



2024 PRESIDENT'S REPORT



My second year as President of KEHA has been a great one. I have seen many of our members step up to leadership roles and take responsibility where it was needed. Attending 12 of our 14 area meetings was especially rewarding. As president, meeting members and visiting across the state has been a wonderful experience. I witnessed recognition and awards given to reward members for their contributions and volunteer hours in their communities. Several attendees of the Kentucky Leadership Academy held in March 2023 have stepped up to take offices at the county, area, and state levels. This training is working. This is evidence of strong programs and growth of individuals. Recovery efforts are still ongoing in Western Kentucky from the multiple tornadoes and Eastern Kentucky from the devastating floods last year. Progress is happening!

Our state membership increased again this year to 11,310 members. Our dedication to the University of Kentucky Ovarian Cancer Research has been outstanding. We donated nearly \$45,000.00 this year. To date we have donated over \$1.67 million dollars to this research program. Our scholarship program is strong with several state and many local scholarships given each year. In Leadership Development, our members reported over 720,000 volunteer hours this year. If converted to dollars per hour, this would be worth \$19.3 million dollars donated to our communities. You make a huge difference!

Officer and chairperson training was reported in all clubs, counties, and all 14 areas. Parliamentary procedure was taught and implemented in most clubs. Many individuals stepped up to present lessons and crafts who had not done so in the past. Most clubs reported they had taught the lessons provided by the University of Kentucky on the subjects that the members themselves had requested when surveyed. Some of the lessons were: technology updates, fraud and scam prevention, leadership skills, edible plants, gardening techniques, physical exercise, healthy eating habits, mental health, food preservation, and many more.

The nine educational programs are strong and provide information, guidance, and contests in which individuals and clubs can participate. Our Cultural Arts programs are thriving on all levels. Last year, 664 entries were competing at our state meeting in 2023, and of these 420 won ribbons. Over 6,000 classes were taught across the state in some form of art which was part of our state program of work. The Environment, Housing, and Energy program of work promoted programs on radon gas, waste management, safe energy, emergency preparedness, safer homes, and community cleanup programs. Food, Nutrition, and Health reported members had over 3,143 mammograms this year and had over 7,000 ovarian screenings and 60 first-time screenings. Physical activity and healthy



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eating was stressed and over 1,000 children were given healthy food through the food backpack program. Our International program is strong with donations for Coins for Change/Rural Women in Action, Kentucky Academy in Ghana, the bee politization project, and education about many countries around the world. Some clubs study a different country every month. Information was provided at all area meetings on ACWW, NVON, and CWC. More than 20,000 volunteer hours were used in 4-H programs by homemaker members, and 5,148 youth were engaged in 4-H programs. Over \$30,000 was raised and given as camp scholarships. This year, the Family and Individual Development program of work focused on self-care and pampering and strengthening families to alleviate some of life's pressure and stress. A total of 8,317 members responded or participated in the program. Management and Safety reported many lessons on fraud, safety in the home, mental health and stress relief for individuals. Health cards were distributed that detailed medicines and medical conditions that should be known in medical emergencies.

Many members participated in activities such as: jewelry making, crafts, photography, special lunches or dinners to raise money for charities, recipes for life, bake sales, coat and clothing drives, blessing boxes, quilt donations, hats and blankets, helping in food kitchens and food giveaways, veterans meals and programs, helping with and donating to nursing homes and Hospice, window displays, radio programs, blood drives, first aid and CPR training, and many more. Our KEHA members are invested in their communities. The number of people taught and helped has been tremendous.

Mrs. Kelly May, KEHA state advisor, and the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment has been so supportive. Kelly is knowledgeable, friendly, and a real pleasure to work with. We would not be successful without her. We have Extension Agents in nearly every county in the state. These agents and the University staff provide training, guidance, programs, and information on a variety of topics free to our members. We are so lucky in this state to have this leadership and support structure. This is what keeps us strong. We use our time and talents to help others. We are teachers, students, helpers, and friends. We are Kentucky Extension Homemakers, and we are needed!

Brenda Hammons
Kentucky President