

BLUEGRASS AREA PRESIDENT REPORT 2008

Submitted by Coetta L. Combs

We are composed of nine great counties. Once again Harrison County reported a gain of 34 new members. Isn't that wonderful?

All counties donated to the Ovarian Cancer Fund; Pennies for Friendship, community service projects, tab collection, and scholarships to graduating seniors. Many counties are continuing to work on the "Barn Quilt" project.

BOURBON COUNTY Homemakers are very supportive of cancer and health programs, scholarships and local school programs. We have had success raising funds for scholarships through silent auctions at our annual meeting. This year our Executive Board had a retreat at Blue Lick State Park to plan the program for the year and updated their By-Laws to be in compliance with KEHA. A copy was distributed to each Club President at their training meeting. We hosted the Bluegrass Area Meeting with over 300 persons attending. The theme was "Homemakers are Survivors" and the guest speaker, Rodger Bingham (Kentucky Joe), was a real crowd pleaser. Presently we are struggling to increase new membership; we are down to 242 active members with 73 members-at-large but pushing to recover.

CLARK COUNTY Homemakers are proud to be active in community services including Backpack for Hunger, Historical Marker Dedication, 2nd Sunday Event and the Women's Health Registry. Heritage Skills workshops are an on-going tradition as well as the annual Spring Fling program and Holiday Crafts workshop.

ESTILL COUNTY celebrated its 200th birthday this year. Some Homemakers visited historical places in our county with a brown bag lunch at one site. Other Homemakers participated in a scavenger hunt of the "Trail of Quilts", while others were landscaping their church grounds. Many members have been busy accumulating volunteer hours of service in our community. We are all happy for Connie Woolery's retirement after many years of service to Homemakers. We really miss her and wish her the best.

FAYETTE COUNTY Homemakers collected gifts for local nursing homes helping 810 residents select and wrap gifts for family and friends through the Joy of Giving. We collected 346 pounds of aluminum tabs for UK Children's Hospital; donated 163 Reach for Recovery Pillows, while the annual Food, Flowers, and Fun gave 350 participants an opportunity to attend food and nutrition workshops. The Sally Deen Scholarship fund awarded two high school graduates college scholarships. Volunteers gave 46,800 hours of service in Fayette County. The year concluded with the annual Holiday Seminar, 200 participants enjoyed a seasonal fashion show and watched live demonstrations featuring healthy foods and holiday decorating.

HARRISON COUNTY Homemakers were very busy this year. We have 389 members with an increase of 34 new members. The following is a list of projects we participated in or hosted: Recipe for Reading for 5th graders; Special Food and Nutrition and Healthy Day Trip to Jungle Jim's International Market; Fall Overnight Trip to Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard; Spring Day Trip to Frankfort visiting Liberty Hall Historic House, Kentucky History Museum, Lexington History Center and

Old Kentucky Chocolates; several members attended the State Capitol for special recognition; Community Health Fair at Middle School; Safety Day sponsored by Homemakers, a fun filled educational day at fairgrounds for 4th graders; four tea parties at nursing homes; Longest Day of Play; 169 pillows were given to Hospice Pillow Project and pillows and throws were made for dialysis center; several members participated with Harrison County Tomorrow; decorated for the holidays; initiated Small Steps for Health; and donated \$457.33 to Ovarian Cancer Fund.

MADISON COUNTY Homemakers had another successful year. Membership has continued to grow with a total of 478 members including the organization of one new club. Our members did an excellent job reaching the community with many service projects. A few of which include: 693 Care Bears were made for area hospitals; 50 baby quilts were made by the Happy Hands Quilt Club and donated to Hope's Wings, our women's shelter. We also collected \$450.00 for Pennies for Friendship. Several workshops and classes have been offered to members as well as the community. We are proud to donate \$4,026.85 to the U.K. Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, proceeds from activities such as the Cooking School and E.K.U. Quilt Trail Project. Between 300 and 400 attended our first 2nd Sunday. 65 Students from 30 countries attended the International Mixer at E.K.U.

NICHOLAS COUNTY Homemakers have been extremely active. Our main project was developing and implanting the Literacy, Eating, and Activity for Preschool Children (LEAP) for all Nicholas County Preschool Youth. Two trainings, held in Nicholas County, trained fifty Extension Homemakers to teach nutrition and activities through the imagination of educational books. Homemakers hold an educational program for all preschool youth monthly. Just a few of our many other activities include: Nicholas County Fair; sponsored and prepared the meal for Nicholas County 4-H Livestock Show and Sale; county leadership training; Back Pack for Hunger program; migrant program back to school supplies; Eastern State Hospital personal hygiene products; Nicholas County Nursing Home seasonal cards; and Saturday in Carlisle.

POWELL COUNTY Homemakers were involved in many community events including Petal and Bloom Festival, Corn Festival, County Fair and Quilt Show. In October we hosted the first annual Red River Quilt Show. We had 100 quilts on display for the two day event. Proceeds were donated to the Ovarian Cancer screening program. Members participate in many leadership roles within the community. Monthly leader trainings and special interest workshops are held throughout the year. This year's annual meeting was a celebration of our Homemakers 75th Anniversary. Our guest speakers were two former FCS agents who shared their experiences with the Homemaker organization in our county.

SCOTT COUNTY Homemakers held the February International Banquet successfully with 56 people present for a program by Rene Sira, KEHA past President, highlighting her trip to Finland where she attended the 25th Triennial Conference of A.C.W.W. This calendar year Scott Extension Homemakers have made significant contributions to the Indian Summer Camp for seriously ill children, Eastern State Hospital, Scott County Public Schools Family Resource Center and Scott County.