SWEEP

Schedule for Cleaning the Kitchen

This would involve cleaning the counters, top of stoves, microwave, the surface of cupboards, sink, and inside the refrigerator. I have cleaning supplies I will put in the kitchen labeled with SJCHEA on the carrier for our use. I think if we work together, we can do this. The schedule for 2022-2023 is as follows, however, if we need to do some switching around let me know, please. I have supplies together, so we have ample items to clean properly.

Schedule

- December 2022-** Miami Trendsetters
- February 2023-** All Friends
- April 2023-** Greene Acres & Miami Moderns
- June 2023-** Penn Neighbors & Liberty

This will only require 4-6 individuals and perhaps 1/2 hour to 45 minutes at the most complete to each time. The fair board would like to know the day and time we are going to be there during the month to avoid conflicts. You can contact me (at 250-7617) or contact Tami at the fair office at 574-291-4870 to arrange a time.

Parting thoughts.....

I know that the adage is "if it isn't broke, don't fix it" and then for a long time it has been status quo, and things have been ok, however, our membership has not grown, in fact, it has decreased and will continue to decrease if we do not take a proactive approach. I would challenge each of you to ask yourself when you think of new members and new clubs these questions:

- 1. Do I (we) truly welcome their(members') ideas and opinions?*
- 2. What do I (we) want or expect from new (younger) members?*
- 3. What perception do I give to new members or new leadership in the organization of my willingness to work with new ideas or concepts?*

It is time for us to be realistic about the membership. The need to address the "elephant in the room": is that not only membership is declining, but the average age of members is also increasing. We can either decide to be part of the changes we want to see, or circumstances will dictate to us. It was suggested that perhaps we need to focus one of our raffle prizes on men and one on family (zoo experience). These are tremendous ideas in my opinion, which I believe will enhance our raffle dynamic and potentially bring in more money for our scholarship fund.

God Bless and have a safe Merry Christmas!

Cyndy Keeling

President - St. Joseph County Homemakers