

The ILLINOIS GRANGER

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

VOLUME 102

April 2018

No. 04

Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

Lynette Schaeffer

President

of Illinois State Grange

The weather is WET!! It just keeps raining. I hope the Easter bunny can find dry area to lay the eggs. Earlier this year I was worried about how dry we were – well now we are wet and cold. It is Spring but seems we can't get to the normal high. Thanks to all of you who offered condolences to our family at the death of my brother in law, Jerry Korte. We appreciate your support.

The Executive Committee had a meeting on March 17 at Dixie Truck Stop. It was a good meeting, much business discussed. One scholarship was discussed. It bothers me that we for the last two years we have only had one application each year. Do we not have students or are people just not interested in getting money for a scholarship?

St Clair County is working on the 2018 State Grange Session in Belleville, IL at National Shrine of the Lady of the Snows, and we have decided on meals and have a draft schedule. Discussion was started on the 2019 National Grange Session and 2019 State Session.

The Leadership Conferences were held on March 11th at Turkey Hill Grange Hall and on 25th at the Community Grange hall both 1:00 – 4:00.



Karie and I 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. 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. Forms for all other handouts are on the illinois-grange.org website – or will be soon.

Grange Month! I hope you have encouraged your Community and Pomona Granges to hold a special event for the public this month. We really need to share our great organization with our communities. Go to the National Grange website to see the information for Grange Month "Our theme for 2018 is "The Grange Way."

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Lecturer's Report

By Ethan Edwards

As we move into spring, I'm sure many of us are acutely aware of the impact of the sometimes unexpected weather we have experienced this winter and are wondering how spring storms may impact our upcoming efforts. It's a perfect time to consider being part of a partnership the National Grange is forging with the National Weather Service: becoming Citizen Scientists in an effort to create a "Weather Ready Nation."

Do you love the weather? Interested in actually participating in the science? Well, citizen science may just be for you! Citizen science is a form of open collaboration in which anyone can take part in the scientific process to address real-world problems. You can help by taking real-time weather observations, alerting officials about severe weather occurring where you are, and contributing to NOAA research using an app on your phone.

There are 4 ways Grangers might be involved by becoming Citizen Scientists:

Become a Storm Spotter under the NWS SKYWARN Program

Storm spotters report hazardous weather to the NWS, which aids the warning process. Volunteers are

trained by NWS meteorologists to identify and describe severe local storms, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and floods.

Become a NWS Cooperative Observer

The NWS depends on thousands of volunteer observers committed to taking observations at the same location for 10 or more years who report weather and climate information on a daily basis using the phone or Internet. NWS provides the training, equipment, and maintenance, you provide daily data! Data from the program supports warnings, forecasts, and helps build a long-term weather history for an area. This program has existed since 1890.

Use mPING to Report Precipitation

mPING is the Meteorological Phenomena Identification Near the Ground project. Users can report the type of precipitation they are experiencing. No need to measure! Use the free mobile app to send reports anonymously. Reports are automatically recorded into a database, which improves weather computer models.

Join the CoCoRaHS Community
The Community Collaborative

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Send Grange news to:

Ruth Blasingame, 8711 Deer Run Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008
or e-mail to: illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com by April 26, 2018.



PRESIDENT

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What is "The Grange Way" for you and your Grange?? We talked about ideas at the leadership conferences.

Now is the time for the Good Day Magazine renewals. I love the National Grange magazine and I urge

LECTURER

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Rain, Hail, and Snow Network is a volunteer network of observers who measure precipitation from their backyard. Any age can volunteer. CoCoRaHS sells low cost equipment to help volunteers get started. Observers enter their observations onto a website.

More information can be found on flyer available at the Illinois State Grange website:

all of you to renew or start a new subscription now.

I hope all the secretaries or designee have been working on the database to get the names and addresses current. At this time we are just wanting to have the information correct.

www.illinoisgrange.org. The flyer provides more details and contact information for each program.

When I was a kid, my grandma, Ida Knobeloch, was a faithful recorder of the weather—keeping a journal of temperatures and weather conditions every day. I can only think how exciting it would have been for her to have been able to contribute that information to a wider national database. I bet there are people among your members who might find this a great project. Consider getting your Juniors involved!

Remember, it is never too early to be starting on your contest entries. Please feel free to contact me at ethanaedwards@mac.com if you have any questions about any of the competitions.

A Note from Ruth

Please send me any addresses you would like added to the mailing list, taken off the mailing list and if anyone would like to receive the Granger by email. Also send any upcoming events, fundraisers, anything you want on the Calendar. I will also print names and Granges of those Brothers and Sisters we have sadly lost. Please include any State offices that you know they have held.

Illinois State Pomona Report

By Patti Lee
Illinois State Pomona

Seems like all I do is write for one organization or another. I would rather it be minutes or a report. Some day maybe I'll write something worthwhile that I could get paid for. Lol. I serve as secretary for Boone County Pomona Grange so I send articles for that on occasion, I am also secretary for our Local Women of the Moose. That is in my spare time. (Chuckle). First and foremost I do all of the advertising for our auction business. I cashier at each auction and on occasion I help with the set out.

My home Grange, Prairie, is

getting ready for our annual consignment auction. I also do the advertising for that one. This is a very busy time as I help with signing in the consigners on Thursday and Friday prior to the auction. Then comes the big day, Saturday, where I help out again with registration, cashing and all that comes along with it. After that there will be quite a few evenings of settling-up and writing a lot of checks.

I serve as Pomona at State Grange where my duties include attending and participating in the regular meeting of the Illinois State Grange. I assist with the conferral of the Sixth Degree. I am to assist

or arrange the conferral of the Fifth Degree but usually that is done by the Pomona Grange of the area where the session is being held. I help "decorate" the grace's stations for the conferral. I also have to compile a yearly report of my activities and submit it to the ISG Secretary prior to our State Session. Pomona is to assist with promoting the Grange and attend as many ISG events as possible.

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve in this position and I am very proud to be able to do so. I will always strive to do my very best and promote the Grange at every given opportunity.

News From Illinois State Membership

By Lindakay Ebel
State Membership
Chairperson

APRIL IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH!

How many new members have you brought into your Grange this year? April

would be a great month to do this and promote Membership Month.

KEEP YOUR EYE ("I") ON MEMBERSHIP

INFORM present members, potential members and the public about your membership drive, and what your Grange offers its members.

INSPIRE every member to take an active part in recruiting new members and making them feel welcome.

INQUIRE how other successful membership drives have been conducted. Adapt useful ideas for your campaign.

IMPRESS those who have talents your group needs that they can make a real contribution. It's flattering to be needed.

INFLUENCE prospective

members with your Grange's achievements. People like to be identified with a successful organization.

INNOVATE Maybe it is time to change from old techniques of recruitment. Try some brand new ideas this year.

INTRODUCE new (or potential) members to everyone in the group.

INSTALL new members with a formal initiation ceremony. These honors add warmth to your welcome.

INVOLVE new members in specific activities immediately.

IMPROVE methods of keeping old members active

and interested.

INSTILL loyalty in every member. Use your Grange's newsletter to keep everyone fully informed of the group's activities and achievements.

INFUSE your whole membership campaign with an air of success.

The opportunity to build your Grange is a great opportunity and the builder will also grow. Be positive in your Grange work. Meeting new friends who will bring in a host of ideas and enthusiasm for the Grange is a significant challenge for all membership committees.

Northern Leadership Conference

The Northern Leadership Conference was quite well attended at the Boone County Community Grange hall. There were representatives present from the following Granges: Boone County Pomona, Beaver Valley Grange, Big Thunder Grange, Capron Grange, County Line Grange, Flora Grange, Flora Junior Grange, Prairie Grange, Guilford Hope Grange, Union Grange, Troy Grove Grange and Hopewell Grange, and led by our fearless leader from Shiloh Valley Grange. Four counties were represented with about 40 people total. We learned a lot, heard some new stuff, reaffirmed some stuff we knew and left there full from all the snacks we ate.



USPS 016-670

IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY by
ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE
8711 Deer Run Drive.,
Belvidere, IL 61008

Periodicals Postage paid at Mascoutah, IL

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:
The Illinois Granger, 8711 Deer Run Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008
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10041 Rieder Rd.
Lebanon, IL 62254
RUTH BLASINGAME,
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Belvidere, IL 61008
815-299-7884

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEWS AND PICTURES: 30th OF EACH MONTH
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DONATIONS: \$10.00 PER YEAR
For correction of addresses mail to: The Illinois Granger
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Belvidere, IL 61008

News From Boone County Pomona Grange

By Patti Lee
Boone County Pomona
Grange Secretary

Boone County Pomona Grange met at the Grange Hall on March 7th, 2018. Our meeting began with Jack Ratcliffe introducing our guest speaker Beth Turek and her assistant, Julie. They are from Connect Hearing in Rockford and spoke to our group regarding hearing loss, the causes and how hearing aids can be of benefit. One in 3 people over the age of 65 suffers hearing loss. After Beth finished speaking, Master Ruth Blasingame announced that the Deaf Committee for Illinois State Grange has funds available to help with the purchase. You would need to submit a letter to them.

Meeting was called to order and business was taken care of. Ruth mentioned getting letters from a company wanting to put solar panels on the Fair Grounds. Marion Thornberry said he is all for it but that we do not have room for a solar farm. Lyle Lee said that according to our by-laws we could not do it anyway

because we cannot sub-lease out the property.

Applications for membership were read and we welcomed 3 new members to Pomona.

Our annual picnic was brought up and discussed. It would fall on the actual 4th of July so it was moved to change it to June 27th and have it at the Fairgrounds food Pavilion. Pomona would furnish the chicken as in the past and everyone is to bring a dish to pass.

The State Community Service project of making blankets for the Linus Project was discussed. Need to be working on blankets. Prairie Grange meets the 1st Tuesday of the month for Nifty Needles and all are welcome.

Karie Blasingame spoke about the annual statewide picnic which will be held on Saturday, May 19th. Prairie Grange will be the host. There is camping for the weekend at the KAO in Springfield.

Lyle announced the upcoming Prairie Grange auction on April 14th. Beaver Valley is

making plans for summer. Big Thunder thanked everyone for attending the pancake breakfast at Applebee's and said storage release will be April 15th, 21,22nd and 28th & 29th. Capron is getting a few new members. County Line will be going to the Camp Grant Museum on March 14th and having a spaghetti supper with LeRoy Grange on March 10th.

Sandi Bonacorsi announced that longtime member Dave Danielson had passed away and Ann is at River Bluff Nursing Home and would welcome cards & visitors.

Flora Grange master Al Ebel said that he and others had attended BOCO and had lots of inquiries about the Grange.

Sara Ellwanger announced that there will be a quarter auction at 3:00 on April 15th for Relay for Life. She said it is easy to host and a great fundraiser.

Donna West said she had sent a card to the Mulhollands as Carol's mother Agnes had passed away. Our condolences to Carol and her family.

Junior Grange Report

By Melinda (Mindy)
Schiefer
ISG JR director

Our first State JR Day has come and gone. Thank you to Prairie Grange for your support of our first Junior Grange day of this year. And thank you to the University of Illinois Extension in Belvidere for helping with the program on pollinators. I am busy planning for the next event which will be held at Hopewell Grange. Please mark your calendar for July 20-21, which will be our overnight Junior Jamboree Camp-In. Sign-in will be Friday night with activities done late afternoon on Saturday. Another Junior Day will be hosted in the southern region with the date to be decided yet. Please prayerfully consider a donation to the Junior Department to help fund these activities. Grange, and individual Granger support is appreciated, and

checks can be mailed to me at 10949 Faust Road, Trenton, IL 62293. I will also have a list of recyclable items, or craft supplies if you would like to help in that way.

Midwest Conference is coming up in June and is a wonderful chance for Juniors to meet others from around the US. For more information you can go to the National Grange Youth website.

August marks 130 years of National Junior Grange. Please plan something special to celebrate and share what you do in an upcoming IL Granger article. Don't forget to look into the history of your local Junior Grange and share with Beverly, our ISG Historian.

I am here to help so please contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached through Facebook messaging or email (Schefr5@yahoo.com). Or you can text my cell phone, 618-444-2852.

"Team work makes the dream work"

Troy Grove Grange News

Troy Grove Grange met at the Hall on March 22. 7 sisters and 3 brothers were present.

Family Activities Chairman Joan Dennison reported the 6 members presented Rayanne Sester, director of MASS, a certificate and check to honor them as Troy Grove Grange Community Service organization of 2018.

Joan also reported that the F A group was looking for projects to work at. Many previous projects had run out of recipients for projects.

Community Service Chairman Ethel Bauer reported that the donation check for PADS had been delivered and the director was extremely

grateful. Since State funding has not been forthcoming all donations are very welcome.

Ethel proposed that the Family Activities group be honored this year as the Granger Community Service group of 2018. Roy Plote seconded. Passed.

Legislative Chairman Roy Plote read a report concerning health care expense for farmers. Those farmers not covered by Medicare or in a large group have seen their premiums doubled or more. There are groups working to seek reasonable coverage for farmers but rates are still high and growing and coverage is

poor.

A recent tax law gave producers a tax break if crops were sold to a Co-op. Because of this new co-ops are being formed and non-co-ops are losing producers. This tax law is being studied for change.

Youth committee reported on the recent FFA Parliamentary Procedure contest. 10 schools were represented. Leland took 1st place in group. Avery Plote placed 1st in the officer contest. Avery also placed 1st for impromptu speech.

Next meeting of Troy Grove Grange will be April 19, at 7:00 PM at the Hall.

Hopewell Grange Report

By Janice David

Greetings and best wishes for the spring season from everyone at Hopewell. We are celebrating by hosting a craft and vendor fair along with a bake sale on Saturday, April 7. The fair will include a display recognizing National Grange Month. We are hoping for good weather as last Saturday we were surprised by 8 or 9 inches of wet snow. It is too early to include a plant sale with the vendor fair, so that may happen at the end of the month.

At our March meeting we had a boxed cereal drive

that was part of a community effort to aid the Peoria Area Food Bank. Our members responded with quite a large number of boxes of cereal.

Earlier this year we met at a pizza restaurant for our meeting in an effort to beat the cold, then later that month the Executive Committee held a special budget planning session at the home of Trisha Renken. We held our usual dues-paying supper in February. This was a chili supper held at the hall.

Now that the weather is moderating, we will turn our attention to repairs to the building and grounds.

Grange Ag Report

By Carol Neff, State Grange Ag. Chairman

Hope everyone had a great Easter. Spring is slow in coming this year.

Latest update from our National Grange Legislative Director, Bert Eller--"Farm Bill has had a setback when part of the House Ag. Comm. said they wouldn't work on it until they saw the entire wording of the nutrition title. It has been a tradition not to release until chairman and ranking minority leader reaches agreements on contents. Discussions are continuing. Senate Ag. Comm.'s timeline is slower as they work on the bipartisan farm bill. As in past several years this will drag out longer. Cotton and dairy part has been resolved. Conservation may be more of a problem with everyone wanting their share of limited funds. Tariffs on steel and aluminum have helped some people get jobs but are not helpful to farmers. It's harmful to farmers since other countries retaliate by not purchasing farm products; such as, soybeans, fruit, and others, so farmers are one of the first ones hit hardest.

Fruit Trees: It's time to provide care for them. "Keep the growing site clear of debris and weeds to help keep down fungal infections and areas for pests to stay. Use dormant season sprays--natural or synthetics. Have a spray schedule. Use a dormant spray during winter pruning or before buds break. Apply dormant oil. Important to spray when dormant; spraying the entire tree thoroughly. Check label for specific instructions.

Bloom Time: Apply fire blight spray on apple and pear trees. Spray at dawn or dusk when bees and other beneficial insects are not visiting your tree as a food source.

After flower petals drop, apply copper fungicide, for rot, spots, and fungus not only on fruit trees but grape vines

and strawberry plants. It is an effective and natural way to control the problems including peach leaf curl. Some copper spray can be mixed while others are applied as a dry dust.

After pollination period is over and before temperatures reach 80-85 degrees, you can use growing season pest and disease control sprays but use with caution around small children and pets. Read labels carefully. Since it's an insecticide, it can harm bees so make sure every flower petal has fallen. Spray at twilight--morning or evening.

Organic choices are organic fungicide for fungus and organic insecticide, miticide and fungicide, use Neem. Also good on overwintering pests. Tyler Tree Circle is a good organic for weeds around trees. Other chemicals used on weeds will affect the trees, too.

April showers bring spring flowers--and also weeds. Nature does provide delicious items for the picking. Be sure you know what you're picking since some plants look similar. Check in books and on the computer. Make sure you don't pick them along roadways (exhaust fumes affect) and yards and fields where chemicals have been sprayed. Many weeds and plants are extremely nutritious having more vitamins and minerals than vegetables. Some refer to wild edibles a "God's outdoor supermarket." Dandelions can be eaten raw or cooked from roots to blossoms. Dandelion leaves are extremely nutritious. The key is to pick the leaves in early spring before buds appear and mix them in your salad. Older leaves can be cooked, steamed, or stir fried or added to soup. Eat flowers raw, breaded & fried, or make wine. Roots can be dried and roasted to use as coffee substitute or add to recipes calling for root vegetables. Woodland Violet leaves and flowers can be mixed in salads with a variety of lettuce, and

the flowers also used in other dishes. Wild strawberries that grew at our mailbox were always a nice sweet treat. Our pastures provided lots of wild dewberries and blackberries. The flowers of Red Bud trees have a nutty flavor. I've tried them in pancakes and can also use them in salads. Locust Tree flowers can be deep fried and then sprinkled with powder sugar or left plain.

Other lesser known ones are purslane which make a good snack or put in salad, stir fry, or use raw or cooked (peppery flavor). It's loaded with antioxidants and has the same benefit as fish oil. Tea can be made from the leaves of many plants--strawberry, mint, anise hyssop, raspberry, lemon balm, wood betony plants and others. Snack on chickweed, garden cress, or oxalis. Eat raw or cook checkweed's leaves, stems and flowers--spinach-like taste. (As a poultice is good for cuts, burns, rashes.) Elderberry with its tiny purple berries are extremely high in Vitamin C--berries also makes good wine. Lamb's Quarter's young shoots and leaves can be eaten raw in place of any

dish calling for spinach plus seeds are edible (like quinoa). Plantain's young leaves are good raw, steamed, or sauteed and older leaves can be cooked. Seeds can be cooked or ground into flour. (Medicinally, good to sooth burns, stings, rashes, and wounds.) Curly Dock's leaves can be eaten raw when young or cook when older for soups and salads. (Eat in moderation since leaves are high in oxalic acid; and when cooking, change water often.) As the Native Americans knew, most of the cattail is edible. Can boil or eat raw the rootstock (rhizome) after mud washed off. The best part is the stem near the bottom of the plant and is mainly white. Boil it or eat raw. Boil the leaves. The corn-looking female flower spike can be broken off and eaten like corn on the cob in early summer when plant is first developing. Has a corn-like taste. You'll be surprised when you look up these plants how many you recognize.

As you know fields bordering wooded areas, the trees suck the water away from the field crops. Did you know money is available from the

State Ag. Dept. to get money to plant a buffer zone with native plants? The money is only available at a certain time of the year. So, check with and keep close watch when that money is released.

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22--plant a tree, clean up a roadside, plant flowers, or recycle some items. Our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents did an amazing amount of recycling since they didn't have a lot of money to buy new. Earth Day should not be a one-day event. We should help be a good steward of Mother Earth every day of the year. Did you know since we do not recycle enough plastic, plastic is imported from Mexico to meet the U.S.'s demand for recycled plastic? Most places you don't even need to separate the plastic, cardboard, etc. We have huge expanses of ocean that is a graveyard from the plastic and other trash dumped there as a trash pit.

Hope spring is here by now, and you start thinking about entering the many projects for fruit, field crops, vegetables, and flowers,

Notes from the Executive Committee

By Gary Hecathorn Executive Committee Secretary

The ISG Executive committee met on March 17 at the Dixie Café in McLean Ill. Reports of the officers were given. The Worthy Master reported on her trip to Oregon for the Master's conference, the Southern G.R.I.T. meeting, and various National Grange programs.

The Bonding notices have been sent out. We ask that all Granges' Secretaries respond to the ISG Secretary even if your Grange has decided that it does not want the bonding. If your Grange has not received a bonding notice please contact the ISG Secretary.

We decided to offer the National Grange a loan to help with the expenses of the new boiler in the Grange building. This loan will be paid back in 7 years at an interest rate higher than we would have received on a CD.

Plans for the 2018 ISG convention are moving along. Now is the time to start writing resolutions. The State Grange will be paying for banquet tickets for a limited number of special guests. If there is a Congressman or someone special you would like to see invited, please send the Worthy ISG Master a request.

We received one application for a Grange Scholarship.

Unfortunately, it was not acceptable.

Our next meeting will be on June 10th starting at 9:30 at the Dixie Café in McLean. All department Chairman are invited to attend as this will be our budget meeting.

"CORRECTION"

In the 146th Annual Session Journal, Good of the Order resolution 2017-9 was reported as being passed by the delegate body. This is a mistake. The resolution was rejected in committee and the delegate body upheld the action of the committee. If you have a copy of this Journal, please make this correction.

.....:March News From Flora Grange:.....

By **Lindakay F. Ebel**

Some 30+ Grange members met at the Flora Grange Hall on Tuesday, March 13, for their monthly meeting. Master Albert Q. Ebel, III called the meeting to order and Chaplain Donna West opened the Bible and offered prayer.

Reports of standing committees were held by committee chairpersons: Family Activities chairperson JoAnn Wienrack stated some members are meeting at the Grange Hall working on the 2018 National Grange quilt block as well as other projects.

Deb Silver encouraged members to start working on projects for Family Activities to enter at convention, and stated she is working on Safety Town. She has someone coming this year on boat safety and a lady to talk about weather. Wayne Lyford, Agriculture committee, stated Spring is approaching, some farmers are getting machinery out and working on it. Spring is March 20th!! Emalee Colver, Farmland Protection chairperson reported they will have a booth at the Dairy Breakfast to be held on June 16th at the Hildebrand Farm, on State Line Road. She also reported the Belvidere Historical Museum will have a program on Barns on Saturday, March 17 from 10 to 12 and encouraged members to attend.

Jack Ratcliffe, Building and Grounds, report the propane tank was filled, and new lighted exit signs will be installed in the Grange Hall, and stated part of a gutter is coming off and vent above stove must be cleaned. He stated Laurel Ratcliffe has been doing some cleaning at the hall and closets should be cleaned out. Chaplain Donna

West had greeting cards for members to sign for several members who are ill. Fair board directors Jack Ratcliffe and Al Ebel gave an update on happenings at the fair grounds and Jack stated Tracy Adkins show will be on line starting April 2nd, go to the fair's website for information.

Membership chairperson, Lindakay Ebel reported April is Membership Month and encouraged members to bring in new members. She stated she joined the Grange to be a part of a great organization, plus she stated has made many and looks forward to seeing them at meetings and fundraisers. Angelique Bodine, Health & Education chairperson stated there is still a lot of sickness going around.

Jack Ratcliffe, Deaf Chairman reported he had Beth Turek from Connect Hearing come to the Pomona Grange meeting on March 7 and speak to the group about hearing and hearing aids. She stated hearing loss is very common, it affects 1 in 3 people over the age of 60 and it takes most people 5 to 7 years to realize they need to address their hearing loss. She is located on Mulford Road, Rockford.

Laurel Ratcliffe, Community Service requested members turn in their community volunteer hours monthly. She talked about our upcoming fundraisers; Spring Roast Beef dinner and the junior bake sale will be held on Sunday, April 8, 11:30 and 12:45 at the Flora Grange hall. Members will prepare salads on Saturday starting at 7:30 am. May 19 & 20 we will serve breakfast and lunch at Little Hershey's Model T Antique Car show; Safety Town will be held June 12 – 15 and June 23 we will serve breakfast at Applebee's. We will also serve food at the

Kennel Dog show at the fairgrounds in July.

For entertainment, Jack Ratcliffe shared several stories for those in attendance. Lindakay Ebel, Treasurer had written reports for expenses and income from the month, also year-to-date totals.

Our Junior Leader, Kathee Frazer and junior member read some articles from happenings in Illinois, celebrating 200 years of Illinois. Several included, Fred Hatch and his father, Lewis built the nation's first vertical silo, in August of 1873 on their Spring Grove farm in McHenry County. The first railroad to run out of Chicago, and the first to be built in the West, the G&CU Railroad was chartered in 1836, the intent was to connect the Lake Michigan port community with the Mississippi River boomtown of Galena. Also, the first issue of John S. Wright's Prairie Farmer newspaper was distributed on January 19, 1841, and our 40th president of the United States, Ronald Reagan was born in Whiteside County in Illinois.

'G'Bills (70) were collected by Emalee Colver from members in attendance and \$100 was been sent to National Grange in Washington for the trademark, and this month \$100 will be sent to help toward the new air conditioner.

Birthdays celebrated were Angelique Bodine on the 23rd; Deb Silver on the 25th and Sharon Miller, on the 31st. Chaplain closed the Bible and gave a closing prayer and Master Ebel closed the Grange. Members enjoyed a lunch prepared by Wayne and Nancy Lyford, Emalee Colver and Todd Hegge. Next Flora Grange meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10th at the Flora Grange Hall with the Lanendorf's and Harts as hostesses.

This month in ILLINOIS HISTORY

By **Flora Junior Grange**

April 7, 1832 - Black Hawk recrosses the Rock River, a sad brief war.

Apr. 20, 1769 - Chief Pontiac murder leads to Starved Rock deaths

Apr 15, 1955 - first McDonald's opens in Des Plaines

Apr 18, 1865 - General U S Grant returns to Galena

Apr 23, 1861 - our troops enter the Civil War

Apr 29, 1860 - Sculptor Lorado Taft { Indian statue in Oregon park} born in Elmwood.

\$

I "G" Bill. Do You?



Nancy and Wayne Lyford present \$334.00 in "G" Bills from Guilford Hope Grange in support of the printing of the Illinois Granger.

Hope all your Granges are saving your "G" Bills to help support the printing and mailing of the Illinois Granger.

It can be a really fun project for your members. I've heard several people say they've gone to a store to purchase something and when at the check-out counter, they started handing the cashier their money and all of a sudden said, "Oh, that's a G Bill. I can't spend that." The best way to be sure you don't accidentally spend those "G" Bills is to check your bills as soon as you receive them from the cashier at the store or bank. Put them away immediately in a special place so that you will have them to turn in at your next Grange meeting. Then have your treasurer save them throughout the year.

Be sure your Grange joins the fun of turning in your "G" Bills at state session in September. It's a very simple way to add your support of our Illinois Granger!

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. 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 at Rock Valley Community College, Rockford.

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.



Broad Hollow Grange

Broad Hollow Grange will be celebrating Grange Month in April with a special day on Sunday April 29th. The event will start with a 1 p.m. potluck. At 2 p.m. a special meeting and program will honor an area policeman, fireman, teacher, and Community Citizen of the Year along with membership awards presented to Broad Hollow members. Help from neighboring Granges would be appreciated to fill the officers' chairs.

At the March meeting, a report was given on the dictionary project. Items were sorted to be donated to the Belleville Area Crisis Center. Committees reported on the Farm Bill, on the Regional Leadership Conference, June 15-17, and other items. A Watkins Fundraiser was held with Watkins orders having been taken and will be sorted for

pickup. A report was given on the 150th Gala the National Grange had. Plans were made for Grange Month in April. The National Grange Survey was explained. Eugene Eckert, past Illinois State Grange Master, and member of Woodland Grange, was inducted into the National Grange Hall of Fame. Our Grange will be hosting Pomona meeting in June. Not-for-Profit annual filing was sent to the Illinois Secretary of State. Cookies were baked by the Grange for the election judges for the Primary Election. Everyone was reminded they will be getting a new Social Security Card in April. The steps to take were explained after receiving it and how to protect your card. Members were reminded of scam phone calls and notices on the computer and to remember that

Social Security will not call you or communicate over the computer. The charter was draped in memory of Orville Vogler. A memorial was given to the New Athens FFA in his memory. An update on the February meeting of the St. Clair County Pomona Grange was given.

Since two meetings were cancelled due to weather earlier in the year, the program consisted of the first three months of the year--"Did You Know?" about New Year's Day, a poem, "January" by members, jokes, "Twelve Months," the New Year, Groundhog Day, and a Shamrock Game for St. Patrick's Day. Snowmen decorated the January table, Valentine's Decorations for February, and St. Patrick's Day decorations decorated the table and hall for St. Patrick's Day.

Prairie Junior Grange

By Jennifer Tobin-Tinch

On Saturday, March 17, Illinois State Junior Director Mindy Schiefer came to Boone County and the Juniors learned about pollinators. Guest speakers from the Boone County Extension office taught us about pollinators and how important they are. They had a slide show, two crafts, and a game to reinforce it all.

After our guest speakers left, a snack was had and then Miss Mindy had three crafts for us to do from one recycled water or pop bottle. The kids made a bee home out of the middle section of a bottle, corrugated paper, pine cones, and straws. The top part of the bottle was turned into a game of skill, in which a wooden ball was attached to the neck of the bottle and with twine and you would try to catch the ball in the open part of the bottle. The bottom of the bottle was turned into a flower.

Prairie Junior Grange learned so much that day from this time together with our special guest from Illinois State Grange and the speakers she arranged for to come teach us about pollinators.

FAC Contest Categories Information

By Marilyn Hoffmann, Jennifer Tobin-Tinch, Sharon Fidler

Below are the 2018 State Session Contest Categories for the State Grange Session to be held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snow in Belleville, Sept. 13-15.

FAC CONTEST RULES:

- Only one entry per Grange member may be submitted in each class.

- Entry must have been made/finished between Sept. 2017 – Sept. 2018.

- Awards will be given in each class. One BEST OF SHOW will be chosen from all the FAC projects entered to be sent to National Session for display.

- Group # and Class letter, member and Grange name must be included with each entry. Also, please include at time of check-in, the name of responsible party for the entry at State Session.

- All entries must have an open back for judging. Finished pillows, quilt and sewing items are excluded.

- All items must be entered no later than 12 Noon on Friday, Sept. 13, 2018.

CATEGORIES

GROUP 1 NIFTY NEEDLES (Knit)

Class A – Scarf, Shawl, Cowl

Class B – Hat or Gloves

Class C – Baby Afghan

Class D – Afghan or Lap Robe

Class E – Table Runner or Doily

GROUP 1A NIFTY NEEDLES (Crochet)

Class A - Scarf, Shawl, Cowl

Class B - Hat or Gloves

Class C - Baby Afghan

Class D - Afghan or Lap Robe

Class E - Table Runner of Doil

GROUP 2 – EMBROIDERY

(Not in a frame and back must be open for Judging!)

Class A – Pair of Pillow Cases

Class B – Holiday Decoration

Class C – Any other article (NOT Counted Cross Stitch)

GROUP 3 – COUNTED CROSS STITCH

(Not in frame and back must be open Judging)

Class A – Any item 6" X 6" or smaller

Class B – Any item larger than 6" X 6"

GROUP 4 – MISCELLANEOUS – (Not in frame and back must be open for Judging)

Class A – Any item not listed above

(Examples: Plastic Canvas, Crewel, Latch Hook, etc.)

GROUP 5 – SEWING (APRONS)

Class A – BBQ

Class B – Holiday

Class C – Any other

GROUP 6 – QUILTING (If this is a finished item, back does not need to be exposed.)

Class A – Pieced Square – Unbound

Class B – Rag Quilt – Finished

Class C – Tie Quilt

Class D – Baby Quilt

Class E – Any Other Quilt

GROUP 7 – FOODS Note: Please enclose items in a Ziploc bag when possible so the food item is completely covered. The larger item will be sold/auctioned off on Saturday evening.

Class A – Fudge – Place 12 1-inch squares on a large plate. Three squares on a small plate.

Class B – Other Candy (No Rice krispie treats). 3 on small plate. 12 on large plate.

Class C – Decorated Cupcakes – 2 on small plate, 6 on large plate

Class D – Fruit Pie. Mini pie for Judging. Large pie for auction.

GROUP 8 – BREADS

Class A – Bread – White or

Wheat. ½ loaf for Judging. Whole loaf for auction.

Class B – Muffins – 2 on small plate for Judging. 6 on large plate.

Class C – Quick Bread. – Mini loaf for Judging. Large loaf for auction.

GROUP 9 – CARDS – Note: 4 different cards for each class. Please enclose cards in Ziploc bag with Entry form.

Class A – Birthday

Class B – Holiday

Class C – Any occasion other than A and B

FOR JUNIORS ONLY

Eligibility – Must be a Junior Grange member or grandchild/child of a Subordinate member when that Grange does not have an active Junior Grange. Age must be included on entry form.

GROUP 10 – SEWING – FOR JUNIORS ONLY – DECORATED T-SHIRT (Cannot have any professional printing on it.)

Class A – Ages 5 - 7

Class B – Ages 8 - 10

Class C – Ages 11 – 14

GROUP 11 – QUILT – FOR JUNIORS ONLY – TIED FLEECE THROW – Finished

Class A – Ages 5 - 7

Class B – Ages 8 - 10

Class C – Ages 11 – 14

GROUP 12 – CARDS – 4 DIFFERENT CARDS FOR EACH CLASS

Class A – Birthday – Ages 5 to 7, 8 to 10, 11 to 14

Class B – Holiday - Ages 5 to 7, 8 to 10, 11 to 14

Class c – Any other occasion - Ages 5 to 7, 8 to 10, 11 to 14

SPECIAL GROUP - *200TH BIRTHDAY OF STATE OF ILLINOIS

Class A – Full size cake (layer or 9 x 13), Decorated for 200th Birthday. Will be sold and proceeds will be donated.

Class B – Birthday Throw Pillow. BE CREATIVE! Will be sold and proceeds will be donated.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL IS GRANGE MONTH!!!

Apr 7 – Hopewell Grange Vendor Fair and Bake Sale Fundraiser

Apr 8 – Flora Grange Spring Roast Beef Dinner

Apr 8 – Turkey Hill Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

Apr 22 – Floraville Community Chicken Dinner Fundraiser 10:30 – 2:30 Country Store and Quilt Raffle

Apr 14 – Prairie Grange Consignment Auction

Apr 22 - EARTH DAY - Plant a tree, clean up a roadside plant flowers, or recycle, etc.....

Apr 29 – Broad Hollow Grange Month Celebration 1 pm Potluck – Community Service Awards

May 17-19 – Illinois State Campout – Hosted by Prairie Grange – Springfield KOA

May 19 – Illinois State Grange Picnic – 2 pm Potluck

May 19 – DEADLINE Grange Health surveys to Lynette

June 9 – Food Cart Frenzy – Boone County Hosted by Prairie Grange

June 10 – Executive Committee Meeting – Dixie Café, McLean IL Department Chairmen Invited to Attend

June 12-15 – Flora Grange Safety Town Camp

June 15-17 – Mid-West Youth Conference and Great Lakes Leaders Conference

June 23 – Flora Grange Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's Belvidere

July 20-21 – Junior Jamboree Camp-In – Hopewell Grange July 28 – St. Clair County Pomona Fundraiser for State Session

Aug 6 – DEADLINE for Legacy Family Forms to National Grange

Aug 6 – DEADLINE Distinguished Grange forms to National Grange

Aug 7-12 – Boone County Fair

Sept 14-16 – State Grange Session, Belleville, IL National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows

Oct 25 – Hopewell Pancake Supper

Oct 28 – Turkey Hill Wurst market

Nov 4 – Floraville Community Wurst market

Nov 11 – Flora Roast Beef Dinner Fundraiser

Nov 12-18 – National Grange Session in Stowe, Vermont Please send me any important dates for your Grange.

NOTICE!!!

The following officers/directors have not submitted an article for this year: Brad Wade – Steward, Rick O'Dell – Asst. Steward, Carrie Fisher – Lady Asst. Steward, Kevin Joseph – Treasurer, Sheri Konieczki – Secretary, Don Ellwanger – Gatekeeper, Sara Ellwanger – Ceres, Frank Wurth – Ex. Comm., Lyle Lee – Ex. Comm..

Your article does not need to be about your office, it can be an informational article about something you are interested in. Come on people, let's have some fun with this. Any Granger is welcome to submit an article about something they are interested in. We would love to hear about trips, hobbies, crafts, animals, poems, funny stories, etc. Give us what you got!!!!

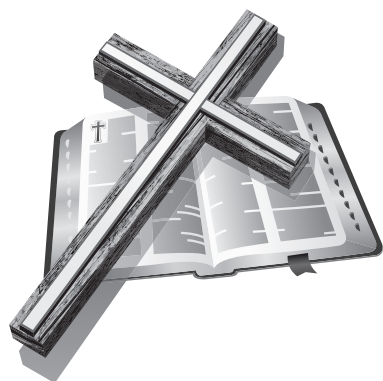
Chaplain's Corner

By Charlotte Mehrtens

Hello Happy Spring or I think so it is cool and rainy for the next week or so. Everywhere I go I hear people complain about the weather, I guess most of them think we should have warm weather year round, I like living in the four different season as we are able to enjoy the renewal of life in the spring (and yes it will get hot this summer and they will complain because it's too hot).

New seasons are important for many people. Some count down the days because of what they hope the new season will bring. Perhaps you've been marking off the calendar for a special event in your life or yes some warmer weather after a long winter. We also go through seasons of life that don't have to do with the weather. The author of Ecclesiastes told us there is a season for every activity under the sun, a time appointed by God during which we live our lives. (3:1-11).

Moses spoke of a season in his life after he led the people of Israel through the wilderness (Deuteronomy 31:2) and he had to give up his leadership role to Joshua. And Paul faced



the lonely season while he was under house arrest in Rome, asking for visitors but realizing that God was on his side all the time. Regardless of the season of life, let's give thanks to God for His greatness, His help, and His companionship.

To those who have lost loved ones, to ones who are ill, we send you our prayers. To those who rejoice with good news, we are happy for you.

In closing

"May the sun bring you new energy by day,

May the moon softly restore by night,

May rain wash away your worries,

May the breeze blow new strength into your being,

May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life"

"Well Done, Good and Faithful Servants"

Orville Vogler – 1924-2018 - Broad Hollow Grange
John C. Knoebel, Sr. – 1929-2018 - Shiloh Valley Grange
Beulah McLarty – 1927-2018 - Guilford Hope Grange
Ruth L. Nelson – 1918-2018 - Marengo Grange

Youth Department News

By Karie Blasingame – Youth Director

I am excited to announce that Midwestern and the Great Lakes Leadership Conference will be held together in Ceresco, MI at Home Grange #129, 11003 9 1/2 Mile Rd (Corner of 9 1/2 Mile Road and B Drive South). Cost for the June 15-17th weekend is \$50 per person with a \$5 discount for family members. When I get a schedule of events, I will post it on the Illinois State Grange Youth Facebook group. Items to bring: Bedding, air mattress/cot, clothes, toiletries, flashlight, bug spray, sunscreen, sturdy shoes for possible horse stable tour, and any medications that you take. Both Lynette and I will be headed to the conference if anyone would like to catch a ride, please let one of us know. There will be workshops for everyone Junior and up. Lodging is in the Grange Hall, there is space for campers or tents but no hookups. There is a hotel nearby if you choose to stay there we can make sure you get a ride. The registration form, which is on the Illinois State Grange Youth Facebook group, is due by June 1st to Connie Johnston. I challenge each Grange in our state to send their Lecturer and a representative for Youth and Juniors.

Don't forget, we still have open campsites for the 1st annual Camping Weekend May 18-20th at the KOA in Rochester, IL just outside of Springfield. We need your reservation by May 1st. The 2nd annual Statewide Grange Picnic will be May 19th at the KOA in Rochester. The schedule has been posted online and was in last month's Granger. Please contact me ASAP with your reservation. This year will be very laid back, but as I was putting something away today, I found the mallets for Grange Bowl which might

2nd Annual

ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE

STATEWIDE PICNIC

MAY 18TH

Held by ISG YOUTH DEPT

Open to Everyone Bring A Dish to Pass

MULTIPLE Contests

1 pm

SCHEDULE

1 PM ARRIVAL OF DAILY GUESTS/VISITING

2 PM POTLUCK LUNCHEON

3 PM PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

3:45 PM SIGN-A-SONG COMPETITION

4 PM DRILL COMPETITION

4:30 PM AUCTION

More Information

We will be camping at the KOA Campground in Springfield, IL. For Non-Campers there may be a fee of \$3 to the campground. Join us for the whole weekend or just the picnic. For more camping information contact John Henninger 815-509-9227 or spoteel@aol.com

BEVFOLEY@KNOXWHAT TOBUY@KBLASINGAME@129 0313

KBLASINGAME77@GMAIL.COM

1st Annual

ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE

CAMPING WEEKEND

MAY 18TH - 20TH

Held 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

be fun to play Friday night or Saturday night around the campfire. We shall see what we decide while down there. As always, the best way to get a hold of me is by my email kblasingame77@gmail.com. If you would like to call and leave me a message, I will get back to you when I am

not working my number is 815-299-0313. Otherwise you can message me on Facebook or send a carrier pigeon. I am always willing to answer any questions you have about anything going on in the Youth Department. Look forward to seeing our Grangers out and about this year.