

Iowa Master Farm Homemaker Fall Meeting

Airport Holiday Inn Friday, September 5, 2025

Following a delicious sunrise brunch, with guest speaker retired Polk County Police Chief Neil Shultz and new member introductions, President JoAnn Alumbaugh called the business meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Vice-President Mari Lynn Heineman gave the invocation.

The pledge was led by Secretary Carol Gilbert, followed by the roll call which was answered by 37. Six members present at the meeting were recognized for their milestone memberships.

Mari Lynn gave a report on those who passed away in 2025. Four remembrance ribbons were added to the memorial wreath.

New members Kerri Bell, Ericka Breuer, and Gladie Church were presented with a welcome gift bag, a members' booklet, and candle.

Treasurer's Report: Marylou Ahrens gave an update on the financials. As of September 8, 2025, the checkbook balance is \$11,061.78. The scholarship account balance is 2,011.00. As of July 25, 2025, the Foundation account balance is \$81,455.89. Donna Williams made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Anne Marie Nelson seconded, motion carried.

She also reported that there are currently seventy-seven active members, which includes the three new members. Annual membership dues will be made with the Spring meeting registration. If members have not paid dues in three years, they will be included on the inactive list.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the Spring 2025 minutes were distributed to all in attendance. Leah Maas made a motion to accept the secretary's report, Judy Leistikow seconded. With no corrections, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Committee Reports

Projects: Donna Williams gave a report on the \$500.00 MFH service projects. \$150.00 was used to purchase food for the Ronald McDonald House in Des Moines. Nine casseroles were made by eight volunteers from 1-3 p.m. \$175.00 was donated to the Mechanicsville Library in memory of Dorothy Russel. \$175.00 was given to the Monroe Food Pantry in thanks and appreciation of the leadership and generous service of IMFH President JoAnn Alumbaugh.

Scholarship: Marylou shared that this is the third year that IMFH scholarships have been awarded. Three scholarships will be given in 2026. The top scholarship will be named the Iowa Ruth B. Sayer Scholarship. The others will be named the IMFH Scholarship. Marylou read thank-you notes from the 2025 scholarship recipients. Monica Lursen has agreed to serve as the new Scholarship Chair.

Website: Kelly Keitzer reported on the IMFH web page and on the IMFH members only Facebook group. She encouraged members to “friend” her to be included in the Facebook group and to send her good news and/or pictures to share with the group.

Foundation: Chris Cornelius announced that the Foundation balance as of Sept 14th, 2025 is now \$83,101.01 and growing. Four percent of the fund balance at the end of the year is designated for service projects. Three non-profit organizations that are nominated by the members will be selected and one project will be selected and led by the IMFH Projects Committee.

Old Business

A motion was made by Cindee Schnekloth to increase membership dues from \$20 to \$30. Chris Cornelius seconded. Following discussion, the motion carried.

Discussion was held on sending meeting notices via email or regular mail. Members were asked to contact Darla Thompson, Membership Chair, on their preference.

New Business

Three non-profit organizations were presented for consideration to receive IMFH service project donations. Chris Cornelius nominated the Jackson County Extension Service Building Project. Joyce Stover nominated the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Kelly Keitzer nominated the Linn County Fair Ground building. With no further nominations, a motion was made by Leah Maass and seconded by Anne Marie Nelson to support all three organizations equally with \$500 each, motion carried.

Nominating Committee Report: Leah Maas presented the new slate of officers - Joyce Stover of Mediapolis for President and Nancy Johnson of Springbrook for Treasurer. With no further nominations from the floor, the slate of officers was approved by acclamation with a motion made by Cindee Schnekloth and seconded by Barb Oldham.

Marylou read notes from those members who could not be in attendance.

It was announced that the Spring IMFH meeting will be April 11th in LaMars. Joyce Stover, Kelly Keitzer and Mari Lynn Heineman will help to finalize meeting plans.

A discussion was held on changing the location of the fall meeting to Ankeny or Boone. Mari Lynn has been visiting with the Cobblestone Inn and Suites in Boone on the availability and costs, with the business meeting to be held in the middle of the last week of August. There was a show of hands on making that change. The Executive Board will move forward with that preference.

IMFH will be celebrating its 100th year anniversary in 2028. A Planning Committee of Carol Messer, Marylou Ahrens, JoAnn Alumbaugh, and Cindee Schnekloth is gathering ideas for the celebration and welcomes input from all members.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Gilbert, Secretary