

**KENTUCKY EXTENSION
HOMEMAKERS ASSOCIATION**
Report to NVON-July 2019
Karen Hill, KEHA President
www.keha.org



It has been a busy year for Kentucky Extension Homemakers. We just had our State Meeting in May and it was a great one! Our theme was “The Sun Shines Bright” and there were 575 people registered with 94 of them being 1st time attendees. It was a full week. A check for \$46,567.69 was presented to the University of Kentucky Ovarian Cancer Program raising KEHA’s lifetime contribution to this program at just under \$1.5 million. This program provides free screening to more than 15,000 Kentucky women each year from every county in the state. Because of this screening, the 5-year survival rate of women whose ovarian cancer was detected by screening is about 85%, or over double that of women who did not have screening. Isn’t that wonderful?

Members from across the state crafted 357 finished quilt squares that were put in a silent auction which raised \$2504 and will be used to support our State Meeting programs. Our theme basket raffle to benefit the Ovarian Cancer Screening Program raised \$2647 and our Silent Auction raised \$1626 to aid in hosting the 2021 NVON Meeting. Our members have been busy.

We have also been very busy volunteering our time and talents for our organization and in our communities. Volunteer hours for 2017-18 totaled 478,570.

In addition to all that, we started a new activity where members were encouraged to knit or crochet squares and bring to the meeting. There, we had a Knit and Crochet Corner where attendees could take a break and either make more squares or sew squares together to make comfort blankets for young patients at Norton Children’s Hospital in Louisville. Their generosity resulted in 55 blankets completed for donation. Additional squares and yarn were provided to members in attendance to finish comfort blankets to be donated to facilities across the state. What a wonderful project and one we will continue next year.

We are proud to report our 2018 membership of 13,909 members. This is down a little from the previous year, but we have two existing membership programs in place and our 2nd Vice-President has introduced a new one called “Growing Our Membership.” We, like all of you, hope to increase our numbers in the coming years.

Another exciting program voted in at our business meeting is the new “KEHA Leadership Academy”. This is a program to train, mentor and guide the KEHA membership to support the mission of volunteerism and leadership now and into the future. This was designed by a committee of KEHA Board Members. Applications will be submitted this fall with the first Academy Training Conference to take place in the Spring of 2020. We are very excited about this.

We just launched a new KEHA Facebook page which was developed by our Marketing and Publicity Chair and has been well received and heavily utilized. Our Facebook page is available at www.facebook.com/OfficialKEHA.

I want to share a few numbers from our eight Educational Areas that have been reported.

- Cultural Arts and Heritage-More than \$30,000 in funding to support Extension and community projects was generated through sales of craft items.
- Environment, Housing and Energy-Clubs and county organizations provided monetary and in-kind donations totaling more than \$13,200 for community beautification projects.
- 4-H Youth Development-KEHA members contributed more than \$21,000 for 4-H camp scholarships for kids who otherwise might not get to attend.
- Family & Individual Development-More than 200 clubs held multi-generational programs.
- Food, Nutrition & Health-More than \$44,000 was raised and donated to the UK Ovarian Cancer Screening and Research Program.
- International-More than \$5000 was donated to finalize construction of the library in Ghana. These were funds collected in 2016-17 and proceeds from the State Meeting Silent Auction last year.
- Leadership Development-\$62,000 in scholarships for higher education were awarded through KEHA clubs, counties and areas.
- Management & Safety-3012 KEHA members learned methods to manage their holiday expenses based on information received through Extension.

These are just some of the ways we contribute to our communities across the state.

And, lastly, we have been asked by the U.S. Census Bureau to partner with them to create a unique quilt featuring one square from each of Kentucky's 120 counties. This quilt will travel across the state, demonstrating that each county matters, and reminding viewers that every person must be counted for Kentucky to have appropriate congressional representation and federal funding. KEHA is spearheading the construction of this special quilt with each county providing a quilt block that emphasizes the unique characteristics of the county.

Kentucky Homemakers are very busy and enjoy everything we can contribute to our community. Thank you.

Submitted by Karen Hill, KEHA President 2019