

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2022-2023

Brenda R. Hammons

This year, I have had the privilege of visiting over half of our great state. I have traveled from Paducah and Henderson in the western part of the state to Bowling Green, in the south to Letcher County in the east and Maysville in the north and all over central Kentucky. I have met positive, active members working to promote communication, and leadership, to provide interesting programs and volunteer to better their communities. We are so very proud of our 11,229 members. This is nearly a 500-member increase over last year.

I also attended the KEAFCS state meeting in Bowling Green. It was great to meet the many active supportive agents across the state. Leslie Workman, KEAFCS President 2022, reported training is taking place for the 30 new agents just hired this year. Just as KEHA is ever growing and changing as an organization, so is UK Extension. We continue to be supported by the wonderful staff at the University of Kentucky. Natalie Taul, the 2023 KEAFCS President attended our Spring Board meeting in Louisville, brought greetings and updated us on staff and new developments in her organization. We value the Extension agents in every county in Kentucky. They teach, lead, support and provide information to better our members and communities. We are privileged to have UK advisors to work with our nine Educational Chairpersons in developing meaningful programs and contests that our members can participate in.

Our nine State Educational Chairpersons and the fourteen Area Presidents represent our state membership on the State Board. They are responsible for disseminating information from our state Board of Officers and our State Advisor Mrs. Kelly May to the Area officers. Then that information is passed down to the County officers, and then to club officers and then, on to members. I have been asked by other states how we have such a strong membership. I believe it is through our officer training and leadership, which is offered at every level of our organization, as well as the many interesting classes and programs that are offered and taught to our membership, which the members themselves help choose each year. These different programs inspire our members to volunteer their time to their communities. This past year our members donated their time in volunteer hours in approximately 46,350 hours in Extension work, 60,790 to KEHA programs and activities, 165,653 hours to their communities 236,148 hours in personal volunteerism and 8,191 hours to 4-H programs and activities. All together this adds up to a whopping 517,132 volunteer hours given to our communities. You are making a great and positive impact on your communities.

Our scholarship programs are impressive. There were 23 Club Scholarships reported for a total of \$3,195., 89 County Scholarships totaling \$43,965 and 1 Area scholarship in the amount of \$2,450. Some community projects were helping teachers in schools; food contests within that community; donations to food baskets food pantries, school supplies, gifts for needy children, Christmas stockings, tornado relief, quilts to needy and Camp for Courageous, happy packs and snacks to local sheriff and police stations, products to nursing homes and hospitals, plant and seed give aways, information on bee pollination and plants and many more. It's impossible to name all the wonderful projects and programs we have ongoing in our communities that help us to become better leaders.

There were 44,725 4-H Camp scholarships awarded this year. Part of the money came from KEHA as well as Business donations. 4-H Programs included communication skills, basic sewing, food to table, citizenship, manners, consumer learning and daily health plans. Our homemakers can and should be aware of the many ways in which we can help with the youth of today. I am in this position due in part to the skills I learned in 4-H as a young person and the guidance of the 4-H agents, leaders, and volunteers.

We were given the task of helping to market our KEHA merchandise, promoting the annual State Meeting and encouraging vendor participation. Classes on Designing tools for Social Media Graphics and using Google Drive for sheets, documents, and forms were topics provided through our Publicity and Marketing Committee at our last state meeting.

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Our Cultural Arts & Heritage programs allow our members across the state to participate in the many competitions in 94 category/subcategory designations in which 1,316 entries were exhibited to earn recognition. This competition is available at the county, area, and state levels. Achievement ribbons are awarded to the deserving competitors. Over 5,638 various books have been read, and in addition, 690 books were read from the KEHA Book List. Many people took part in the creative writing projects of poetry, short stories, and memoirs. Classes were taught in cloth weaving, Swedish weaving, and pin weaving. 131 people participated in the Passport Challenge visiting 1,885 different places and historical locations this year.

Our Environment Housing and Energy Program of Work included participation in lessons or projects on: honey, monarch way stations, landscape and community beautification and landscaping to attract bees, birds, or butterflies. The Adopt-a-Highway project also is an asset to keeping Kentucky beautiful. Recycling, energy use and innovations such as solar power and information on new appliances and housing updates are used widely.

The Food, Nutrition and Health Program continues to support the Ovarian Cancer program at the University of Kentucky. \$40,941.57 was raised to donate to this cause this year. It was reported that 2,538 participants had yearly checkups, 1,929 had Mammograms, 408 had ovarian screenings, 33 first-time ever screenings and 1,427 people had Diabetes screenings. Specialized diets, exercise which includes Bingocize, healthy eating, cooking classes, specialty foods, and Dementia information were just a few of the many programs and activities that were reported.

Family and Individual Development reported programs on: grief and support groups; coping with chronic illness; stress awareness; healthy brains; nurturing self; power of laughter; relaxation; communication skills; conflict resolution, random acts of kindness, and aging, as well as many others.

Over 38 countries have been studied and celebrated as part of our International Program of Work. We collected money for Coins for Change (which includes Rural Women of the World), Eco Brick Project, KEHA Clean Water project, Kentucky Academy in Ghana, and Indian Summer Camp. Cans of food were collected for Feed America. Programs on zero hunger, poverty, good health, quality education, responsible consumption, textiles, pollinator protection, use of plastic, and environmental health, and other cultures were just a few of the outstanding classes and programs taught.

Classes were presented on: fraud and scams; saving and investing money; estate planning; shopping with coupons; insurance fraud; grilling safety; budgeting; keeping up with flu and virus protection; fire, EMT and police protection; senior citizen safety; avoiding falls; and monthly technology classes were taught as part of the Management and Safety Program of Work. There were Zoom classes taught in the AM, PM, and the evening to better serve our members. There are specialty clubs such as Pinterest, Photography, Oil Painting, Bingocize and Taco Tuesday (Taco bout Homemakers). There were so many crafts and projects taught and shared I cannot begin to name them all.

The volunteer hours and donations to your communities were wonderful. Items made and given to needy causes, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, resource centers and civil services were overwhelming. What you do is outstanding in every way! I am so impressed with you as members and leaders. I am very proud that you belong to KEHA. Thank you for all you do and the impact you've made in your communities.

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