

# The ILLINOIS GRANGER

**Grange Motto**  
*In essentials...Unity  
In non-essentials...Liberty  
In all things...Charity*

VOLUME 102

March 2018

No. 03

## *Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms*

Lynette Schaeffer

President

of Illinois State Grange

The weather in Southern IL this February day is sunny after a week of rain – yes I think that the drought is about gone. We had almost 7 inches of rain in 8 days, one day was almost 2 inches!! It is colder than normal but not too bad. I hope that many of you were able to spend time enjoying the Spring weather. Hope many of you got to see the pictures from (Mom & Dad's) Lavern and Lucille 65th anniversary, it was a great family day.

By the time you read this I will be back from Master's Conference in Portland, OR, National Grange Exec Committee meeting and Grange Foundation meeting. I'll share details of the conference at the Leadership conferences.

The Leadership Conferences will be on March 11th at Turkey Hill Grange Hall and Boone County will be March 25th at the Community Grange hall both 1:00 – 4:00 PM. **EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND.** Karie and I have made plans for workshops on all the things I learned at Master's conference and Grange Month "The Grange Way" discussion, making Linus blankets for the Community Service project and First Degree discussion. Hope to see you all for these leadership meetings. There will be a fee for copied materials and blanket materi-



als, you may bring a kit or items to make a Linus blanket. Grange Month information can be found on the National Grange website. There are many documents there for each Grange. The new Distinguished Grange Forms are available – hopefully more Granges will participate in this program.

National Grange 2018 Fly-In Washington, D.C. on April 15-18, 2018 working with the 115th Congress and the Trump Administration on National Grange policy priorities. Spring is an extremely crowded and busy time in Washington, DC. Tourists and students from around the country and abroad flock to Washington on spring trips making hotel rooms scarce. Appointments with Representatives and Senators are a challenge to confirm, therefore the National Grange encourages those members who will be attending the 2018 Fly-In to register, reserve hotel rooms, and make Capi-

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## Agricultural Report

By Carol Neff, State Agriculture  
Chairman

Did you know? The earliest blooming outdoor flower that I know of is the snowdrop. I planted my bulbs some years ago and every January regardless of weather, they're up and blooming. One year I even scratched the sleet and snow away to see if they were up yet. Not only were they up, but their buds were ready to burst open. Plants are small with small, white flowers hanging their heads downward--probably so they don't have to look up at the nasty weather!

My grandparents planted their garden by the moon. Don't know if it worked or not, but there always was plenty of everything plus enough to share with others. Even today, the "Farmers' Almanac" tells you what to plant when according to the various signs of the moon.

There's a lot of weather sayings. The groundhog saw its shadow this year, and it does look like we're having six more weeks of winter. "If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb" (and vice versa). When you see a "sun dog" (a light colored spot on either side of the sun), look for rain. If only on one side of the sun, will miss us and go either north or south of

us depending which side of the sun the sun dog is. If it rains on Easter Sunday, it will rain for seven Sundays. "Red sky at night, sailor's (or farmer's) delight. Red sky in morning sailor (or farmer) take warning." A halo around the moon means it will rain (or snow) real soon. Count the stars in the moon's ring, and rain will come in that many days.

"Cows lying down in the pasture, rains coming." Count the cricket's chirps to tell the temperature. The number of heavy fogs in August, is the number of snows we'll get in winter. Cobwebs on the grass is a sign of good weather. What the weather is the first Tuesday after a new moon tells the weather for that quarter. When frogs start chirping in spring, they will be shut up by cold weather two times then the third time they chirp, spring has arrived and will stay. "Rain on Good Friday and Easter Day, brings lots of grass but little hay." I know there's many more weather sayings.

As they say, you can talk about the weather all you want, the weather will do what it wants to do. Spring, to me, is right around the corner once March is here. Even if there are nasty days in March (which there usually

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Send Grange news to:

Ruth Blasingame, 8711 Deer Run Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008  
or e-mail to: [illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com](mailto:illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com) by March 31, 2018.





# PRESIDENT

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tol Hill appointments early. Information is on the nationalgrange.org website

Has your Grange gotten information for logging into the National Grange Membership Database?? Please let me know.

Hope you all are receiving the Legislative reports that Burton Eller distributes and the reports are discussed at all your Grange meetings.

I am still looking for someone to be part of the Ag Committee. If you are interested in the position please let me know.

The next IL Executive Committee meeting will be March 17, much will be discussed, including the scholarships and 2018 State Grange Session. It will be at Dixie Truck Stop in McLean at 9:00 am.

Now is the time for the

Good Day Magazine renewals. I love the National Grange magazine and I urge all of you to renew or start a new subscription now.

I hope that many of you are working on membership and have many activities planned for the upcoming Grange year. Remember projects for Community Service, Juniors, Youth, Agriculture committee, Family Activities committee make a well-rounded Grange.

## AG REPORT

*continued from page 1*

are, plus we sometimes get a heavy snow in March but it melts quickly), spring is really close. Watch for maple trees blooming in March and other early signs of spring. We've been having a severe drought in southwestern Illinois. Late February we finally got a nice soaking rain. The next day my daffodils were up. We haven't had a good rain since probably October plus very little snow this winter. Washington's birthday in February was the time to start planting the real early vegetables.

"No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow." "Whether it's cold or whether it's not, we should have weather, whether or not!"

Happy St. Patrick's Day! from the State Grange Agriculture Committee



*Easter Sunday,  
April 1*

# Illinois State Membership Report

**By Lindakay F. Ebel**  
**ISG Membership**  
**Chairperson**

MEMBERSHIP MONTH IS APRIL, and it is fast approaching. Even though April is Membership Month, we ALL need to think about promoting membership twelve months of the year. My theme this year was "THINK GRANGE, THINK NEW MEMBERS".

I know many people hate to ask people to join an organization, (it is almost like being on the Evangelism Committee at church, asking members to pledge more for the year). However, I feel the Grange is easy to talk about, as it has so much to offer, whether you are a junior or senior member. I personally, look forward to our Grange meetings each month, meeting with special friends I have made and looking forward to working on all our Grange fundraisers and activities.

In February four members of our Flora Grange helped me in promoting the Grange at the BOCO in

Belvidere. Many people we talked with had never heard of the Grange, others thought it was just for the farmer and their family. Grange is for EVERYONE at any age, beginning with our youth. What better family activity than the Grange where the youth can learn together, just like this year they are learning about our great State of Illinois, making log cabins, etc. with their Junior Leader. Also, if you know of youth who may be interested in joining, their parents do not need by a member, (although we hope they too want to join) ask them to come along with you at a meeting. Grange is such a positive step and can bring many rewards as well.

Grange can offer so much to all the members; friendships, fellowship, opportunity to make a difference, education, legislative, opportunities, and a place for great fun and enjoyment and met new people. Our youth can grow, start a project and see it through and improve their skills. You grow as a person and have fun doing it with others.

So, I am asking all Granges and Grange members to find

ways to attract new members to our local Granges, by creating activities and programs to attract them. Talk to your friends, relatives and neighbors and invite them to a meeting or a special open house (serve refreshments) and introduce them to our programs and other Grange members. Set up a table with pictures of what your Grange has done this past year, be sure to include pictures of your Junior Grange members as well as all the fun things you did. If someone has a birthday or anniversary, give them a gift of membership to your local Grange. Talk about Grange everywhere you go, to all the people you met, be proud of being a member of your Grange, if you talk about it enough, it might wear on them and join?

Each local Grange should have a Membership Chairperson who gives a report at each monthly meeting and who is encouraging members and giving them ideas on how to recruit new members.

SO, let's all start working, together, to promote April, Membership Month.



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## Boone County Pomona Grange News

**By Patti Lee**  
**Boone County Pomona**  
**Secretary**

Boone County Pomona met for their annual dues paying soup & chili supper on January 3. I heard it was enjoyed by all who were there however I was down with the flu and had to miss it. Sounds like they had a pretty good turnout and several members paid their dues. We even had some NEW members! Yay!

At the March meeting coming up in just a few days, Jack

Ratcliffe, Deaf Committee Chairperson, has arranged for someone to come and speak to us about hearing loss. She will share information about hearing tests, hearing aids etc.

Our Miss Boone County Fair Queen, Lauren Clemens was the guest speaker and gave the speech that she presented in Springfield. Lauren represented Boone County very well and we are very proud of her.

Next meeting will be

Wednesday, March 7. Dues must be paid prior to the June meeting in order to vote for Fairboard officers in the November election. Or if you are a Subordinate Grange member and would like to join Pomona, please contact me or your Grange Master for an application. I can be reached by email at leeauctionman@aol.com or phone 815-988-0935. Dues may be mailed to me at 11067 Beloit Rd., Belvidere 61008.

# Illinois State Grange Lecturer's Contests and Programs

By Ethan Edwards, Illinois State Lecturer  
ethanaedwards@mac.com  
618-795-8021  
or find me on Facebook!

The Lecturer's Department maintains a rich tradition of encouraging excellence in expressions of cultural, educational, and creative pursuits in our Granges and members. In that tradition these are the categories for competition and display for the 2018 Illinois State Session and National Contests.

2018 marks the Bicentennial of Illinois. You will find that many of the Lecturer's contests this year have an Illinois theme. It will be a treat to incorporate the unique characteristics of Illinois in our creative efforts for the year.

## National Contests

\*\*\*National Contest Guidelines Subject to Change\*\*\*

Details of the National Lecturer's contests will become available after the 2017 National Session in November. Specific rules and information will be distributed via the Illinois Granger when they become available. For planning purposes, there have been three contest categories in recent years:

### National Photography Contest:

- Two categories: Junior (age 5-14) and Adult (age 14 and up)
- Photos must be 8"x10" or 8"x12"
- Categories: Charity, Friendship, Food, Barns, Pets, Patriotism, Crafting
- One entry per person, but not limited by State of representation

### Quilted Items Contest

- Unfinished Quilt Block
- Finished Fabric Quilted Items

### Evening of Excellence Talent Contest

- Broad range of talents

accepted: music, movement, speaking, anything you excel at

- One winner from State Session can appear at the National Session in Stowe, Vermont.

Remember, this is tentative information. Look for more details after the National Session in November.

## **2017-2018 Rules for State of Illinois Lecturer's Contests**

- One entry per member may be submitted in each class. Must be made this Grange year.

- Awards in each class.

- Attached to each entry must be:

Member name

Grange name

Specific state contest category

Age bracket (Juniors only)

Name of responsible party (if entrant not in attendance at State Session)

- Eligibility – All Subordinate and Junior Grange members. Junior entries may also include grandchildren of Subordinate members.

- Backing is required for all photos and artwork. This is so the entry will not be damaged by fingerprints, handling, pushpins, or any metal clip that will display the entry. NO FRAMES.

- Categories- There will be one category for Subordinate Grange members and 3 age groups for Juniors: 5-7 yr old, 8-10 yr old and 11-14 yr old.

- The Illinois State Lecturer reserves the right to choose to not display any entry deemed inappropriate within Grange values. Themes including nudity, obscenity, or violence.

### Photography

The photography contest seeks to recognize excellence in photographic images.

Rules:

- Color and black and white photography will be judged in

the same category.

- Only prints are accepted for judging. No slides. Prints may be made by a commercial process but must have been taken by the entrant personally within this Grange year. No altering with use of photo editing software is allowed.

- Photo size can range between 5"x7" and 8"x12". Prints must be mounted on a rigid backing, not to exceed ¾" beyond the edge of the photograph. Exception: If the photo is intended to be sent to National Grange Photo contest, it should be mounted and matted according to those guidelines. Frames are not allowed.

- No professional photographers (an individual who's primary living is from photography) may enter.

This year's State photography categories celebrate Illinois. (Note an entry might also fit within a compatible National Grange Contest if you choose to enter it Nationally)

- Illinois: History and Heritage
- Illinois: City and Country
- Illinois: Her People
- Illinois: All Living Things

Entry categories in each theme:

- Adult
- Junior, age 5-7
- Junior, age 8-10
- Junior, age 11-14

### Creative Writing

General guidelines

- May be handwritten, typed, or printed from a computer. Handwriting must be legible and neat using black or blue ink pen. Typed or printed should be double-spaced, size 12 font or larger.

- Work must be original, the entrant's own creation, not copied from another source.

- Length not to exceed 300 words.

Creative writing prose topic: "How I Spent My Summer

Vacation"

This is a familiar, and even trite "theme" for a writing assignment. Take the broadest possible inspiration and tell us about a noteworthy vacation experience, real or hoped-for.

Creative writing poetry topic: "Illinois Seasons"

Poetry can be written in free verse or in traditional forms. We're looking for poems that move us, that might make us laugh or cry, or teach us something new. Poems should not exceed one page in length.

Creative writing winning entries may be read at the Talent Show at the Illinois State Session.

Entry categories in each theme:

- Adult
- Junior, age 5-7
- Junior, age 8-10
- Junior, age 11-14

### Media Arts

General guidelines

- We seek to recognize all types of visual arts.

- Work must be original, the entrant's own creation.

- No frames or glass. Fragile items are displayed at the entrant's risk.

### Painting/Drawing/Pastels

Any subject or theme. All media (oils, watercolors, pencil, etc.) will be judged in one category. Works should not exceed 30"x30".

### Dimensional Media

Any subject or theme. Sculpture, pottery, weaving, textiles, paper-making, etc are appropriate for this category and will be judged together. Works should not exceed 18"x18"x18".

### Illinois Bicentennial Collage

Create a collage to pay tribute to Illinois and its heritage in this bicentennial year. You can use photographs, clippings, ephemera, paper cutouts, and ornamentation to create a composite image. Collages should not exceed 12"x18" and should be mount-

ed on a rigid backing such as posterboard of the same size.

### Personal Collection

Assemble and display 12 related items. Make sure each item's relation to the collection is apparent. Provide a 50 word overview of the collection theme. All items should be anchored securely to a sturdy base or backing. The collection may be anything of intellectual or cultural interest. stamps, rocks, stickers, trading cards, dried flowers, etc. Judging will be based on interest and creativity of the collection theme.

Entry categories:

- Adult
- Junior, age 5-7
- Junior, age 8-10
- Junior, age 11-14

### **JUNIORS ONLY: Creative Arts**

Unconventional Materials Challenge: Illinois' Symbols

This contest is meant to stretch your creativity and resourcefulness. Use unconventional materials to create an art piece. It may be flat or dimensional. Use common things in your environment (nature, household, school). You can use anything to create your piece. Traditional techniques and materials (paper, paint, etc.) may be used but should not be the main material.

Use one of the symbols of Illinois as your inspiration. Your work can be very literal or fanciful. Symbols to draw from are Cardinal (state bird), Violet (state flower), Oak (state tree), Monarch (state butterfly), Deer (state animal), Popcorn (state snack food), and Blue Gill (state fish). Use one or multiples of these to inspire your work.

### Web-based Project

This contest seeks to recognize creativity on the Internet. This can be a website,

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game, information project, podcast, video, blog entry, or other web entity. Items will be judged based on overall quality, creative input, educational merit, and technical proficiency. Items should be submitted with the complete URL address. Projects will be visible for judging and inspection by public on a large screen monitor in the Lecturer's contest area.

Entry categories:

- Junior, age 5-7
- Junior, age 8-10
- Junior, age 11-14

Illinois Banner Design

Group Grange Competition

This competition has two purposes:

- Provide an opportunity for collaboration and group effort in creating an entry.

- Celebrate Illinois History and the unique importance of each Grange in that history.

One entry is allowed from each Subordinate Grange. Create a banner that commemorates some aspect of Illinois heritage and history combined with your individual Grange identity and influence in the community and state. The banner should be no larger than 24" wide x36" tall and hang from a dowel rod. It should be primarily constructed of fabric or soft textiles. Additional materials may be used but overall weight should not exceed 3 pounds.

This will be conducted as a judged and "People's Choice" competition. Two winners will be selected, one based on

judges' assessment and one based on voting by attendees at the State Sessions.

Create a banner that you can proudly display in your hall for years to come.

Talent Contest

The talent contest is held each year on Saturday night at the State Session. This is a great opportunity to entertain each other and share our talents.

We apply a wide definition of talents and seek to present an array diversity. Possibilities include but are not limited to:

- Music performance
- Spoken word and storytelling
- Dance and movement
- Physical skills (juggling, baton twirling, etc.)
- Practical arts (cooking demonstration, flower arranging, coaching)

Entries should be limited to 5 minutes or less. Entries can be solo or group.

Please plan on participating in advance. Anyone who submits an entry prior to arrival at the State Session will receive a special additional prize. Include in your entry any special requirements for your entry.

Illinois will select one Best of Show talent representative to perform in the Evening of Excellence event at the National Session in Stowe, Vermont in November 2018.

Remember that all acts are representing their home Grange and presentation is a major component of any performance, so contestants are encouraged to dress and act appropriately.



**TURKEY HILL GRANGE** President Dick Frette gives Emma Rutledge the Junior 1+ obligation at the Turkey Hill Grange business meeting. Emma is the daughter of John and Stacey Rutledge. Barbara Joseph, Lady Asst Steward and John Rutledge, Asst Steward, assisted with the ceremony. Special guests included Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Joseph from Enterprise, Carol Neff from Broad Hollow, Patti and Mark Barth from Shiloh Valley, and Mr. and Mrs. Norm Sutter, guest speakers. The Junior Grange committee members Mary Beth Lee, Julie Heberer, Jane Helms, and Barbara Joseph—all past Junior Grange Junior Leaders—organized the presentation. Sheryl Sternau received the New Member welcome. Mr. and Mrs. Sutter presented the program prior to the business meeting on Fresh Pasture Farms, their wholesome fresh pasture raised food business.

## Communications Report

By Elaine Hecathorn

As communication Director, I want to remind everyone of the basics of communication for Grange. This is found in the first chapter of the Grange Communication Handbook. Communication comes in many forms, for many audiences and for a variety of reasons. There is a "Law" of communication...one cannot NOT communicate. Your actions, expressions, words – written and oral, all are forms of communication. Branding is another form of communication which is what you wear...Grange shirts or jewelry or the bag you carry your stuff in. When it has a Grange logo on it, people will put that logo and you together

in their minds. Make sure it is a pleasant memory.

Usually when we think of communication, we think of spoken words. More powerful is when we are silent. By not talking about Grange to others, we are devaluing our great organization. Some may wonder why we don't talk about it and share the great things it stands for locally or nationally. By not talking about it, you might have lost a prospective member that would have been a great asset to your Grange.

Use all forms of communication available to you for sharing your activities: internet with web sites and email, newspaper articles, flyers in

store windows, telephoning a neighbor, monogrammed clothing. These are all forms of public relations which help build knowledge of your Grange. Positive actions and words will help persuade people to support your efforts and engage in your activities and become members of your Grange.

April is Grange month and can provide many opportunities for sharing Grange with your community.

I would like to hear from each Grange on how they promoted themselves during April to others. I will then share those reports so that we can all see what has been done in our state.

## News from Ruth...

I know that your Granges are doing activities, having fundraisers, doing special things. Please send me your info and dates so I can include them on the calendar. Karie, the State Grange Overseer, and I have attended a few things in St. Clair county this year. It's great to have Grangers from other parts of the state or just from other Granges in your area attend your events. But, we can't do that unless we know about them in advance instead of reading about them after they are over. Illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com or 815-299-7884.



# News from Prairie Grange #1832

Prairie Grange members are gearing up for our 42nd annual Grange Consignment Auction. As our largest fundraiser and open house during Grange month, April 14th will hopefully be our best auction yet. We have 4 rings of auctions happening simultaneously, generous auctioneers in our community volun-

teer their time to help us out with our auction each year. We have info boards and pamphlets for upcoming events that our Grange is sponsoring such as the 2nd Annual Glow 5K during Relay for Life of Boone or Winnebago Counties and more. Local 4-hers and FFA members will be helping us this year as runners as

our juniors are all a little to young to run by themselves right now. Sara and her crew will be hard at work in the kitchen providing food to all the hungry auction goers in a timely fashion so they can get back out there and bid. Come on out and join us for the day, you may find just what you were looking for.

## Big Thunder Grange 1940

By Dave Geske, Master,  
Big Thunder Grange

Big Thunder Grange held it's annual breakfast fundraiser at Applebee's Restaurant in Belvidere on February 24th,

8am-10am.

The morning was bright and sunny, the temperature was moderate. Delicious pancakes, bacon and choice of beverage were enjoyed by all. A wonderful turnout of 104

enjoyed the meal and fellowship.

We would like to thank all who attended or served with smiles, especially our Jr. Grangers, to make this a very successful event.

## Community Service Report

By Tracey Jones

Hopefully all of your local Grange Community Service Directors have had a chance to talk to you about the two State Grange community service projects this year. As a reminder, we will be making handmade blankets for the Project Linus Project and we will do a food drive for Belleville's Interfaith Food Pantry at State Session. After I picked these projects I realized that there are Grangers already volunteering with both of these organizations, so we are supporting projects already near and dear to our fellow members.

From a brief survey of a few members, I believe at least 50 blankets have been made, across the state, for the Project Linus Project. This is fantastic, but we must keep up the momentum because my goal is to have 150 blankets collected at State Session to celebrate National

Grange's 150th Anniversary. Think about all the joy these blankets could bring to 150 children when they receive these comforting treasures during a difficult time in their lives! Remember, there will be an award for the most blankets collected in three different categories: Grange,

Granger, and Non-Granger. More information about both projects can be found on the Illinois State Grange Website. Please call or text me, 636-279-9187, if you have any questions or concerns about this year's community service program.

## Leroy Community Grange

Members of Leroy Grange will be joining members of County Line Grange for their annual 4-H Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner on March 10th from 4-7 pm at the Belvidere VFW. We are also putting together a dinner for the Veteran's Drop In Center the last week in March.



## County Line Grange

Our meeting was held February 14. Hosts for the meeting were Joellen and Lisa. Thank you ladies for the delicious food.

Joellen resigned as Master of our Grange. She feels this is best for her since she has other obligations that require most of her time. She will remain a major part of our Grange. Thank you, Joellen, for all you have done for us.

An election was held for interim Master, and Linda Mullins was elected. We will have our officer elections later in the year.

Reports were given on our chicken dinner and BOCO fundraisers. We did well on those.

We discussed sending "Thinking of You" cards to our members who have been absent from our meetings for some time.

All of our Valentine and

Special Bouquets have been delivered. Those were greatly appreciated.

County Line is host Grange for our Pomona Grange meeting in March. We talked about what to do for that

All other reports were given.

The 4-H Club Spaghetti Dinner that we sponsor with Leroy Grange will be March 10, 4-7pm at the VFW Hall in Belvidere. We will have a 50/50 raffle and lots of items and baskets to be raffled off. Also we will be selling our scholarship meat raffle tickets from Countryside Meats at the dinner.

Our March meeting will be at Camp Grant, in Rockford. This will be our Grange Day outing, with a tour and dinner. Should be fun.

We hope Spring really springs soon, and that everyone stays healthy and happy!

**1st Annual**

**ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE**

**CAMPING WEEKEND**

**MAY 18TH - 20TH**

*Hosted by Prairie Grange #1832*



**Open to all Grangers**

**MULTIPLE Options**

**PULL THROUGH CAMPSITES \$40**  
**BACK IN CAMPSITES \$37**  
**TENT SITES \$30**  
**LARGE CABIN \$110 SLEEPS 6**  
**CABIN \$72 SLEEPS 2-4**  
**ALL PRICES ARE PER NIGHT**



**More Information**

We will be camping at the KOA Campground in Springfield, IL. Saturday afternoon will be the 2nd annual Illinois State Grange Picnic. Bring a dish to pass, the Youth Department provides meat. Reserve your spot with Prairie Grange Payment due upon request.

**TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT CONTACT**  
**JOHN HENNINGER 815-509-9227**  
**SPOTEEL@AOL.COM**

# Troy Grove Grange News

Troy Grove Grange met February 19, 2018 at Ziggy's. 7 sisters and 2 brothers were present. There had been no January meeting due to the severe cold.

Family Activities Chairman Joan Dennison reported that the Elks would probably be taking over the Dictionary project. Next meeting will be March 6, 2018 at 1:00.

Community Service Chair-

man Ethel Bauer reported a thank you from Lighted Way. A motion was made by Roy to honor MASS as our Community Service Group for 2018. Seconded by Sue. They will be honored with a certificate and \$100. An article for the Reporter will be prepared.

This was the dues paying meeting. Next meeting will be March 22 at 7:00 at the Hall.

# Guilford Hope Grange #6

By Nancy Lyford

Guilford Hope Grange met at the home of Gene and Caroline Wheeler's on February 23rd for a pot luck lunch. Nine members were present. Wayne Lyford opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag and in the 4th degree. The secretary's report was read and approved. A 'thank you' was read from Carpenter's Place, Friends of the Children, Veterans Drop In Center, Goldie Floberg Center and St. John's UCC (Paper Angel Closet) for donations made by our Grange. Also read was a thank you from Shelby Burnell and Ian Wheeler for the Grange Scholarship money donated to them. Our next donations will go to the North Boone Pantry and 'Non for profit' fee.

We discussed when our next Community Service, benefiting the 'Midway Village Museum Education Fund' garage sale will be held. Our calendar was not clear on some community events so the garage sale will be determined next month. Dave Byrnes said he would have a larger sign made for the garage sale stating proceeds to benefit Midway

Village Education Fund. This way people would notice our Community Service project easier. Dave Byrnes told of the John F. Kennedy lecture series coming up. They will speak of the times John Kennedy visited Rockford and how his visits affected Rockford, Illinois. He also told of the upcoming Minks to Sinks sale there.

Carolyn Wheeler handed out cards for the 6th annual fundraiser to support the Amanda Reed Memorial. The proceeds will support domestic violence education and awareness. "Raise Your Spirits" will be held at the Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club.

Save the date cards were passed for the 'Walk to end Alzheimer's' event. Our 2018 Rockford Walk will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2018 at Rock Valley Community College, Rockford, Illinois.

Guilford Hope Grange will for a few more months meet during the day, rather than evening. We will see if this time works better for our Grange members. Our next meeting will be held at S. Wayne Lyford home with a noon pot luck. After meeting was adjourned, 'G' bills were collected.

# FLORA JUNIORS REPORT

By Kathee Frazer

In the month of February, Flora Juniors learned about these special dates in Illinois history:

Feb. 1809 - Illinois territory was created by the Federal government

1911 - Ronald Reagan born in Tampico

1910 - Boy Scouts founded in Ottawa

1861 - Abraham Lincoln headed to Washington

1837 - State capital moved from Vandalia to Springfield

...watch for more important dates in our state history next month.

# February News from Flora Grange

By Lindakay Ebel

Some thirty members of the Flora Grange met on Tuesday, February 13 for their annual dues paying supper at the Grange hall. Following a delicious meal, the meeting was held with committee reports.

Debra Silvers reported she met with Emalee Colver and they discussed plans for the 2018 Safety Town Day Camp, held each June. JoAnn Wienrack, quilting group chairman stated they will be meeting on several weekends in February, March and Easter weekend and work on the 2018 National Grange quilt block square and invited anyone interested in making one to attend.

Roger Miller, Agriculture reported they are working on the farm bill and Emalee Colver stated the Farmland Protection has not met the past two months due to bad weather, will meet in March. Fair board members, Roger Miller, Bob Scherer and Jack Ratcliffe reported on repairs to buildings at the fairgrounds, and due to a health set back the electricity upgrade is a little behind. Bob reported on the talent, was disappointed they did not do better at the fair convention, although one received an honorable mention. Fair secretary Laurel Ratcliffe has been

working many long hours on the 2018 fair premium book and if anyone would like to be listed as a 'Friend of the Fair', cost is \$20.

Membership chairman Lindakay Ebel reported Flora Grange member Tom Ratcliffe sat up a booth at BOCO in Belvidere on February 3rd and Jack Ratcliffe, Al Ebel, Deb Silvers and herself talked with those attending about membership in the Grange. Many people attending did not know what the Grange is all about, thought it was just for farmers and did not know the seven Granges in Boone County own and run the Boone County Fair each year with their many members and volunteers. Lindakay had coloring sheets for the younger people to take home and color. The Junior Grange was also promoted.

Deaf committee Jack Ratcliffe reported a representative from Connect Hearing will be attending the Pomona Grange meeting on March 7th. Community Service Laurel Ratcliffe stated Flora Grange will hold our Spring Roast

Beef dinner and Junior's Bake Sale on Sunday, April 8th, with preparing of the salads and set up on the 7th. We will be serving food again at Little Hershey's Antique Car Show May 19th and 20th and will hold the Appleee's Flapjack fundraiser on June 23rd. Laurel also reported she had been contacted about serving food for a Dog show being held in July for four days and this was discussed.

Junior leader Kathee Frazer displayed one of the new projects for the Junior's this year and Chaplain Donna West stated she visited our 99-year-old member, Theo Hildebrand at Maple Crest. Emalee Colver collected "G" bills from members and treasurer Lindakay Ebel reported she sent \$100.00 to National Grange for the preservation of the trade mark. Members were reminded to turn in their community service hours to Laurel Ratcliffe.

March meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13th, 7 pm, serving committee Nancy and Wayne Lyford, Emalee Colver and Todd Hegge.

# Capron Grange News

Capron Grange has welcomed four new members in the last month. We also appointed Zavyn Richards as one of our Boone County Fairboard directors. We are working hard to grow our Grange.



# State Grange Flora News

By Angela Dickinson

## Spring

Spring is a time of transition. The cold has not yet entirely gone. The warmth has not yet arrived.

Spring flowers are beautiful and fragrant. Spring is the time of renewal of plant life. Plants and trees sprout leaves and flowers bloom.

Many different species of Spring flowers grow from bulbs. Crocus are considered by many as the first Spring flowers.

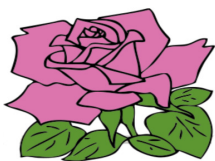
Early Spring flowers include: Snow drops, Crested Iris, Wood & Grape Hyacinth, Winter Aconite and Snowflake.

## PUMPKIN BREAD

### PUDDING

#### Ingredients

- 2 large eggs plus 1 egg yolk
- 1 cup canned pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling)
- 1-1/2 cups light cream (or, half and half)
- 1 cup packed light-brown sugar, divided
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 5 to 6 slices cinnamon raisin bread, crusts removed, cut into cubes to make 4 cups (see note below)
- 2 tablespoons (1/4 stick) cold unsalted butter



- Whip cream, for garnish

#### Instructions

• Combine the eggs and yolk in a large bowl and whisk until frothy. Add the pumpkin, light cream, 3/4 of the brown sugar, vanilla, spices, and salt and whisk to combine. Add the bread cubes to the pumpkin mixture and stir gently, just until the bread is soaked and submerged. Set aside for 15 minutes.

• Preheat the oven to 350°F. Butter a baking dish. Get out a shallow casserole that is large enough to hold the baking dish.

• Bring a kettle of water to a boil, then turn off the heat.

• Transfer the pudding mixture into the baking dish. Sprinkle with the remaining brown sugar. Cut the butter into slivers and scatter them on top. Place the baking dish in the casserole. Pour enough boiled water into the casserole to come one-third of the way up the side of the baking dish.

• Bake on the center oven rack for 45 to 50 minutes, or until the pudding springs back when touched lightly.

• Transfer the baking dish to a cooling rack. Top with whipped cream before serving.

Note: Regular white bread can be substituted for cinnamon raisin bread. Add 3/4 cup of dark raisins to the mixture when you soak the white

bread cubes.

#### Puzzles:

What bird is that whose name represents nothing, twice yourself, and fifty?

Owl (O-U-U-L)

Where the lamb trots about by a creature whose name read backward or forward is always the same.

Ewe

#### Pest Preventive for your animals

Spring is arriving are your pets protected?

What can one mosquito bite cause? Heartworms

• Canine male heartworms life span 5-7 years.

• Can grow up to 12 inches.

• Can produce up to 250 worms inside your pets heart

• Feline heartworm life span 2-3 years

• Can grow up to 5-8 inches

• Can produce up to six worms inside your pets heart.

#### Fleas

• Fleas are the number one cause of skin allergies in dogs and cats

• Fleas cause Dermatitis and Anemia and transmit Tapeworms & Murine Typhus.

• Adult flea finds a host to latch on.

• Fleas take a blood meal from its new host, then quickly mates.

• Female fleas lay eggs up to 50 per day.

• One flea consume 15 times its weight in blood each day.

# Junior Grange Report

By Melinda (Mindy)

Schiefer

ISG JR Director

The first Junior Grange in IL was chartered in the year 1917. To celebrate, I am asking each Junior to save pennies, at least 101, and turn them in at Junior Jamboree or State Session. A Check for the total collected will be mailed to National Grange Foundation/Kelley Farm to help feed the animals. To see pictures of the animals, visit the MN Historical Society's website at [www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org) and click on Oliver H. Kelley Farm. Maybe this could be a math activity at a meeting? Did you know there are 50 "Lincolns" in a roll (log) of pennies?

April is National Grange

Month, maybe this would be a good time to research the history of Junior Grange? Please send any information you find to our ISG Historian Beverly Smith. And/or share with an article in an upcoming IL Granger issue?

May could be a time to celebrate different cultures. Learn the traditional Mexican hat "Dancing". Make some maracas.

With June comes the end of school. Don't forget to write about "What I did for summer vacation", a State Lecturer project. Maybe it could be what you would like to do on a dream vacation.

Don't forget...March 17 is our first ISG JR day hosted by Prairie Grange. We will meet at the Boone County Community Grangehall with activities starting at 1 pm.

THE 42ND  
ANNUAL

**PRAIRIE GRANGE  
CONSIGNMENT  
AUCTION**  
APRIL 14, 2018

**BRING YOUR STUFF**



AUCTION STARTS AT

**9:30 AM**

SIGN IN 8-5 APRIL 12 AND 8-4 APRIL 13  
CONSIGNMENT RATES AVAILABLE AT SIGN IN  
NUMBERS & FOOD AVAILABLE IN GRANGE HALL

AUCTION MANAGER - LYLE LEE 815-988-0249

BOONE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Mar 10 - County Line Grange 4-H Fundraiser spaghetti dinner 4pm-7pm
  - Mar 11 - Leadership Conference South - Turkey Hill Grange 1-4 pm
  - Mar 25 - Leadership Conference North - Boone Co Comm Grange 1-4 pm
  - Apr 8 - Flora Grange Spring Roast Beef Dinner
  - Apr 14 - Prairie Grange Consignment Auction
  - May 18-19 - Illinois State Campout - Hosted by Prairie Grange - Springfield KOA
  - May 19 - Illinois State Grange Picnic
  - Aug 7-12 - Boone County Fair
  - Sept 13-16 - State Grange Session
- Please send me any important dates for your Grange.

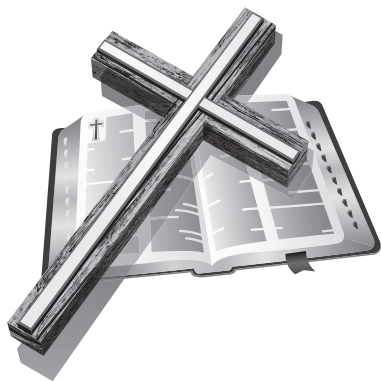
# Chaplain's Corner

By Charlotte Mehrtens

Blessings to all of you. Here it is the beginning of March already and we always wonder where the time goes. For me I really don't know where it goes, it just goes.

For many of us, we finally got some much needed rain that we were praying for. Some of us have not had enough rain since last July and wondered how the fall crops would turn out, but they did. Hopefully now these rains will be in a more timely manner as we look forward to spring weather.

The last few days around here have been warm after the rain all last week. This evening when I came home from church, the air sounded and



smelled of spring, but please do not be fooled. We still have a ways to go before we really get into the spring weather.

Many ups and downs need to be faced with the weather just as in our lives. Are we on and off again Christians, or can we truly say that we are Christian and follow in our Lord's way? Do we truly care for our fellow brothers and sisters as our Lord tells us to?

As the world starts the journey to the cross, will we be Christian pilgrims and share the words "He is Risen" to celebrate the miracles of all miracles – the Resurrections of Jesus Christ from the dead on Easter morning while the secular agenda of the day calls for funny untruths and harmless tricks and shouts on April Fool's Day. So how will you spend your day, with family and friends, by attending your choice of church services. However you spend your day, I pray it is the day of miracles that Christ's Resurrection has for you.

We pray for the shooting victims of the Florida school shootings that their death is not in vain, we pray for recovery of those who hurt. We pray for world peace that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will lay His hands on each of us.

## In Memory of Dorothy Marigold Lund

Dorothy M Lund, 97, of Rockford died Saturday, February 10, 2018, at Alpine Fireside Health Center. Born August 9, 1920 in Silver Creek, Nebraska the daughter of Nels and Hilda (Carlsson) Hawkinson. Married Rudolph "Vern" Lund on March 27, 1948 in Rockford and shared 62 years together. During World War II, Dorothy worked at Continental Motors on the assembly line winding motors for the war effort. After raising her family, she worked for Carter Manufacturing assembling novelties. Member of Calvary Lutheran Church and Union Grange for more than 50 years.

Survived by sons, Ronald (Vickie) Lund of Rockford and Robert Lund of Indianapolis; Grandchildren Toria (Tim) Lessman of Chicago and Erik Lund (Abby Ross) of Rockford; and sister Helen (Roger) Myers of Rockford.

Predeceased by husband, Vern; daughter, Diane; sister Mary Ann Copas; brothers Harold, Holger, Daryl, Roy, Arthur, Gerald; first husband Raynor Olson who died in World War II.

Funeral Service will be held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, February 16, 2018, at Olson Funeral Home, 1001 Second Ave., with Rev. Dr. Charles Olson

of Calvary Lutheran Church officiating. Visitation will be from 12:00 to 12:45 p.m. prior to the service. Burial at Arlington Memorial Park. Memorials to Alpine Fireside Health Center 3650 North Alpine Road, Rockford, IL 61114-4899. A special thank you to the staff of Alpine Fireside Health Center for their kindness and nurturing care.

## Illinois State Grange Camping Weekend

### May 18th

2 pm – 7 pm Check in at the Campground – Get your campsite information from John or Karie before arriving at the campground. Check in at the main office and then proceed to your assigned campsite.

After arrival set up your campsite area.

Visit any of the local attractions before they close.

Eat dinner on your own. Visit at the Large cabin when you are set up and ready.

7 pm campfire at Large cabin with S'mores available.

10 pm campfire dies down

### May 19th

Breakfast on your own

Free Time to visit any of the local attractions before the Picnic.

1 pm Arrival of those vis-

iting and return of those sightseeing

2 pm Potluck Luncheon

3 pm Public Speaking Competition

3:45 pm Sign-a-Song Competition

4 pm Drill Competition

4:30 pm Auction

5 pm Those travelling can leave if they choose or they can visit

7 pm campfire at Large cabin with S'mores available.

10 pm campfire dies down.

### May 20th

Breakfast on your own

9 am Move any picnic tables back to original campsites. Pack up sites.

11 am Check out

## Youth Department News

Thank you to everyone who let me know their preference for the State-wide Grange Picnic. After discussions with Lynette and members of Prairie Grange, we have decided to hold the 2nd Annual Illinois State Grange Statewide Picnic on May 19 during the 1st Annual Illinois State Grange Camping Weekend hosted by Prairie Grange #1832. Prairie Grange has graciously offered to be the host by ensuring we have enough camping spaces.

The Camping weekend will be May 18-20 at the KOA campground in Springfield.

We have the ability to split up the large cabin so that different people can stay there if they choose. Please contact Karie Blasingame to see what options are available, or if you know other people you would like to stay with, you could contact them and then reserve the large cabin. It has one room with a double bed, one room with a set of bunk beds and a hide-a-bed in the main room that sleeps 1 or 2. The best thing about the large cabin is its own shower!

John Henninger the trea-

surer for Prairie Grange was instrumental in putting together the camping weekend. It will be laid back and we will be able to visit with our friends from all over the state. We will be setting up some canopies around the large cabin and using it as a home base on Saturday. We may move the picnic table from your campsite to this area so don't be concerned if you don't have one when you arrive, however we will need help returning everything before leaving on Sunday. We ask that you notify John Henninger or Karie Blasingame with which camping choice you would like as soon as possible. We may need to reserve more sites.

There are many different places in the Springfield area to check out. For those who would like to attend the Picnic, but not the entire weekend, there may be a small fee to the campground for visitors. I will check on it and get back to you. We are asking that you send in your payment as soon as you reserve your campsite with John or Karie. Send your payment to Karie Blasingame at 8711 Deer Run Dr., Belvidere, IL 61008.