

Time flies when you are having fun!!! And if you make it look like fun, everyone wants to join in. That is the message I want to leave KEHA members with. KEHA is such a wonderful organization, so diverse, so talented, so encompassing. When I get asked just exactly what Homemakers is about, it is such a hard question to answer. We do so much for our families, communities and Commonwealth, you can't put it in a 3 sentence or less answer. I have been trying for years to come up with a compact explanation of what we are all about, and it is difficult. My best effort is that we are an organization of individuals across the Commonwealth of Kentucky that believe that education, service and leadership starts in the home, and ripples into the communities and our organization.

I have been ecstatic to have represented KEHA these last 3 years, as far north as Manitowac, Wisconsin, as far east as Washington DC, as far south as Columbia, South Carolina, and as far west as Tulsa, Oklahoma. KEHA is a very well respected organization, not just nationally, but internationally. It has been amazing to me that as I have given my President's Report at all of these gatherings, the crowd gets attentive and still as I talk about all that we do. I get asked a lot about how we do all that we do, and that is a question that I have not been able to answer easily as well. Except that it takes committed members, great efforts and support from the University of Kentucky, and determination. We lead the USA in members, and programs. The USA leads the world in members and programs, so KEHA in a sense leads the world!!! We need to take great pride in who we are and what we are.

I have read our Area Presidents reports and they are wonderful to read. All Areas are making efforts to regain membership numbers and to engage younger individuals in the activities. There seems to be a resurgence in the interest of what we consider Cultural Arts. Young people want to know how to sew, cook, can, create a comfortable home environment, and the ability to do well with what you have. Specialty clubs seem to be what interest new members, and that is great. Craft clubs, cooking clubs, even a Pinterest club!! Baking contests, SOUPER BOWL OF CARING events, supporting Military families and service members, events to raise money for scholarship s to deserving college students, teaching manners to elementary children, Back Pack programs that help feed needy children over the weekend, Child Abuse Awareness/ Prevention Programs, Ovarian Cancer screening events, quilts, pillowcases and sheets for Camp for Courageous Kids, all Cultural Art categories creations, writing the Homemaker Histories, lots of trips, a Cabin Fever Crock Pot Challenge was held, with tasting or recipes, sewing and quilting projects. One of my favorites, because I love to cook is the Duncan Hines Mix Bake Off, hosted by the Northern Kentucky Area Homemakers. I wish I knew how much actual money is raised and given to scholarships across our Commonwealth. I believe each county organization gives a scholarship, as well as many Areas and our state organization does as well. It is possible that a total of \$100,000 is given, and that is a very conservative estimate.

We do what we can, what we know how, where we can, to make lives better for our families, communities and Commonwealth of Kentucky. I appreciate the opportunity to have been your President, I love Homemakers and all that we stand for. I will continue to support and encourage all that I can. Thank you.

Susan Hansford

KEHA President, 2013 - 2016