

2019-2020 KEHA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

KEHA - A WINNING TEAM

I cannot believe that it has almost been a year since I was installed as the KEHA President. What a year full of exciting adventures and learning opportunities! I have received so much encouragement and support from members across this great state and have made so many new friends. I am learning things each day and enjoying being on this winning team!

Who would have thought that just a few days after our 2020 Spring Board Meeting that a global pandemic would strike and change our lives causing us to cancel pretty much everything including our State Meeting. I think this was the first time that has happened. I appreciate so much the understanding and kind words from everyone during this difficult time. I also want to thank our Executive Committee and Kim Henken for having virtual meetings and having to make decisions that none of us would have ever anticipated.

I have so enjoyed traveling across our beautiful state, visiting areas, and meeting enthusiastic homemakers who never cease to amaze me with their skills and zest for what they do.

In July 2019, I traveled to Bardstown for the annual transition board meeting where out-going officers shared their wisdom with the new officers. This is always a great experience. Then I headed to Grayson County to meet with the Leadership Academy Team to work out details of the Leadership Academy held in March 2020. What a great event this was! Next, I was honored to be one of the Kentucky delegates to the NVON Conference held in Springdale, Arkansas. The theme for this meeting was "Learning, Leading, Serving: Today's Woman-Striving to Strengthen Her Community". I learned so much from their classes and workshops. We were also honored to share information about hosting this conference in July of 2021 with the theme of "Be the Sunshine-Make a Difference".

In August 2019, the Bluegrass Area invited me to speak at their Leadership Training in Lexington so off I went. I was welcomed with open arms and greeted with such enthusiasm about the new year. They have a great event to train their officers and chairmen. In August I also attended the Kentucky State Extension Advisory Council where I was privileged to meet Dr. Laura Stephenson who brings so much enthusiasm to the job as Director of Extension for the University of Kentucky. She is such a great asset to Extension, and I am looking forward to working with her. In August I was also invited to attend the Master Farm Homemaker Guild's meeting in Meade County. We had so much fun working side by side with other homemakers helping at this event. Who knew hard work could be so much fun?

In September 2019, I attended the dedication ceremony for the 2020 Census Quilt at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah. It was such an honor to represent KEHA in dedicating this beautiful quilt created by our members. This project showcased our tenets of education, leadership, and service. The quilt is an example of teamwork and achieving a common goal.

In September and October 2019, I was very busy, representing KEHA at Area Meetings. I traveled from Purchase Area in the far west to Wilderness Trail in the southeast. I learned so much at each meeting, looked at beautiful Cultural Arts entries and heard great speakers. I took many ideas to incorporate in my home area. We have so many talented members who do so much good across the state and I enjoyed meeting many of them. I was welcomed with open arms at every meeting.

In November 2019, I attended the University of Kentucky Scholarship Luncheon in Lexington where I met the KEHA Scholarship recipient and her family. She was the keynote speaker that day and is such a bright young lady. I know she will go far. I was excited that she was a Dietetics major like myself, so we had plenty to talk about. I also brought greetings from KEHA to the KEAFCS annual meeting in Lexington where I heard exciting things from agents across Kentucky.

Late in 2019, I was honored to serve as a representative of the Kentucky State Extension Advisory Council on the selection committee for the Western Regional Director for Extension. This was such an informative and interesting process and I was honored to represent Extension leaders like our KEHA members.

In February 2020, I participated in the Kentucky State Extension Advisory Council Winter Meeting and continued to learn even more about Extension and what is in store for our future.

Last, but certainly not least, I participated in the first KEHA Leadership Academy held at Blue Licks Battlefield State Park in early March 2020. What a great program to educate and train leaders to carry KEHA into the future. These enthusiastic participants make the future of KEHA look strong!

As you may remember, my plans for KEHA - A Winning Team included 3 main points. The first is **leadership development** and we completed our first Leadership Academy in March, so we are well on our way for developing and retaining current and future leaders. My second point is **training** and that is something we continue to work on. My goal is to have training templates on our website for each area and county to use to develop or maintain officer trainings each year. And the last, but certainly not least point is **member recruitment and retention**. This is always a work in progress because we, like many other states are struggling with maintaining our numbers. We are always looking for ways to Grow Our Membership!

As you can see, my first year was one of learning and meeting many members across the state. I cannot wait to continue this journey of learning from so many of our talented, amazing members.

Karen Hill, KEHA President