



Illinois Granger

Volume 102

August 2018

No. 08

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



Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms
Lynette Schaeffer President Illinois State Grange

Enterprise Grange of O'Fallon, IL, recently honored Community Service Volunteers.

Those honored were Kathie Schmisser as a Grange member who volunteered at the O'Fallon Township Rummage sale each month, sent birthday cards to female prisoners at Greenville Camp and all Enterprise Grange members, Sunday and Bible School teacher at her church and helped at funeral luncheons.

Louise Johnston was our Junior Grange honoree. Louise serves as acolyte at her church most Sundays and even serves at her Granny's church when visiting. She helps with the yard work at church and bakes desserts to welcome new members or ones who have lost loved ones.

She was Vice President of her Quartrefoil 4-H Club. She is the youngest member of the East Patriot Guard Riders and helps set up and remove flag displays, hands out water to the adults in the flag line and participates in the flag line.

Our non-member Community Service awardee was Ed True. Ed has served as an alderman and on both school boards. He has won many awards in the Senior Olympics. Ed is heavily involved with Foreign Exchange Students making sure they get where they belong and then back home. In 2018 he had 80 students-40 coming and 40 going. One of the biggest jobs with this program is all the paperwork involved. He teaches business classes at FloValley and Forest Park Colleges.

O'Fallon Fire Department was our 4th recipient. Since 1891 the O'Fallon Fire Department has been providing protection to the citizens of O'Fallon, Shiloh Valley, Caseyville and St. Clair Townships. In addition to the Fire Chief, they have 3 full time employees. The majority of the fire suppression and rescue services are provided by 45 highly trained and dedicated volunteers distributed across 4 stations throughout their 44 square mile district. Several of our Grangers appreciated their help when disaster struck us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 4 – ISG JR Day – Emerald Mound Grange

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

Aug 12 – Turkey Hill Grange Ham and Peach Dinner

Aug 18 – Deadline for Community Service form/books to Tracey Jones

Aug 25 – Fair St. Clair

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

Sept 15 – State Junior Trip to Grant's Farm

Oct 25 – Hopewell Pancake Supper

Oct 28 – Turkey Hill Wurst market

Nov 3 – Bluff Grange Trivia Night

Nov 4 – Floraville Community Wurst market

Nov 11 – Flora Roast Beef Dinner Fundraiser

Nov 12-18 – National Grange Session in Stowe, Vermont

Nov 13-15 – Broad Hollow Branson Trip

Nov 17 – 70th Anniversary 1-4 pm Al & Darlene Henninger

Nov 27-29 – Broad Hollow Branson Trip

Please send me any important dates for your Grange.

Membership Repost

Hello to All My Special Grange Friends. First, special thanks to all Grange secretaries that sent in their year end membership report for the July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 year. This is VERY important, so I can complete my report for the ISG session in September so members who recruited new members can be recognized for their great accomplishments. Any Grange member who signed up four new members from July 1, 2017 to June 30th, 2018 will receive a plaque, and if you already have your plaque, you will receive a bar for it. Each Community Grange will receive \$5.00 for each new regular and affiliate member. Also, each Community Grange will receive \$5.00 per person for regular and affiliate members resulting in net gain.

We are now beginning a new Grange year, July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 in Illinois. Let's start the new Grange year by asking people to join our Granges, telling them all the Grange has to offer. We need to start asking our family members, special friends, when talking to a business contact and spreading the word on what our Granges have to offer, the two most important in my book, community service and fellowships. So, let's all ASK, ASK, ASK.

Make all your current members a part of your Grange, ask them to help in various ways, we all need to work together to make our Grange the best. Involve your new members, starting slow and working

to larger projects.

Also, start recruiting the youth, they will be our future leaders, and we need to start asking them and include them in helping with our projects during the year. Let them help, complement them on their work and give them encouragement.

So, in closing, I would like to WELCOME all the new Grange members that were recruited this year, and again special thanks to those Grange members that worked to bring new members into the number ONE organization.

Enjoy the balance of your summer, and God Bless each of You.

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DEKALB, IL 60115
PERMIT NO. 321

The Illinois State Grange

Secretary Sheri Konieczki

2169 Sunset Lane Belvidere, IL 61008
Ph: 847-912-3521 Email: sher0816@hotmail.com

Dear Worthy Secretary and Patrons;
The 147th Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange will be held at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snow in Belleville, IL. The meeting will start 1:00 PM on Friday September 14, 2018, and end on Sunday, September 16, 2018.

Start making plans to attend. Let every Grange strive to send two delegates and make it a successful session. Listed below are a number of things we are asking you to do.

Send resolutions to me by July 27th. I will compile all the resolutions and send them to your Grange. Review the resolutions at your Grange meeting so the delegates will be aware of their members concerns.

Make room reservations by calling Our Lady of the Snows Hotel at 618-397-1162 or 800-682-2879 by August 23, 2017. The price of the hotel is \$77.85 per night. Let them know you are with the Grange.

Send the names of delegates to me by August 22nd. This will be a great help in setting up committees for the session. There will be a charge of \$15.00 per delegate. Each delegate must have their own book for session. Booklets are available to anyone. The cost of \$15.00 per booklet will apply.

Check the rules in the Illinois Granger or the Illinois State Grange web site at www.illinoisgrange.org for the various contests and bring your contest entries to the Session prior to the start of the meeting on Friday.

We urge delegates to attend the banquets and luncheon as much information is given at these functions.

Period costumes celebrating Illinois Bicentennial will be worn to the banquet on Friday night. It is encouraged but not required.

Registration is \$5.00 per family. Everyone needs to be registered to attend meetings. Please let me know if you will be attending so that badges can be made for you.

Check the meal tickets you will want for your delegates and other Grangers from your Grange and send to me. The delegate's tickets will be put into a packet that the delegates will receive when they register at the Session. Other Grangers' tickets will be available at the registration desk or from the State Secretary at the Session. Please send money with request if possible. If not, then money will be collected when the tickets are picked up.

All Grangers wanting meal tickets must notify me by July 27th. Please send money with request if possible. If not, then money for the tickets can be collected at the session. No reservations for meal tickets will be sold after September 5th

If you have put it in the mail, and have not gotten a confirmation from me by September 5, I have not gotten it and you need to call me to confirm your meal ticket.

Faternally,
Sheri

AG Report

I hope you'll take advantage of a tour our county is providing to an agriculture exhibit at State Grange Session. The last time St. Clair County hosted State Grange Session, the Science Center was ready to start work on a new one-acre agriculture exhibit. This project is now open so the county will be carpooling to see the exhibit. The project cost \$7.3 million, and the GROW project is a 40-display farm exhibit showing how food is produced from farm to fork. There's a combine, a mechanical cow, crops growing, animals, hands-on exhibits, interviews from farmers, effects of weather and water, a greenhouse that has aquaponic farming with fish providing the plants' nutrients and the plants cleaning up the water, demonstrations, food samples, and more. It's the only one of its kind in the U.S. There is not enough time the morning of State Grange Session since everyone is checking entries so since many come down the day prior the tour will be on Thursday, Sept. 13, leaving at noon from the Shrine of our Lady of the Snows where State Session is and returning at 5 p.m. There is no admission fee, but there is a fee for parking. Be sure to make reservations right away with our Pomona Master, Charlotte Mehrtens, 476-1267.

How the summer has flown! State Grange Session is now right around the corner. Hope to see all of you at the Ag. Breakfast Saturday morning. Also, don't forget about Saturday nights' Ag. Auction. Items not being auctioned and ribbons, etc. will be available after 5 p.m. Saturday to pick up, sorted by Grange. Now is the time to decide which items of vegetables, fruit, field crops, flowers, antiques, and Junior categories you plan on entering in the ag. contests. Entry forms with categories and items were handed out at the Grange information days in your area plus there was a special envelope for your Agriculture Director for each Gran to provide the information to the members of your Grange. The list of items has been in "The Illinois Granger" 3 of the 10 issues, and it's on the Illinois State Grange Web site.

All entries have to be from between Sept. 2017 and Sept. 2018 except some of the flowering plants and antiques. Must be a Grange member to enter. Some categories are open to Junior Grangers and children and grandchildren of Grange members. Each category (vegetables, fruit, etc.) have many items under each to enter. There are 25 items in vegetables, 6 items for crops, 8 items for fruit, 2 items for antiques, 7 items for flowers, and 3 items in the Junior category. There can only be one entry per person in each item; for example,

can only have one entry in carrots, etc. Also, check the number of items for each--4 beans or 4 beets; 3 carrots, cucumbers, white or red or yellow onions, sweet or hot peppers, red or white potatoes, yellow or red tomatoes or other vegetables other than those listed. For gourds, need 2. One is required for cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant, pumpkin, winter squash, and 6-8" zucchini. Individual market basket or group market basket has to have 10 or more items and has to be a nice variety of items.

For field crops, 3 ears of corn, longest ear of corn, and the shelled corn, oats, soybeans, and wheat needs to be in a quart plastic bag. In fruit, red or yellow apples, pears, plums, and any other fruit not listed all have to be 4 each. Grapes need to be 3 bunches. Only need one for cantaloupe or watermelon. The flower items are: African Violet, Succulents, 3 spikes of gladiola, most unusual plant, and any other 3 blooms other than what's listed. The flower arrangement can be flowers you grew or flowers you bought since it will be judged on how it is arranged. The miniature garden/fairy garden MAY NOT BE MADE FROM A KIT--use your creativity and imagination. Let us know if you want any of the flowers auctioned. Antiques can be 30" or less and from 1930 or before. Must bring the item, not a picture. Are two categories farm-related and household-related. Antiques will NOT be auctioned.

Juniors or children or grandchildren of Grange members where there is no Junior Grange can enter gourd birdhouses and posters on endangered, Monarch Butterflies, Bees, or Bats. Categories will be broken down into ages 5-7, 8-10, and 11-14. For the gourd birdhouse, gourds can be grown or purchased, parents can drill the 1/2"-1" hole for the younger kids, and the entrant will decorate them. The posters should feature the decline and what we can do to help either Monarch Butterflies or bees or bats. A new Junior category this year is vegetables. If the kids help their parents or grandparents garden, vegetables can be entered. There will be no age breakdown, and they will be judged with the adults.

Looking forward to a nice display and lots of great ideas in our Ag. Department.

Have a great summer,

Carol Neff
Illinois State Grange Agriculture Chairman

Illinois State Grange Session September 14-16, 2018 Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL.

Friday Night Main Banquet \$26
Shrine Salad, Fried Chicken, Roast Beef w/ Aus jus, Glazed Whole Baby Carrots, Sweet Buttered Corn, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Blended Rice Pilaf

Saturday Breakfast Buffet \$17
Orange Juice, Choice of Coffee, Iced Tea, or Lemonade, Scrambled Eggs, Choice of Bacon, Sausage, or Ham, Biscuits and Gravy, Choice of Hash Browns or American Fries, Sliced Fresh Fruit

Saturday Luncheon Soup/Salad \$17
Choice of Iced Tea, Lemonade, or Coffee, Four Homemade Soups, Fresh Baked Rolls, Iceberg and Romaine, Ten Toppings, Four Dressings

Youth/ Young Adult Banquet \$26
Caesar Salad, Herb Crusted Baked Chicken, Pork Tenderloin, Green Beans w/ Bacon and Onions, Braised Brussels Sprouts, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Rotini Alfredo

Delegate Book \$15
Total amount due _____

Make checks to Illinois State Grange
All Meal Reservations need to be in to State Secretary by July 27, 2018

Sheri Konieczki
2169 Sunset Lane
Belvidere, IL 61008
847-912-3521

Community Service

State Session is right around the corner. Make sure you are submitting all of your community service activities to your local Grange Community Service Directors to include in their reports. As a reminder, we will be making handmade blankets for Project Linus and we will do a food drive for Belleville's Interfaith Food Pantry at State Session. The items most needed for the food pantry are non-perishable foods, can goods, and monetary donations, so they can use the money to buy the products they need in bulk. If you won't be able to attend State Session, make sure you make arrangements to send in your blankets and donations to the food pantry. I hope that we can show both organizations the generosity of the Illinois State Grange with large donations that will have a big impact. Help make this happen! More information about both projects can be found on the Illinois State Grange Website.

Faternally Submitted,
Tracey Jones

Turkey Hill

Our regular July meeting began with our literary program. The founder and director of "Songs for Soldiers" gave a most informative presentation on the need for assistance to War Veterans and how his group was assisting. He was veteran of the Iraq War and gave first hand experiences of his involvement in Iraq and the value of 'Songs for Soldiers'. The Welcoming Ceremony was given to four new members. In June our President appointed a team to investigate the renovation of our kitchen and dining room. Thus far, this Team has reviewed the possible updating of our facilities and are in the process of investigating the potential costs.

Our Thursday afternoon BBQ and the Old Town Farmers Market continues to raise funds for our community service projects and inform our community of our Grange. We have received four new members as a result of these two events.

LOOKING AHEAD:
Our annual Ham and Peach Dinner is Aug 12, 2018 from 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM



*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*

Schedule of Events of the 147th Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange *Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows* Belleville, September 13-16, 2018



Thursday, September 13, 2018

12:00pm- Meeting at the Shrine to tour St. Louis Science Center and Grow Exhibit

Friday, September 14, 2018

8:30 AM – Noon

Registration & Contest entries in place in display room

10:00 AM State Officers Practice Sixth Degree Practice

1:00 PM Open in the Sixth Degree – Lynette Schaeffer, Master

Open to all Delegates and Grangers attending

Roll Call of Officers Close in the Sixth Degree Open in the Fourth Degree

Presentation of Chris and Connie Johnston from Michigan (Nat'l Rep, Honored Guest)

Presentation of local officials

Response –Karie Blasingame, Overseer

Roll Call of Delegates

Adoption of Order of Business – Frank D. Wurth, Chair Exec Comm

Meeting place for 2019

Invitation of Meeting Place 2020

Reports –Treasurer (Budget), Secretary, Exec Committee

2:15PM Recess

2:30PM Election of Executive Committee (1)

Appointment of Session Committees Assignment of Resolutions

Committee Instruction by Master and Overseer Resolutions to the committees

4:00 PM Grange Closed in the Fourth Degree (Take possessions with you)

Committee Meetings

6:00PM Main Banquet

7:00PM Evening Program

Introduction of Special Invited Guests

Address of State Master – Lynette Schaeffer

Community Service Awards – Tracey Jones, Director

Membership Awards – LindaKay Ebel, Director

8:30PM Committee Meetings

Saturday, September 15, 2018

7:00AM Ag Chairman: Carol Neff Speaker: ??

8:15AM Opening in Fourth Degree

Roll Call of State Officers

Roll Call of Delegates

Reading and Adopting of Minutes

8:45AM Junior Grange Report and Awards, Mindy Schiefer, Director

9:15AM Report – Committee on Finance & Accounts

9:30AM Committee Reports

10:00AM Recess

10:15AM Committee Reports

11:30AM Family Homemaking Projects Luncheon –Marilyn Hoffmann Director

1:15 PM Conferring of Fifth Degree-St. Clair County Pomona Grange

Conferring of Sixth Degree – IL State Grange Officers

3:00PM Recess

3:15pm Grange Historian – Beverly Smith; Legislative – Marion Thornberry

Communications Director– Elaine Hecathorn; Lecturer – Ethan Edward

4:00PM National Grange Representative Report/Workshop Committee Reports

5:00PM Grange Closed in Fourth Degree (Take possessions with you)

6:30PM Youth/Young Adults Banquet – Karie Blasingame, Director

7:30PM Evening Program

Talent Show – Ethan Edwards, Lecturer

Youth Reception

Auction

Sunday, September 16, 2018

8:00AM Celebration of Life – Charlotte Mehrrens

8:45AM Opening in the Fourth Degree – Youth/Young Adults Officers

Roll Call of Youth Officers

Roll Call of State Officers

Roll Call of Delegates

Reading of Youth Minutes

Reading of State Minutes

9:00AM FAC/AG – Final Reports and Sash Transfers

Community Service Booklets, – Tracey Jones, Director

Committee Reports

Completion of Remaining Business/Installation of Officers

Closing of the 147th Annual Session

Lecturer’s Report

As August rolls around, I hope you have been enthusiastically thinking about, if not yet executing, your entries for the Lecturer’s contests for the State Session in September. There are several special aspects to this year’s contests to pay tribute to Illinois’ Bicentennial being celebrated in 2018. Also, there are several fresh categories that I hope will provide an avenue for nearly anyone to enter. In this column I just want to call attention to a few of these items to remind you of possibilities.

Grange Banner (Group Activity)
Has your Grange created your banner yet? I hope you have worked together to create a unique tribute to Illinois and your grange’s history. I’m hoping we can have an impressive display in our meeting area. This contest will have two winners: a judged award and a people’s choice award.

Web-based Project (Juniors only)
This is a wide-open category to encourage the most entries as possible. The only requirement is that it be some sort of web-based project that displays quality, creativity, educational merit, and technical proficiency. Blogs, videos, games...show us what you have done. Your projects will be viewable on a computer monitor in the display area.

Illinois Symbols Unconventional Materials Challenge (Juniors only)
Another chance to let your creative juices go wild. Use unconventional materials to create a piece inspired by any of Illinois’ state symbols. Your work can be as literal or as fanciful as you wish!

Personal Collection
Here’s a chance for those of you who have felt unable to compete in the creative arts. Simply assemble an interesting collection of 12 items that are related in some way. These might be examples of traditional collections (stamps, coins, teaspoons, etc.) or something entirely unexpected. The main thing is that you can describe the value and the interest of the collection in a short description. I’m eager to see a wonderful variety of things.

Bicentennial Collage
Make a collage of pictures, clippings, photos, cut-outs to represent Illinois’ heritage. Again, this is an opportunity to think outside the box and do something unexpected.

Photography, Art, Creative Writing, and Talent
And don’t forget about the regular categories that show off the breadth of talent possessed by Grangers across the state. And I want to express special encouragement to PLAN your entry in the talent contest. There are so many talented folks in our midst and the Saturday evening talent contest should be a wonderfully entertaining time. (Remember, everyone who lets me know before the State Session of their entry will automatically get a special recognition.)

So get your hands and brains busy in the next few weeks to put together the makings of an astounding display of skill and creativity. (If you need a full copy of the formal rules as published earlier in the Illinois Granger, please email me at ethanaedwards@mac.com.)
Faternally,
Ethan Edwards,
Illinois State Lecturer

Family Activity News

This week is my county’s fair. Thankfully the weather is rather pleasant this week. This is one of my favorite weeks of the year. I have been entering since I was 8. My grandmother used to enter a truck load each year so I guess my love of the fair comes from her. This year I had 22 entries with 18 of them receiving ribbons 6 of them blue. My prize money was enough to cover my season pass. Seeing all the entries at the fair make me even more excited to see all the wonderful items you will be bringing, especially the 200th birthday cakes and pillows.

Here are some suggestions for the other candy category: Toffee, Truffles, Caramels, Buckeyes, Turtles, Peanut Brittle and Divinity. Hoping this list starts your creative juices flowing. I have narrowed my choices down to 2 which I have been practicing making.

Please start, if you haven’t already, selling raffle tickets at your Grange meetings. There will be tons of prizes. If you are in need of a copy of the raffle tickets, contact me and I will email you a copy. I also have a master of the entry forms which I can send you. I’m asking if at all possible that you have your entry forms filled out. This will save a lot of time at registration.

I look forward to seeing all of you in September. I will have an extra special surprise guest with me! Hope everyone has a great August.

Boone County Pomona News

We met on June 27th at the Boone County Fairgrounds Pavillion for our annual picnic and bi-monthly meeting. Everyone enjoyed a delicious potluck with chicken furnished by Pomona Grange. Master Ruth Blasingame announced that work night for the Fair will be Wednesday, July 25th. Pizza will be furnished that night.

A moment of silence was observed for Granger Randy Bunger. Randy will be greatly missed.

Ruth announced about a few changes for the Illinois Granger. Will start using the local Journal for publishing. Getting a larger paper for the same cost.

We then held election of officers and there were only a couple of changes.

At the conclusion of the meeting Al Henninger led a tour of the fairgrounds giving all

kinds of history about the addition of buildings etc. Thank you Al for all of the great information you shared. Also thanks to Ruth and Lyle for driving the tractors with the wagons loaded with Grangers. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 5th at 7:00 at the Grange Hall.
Submitted by Patti Lee



Prairie Grange

Members of Prairie Grange #1832 participated in Pomona Clean Up Night at the Fairgrounds. They have been pulling weeds, painting and trimming bushes.

Clean up has been done in concessions, ticket offices, information booth and shuttle cart buildings. The fair will soon be here and our members work in all these areas. Volunteers have also signed up for the Grange pork chop dinner served by Prairie members on Sunday of the fair.

Tyler Meyers, Ellis Mundy and Jimmy Blasingame took the old air conditioner out of the back Grandstand ticket office and replaced it with a used one donated by the Blasingames. Now the ticket girls will not complain about being hot during the fair. Ellis was also busy putting up gates and curtains in the goat barn where he is the superintendent.

We are also busy in the Grandstand Ticket office at the Main gate where we sell all the tickets to the shows for the fair. We have been working since July 7. And it just gets crazier the closer we get to opening day.

August is a very busy month for most of our members. Then we will see everyone at State Session in September.

Directions to State Session

Members of St. Clair County Pomona Grange are busy getting ready to greet our Grange family for State Session starting with opening meeting on Friday September 14th. On Thursday September 13th Grangers are invited to tour the Grow Center in St. Louis, we will leave the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows at noon, if you would like to go along contact Charlotte Mehrtens at 618-476-1267 or by email donchar62@

gmail.com to sign up.
Directions to the Session site, coming from the north take Highway 55 South to Collinsville and merge onto Highway 255 South to Highway 15 East. Go to top of the hill and make a right into the Shrine of the Snows and follow signs to Conference Center or Hotel.
We are looking forward to greeting all of you and having a great Session.

Bluff Grange News

We held our July meeting with one guest, he and his family are interested in joining our Grange family. It was reported that our hall had storm damage from high winds and heavy rains earlier in June. The roof has been repaired and hopefully everything has been repaired. Future plans are to have the roof painted.

Members talked about having a B-B-Q fundraiser this fall before our annual Trivia Night on November 3. Plans are being made to set a date. Members were also reminded that workers are needed for the Pomona Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday July 28th at Turkey Hill Grange Hall. Help is also needed on August 25th for Fair St.Clair to be held in O’Fallon to celebrate the 200th Birthday Party of Illinois. The Granges of St. Clair are in charge of the food stand that day and help is needed.

Charlotte Mehrtens gave the program for the evening on “what each fold of the flag means. Visiting after meeting with dessert was enjoyed by member

State Junior Camp 2018



State Junior Camp 2018



Broad Hollow Grange

At Broad Hollow Grange’s July meeting, five resolutions were adopted to submit for action by the delegates at the Illinois State Grange Meeting in September. The resolutions included using paper or other types of straws since plastic straws cannot be recycled, reuniting immigrant children with their parents, limiting the length of time and money spent on electioneering, making schools safer, and opposing an upcoming tour bus fee increase at federal parks (\$300 per bus plus \$5 per passenger. For a trip to Washington, D.C. to the 14 National Parks the cost would be \$4,200 not including the \$5 fee per person at each park.)

Kids’ Days were held June 21 and July 10th. Participants worked on a Linus Blanket, colored various pollinators, sang songs, made ice cream cone feeders for the birds, planted seeds to take home, sang songs, made ice cream sundaes with various toppings plus other activities. The two Grange-sponsored Branson trips Nov. 13-15 and Nov. 27-29 still have some room. Plans are being made to help host the Illinois State Grange Session in Sept. at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. Members are reminded to enter the various contests in the Family Activities Department, the Agriculture Department, the Lecturer’s Department, and the Junior Department. A trip to the Science Center’s Ag. Exhibits is being planned for Thursday, September 13. Any member wishing to participate needs to make reservation with the Grange immediately.

Committees reporting were Agriculture that rain is needed and temperatures are above normal. The update on the Farm Bill is it is out of committee and the House and Senate have passed their versions. Now the House and Senate have to compromise on a final version. Legislative reported resolutions are being worked on. Family Activities reported members are working on a Linus Blanket. For Community Service, school supplies are being collected at the August meeting. The National Grange supports the Farm Bill, and it should pass fairly easily unless an agreement cannot be reached on the food assistance portion. Also high on the National Grange’s agenda is addressing the opiad crisis, access to affordable medical care, protecting Medicare and fairness in Medicaid, and other health issues. Another National Grange top priority is rural broadband so those in small towns and rural areas get high speed internet.

For the program, “Letters from Kids” were read and members sang patriotic songs. Refreshments were enjoyed after the meeting and program. For further information, call 539-6113. The Grange is located at 6733 Robinson School Road.

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

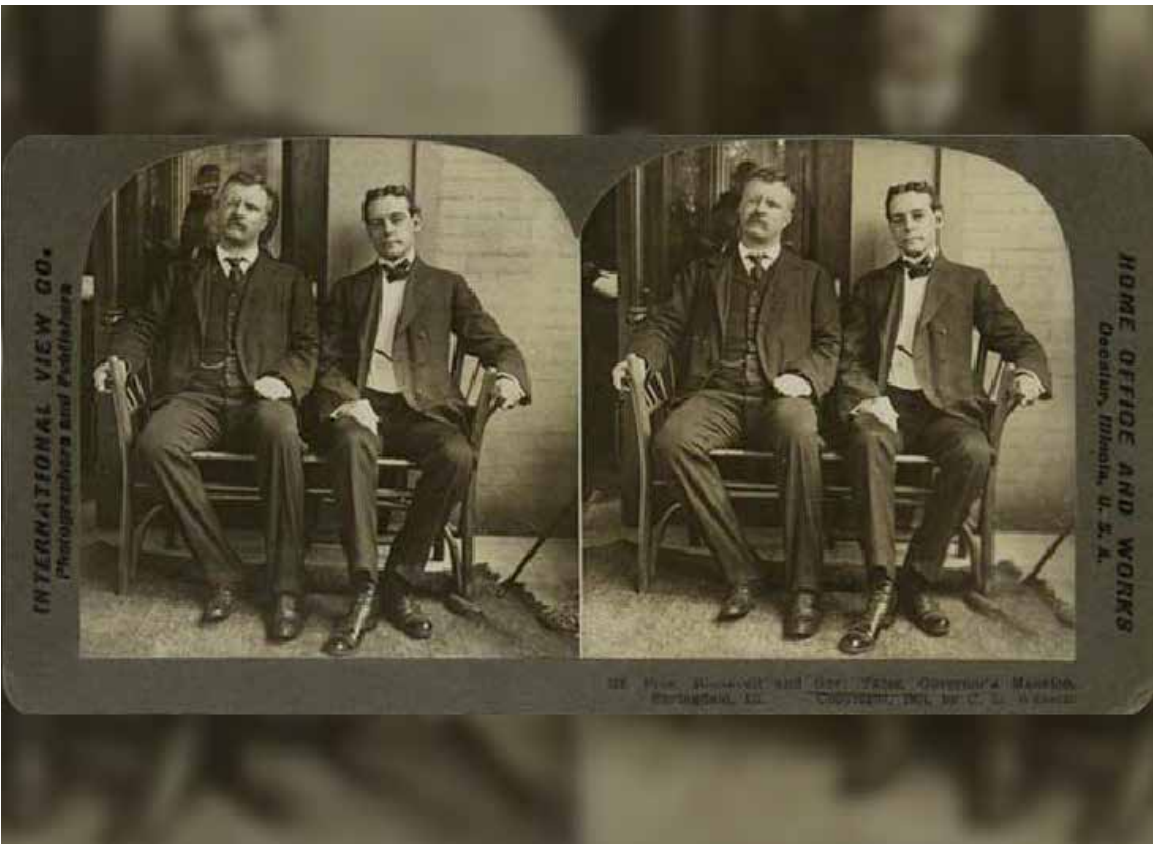
Periodicals Postage paid at DeKalb, IL
Postmaster: Please send address
changes to:
The Illinois Granger,
8711 Deer Run Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008

Lynette Schaeffer, Editor
10041 Rieder Rd.
Lebanon, IL 62254

RUTH BLASINGAME,
News Editor
8711 Deer Run Dr.,
Belvidere, IL 61008
815-299-7884

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEWS AND
PICTURES: 4th Thursday OF EACH MONTH
Please send all news and
pictures to:
RUTH BLASINGAME
8711 Deer Run Drive
Belvidere, IL 61008
illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com

DONATIONS: \$10.00 PER YEAR
For correction of addresses mail
to: The Illinois Granger
8711 Deer Run Drive
Belvidere, IL 61008



President Theodore Roosevelt and Governor Richard Yates, Jr. sit on a bench at the Governor’s Mansion in Springfield. Photo courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Legislative Report

Hello Brothers and Sisters. This is a follow up on my report from last month. I am a Precinct committeeman for the Boone County Republican Party.

Jeff Keicher to finish Bob Pritchard’s term in state House

SYCAMORE, ILL.

Republican Jeff Keicher will be sworn in as the newest Illinois state representative, replacing Bob Pritchard.

Keicher of Sycamore was selected by the Republican Party chairs of Boone, DeKalb and Kane counties to serve out the remainder of Pritchard’s term, which expires in January. The swearing-in ceremony is set for Tuesday.

Pritchard of Hinckley left his seat this month to join the Northern Illinois University board. He announced last year his plans to retire. He’s been a House member since 2003.

Keicher, a businessman, says he’ll decline the part-time salary of at least \$67,000, pension and health care from the state. He said he doesn’t want to contribute to the state’s issues.

Keicher will face Democrat Paul Stoddard, a soon-to-be retired Northern Illinois University geology professor, in the November election.“

A home for Governors, a place for history

Last weekend, the Illinois Governor’s Mansion in Springfield re-opened after a multi-year renovation effort. The first tours were conducted on Saturday. The tours feature exhibits highlighting the children who have lived in the mansion and they also include furniture from the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair and the pre-Civil War era. The mansion, which was built in the mid-1850s, has been visited by everyone from Presidents of the United States to a First Daughter’s pet alligator.

Springfield became the state’s capital city in 1839, and before the current mansion was constructed Governors lived in a house at 8th and Capitol streets, an intersection now occupied by the Springfield public library, a fire station and the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. In 1853, Governor Joel Matteson took office and made the need for a new residence apparent, as the existing house was insufficient for his family which included seven children.

Two years later, the General Assembly appropriated \$18,000 to build a mansion of suitable size for the Governor’s large family and for the social commitments which he and future Governors would have. Architect John M. Van Osdel was selected for the work, already being known for having designed the Chicago City Hall and Cook County Courthouse.

The mansion was built on Jackson Street, between 4th and 5th Streets, just a few blocks southwest of the building then serving as the state capitol. The current capitol is just two blocks west of the mansion. The mansion was completed in 1855, and Governor Matteson and his family moved in not long after.

But the mansion’s first years were inauspicious, to say the least. Governor Matteson complained about the house and ended up buying property across the street after he left office to build a much grander home

for himself. His successor, Governor William Bissell, became the first Illinois Governor to die in office when he drew his last breath in the mansion in March 1860. Bissell’s successor, Governor John Wood, then declined to move into the mansion at all, allowing the grieving Bissell family to remain in the mansion until what would have been the conclusion of his term in 1861.

Wood was succeeded by Governor Richard Yates, who would lead Illinois through the Civil War. His son, Richard Jr., was an infant during his father’s governorship, but he came back for a term of his own between 1901 and 1905: the first and so far only child of an Illinois Governor to hold the office himself.

The first Illinoisan to reach the White House, Abraham Lincoln, was friends with Governor Bissell and visited the mansion frequently before being elected President. The second Illinois President, Ulysses S. Grant, became the first sitting Chief Executive to spend the night at the mansion, doing so in 1874 when he came to Springfield to dedicate Lincoln’s Tomb. Two years before Grant’s stay, the famed abolitionist and civil rights pioneer Frederick Douglass had stopped at the mansion.

Over the next decades, the mansion hosted many social events, including Governor Henry Horner’s Depression-era conference to discuss relief for farmers and many USO events hosted by his successor, Governor Dwight Green, during World War II for soldiers visiting Springfield on leave.

Perhaps the most talked about incident to occur at the mansion came during Governor Joseph Fifer’s 1889 inaugural reception. During the party, his 12-year-old daughter Florence startled guests by sliding down the mansion’s bannister and into the gathering. Perhaps foreshadowing the shenanigans of the Roosevelt children who would move into the White House a decade later, young Florence was known to ride into the front parlor on her pony, and kept a pet alligator in the mansion’s fountain. Over 30 years later, Florence Fifer Bohrer would become the first woman elected to the Illinois State Senate.

The mansion was also visited by many more distinguished visitors. Presidents Rutherford Hayes, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower all stopped at the mansion while in town. So did Jordan’s King Hussein while visiting the United States in 1959.

Renovations and restorations are nothing new to the Governor’s Mansion. Governor Fifer signed an appropriation bill in 1889 which set aside more than \$13,000 for repairs to the mansion. Springfield architect George Helmle led this first re-model, as well as a second in 1897 which added the front portico. Twenty years later, during the more austere times brought about by America’s entry into World War I, Governor Frank Lowden paid for a portion of another set of renovations out of his own pocket. In 1929, the legislature again set aside funds for renovation. First Lady Mabel Green attempted to launch a needed renovation of the mansion in 1941 due to termite damage and structural damage in the library, but found her efforts handicapped by the shortage of labor and materials due to the war.

As the mansion passed its centennial, it was in

such rough shape that the Illinois House was moved to pass legislation in 1961 directing the construction of a new mansion. That summer, newspapers called the mansion a “firetrap” and a “hazard, as well as a horror.” Momentum in that direction was blunted, however, by a coalition of preservationists and former Governors and first ladies who were able to stop the bill before it was called for a vote in the Senate. A few years later Governor Richard Ogilvie established an Illinois Executive Mansion Commission to come up with a definitive report on what to do with the building.

Their efforts led to a \$3 million renovation overseen by the Illinois State Historical Library to bring the house back up to better livability standards, but also to restore some of its historical grandeur. That Ogilvie renovation was completed in 1971, and the mansion was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. But over the next 40 years, wear-and-tear again took its toll on the residence. By 2015 the mansion; by now the third-oldest in the nation and the oldest in the Midwest; had again fallen into such a state of disrepair that it was barely inhabitable.

The Illinois Governor’s Mansion Association set out a goal to raise \$15 million for the almost total renovation of the mansion. After two years of extensive construction, the mansion has at last re-opened. Thanks to the work completed in this bicentennial year, the Governor’s Mansion will remain an important part of Illinois’ past, present and future. Discovery Partners Institute Unveiled

I thought a little history was in order as did the tour people in Springfield, on the Govenors Mansion. God Bless and may he protect you and yours till next time. Marion and Jean.



Governor William G. Stratton and his wife Shirley enjoy a walk on the grounds of the Governor’s Mansion in Springfield. Photo courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.



Illinois Governor’s Mansion July 2018



(left) Kathy Schmisser, (above) Ed True, (above left) Louise Johnston, (below) Fallon Fire Department



ot Guard Riders and helps set up and remove flag displays, hands out water to the adults in the flag line and participates in the flag line.

Our non-member Community Service awardee was Ed True. Ed has served as an alderman and on both school boards. He has won many awards in the Senior Olympics. Ed is heavily involved with Foreign Exchange Students making sure they get where they belong and then back home. In 2018 he had 80 students-40 coming and 40 going. One of the biggest jobs with this program is all the paperwork involved. He teaches business classes

Enterprise Grange of O’Fallon, IL, Recently Honored Community Service Volunteers.

Those honored were Kathie Schmisser as a Grange member who volunteered at the O’Fallon Township Rummage sale each month, sent birthday cards to female prisoners at Greenville Camp and all Enterprise Grange members, Sunday and Bible School teacher at her church and helped at funeral luncheons.

Louise Johnston was our Junior Grange honoree. Louise serves as acolyte at her church most Sundays and even serves at her Granny’s church when visiting. She helps with the yard work at church and bakes desserts to welcome new members or ones who have lost loved ones.

She was Vice President of her Quartrefoil 4-H Club. She is the youngest member of the East Patri-



at FloValley and Forest Park Colleges.

O’Fallon Fire Department was our 4th recipient. Since 1891 the O’Fallon Fire Department has been providing protection to the citizens of O’Fallon, Shiloh Valley, Caseyville and St. Clair Townships. In addition to the Fire Chief, they have 3 full time employees. The majority of the fire suppression and rescue services are provided by 45 highly trained and dedicated volunteers distributed across 4 stations throughout their 44 square mile district. Several of our Grangers

“Well Done, Good and Faithful Servants”

Randall “Randy” L Bunger
1948-2018
Big Thunder Grange

Chaplain’s Corner Charlotte Mehrtens

What a beautiful day we had here today in Southern Illinois. It’s 82 degree out and let me tell you we don’t get these kinds of days very often. After the HOT May, June, and most of July this makes you feel alive again. The weeds did take over during the hot weather and I need to get busy with the job, just keeping up with all my grass mowing which takes four to five hours depending on how fast it all grows, I was thinking I have not missed a week of mowing this summer even with the hot weather because the humidity has been so high.



Today I was blessed to be able to spend most of the day with my great grandson who is three years old, we went to the peach orchard and they had a little farm with animals and tractors and etc. not that we don’t have it here on the farm but there was just something different for him. As we are watching him play and the questions he asks I have to wonder where he has learned all of the things. He is smarter than I am, so I wonder what he will be by the time he starts school. He attended Vacation Bible School this year for the first time and as we went home each day he would sing his songs and tell me what he learned that day. Today while we were together he told me about Vacation Bible school again and that was two months ago. Don’t we wish that God would renew our souls like He does our small children? God has Blessed each and every one of us with talents many times we do not use them or share them the way God wants us to, have you shared your talents to make a better life for someone else, I sure hope so.

We pray for the people who lost their lives in the Duck Ride boat on Table Rock Lake. And the fires out West that has destroyed so much. May their family and friends find peace and comfort in God’s arms. To our own members who have sorrow in their life may you also find peace in His arms. So who share great joy our happiness follows you also.

Blessings, and whatsoever ye Do, Do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.

Colossians 3:23

Illinois State Grange Youth & State Overseer

Karie Blasingame

We are ever moving closer to State Session. I am looking for volunteers to open Session on Sunday morning. If you are willing and able, please let me know as soon as possible that you are in and I will assign you an office that you can begin to practice. If you have an office that you would like to try out, let me know and that may be the one I ask you to fill in for.

I have tickets for the National Grange GROW Club 50/50 Raffle. Tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5 or 12 for \$10. Please let me know if you would like some, otherwise bring your money to State Session I will be selling them there. Winner will be selected at National Session in November. I will let you know at State Session what the official prize(s) are, because I’m not sure.

There are some great new programs this year that everyone should be working on. In the Ag department we can make a fairy garden and Carol opened a succulent category. In the Lecturer’s Department Ethan has brought back a Grange banner contest for groups to work on together. There is also a display project that looks really interesting. Check out the website for the rules.

Mark your calendars today for next year’s Camping Weekend and Statewide State Grange Picnic. The Camping Weekend will be May 17th through the 19th

with the Picnic on the 18th. We will once again be at the KOA in Rochester, IL. We had such a great time last year! We are looking for more campers, This year all of our campers were from the Northern part of the State so I’m challenging the South to bring at least 3 families either in cabins, tents or a camper. Reservations can be made through me as soon as you know if you can attend. We are trying to eliminate purchasing extra spaces, so I will place the order for you when you give a deposit. The Deposit needs to be one night’s stay. Cabins are \$135 per night for Deluxe, \$80 per night for one with a bathroom, \$60 per night for a cabin without a bathroom. Tent sites with electric are \$43 per night. Pull-Through Camper sites are \$54 and Back in Sites are \$52. These prices are subject to change if the campground gives us a discount based on how many people attend. But these prices will work for the deposit. Please send in your deposit as soon as you know you can attend and we will reserve your spot for you. I will be asking Prairie Grange if they are willing to sponsor the camping weekend again. I will let you know what they say.

For anything that I have suggested getting a hold of me, my e-mail is kblasingame77@gmail.com, phone number 815-299-0313. If I don’t answer please leave a message as I am probably at work and I will get back to you as soon as I can. Look forward to seeing you at State Session or the State Grange Picnic or Camping weekend.

News from Flora Grange

By Lindakay F. Ebel

Members of Flora Grange #1762 did not hold a business meeting at the Grange hall in the month of July, however met at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Belvidere for a work night on Tuesday, July 10th.

Some members cleaned 25 plus picnic tables, others hung up food signs, still others worked in the kitchen doing various duties and Todd Hegge worked on trimming the bushes around the grounds.

Master Al Ebel, III and Jack Ratcliffe were working up in the bell tower of the School House. Al made a new bracket for the bell and together they hung the bell. (See picture)

Following working at the fairgrounds, members went to Culvers for treats and fellowship.

On July 12 and 13, many of our members helped make and serve breakfast and lunch for the Blackhawk Kennel Club at the fairgrounds. We also served dinner on Saturday evening to 50 plus people for their club.

Our next outing will be helping at the fairgrounds when Boone County Pomona Grange will hold their work night on Wednesday, July 25 for all the Grange members to come out and do a lot of last minute duties before the fair.

The dates of the Boone County Fair are Tuesday – Sunday, August 7 – 12th and Flora Grange will make and serve breakfast on Tuesday, the 7th and Saturday, the 11th and on Thursday, the 9th we will be serving

our delicious ham dinner. Many of our members also help at the gates, taking tickets and do various jobs around the grounds.

Our next Flora Grange regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 14, 7 pm at the Flora Grange Hall and the serving committee will be Marion and Jean Thornberry, Lonnn and Krista Buzzell and Lois Knox.

Flora grangers doing prep-work at the Boone County Fairgrounds



Todd Hegge trimming hedges



Deb and Myra washing picnic tables



Laural & Mary cleanin ... food stand



Al & Jack Repair School Bell



American Values.
Hometown Roots.