



Illinois Granger

Volume 103

February 2019

No. 1

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



Lynette Schaeffer President Illinois State Grange

Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms January 2019

Hope all of you celebrated Christmas and New Year in healthy and happy celebrations, with family, friends and Grangers. Best wishes to all of you for the New Year. The weather in southern IL right now is cold and WET. We had 12" of snow Jan 11-13, and are expecting more the next weekend. Really tired of dealing with mud when dealing with livestock. Walking anywhere requires boots, and winter clothing so that you can barely move.

Scholarship letters have been sent out and applications need to be requested from State Secretary and returned in a timely manner. Any Granger who is furthering their college education and has been a Granger for at least one year will qualify for applying for a scholarship.

Don and I will be traveling to Master's Conference in Wichita, KS February 14-17. Hosted by Kansas and Oklahoma State Granges. I look forward to learning new things, then sharing that with all the Grangers of IL.

Plans are being made for leadership training for anyone interested – March 9 will be South and March 16, 2019 will be North. It would be at least a 4 hour meeting (10:00AM– 2:00 PM). Please bring finger food to share during the meeting. The training session locations have not been completed yet. Karie and I will be working on the ideas. At this point we will be discussing everything I learn at the Master's Conference, Grange Hometown

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 7 – State Session Planning Meeting – Admin Bldg
Mar 1 – DEADLINE for Illinois State Grange Scholarship
Mar 2 – Turkey Hill Grange Trivia Night
Mar 9 – Emerald Mound Grange Family Movie Night
Mar 9 – LEADERSHIP TRAINING South
Mar 16 – LEADERSHIP TRAINING North
Mar 16 – Junior Day hosted by Flora Grange
Mar 16 – Beaver Valley Grange Trivia Night
VFW Hall – Loves Park 7PM
Mar 23 – Junior Day hosted by Hopewell Grange
Apr 7 – Flora Grange Roast Beef Dinner
Apr 7 – Turkey Hill Grange Chicken Dinner
Apr 13 – Prairie Grange Consignment Auction
May 18-20 – Grange Camping Adventure
May 19 – 3rd Annual Statewide Grange Picnic
May 21 – Emerald Mound Grange BBQ
Jun 18 – Emerald Mound Grange BBQ
Jul 16 – Emerald Mound Grange BBQ
July 23-28 – Grange Revival
Aug 6-11 – Boone County Fair
Sept 13-15 – Illinois State Grange Session – Belvidere
Nov 17 – Flora Grange Roast Beef Dinner
Please send me any important dates for your Grange.

Heroes for Grange Month, the NG Database, the 2019 National Grange Session, what IL needs help with, and anything else we believe will be needed are all possibilities. When details are finalized information will be shared via email, Facebook and USPS mail.. Any of the Committee Chairs/Directors or officers that would like to present something please let me know. This training session is open to all Grangers, please spread the word.

The Bonding letters have been distributed to Masters or Secretaries of each Grange via email or USPS mail. Please have information returned to Sheri ASAP.

The "G"-bills are being collected for the IL State Grange expenses for 2019 National Grange Session and "Lincoln's for National Grange Building" I hope many of you are collecting Pennies for National Grange Building Fund. It was pointed out that Lincoln is on a \$5 bill as well – so I hope that your Grange and Grangers are collecting money for the NG Building. Each Grange can collect pennies, or any change, or \$5 bills for the National Grange Building Fund, which we will collect until State Session next year. I hope each Grange considers donating direct to National Grange any denomination you like.

Boone County and Winnebago County Pomona Granges are making plans for September 13 - 15, 2019 at Boone County Fairgrounds, Belvidere, IL, 148th State Session. They are planning a tour of the Grange owned fairgrounds on Friday morning. Watch for more details.

Notice!!!! To County Deputies

I received the following message from State Master Lynette Schaeffer. She is asking that you attend each Grange in your area three (3) times a year and fill out and return to her the form for each meeting. In Boone and St. Clair counties where there are two deputies it will be up to the deputies how to handle this. "I want each Grange visited three times a year by the deputies."

If you did not receive the form, email me and I will forward it to you.

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Enterprise Grange Report

Arline Magee

Enterprise Grange of O’Fallon, as part of an ongoing community service project, once again coordinated efforts to supply all third grade students in our community with a dictionary.

The dictionary we presented to these students is “A Student’s Dictionary”. It has 540 pages of words with definitions, maps of the United States with each state highlighted and facts about that state, and information about the United States Declaration of Independence, our Constitution, and about all of our Presidents. It also includes maps of the seven continents, information about each country shown on the maps, facts about the eight planets, and weights and measures. Two of the favorite things are the alphabet in sign language and the longest word in the English

language. It is a very comprehensive dictionary that can be used for years by the students.

Over the past sixteen years, Enterprise Grange has given over 9848 dictionaries to the third graders in the O’Fallon area schools.

We delivered dictionaries to 616 students and teachers this year. A label was placed in the front of each dictionary with all the names of the individuals, businesses and organizations that contribute to this worthy cause.

Karen and Terry Reeves handing out dictionaries at Estelle Kampmeyer School.

Boone County Pomona Grange

Boone County Pomona Grange met on January 2 for a Soup and Chili dues paying supper. The food was provided by Flora Grange and as usual, it was fantastic. We had a very large attendance that evening. It was great.

The Boone County Fair Queen, Kayla Koeniczki, a Big Thunder Grange member gave us a preview of her speech for the State Fair Queen competition. We will be cheering her on in Springfield.

Beaver Valley Grange is hosting a Diaper Drive for the Belvidere Baby Bank. They have asked us all to participate through Pomona. Quite a few diapers and wipes were brought in. They will continue the drive through the March Pomona meeting. If you have not donated diapers, wipes or rash crème, you still have time. Let’s support their program. They have placed a playpen on the stage where you can leave your donations. Thank you in advance.

The Reed Schoolhouse is looking for Children’s Books. If you have any or know anyone who would like to donate some please contact Linda Mullins at 815-978-2580. They also need small toys (like McDonalds toys) for the grab bags they sell as a fundraiser for the building.

Our next State Session Planning meeting will be Feb 7, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Administration basement. Everyone is welcome. Bring your ideas.

Our next Pomona meeting is March 6. The serving committee will be County Line Grange.

December Flora Grange News

By Lindakay Ebel

Thirty-eight members attended and enjoyed the Flora Grange Christmas potluck and party on Tuesday, December 11th, 2018 at the Flora Grange Hall, including two special members, Mike Ratcliffe and Andy Fidler.

A delicious dinner was served by the committee, Laurel and Jack Ratcliffe, Tom Ratcliffe and Domenica Roehrborn, followed by Emalee Colver and her elves packing fruit, candy and cookie baskets for Grange shut-ins., including a male guest, who seemed to enjoy himself.

Program Chairman, Joan Fidler had a special program for all Grange members planned with a fun game which got them moving, followed by Donna West reading from the Book of Luke. Members then joined hands and sang Silent Night. A fun evening was had by all members.

Junior leader, Kathee Frazer told about the Juniors project decorating a window in downtown Belvidere again this year, and demonstrating rolling out pie crusts, while passers-byers watched. They also had a Christmas tree at Hometown Christmas and the tree was donated to a family along with some gifts.

January 2019 Flora Grange News

By Lindakay Ebel

Thirty-four Flora Grange members enjoyed a delicious potluck on Tuesday, January 8th, 2019, hosted by Albert and Lindakay Ebel with tables decorated with National and State Grange cookbooks with recipes from several United States Past Presidents, Past Vice Presidents and Past Senators and Past Senators wives, as well as from Past Grange National and State Officers and antique kitchen utensils.

Following the potluck, members moved upstairs and Master Ebel called the meeting to order, Pledge, Grange Salutation, followed by Program Chairman, Joan Fidler opening with a song, ‘It’s a Good Thing to be a Granger’.

Reports were given by committee chairman: Emalee Colver reporting that the Quilting group will be meeting Jan. 19, 20 & 21st and Feb. 16. 17 & 18th, weather permitting. Roger Miller, Agriculture, reported the FSDA offices are closed and Jack Ratcliffe reported the Farm Show is being held in DeKalb on Wed. & Thursday of this week. The Farmland protection will be holding a meeting this month, and all are invited to attend.

Lindakay Ebel, Membership Chair reported that last year Flora Grange was a part of Boone County Expo at the Belvidere Community Building, and several of us set up a display and promoted membership and she asked if we wanted to do so again this year. Motion was made we pay the fee of \$220 for the booth, set up the booth and promote membership for Boone County and the Boone County Fair on Saturday, February 2nd. Lindakay also stated membership is declining in the Grange and we all must work on getting new members.

Members of the fair board gave a report on what is happening at this time, and they will be attending the annual convention in several weeks in Springfield.

Treasurer Lindakay Ebel gave an annual financial report on both expenses and income, and profit of each of the fundraisers we had for the year, and balances in each of the accounts. A copy was given to each family. Laurel Ratcliffe read thank you notes from families that received Christmas trays from our Grange.

Secretary Laurel Ratcliffe read the letter that anyone interested in a scholarship has until March 1st to send in an application to the state secretary. We also discussed projects for the 2019 year, and we decided we would again do the 4-day Dog Show held in July and Applebee’s Flapjack, date to be decided later.

Junior Leader Sharon Fidler reported they made Valentine’s for the Keenager Center this evening and they discussed future projects. Program Chairman, Joan Fidler had a short, but fun program, ‘Then and Now’, which members enjoyed.

Only birthday celebrated this month was Barb Trevathan. Chaplain Donna West gave a closing prayer and Master Ebel closed the meeting.

Next meeting, Tuesday, February 12, 6:30 pm. Dues paying supper and regular meeting. Serving committee, Roger and Sharon Miller, Kathee Frazer, Kris and Scott.

News from Broad Hollow Grange

Carol Neff

Broad Hollow Grange’s first meeting of the new year took place on January 4th. Reports included that the Farm Bill has been signed due to nonpartisan efforts of Congress’ Ag. Chairman. Many new laws became effective Jan. 1st. Winter months are a good time to work on Family Activity Contest items

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

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and to plan entries for the Ag. Contests and Lecturer's Contests. Plates of cookies were donated to neighbors who are shut-ins. Neighborhood Watch program reported several area fields have tracks through them from vehicles driving through and tearing up the fields. Information was provided from the National Grange's Newsletter, "The Patron's Chain." Plans were discussed for having an Agriculture Night in March. For the program, members participated in "Two Resolutions and a Lie," Arlene Brandenburger told about "New Year's Around the World, the Lecturer had a poem "'Happy New Year to You," a candy bar dice game was played, with the program closing with a New Year's Wish. The hall was decorated with snowmen and members enjoyed refreshments and fellowship.

A Christmas potluck took place at the Grange's December meeting with the hall decorated for the season. The program consisted of Christmas carols by members, Arlene Brandenburger shared "Christmas Legends," Don Mueller had Christmas jokes, and members participated in a Christmas game. Members were reminded to save their dollar bills with a "G" on them, and Lincoln pennies will be collected to help host National Grange Session in Minnesota in Nov. Members were reminded of the St. Clair County Pomona Grange Christmas potluck and meeting hosted by Floraville Community Grange. Both trips to Branson were a huge success with everyone enjoying the various shows, meals, hotel, etc. Several notes were received about the good times they had and thanking the Grange for sponsoring the trip.

The Agriculture Committee reported 1/3 of corn produced in the U.S. had been bought by Mexico and Canada, and the new agreement will hit dairy and hogs the hardest. Corn and soybean exports to China have also been hurt. Information was shared on the State Grange contest items for vegetables, fruit, field crops, flowers, and antiques. Legislative reported the new Illinois Governor's Transition Team has been meeting with various groups. Reports are they are impressed with the team who are very interested in helping farmers and communities succeed and are listening to their concerns. Community Service reported the state project will be providing homeless teens and young adults, age 13-24, with clothing; such as, backpacks, jeans, etc., toiletries, non-perishable food items, and monetary donations for meals and to purchase other items. The project for Juniors, ages 5-14, for the State Ag. Contest is a farm safety poster and a miniature garden/fairy garden. The Youth (ages 14 on up), Young Adults, and Young Marrieds will be hosting the State Grange Picnic on May 28 near Springfield Lake with a family camping weekend, May 17-19.

At Broad Hollow Grange's November meeting members were informed about a scam involving buying plastic gift cards. Members were encouraged to get out and vote. Time change will take place this month. Carol Neff reported she attended the county meeting hosted by the Grange on opioid prevention. She also attended and gave a report on the Grange Information Workshop at Hopewell Grange in Oct. The new State Ag. Chairman and new Family Activities Chairman were announced. Communications were read from Floraville Community Grange for their Wurstmarkt and Emerald Mound Grange for their Quarter Auction and for their Magic Show. Members were concerned about not receiving their "Illinois Granger" in October. For the program, members had a turkey gobbling contest, a ghost story about the Mausoleum at Miles Cemetery on the bluffs, and played a pumpkin dice game.

Prairie Grange News

Prairie grange met on January 21, 2019 for our delicious Dues Paying Potluck Supper and an informal meeting. Committee reports were heard: Nifty Needles is meeting every Tuesday night from 6-9PM at the Fairgrounds Administration building weather permitting.

Several Juniors and other Prairie Grange members went shopping for groceries at Aldi's. They were then donated to the local Salvation Army. Juniors will be meeting on Friday Feb.1st to make Valentine cards for the veterans and other Grange Shut-ins.

For Community Service several members brought toiletry items and socks for the Just Breathe 815 which is a state project, as well as several packages of diapers were collected along with baby wipes for the Baby Bank project that Beaver Valley Grange is doing through Boone County Pomona Grange. Prairie Grange members will be collecting diapers, wipes and ointments for the February meeting as well as at the March Pomona meeting.

Plans are underway for the 2019 Boone County Fair already. Boone County had a big turnout at the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs Convention that was held this past weekend in Springfield.

Relay For Life - event date is Sat. June 1, 2019 at the Boone County Fairgrounds. Lots of volunteers are needed to help with the 5-K Race that is sponsored by Prairie Grange otherwise it will be scratched.

CONSIGNMENT AUCTION - is April 13, 2019. Set-up is April 11 & 12. Help is needed by everyone.

Ruth received a note from our oldest member Hazel Kanaly's daughter telling us that she loved to come to Grange meetings and hold her office but due to health reasons she is unable to attend but would love to hear from us. So please send her a card to the following address:

Hazel Kanaly
735 Buchanan St
Belvidere, IL 61008

Hazel we miss you too and we will keep you informed as to what is happening here at Grange.

Everyone was asked to bring your concerns and ideas you want to express to your legislators to the February 18th meeting. We will be writing Resolutions for State session so come prepared.

Since there was no more business the meeting was adjourned at 7:40PM.

Robin Kindberg
Publicity Chairman

County Line Grange News

Linda Mullins

We started the month of December with ringing bell for the Salvation Army at Shopko Dec.1st. Dec.5th we did Trim a Tree for a needy family at the Community Building. Our members had fun decorating the tree with the decorations they brought. The family also was given a food gift card from Aldi's, money and non-perishable items. Thanks to all who donated and helped. Dec.7th was Belvidere's Hometown Christmas. We sold food downstairs at the Community Building for those who were out enjoying all the Holiday activities. We also held our drawing during this evening for our Scholarship Meat Raffle. Winners were: Stephanie Magnuson \$250, Tracy Nolan \$150, Martha Fitch \$50, and Lowell Fitch \$50. Congratulations.

Our regular meeting was held Dec.12th. Committee reports were given and discussions were held about past and upcoming events. Our hosts were John and Carol Null and Doug and Kathy Loy. Thanks for the great food.

Dec.19th County Line members enjoyed a

Illinois Granger February, 2019 3
Wine Tasting party at a place we call «The Barn». This was a thank you to us for serving food at their annual BBQ. We had a great time.

We held our Grange Christmas party at Camp Grant Jan.5th. We toured the museum and enjoyed a delicious home cooked dinner. Afterwards we played a take away gift game. Everyone ended up with a gift. We had so much fun.

Jan.26th is our annual Chicken Dinner fundraiser at the VFW. We will be serving from 4 to 7. We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and has a very Happy New Year.

Turkey Hill Grange

Mardy Eisloeffel

Happy New Year to everyone! December was a busy month at our Grange hall with at least 12 different meetings or programs involving no less than 9 different groups on 11 different days, plus several days with members cleaning and repairing the facilities. We happily welcomed new members Ron and Chris Bersett, but we sadly draped our charter for 45-year member Joann Kern.

On December 8 the hall was filled for our Christmas party, which included entertainment by our troop of American Heritage Girls (one of our continuing community service projects), a visit from Santa, who had gifts for all the kids, fun activities like "Name that Christmas Tune," and plenty of food for all. Everyone was amazed at the new, brighter lights downstairs, provided via Ameren, our electricity provider, which replaced all our regular fluorescent tubes with new LED ones absolutely free! If you are an Ameren customer, you should see if they can do the same for you.

A snow storm moved our January dues-paying potluck meeting to the 18th, and the lure of good food ensured good attendance. Officers for 2019 were installed by Charles Treser, and Turkey Hill Grange was honored to receive a Distinguished Grange certificate for the 6th consecutive year. David Donley gets the credit for compiling the report which got THG this award. Mardy Eisloeffel, who has collected and studied clocks for over 50 years, brought some select specimens, one of which is over 190 (yes, 190!) years old, to illustrate his program outlining the evolution of American clocks in the 19th century.

Ongoing projects for the new year include recruiting new Grange members, increasing our community service, and figuring out exactly how to renovate our kitchen and dining room and where we will get buckets of money needed to make it all happen!

As you all undoubtedly know, food is one of the fundamental drivers of Grange functions, and our Food Handlers Courses will be held on February 18 and April 15. We need more certified members to help with the large number of meals we prepare and serve.

Speaking of food, our annual Chicken Dinner will be held on April 7, serving from 10:30 to 3:00. Come and join us for a great dinner that day!

Also, we are planning a fun fundraiser Trivia Night on March 2. This will be about the 12th (13th? 14th? I've lost track!) Trivia Night for THG, and it's always a nail biter to see which team knows more trivia. The fun begins at 7:00, and there will also be a silent auction (donations are welcome!) and Heads or Tails and 50-50 activities. And there will be food! You can bring your own, or you can purchase delicious food and beverages provided by THG. Admission is still only \$10 apiece, which is cheap considering all the fun you'll have and all the stuff you'll learn! Join us as we celebrate the end of winter and cross our fingers that it doesn't snow!



Beaver Valley Grange News

Beaver Valley Grange met on January 11, 2019 with 9 members in attendance. This was Beaver Valley Grange's dues paying night. It was decided our April 12th meeting would be held at the Administration Bldg. While we were at it we made a decision to move our August 9th meeting and combine it with our September meeting to August 23rd meeting due to the Boone County Fair going on. One more, our October 11th meeting will be held at the Administration Bldg.

Reminder that the State Grange Scholarship applications are due March 1st. Community Service hours were turned in. Secretary presented to Tina Messimer a letter from the National Grange along with a participation ribbon and pin for her quilt entry. See photo.

Reports were presented on Fairboard, thank you to Susie for having us at her home for the December Christmas party and meeting. Next meeting for the State Session Planning is February 7th at 6:30 in the Administration Bldg. It was reported that the delivery was made to the Salvation Army for our "Christmas Family". Beaver Valley will continue to do backpacks for the Kirkland school this year.

Beaver Valley Grange fundraiser has pens for sale for \$5.00. They have a stylus, pen, and a light. Quilt of Valor project is being planned. Also being planned is our Trivia Night. MARK YOUR CALENDARS! March 16, 2019, a Saturday, at the VFW Hall in Loves Park from 7 pm to 11 pm. More information on this to follow.

Birthdays included Cullen Christensen on January 26th, Amy Herstek on February 4th and Donald Paulson Jr on February 6th.

Dayle Paulson, Publicity

Family Activities Update

Jennifer Tobin-Tinch
sportzfan215@yahoo.com 815-978-1053

Greeting's from the cold, snowy north! I pray this finds everyone doing well in the terrible cold! I hope that you have started making projects and setting them aside to enter in September! I really would like to see projects from everyone, young and old alike! Please be remembering to sell FAC raffle tickets at your meetings. Please let me know if you need the contests, entry forms, or raffle ticket sheet sent to you. Stay warm and keep making projects!!

News from Troy Grove Grange

Ethel Bauer

Troy Grove Grange met December 20, 2018, at 6 PM at Ziggy's for their Christmas meeting. 8 sisters and 2 brothers were present.

Family Activities Chairman Joan Dennison reported the group met and stuffed 22 toys that will be given to students at Lighted Way.

Community Service Chairman Ethel Bauer reported 20 lap robes were delivered to Vitas and 22 toys and treats were delivered to Lighted Way.

Agriculture Chairman Jim Weber reported the Farm Bill has passed. Harvest has been completed. Yields varied by area. Prices have been affected by increased interest rates and tariffs.

Janet Plote reported on the GRIT meeting and passed out packets. This Grange will continue to collect "G" bills for the National Grange Building repairs. Boone County Fairgrounds will be the

site of Grange State Session next year. National Session will be in Minnesota. A Leadership Training is being planned. Also planning for the State Grange's 150th anniversary is underway.

Grange has joined a partnership with several other organizations to fight Opioid addiction.

Janet Plote reported on her trip to this year's National Grange Session held in Vermont. She attended meetings and events. Janet's Mother was in a group of 17 Grangers honored as having 5 or more generations of Grange members.

Jim Weber was asked to contact Grassers to do a furnace check on both furnaces.

The next meeting of Troy Grove Grange will be January 17, 2019 at 7 PM at the Hall.

(at right) Young attendees to Belvidere Home Town Christmas celebration were surprised to learn that pies may come from the store now, but real people actually make them! Flora Juniors showed them how it is done the old fashioned way. We appeared in the same window as in the past 14 years even though the building houses a different business.

Prairie Junior Grange

Jennifer Tobin-Tinch

Prairie Juniors were very busy in December with bell ringing and shopping for the Christmas distribution for the Salvation Army, our cookie drive for Vets, and the Hometown Christmas parade. In January we had a New Year's party at Boone County Community Grange Hall! We had pizza and popcorn with M&M's while we watched a movie projected onto the wall!!

On February 1 we will be making Valentine's cards that will be sent out to the more senior members of our Grange. Have a blessed February everyone!





Leaf River Grange

(above) Leaf River Grange members recently presented dictionaries to third grade students at Polo school. Presenting were Clifford and Myra Craven, Christine Printz and Mary Jane Zipse.
(below) Members recently presented dictionaries to third grade students at Forreston school. Presenting were Wendell and Delores Poppen and Mary Jane Zipse.



Legislative Report

As stated in the last issue of the Illinois Granger, here is the Illinois State Grange policies on Conservation and Energy. If some have been omitted, please send me an email at DLDONLEY@AOL.COM

Conservation and Energy Legislative Policy Policy Statement

The Illinois State Grange and its members believe that stewardship of nature, conservation and wild life is of vital importance to farm and home in rural and urban areas. Clean air, water and the preservation of the environment are necessary to life a full and healthful life.

A balance between preserving farmland and urban development is necessary to promote ‘sensible’ community growth in Illinois. Urban development is needed to create jobs for the economy and provide housing. At the same time, farmland, resource-rich areas, open space, wildlife habitat and the scenic beauty of the Illinois landscape are rapidly diminishing and once it is developed, it is never returned to its original use. By working together, a well-planned development can promote a strong and diverse economy, an efficient transportation system, expand housing options and preserve farmland and the environment.

Preservation and care of our natural resources is everyone’s responsibility from companies to farmers to individuals. Illinois has many wonderful natural resources that are enjoyed by many and the Illinois State Grange supports legislation that protects them and encourages everyone to do their part to keep Illinois beautiful.

Energy has become an integral part of everyone’s life from turning on a light to driving a personal vehicle to the exploration of space. A reliable supply of energy needs to be generated at a reasonable cost and with as little pollution to the environment as possible. Also, energy needs to be used wisely and not wastefully. The Illinois State Grange supports legislation that requires energy to be produced as cleanly and safely as possible. The Illinois Stage Grange also promotes the use of alternate fuels whenever possible, especially fuels generated from agricultural products.

Illinois State Grange Supports

1. Funding of some kind from the Illinois State Legislation to preserve farmland, such as implementing a tax on grants obtainable by groups who are reserving farmland by purchasing development rights.
2. Legislation that would require people to use alternative methods to dispose of leaves, such as composting or mulching. The Illinois State Grange also urges communities to become responsible for their own leaf disposal and assist their residents by using “Billy Goat” vacuum or similar equipment to pick up people’s leaves.
3. Legislation that ensures the private land owner’s rights to have a say in what happens to their land.
4. Legislation that would require a deposit return system for recyclable materials and that non-biodegradable containers be made of recyclable materials to help reduce the amount of litter and trash.
5. The use of iron gates or grates to secure entrances to caves to prevent people from entering the caves but allowing bats access.
6. Encouraging all coal-burning power plants built before the Clean Air Act was introduced to upgrade to meet the Clean Air Act Standards.
7. Members to contact their legislators and the President of the United States and voice their opposition to the EPA’s (US - Environmental Protection Agency) changes to the definition of waters of the United States.
8. The Grange to lobby the IL legislature to include solar farms in the IL Dept of Ag Mitigation Statute
9. That the new regulations should be allowed to take effect, and that the Illinois State Grange should evaluate the environmental impacts of fracking in the next few years
10. Request the Corps of Engineers to restudy flood control management.”Cooperating with

USDA’s push to plant cover crops and to use energy efficient light bulbs, appliances and fixtures, and study the practice of fracking for natural gas to make sure the existing water supplies are not contaminated.

11. Encouraging farmers and other landowners to protect and increase pollinator habitat on their land and to work with State and federal agencies in Illinois to increase pollinator habitat along highways, and on public lands.

Agriculture Report The New Farm Bill – A Food Security Program

By *Albert Q. Ebel,*
ISG Ag Chairman

The 2018 Farm Bill is not just for farmers, it is for urban, suburban and rural America. About every four to five years, a new Farm Bill is adopted. Most think it is primarily for farmers, but in all actuality, it impacts more than just 2 percent of the farm population. The Farm Bill affects food and nutrition, conservation, trade, jobs and infrastructure, agricultural research, forestry and energy.

The Farm Bill provides credit for beginning farmers to get started. It protects against farm losses due to natural disasters through disaster assistance and crop insurance. It provides a cushion for the individual farmer if her or she suffers a poor yield or low prices, through a series of farm payment programs tied to specific commodities.

Agricultural trade is critically important to

the bottom line of U.S. farmers. More than 20 percent of all U.S. agricultural production is exports. Ag exports account for about one-third of farm income.

The Farm Bill authorizes market access promotion and export credit guarantee programs that are key for promoting exports and generating farm income from exports

Rural America provides a stable and secure supply food for our nation. On average, Americans spend less than 10 percent of their income on food.

The Farm Bill is also a nutrition bill. It funds the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, our country’s major program that helps low income individuals and families afford a healthy diet. More than 76% of the new Farm Bill spending is projected to go toward nutrition programs.

Only 15 percent of American’s population lives in rural areas. The Farm Bill helps make it possible for people who want to farm to stay on the land by funding supporting jobs that provide a second income. It also provides resources to improve the quality of life in rural places. In the last 9 years, programs authorized through the Farm Bill have helped over 1.2 million families obtain home loans, provided 6 million rural residents with access to improved broadband service, enabled 791,000 workers to find jobs and improved drinking water systems that serve 19.5 million Americans.

Farmers, with the assistance of the Farm Bill, can improve soil quality and preserve habitat for wildlife. The bill funds voluntary conservation programs that currently are helping more that 500,000 farmers conserve soil and improve air and water quality, actions that benefit all Americans.

Most people are unaware of the Farm Bill’s importance because they think it impacts only the



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farmers. The Farm Bill benefits ALL Americans.

The Farm Bill is important to agriculture for these reasons:

(1) Net farm income has dropped over 50% from four years ago, the largest four-year percentage decrease since the Great Depression.

(2) Many farmers are relying on capital reserves while many others including beginning farmers, have already depleted reserves.

(3) Based on averages, one-in-ten farmers is either highly or extremely highly leveraged.

(4) Export markets have been impacted by U.S. trade policy.

Farmers are at the mercy of a lot of forces they cannot control; weather, trade or world pricing, and diseases. The 2018 Farm Bill made several improvements with crop insurance, subsidies and other programs to ensure farmers can keep farming, even in the lean years. Also, the farm program ensures an adequate food supply.

Lecturer's Column, December 2018

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, the record-breaking cold temperatures will be past. One benefit of our change of seasons is that nothing lasts too long. I found it comforting to receive two seed catalogs on the day of our coldest temperatures here in Shiloh Valley.

While September and our State Session seems far away, I have received final information from National Lecturer, Chris Hamp, regarding the National Lecturer's programs for 2019, so you can begin thinking about your own entries for these contests at our State Session.

There are no changes to the Evening of Excellence or Photography Showcase competitions.

Photography Showcase

Each state can submit one (1) best of show entry in an adult division. Photo should be 8"x11" or 8"x12" and mounted on a firm backing, but without glass. Photo can be of any subject matter, but must be deemed appropriate for exhibition. All participants will receive a participation ribbon. Rosette ribbons and cash prizes will be awarded for the top three entries: \$50 (first place), \$30 (second place), and \$20 (third place).

Evening of Excellence

The Evening of Excellence will be on Friday, November 8, 2019 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, MN. Vocal, instrumental, and variety acts, as well as public speeches and sign-a-song entries will be judged by the audience using a live-voting app. Winning acts in each category will receive \$100, a certificate, and a ribbon. All acts will be held to a 5:00 minute time limit.

Quilt Block Contest

The annual quilt block contest is largely unchanged, except for this year's chosen pattern. The contest is open to everyone, with adult and junior divisions. All entries will be retained by the National Grange to be made into finished quilts and other items to be sold for the benefit of the Grange Foundation.

The 2019 contest pattern is Pride of Quillisascut (based on the disappearing Nine Patch, also called Split Nine Patch).

F a b r i c : Three fabrics. The key to this block is that there is good contrast between all three fabrics.

Fabric A should be a medium to dark print. Fabric B should be significantly lighter than fabric A. Fabric C should be BRIGHT! Not a pastel bright, but a strong BRIGHT!

All fabric used should be cotton. Constructing the Quilt Block:

Cut all pieces to 4-1/2 inch x 4-1/2 inch square. Fabric A: Cut four. Fabric B: Cut four. Fabric C: Cut one.

Use a 1/4 inch seam allowance. Sew into three

rows: ABA, BCB, ABA. Sew the rows together into a single block. At this point the block should measure 12-1/2 inches x 12-1/2 inches.

Cut the block into four equal pieces through the middle. Rotate two blocks. Sew the block back together using a 1/4 inch seam allowance. Now the block should measure 12 inches x 12 inches. Press all seams. Clip and remove all threads.



Note: Special recognition and thanks to the Quillisascut Quilters of Quillisascut Grange #372 in rural, northeast Washington state for taking on the challenge of selecting the block for the 2019 National Grange Quilt Block Contest by virtue of one of their members, Joan Roberson, winning the 2017 contest. Fantastic work!

State Photography Contest Categories

You may remember that I did not announce photography categories earlier, wanting to make sure that there was no accidental conflict in the specifications. Since there are no categories for the national showcase, any photo entered in a state category will be eligible, (provided it is 8x10 or 8x12). State entries can be between 5x7 and 8x12.

The state photography contest is in the same 4 age brackets as the other contests: Adult, Junior 5-7, Junior 8-10, and Junior 11-14.

There are four categories:

1. Nature. Capture the beauty and diversity of the natural world around us, of plants, animals, and environment.

2. Industry. Create an image of the result of work, industry, or other manufactured environment...this can celebrate any kind of product of man's making (that isn't natural).

3. Heritage. Celebrate the continuing generations and traditions that form the fabric of American life...this might include family activities or traditions or items of general historical or cultural significance.

4. Water Towers. This is a category borrowed from the Michigan State Grange as suggested to me by Lynette. We find water towers of great variety all around us...towns and villages, cities, colleges, skyscrapers, factories, etc. Capture a striking image of any kind of water tower you might locate. I was in Chicago last week and snapped a shot of the Chicago Water Tower, not as an entry, but as inspiration to look for subject matter anywhere.

Photos will be judged based on technical merit and artistic impression.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me at ethanaedwards@mac.com.

Fraternally yours,

Ethan Edwards, Lecturer, Illinois State Grange

Membership

By Illinois State Grange

Membership Chair

Lindakay Ebel

Here we are in the month of January already! Have you recruited a new member yet this year? Has your Grange gained in membership?

We all know that we are getting older each year (believe me, I sure know it), and our Granges are losing members due to death, and sometimes members even decide to drop out when they reach a certain age, just because they feel they can no longer help on fundraisers and other projects as they once did. Please discourage them of dropping out, they served their time of working hard for their Grange, explain that to them. Let them know they are still important to your Grange, and you want them to be a part of the Grange, even if they no longer can help with those big fundraisers, they can cheer you on, sometimes that is all one needs to get you through the day of that big fundraiser!!

In our Flora Grange we have a member that turned 100 years young last September 1st. She was very active through the years, she and her husband served just about every office in the Grange and they worked hard on the fundraisers. He passed away years ago, but she remained a Grange member, just because she believed in the Grange and she loved the Grange and it meant so much to her. If you go in her home today, she has so many certificates and awards setting around they received, and she is so proud of each one of them. Just last year, she recruited two new members into our Grange, why? Because she believes in the Grange. So, when some older member of your Grange tells you they no longer can help, remove their name, do not let that happen, tell them how valuable they are, how they have built up and helped your Grange through the years.

Just remember, in the Grange, everyone is needed, everyone is valuable, young and old.

Illinois Granger Donations

Donations continue to come in for this years Illinois Granger. I received \$40 for John and Pat Henninger and Al and Darlene Henninger. Then I received \$30 for Kenneth and Barbara Joseph and Angela Kurburski. Angela now lives in Michigan but still enjoys the Illinois Grange news. Thank you!!!

Donations can be sent to me at: 8711 Deer Run Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008.

Ruth Blasingame Editor



*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*



Do You Save Your “G” Bills?

G Bills collected this year will be used to help defray Illinois’ share of hosting National Grange Convention November 5-9, 2019 at Bloomington, MN. There are 7 states sharing in the hosting responsibilities this year.

PLEASE get your Grange behind this fund raiser. We NEED your support! It is SO SIMPLE!!!! You don’t have to make salads or desserts or whatever, or work several hours at a meal function or a sale or a craft show sponsored by your Grange to raise funds. All you have to do is save your G Bills!

It can be a really fun project for your members. Come up with a game or a contest to get your members involved. 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 fundraising project for 2019 National Grange Convention.

While you’re thinking about it, why not start making plans to attend this year. It’s within driving distance. Join the fun! Doesn’t matter if this will be your first trip to National or your 25th. Come make new friends from across the nation and renew old friendships.

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

Lindakay and Albert Ebel representing Flora Grange presented \$788.00 in “G” Bills collected and saved by members of Flora Grange.

State Grange Treasurer Kevin Joseph shows off the bucket of “G” Bills presented at State Grange Session while he holds the beautiful bouquet of 32 flowers made from “G” Bills by Melinda Schiefer and presented on behalf of Emerald Mound Grange.

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servants

Obituaries

Kern, Joann, 1940 – 2018 Turkey Hill Grange
Bossler, Marian M., 1928 – 2018 Shiloh Valley Grange
Please submit your obituaries for mention in the paper.

Chaplain’s Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

As we finish this first month of the year many of us have endured the cold, snow and rain. What have you been doing on those days, staying busy with projects you have been putting off doing or have you been wrapped in a nice warm blanket cuddling with a good book. Many times we just do not take the time to enjoy peace and quiet as our Lord would like for us to do. I was able to do some of that this winter since I

have decided to enjoy the beauty that God puts before us. The one snow we had my granddaughter and great grandson were here and played in the snow and also made snow angels, what a delight to see them open their mouth to catch the large snowflakes and remember that each one of those snowflakes is different, not one the same. That is just the way we are, God has made each one of us different and just as He has made each snowflake different so are we.

The month of February is the second and shortest month of the year, its birthstone is Amethyst and the Birth Flower is the Violet. February is known for the Super Bowl, Valentine’s Day, many roses are also sold during the month, and World Cancer day on February 4th. Did you know that on February 2 there is a Christian Holiday that is called Candlemas it celebrates three occasions according to Christian belief: the presentation of the child Jesus, Jesus first entry into the temple, and it celebrates the Virgin Mary’s purification (mainly in the Catholic Church).

We pray for those who are ill, who have lost loved ones, going through changes in their lives and yes we must pray for peace in our COUNTRY that we can live as Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Let us share our love with others and show them we care. In peace and love until next month may God wrap His arms around you and keep.



New Grange Radio Show for 2019

JUNIORS PACK YOUR PASSPORTS



**New Episodes
debut each month
on the second
Saturday
at 2 p.m. ET**

**Reruns are aired
weekly at 6:30
p.m. ET on Sunday
and 10:30 a.m. ET
Saturday**

