From the Pen of your President

Fellow Homemakers,

“Spring Into Action with EHC” is the theme of our upcoming Spring Council Meeting.

**Encourage**  
**Help others**  
**Care**

Aren’t these actions we perform in EHC? Other actions that characterize us are:

- Support  
- Lead  
- Serve  
- Create  
- Volunteer  
- Learn  
- Donate  
- Love  
- Educate  
- Share  
- Socialize  
- Make Friends

We’re an active bunch! I’m grateful to be a member of this worthy organization and serve as your county president. I hope to see you all at Council meeting!

~Mitzi Osborne, Prairie County EHC President

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines:

- Thursday, April 7: Host Clubs set up for Spring Council *(Each club decorates their own table)*
- Friday, April 8: EHC Spring Council Meeting
- Tuesday, April 19: Teaching Dolls for ACH Workshop
- Tuesday, April 26: EHC Leader Training
- Tuesday, May 24: EHC Board Meeting and Leader Training
- June 7-9: AEHC State Meeting
- Tuesday, June 21: EHC Board Meeting
- July 1: 2016-2017 EHC Year Begins
- Wednesday, August 10: Arkansas Rice Expo – Save the Date!
Spring Council Meeting

“Spring into Action with EHC”

The 2016 Spring Council Meeting will be held Friday, April 8 at the fairgrounds in Hazen. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will start at 10:00. Each club should bring two door prizes valued at $10. Our speaker will be Mary Anne Williams. She will discuss the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, a nonprofit organization that promotes early childhood literacy by giving free books every month to children from birth to the age of five.

Club Responsibilities:

Host Clubs – Busy Hands and Oak Prairie
(Decorate and provide morning refreshments)
Registration – Idlewild
Welcome – Busy Hands
Response – Prairie Piecemakers
Thought of the Day – Oak Prairie
Songs – Busy Hands
Stretcher - Biscoe
Door Prizes – Couponistas
(Don’t forget to bring numbers)
Lunch – Potluck, council will provide ham

This meeting is open to all Extension Homemaker members and friends. Come celebrate spring with your EHC family!

April EHC Leader Training

The April leader training will be Tuesday, April 26 at 1:00 p.m. at Farm Bureau in Hazen. The program topic is Creative Skills and Dora Holloway will be teaching us how to make a braided t-shirt. If interested, please bring a t-shirt (size larger than you normally wear) and a needle/thread to match the shirt.

May EHC Leader Training

The May leader training is scheduled for Tuesday, May 24 at 1:00 p.m. at Farm Bureau in Hazen. The program topic is Consumer Protection. Come and learn some important steps to safe-guard your identity for theft.

Teaching Dolls Workshop

Many of you know that Extension Homemakers are a big supporter of Arkansas Children’s Hospital. It has been brought to our attention that they are in need of teaching dolls. Teaching dolls are used by the hospital to prepare and teach children about what they may experience during surgeries or procedures. The purpose of pre-operative teaching is to reduce anxiety and let the patient explore and ask questions about their surgery in a safe setting.

At the last EHC Board meeting, we voted to have a teaching dolls workshop on Tuesday, April 19 at 9:00 a.m. at the fairgrounds. The Prairie Piecemakers Club will provide the plain, neutral colored fabric and polyester filling. Other members please bring any other supplies you have such as a sewing machine, needles, thread, or scissors. If you are willing to help make teaching dolls, come join us! Lunch will be potluck, so bring your favorite dish.
Volunteers Needed

I will be offering Food Preservation classes June 23 and 24. Details are still being finalized but I’m looking for one or two volunteers that would be willing to help wash dishes and assist as needed. If you would be willing to help either of those days, please contact the office.

End of Year Reminders

It’s hard to believe the new EHC year is only a few months away already. Although the new program year doesn’t officially start until July 1, it’s time to start thinking about new club officers, collecting dues, and completing membership forms for 2016-2017. Current club presidents will receive a packet of forms at the council meeting. During May-June meetings, all clubs should elect officers, collect dues and complete the forms. As new officers are elected, please contact the Extension office so we will have the correct information for the yearbooks. If your club changes meeting days or times let us know that information as well. Club forms, dues, and completed secretary books need to be turned in by the June 21 board meeting. Please make sure the Financial Report in the back of the secretary book is complete. Remember, dues are $5.00 per club and $5.00 per member.

Just a Little Reminder

This year’s cultural arts competition for the state meeting will be newborn receiving blankets for Arkansas Children’s Hospital. The blanket dimensions are 36” by 36”. Material should be light weight fleece or flannel. Colors should be pink, blue, yellow, green, or white. NO PRINTS. Bring blankets to Spring Council and we will deliver them to state meeting.

AEHC State Meeting

Make plans now to attend the 2016 Annual State Meeting June 7-9 at the Hot Springs Convention Center. This year’s theme is “Stepping Up for Education.” Registration is $30 and the Tuesday/Wednesday lunches are $20 each for a total cost of $70. Three rooms have been reserved for our members at the Embassy Suites. Registration forms have been distributed to club presidents. Members at Large – if you are interested in attending, contact the office and we will send you a registration packet. Registration forms and payment are due in Little Rock no later than April 29. There will be a $10 late fee for every registration Thelma sends in after the deadline.

Here are a few highlights for this year’s meeting:

- Variety of how-to, subject matter, education, and creative skills classes
- Silent Auction
- Craft and Trade Show
- Game Night
- “Let You Entertain Us” Talent Show
- Awards Luncheon - Project Book Awards, Scholarship Awards, Cultural Arts Exhibit Awards, and 50, 60, 70+ Year Member Recognition
- Special Guest Speakers
- State Officer Installation Ceremony
- Memorial Service to honor deceased members

Join us for this fun, educational meeting!
Community Service Project
“Supporting Foster Families and Children”

As you all know, the Council chose The CALL as our county-wide service project - a non-profit organization committed to recruiting, training, and supporting foster and adoptive families in Lonoke and Prairie County. Right now they are collecting items for summer gift baskets to give their foster families. We are asking every club to bring any of the items listed below to the Spring Council Meeting.

Suggestions:

Books
Coloring Books
Art supplies
Water balloons
Water toys
Sunscreen
Water bottles
Bubbles
Sidewalk chalk
Outdoor balls
Frisbees
Water guns
Popsicle making molds
Or anything else along these lines!

Thank you for your help with this important project!

Mission Statement

The mission of this organization shall be to empower individuals and families to improve their quality of living through continuing EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, and COMMUNITY SERVICE.

We had a great trip to the Spring AEHC Officer Training on Wednesday, March 9 in Ferndale.

The Couponistas EHC packed Blessing Bags during their last meeting. Blessing Bags are great to keep in the car for those moments when you see someone in need but aren't quite comfortable passing out cash or maybe just don't have any cash on hand. These bags can include anything from basic survival supplies and personal care items to thoughtful extras that might brighten someone’s day.