



Volume 103

Dec 2019

No. 10

Illinois Granger

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

Calendar Of Events

Feb 22 – Spring Fling North

Feb 29 – Turkey Hill – Leap Year Trivia Doors open 6:15

Mar 7 – County Line/Leroy 4-H Spaghetti dinner – New location First Baptist Church

Mar 7-11 -Youth/Junior Grange DC Experience

Mar 14 – Turkey Hill - Pancake and Sausage Brunch 9-1

Mar 29 – Turkey Hill - Chicken Dinner & Book Fair 10:30-3:30

April 11 – Prairie Grange Consignment Auction

April 18 – State Junior Day – Boone County Pomona host

April 25 – Spring Fling South

May 7-10 – Flora Grange presents the Traveling Vietnam Wall at the Boone County Fairgrounds Park

May 29-31 – Grange Campout

May 30 – State Grange Picnic

June 26-28 – Midwestern Leadership Conference – Illinois Hosts

**July 15 – DEADLINE for Community Service Granger/Non
Granger/Junior/Firefighter/Teacher/Police**

July 25 – Youth Wine/ Brewery Tour North – Must be 21+

Aug 9 – Turkey Hill Ham and Peach Dinner 10:30-3:30

Aug 11-16 – Boone County Fair

Sept 11-13 – Illinois State Session – Springfield Illinois

Oct 25 – Turkey Hill – Wurstmarkt Dinner 10:30-3:30

2021

July 20-25 – Grange Revival - Sturgis, SD

Please send me any important dates, obituaries, donations for your Grange.

Ruth Blasingame

illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com

815-299-7884

8711 Deer Run Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008-905



Lynette Schaeffer President Illinois State Grange

Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

As I write this article sitting on the couch with under a blanket – it is cold outside. The sun was shining and there were snow flurries. I have recently attended two Enterprise Grange services at funeral homes. Mary Stewart was a long-time member and always very active, she was chair of hospitality committee when St Clair hosted state sessions. “Hermie” Hermanson was an active member and a support for past Community Service director Dee Hermanson.

The dates have been set for the Leadership Conferences, March 7th at 10:00 am at Turkey Hill Grange Hall, 1375E State Route 15, Belleville, IL 62220, and March 8th 10:00 am at Boone County Community Grange Hall. 8791 IL Route 76, Belvidere, IL 61008. Presentations at 10:00 AM -2:30 PM. Potlucks Start at 11:30 am. Informational Presentations / Workshops by: Junior & Youth Directors, Lecturer, Master, Secretary. I am extremely pleased to announce that we will have a SPECIAL Guest Presenter – Amanda Brozona-Rios, National Grange Communications Director. She will be discussing “Get the Word Out”.

All Grange Members are Invited!

Master's Conference will be February 14-16 in Westminster, Maryland. Don and I will be there, and I hope the weather cooperates for travel. Hopefully we will learn lots and have a good time visiting with Granger Masters and

Leaders from across the country. I can't wait to share it all with you at the above-mentioned Leadership Conference.

Hopefully all the Subordinate Granges have completed the electronic filling of the 990n. If you need assistance for completing the form online contact Robin, Karie or myself.

The IL State Grange Scholarships are available from Robin Kindberg, Secretary. Robin Kindberg, 12971 Olson Road, Caledonia IL 61011. All Grangers who have been a Granger for at least one year and are attending school are eligible for a scholarship. The completed

scholarship applications need to be returned to Robin on March 13. Applicant must furnish one essay, “How has the Grange affected you?” and recommendation letters.

Hope the Granges and Grangers have started working on all the programs and contests.

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News From Hopewell Grange

By Janice David

As we start 2020 Hopewell would typically have a quiet month, but not so for this January. Our Secretary, Carrie Fisher, and others carried out a very successful fundraiser at the Peoria Pizza Ranch. Younger members did the physical work, and other members lent their support by eating pizza and leaving generous tips. Thank you to all who participated in the event.

On January 13 in lieu of a regular meeting, Hopewell provided a thank-you meal to all workers and their families who helped replace the upstairs ceiling and make other repairs that allowed us to host our annual pancake and sausage supper. Several local businesses were generous with support for our meal, and it was enjoyed by all attending.

We look forward to enjoying another meal at the hall on February 10 as that will be our dues-paying meeting where we enjoy chili and extras. Also next month on February 29 we have planned an excursion to Barn III in Goodfield, Illinois, to see a great comedy production at the dinner theater.

Let us hope that the rest of our winter is as mild as what we have seen so far!

Broad Hollow Grange

Broad Hollow Grange met at a local restaurant in December to celebrate the holiday season. The Nov. 19-21 Branson trip was enjoyed by all with lots of great entertainment and food getting everyone in the holiday mood. A 4-day trip is planned for Oct. 20-23, 2020 to Branson, Eureka Springs, and Dogwood Canyon. Broad Hollow Grange members have provided 2,280 dictionaries to students in the New Athens and Freeburg schools. Grange members age 80 and over received a gift from our Grange. Cookies were provided to elderly neighbors.

Agriculture reported on the new regulations for hemp, on agricultural research funding, Bi-Partisan Workforce Modernization Act, new farmers getting into the business, and wet conditions has really delayed harvest this year. Information was provided on the National Grange Fly-In which will be in conjunction with the primary this year and participants will have a chance to work with their favorite candidate. The National Grange is supporting Fair Health Care. The program included funny readings and fun activities in Branson. Refreshments were enjoyed after the meeting and program.

The National Grange Session was held November 4th through the 9th with Carol Neff attending from Broad Hollow Grange. She worked at the Registration Desk two days for several hours and helped judge the Juniors, 6-14 Storytelling, Sign-A-Song, and Public Speaking entries. On Thursday she joined participants and spent a day at the Oliver Hudson Kelley Farm. The 1850's farm has recently added a section on the comparison of modern-day farming. They saw a film, displays, saw a demonstration in the kitchen making gingerbread and molasses. Visited the modern day and 1850's working animals--oxen, work horses, pigs, and sheep, saw two demonstrations on making 1850's items; such as, rhubarb vinegar, fruit compote, and toured the cellar where many items were stored for the winter. While at National Session, she attended part of the session; workshops on membership, community service, and lecturer's programs; the Talent Contest, 7th Degree, and the Grange Celebration Banquet and program. Before returning home, an afternoon was spent visiting the Mall of America's Aquarium and "Soar Over America."

The January meeting was not able to be held due to weather conditions. The Grange members are working on a Watkins Fundraiser.

Boone County Pomona Grange January Meeting

January 1, 2020 found several members of the Boone County Pomona Grange gathered for our annual Dues Paying Soup Supper where we enjoyed several different delicious soups.

Afterwards an informal meeting was called to order by Master Ruth Blasingame at 7:00PM

We were entertained by the Boone County Fair Queen who gave her speech she will be doing at the Fair Convention the middle of January.

Ruth reminded us of important dates:

March 4 – Boone County Pomona Meeting at 7:00PM

February 22 – Spring Fling at the Community Grange hall

April 18 – State Junior Day

Subordinate Grange reports were given:
FLORA– They will be hosting the Rolling Vietnam Memorial Wall from May 7-10 and volunteers will be needed to help greet people and to Guard the Wall 24-7 for those days as well as set up and tear down. Donations are also welcomed.

BIG THUNDER – They are having a Pancake Breakfast on March 21,2020 at Applebee's.

BEAVER VALLEY – Reminded everyone to bring in donations to the next Pomona meeting for the Haven Network. Go to Amazon/Havennetwork to find the full list of items needed.

COUNTY LINE – March 7, 2020 will be their Spaghetti Supper to support the local 4'ers at the 1st Baptist Church Corner of Appleton and Jackson in Belvidere. Note new location.

PRAIRIE – reported the Juniors will be having a New Year's Bash on January 10th at the

Administration building.

Also mark your calendars Prairie Consignment Auction will be April 11, 2020.

Boone County Pomona was asked to host the memorial service and luncheon on Saturday January 11, 2020 for grounds crew member Max Johnson who passed away. Meat will be provided. Help will be need. Contact Jenn Tobin-Tinch if can help.

Master Ruth Blasingame closed the meeting at 8:00PM and wished everyone a happy new year.

Karrie Kindberg
Publicity Chairman

Troy Grove Grange

Troy Grove Grange met December 19, 2019 at 6:00 at Ziggie's for the Christmas meeting. 7 sisters and 2 brothers were present.

Community Service Chairman Ethel Bauer reported that lap robes were delivered to VITAS and Christmas treats and toys were delivered to Lighted Way. Jim Weber reported that our donation to Mendota Christian Food Pantry had been delivered.

Agriculture Chairman Jim Weber reported that most harvesting has been completed in this area. The fields remain very wet.

Legislative Chairman Roy Plote reported on a recent County meeting he recently attended. Interestingly, in 1974 soybeans climbed from \$1.99 per bushel and have stayed above that since. Since much corn planting took place after June 5 yields have been affected. Many farmers traded in purchased corn seed for faster yield varieties. Some treated seed turned in may develop problems.

In Grange business, Sue Ladson made a motion to pay bills. Joan Dennison seconded. Members voted yes.

Janet Plote reported that she and her mother had attended National Grange. Highlights included the presentation of Quilts of Valor and the announcement that our candidate for Grange Police Officer of the year, Mark Dallas, was selected as the winner. Janet and her Mom toured the Oliver Kelley farm. Mr. Kelley is one of the Grange founders. Janet highly recommended visiting the farm if any of us go to the area.

The next meeting of Troy Grove Grange will be January 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Hall.

What's Happening at Turkey Hill Grange?

Turkey Hill members began the New Year with a delightful dues-paying potluck. The evening featured a program by Nick Birsa, "Teatime in Taiwan," about his experiences in agriculture and life as an International Farm Youth Exchange delegate in Taiwan. Members are looking forward to a Pampered Chef party in January and a Valentine decorated cookie contest at our February 14 meeting.

Our Membership Committee is planning a special Leap Year Trivia Party fundraiser for February 29 with a silent auction. Doors open at 6:15. The event will also feature free Ella and Ollie popcorn, locally grown. Come visit us!

Sunday, March 29 is the famous Turkey Hill Chicken dinner, serving 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. We hope to raise funds for our many repair projects including tuck-pointing, waterproofing, furnace, and kitchen.

We were happy to be one of only 32 Granges in the nation to be recognized as a Distinguished Grange at the National Grange Convention this past year thanks to the diligence of Dave Donley.

Our Junior Grangers are busy visiting members in retirement homes, going on field trips, and working on their projects.

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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
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Please send all news and
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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

January 2020 Flora Grange News

By *Lindakay Ebel*

Thirty-four Flora Grange members enjoyed a delicious potluck on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, hosted by Albert and Lindakay Ebel and Cathy Homan, with the help of Deb Silvers and Myrna Hodgson and tables decorated with Grange Membership forms and Grange pencils.

Following the potluck, members moved upstairs and Master Ebel called the meeting to order, Pledge, Grange Salutation and two new membership applications were approved, John and Theresa Eucker and Jack Ratcliffe inducted the new members, and they were welcomed into Flora Grange by all Grange members in attendance.

Reports were given: Family Activities Chairman Deb Silvers had the new Family Activities ISG committee contest sheets entries for 2020 and told about several other local workshops being held locally. Emalee Colver reported Quilting will be held at Flora Grange hall the weekend of January 18 & 19 and February 15, 16 & 17, weather permitting. All are invited.

Bob Scherer, Agriculture, reported it was an interesting year for the farmers, however, in the long run, things ended up working out alright for most of them, most of the crops turned out okay and all the crops have been harvested. Emalee Colver, Farmland Protection, reported the annual meeting will be held on March 12th and all are invited to attend. Jack Ratcliffe, Building and Grounds, reported a new furnace was installed in December, Laurel has done a lot of work at the hall this fall, and we will need another tank of propane soon.

Membership chairman Lindakay Ebel reported our membership year is half over, and we all need to get out and recruit new members. Many people seem to think Grange is just for rural people, and this is not true, over half of our membership today are not farmers. She thanked those members who have recruited new members already this year.

Fabienne Calabrese, Health & Education stated many people today do not like to have poinsettia plants in their homes for the holidays, especially if they have pets, for fear if a pet would eat a leaf or petal they would die. Studies have shown this is not true, with pets or small children. Jack Ratcliffe reported fair board members will be attending the IAAF Fair Convention in Springfield, IL, January 16-19th. Bob Scherer reported our Sr. Girl may have a good chance winning the talent as she was asked to sing the Star-Spangled Banner at a recent game. Jack also reported under Deaf Activities, there are places you can go to get an exam and hearing aids that are not as expensive as they used to be. You do not need to spend \$6,000 as you once had to.

Laurel Ratcliffe communications, read many thank you cards from the Christmas trays that were taken to shut-ins, elderly and ill members. Lindakay Ebel, treasurer, gave the financial report and had a written report for each member for the year 2019 with balances in each account. Bills were presented and voted on.

Emalee Colver gave an update to those in attendance on The Wall That Heals and had a sign-up sheet to work, May 7 – 10th. She stated she would also need people to help set-up and take down the wall on May 5 and the 10th. Brochures are being made as we speak to be put in business, schools, etc.

Secretary Laurel Ratcliffe read the letter from ISG 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 2020 year and will discuss at the February meeting further.

Junior Leader Sharon Fidler reported the Juniors made Valentines this evening and also made a board showing the location of each Grange office and are learning each of the

officer's title and their duties. Youth Advisor Fabienne Calabrese talked about the youth have a game night at Grange Hall

"G" bills (58) were collected, Program chair, Joan Fidler had a short program, birthdays for the month included Barb Trevathon and new member John Eucker. Master Ebel closed the meeting.

Next meeting, Tuesday, February 11th, 2020 , 6:30 pm, Dues paying Potluck Supper and regular meeting. Hostesses are Kathee Frazer, Kris and Scott, Vince and Lydia Mellilo and Deb Silvers.

Prairie Grange News

Prairie Grange took in 9 new members at their January dues paying potluck. Four new adults and five new teenagers!!! There is also a future Junior as one couple has a young baby. We talked about the Concession trailer we are buying for the Boone County Youth Fairboard. Our members discussed a raffle fundraiser for the Fair. We are gearing up for our consignment auction in April.

Beaver Valley Grange

Beaver Valley Grange met at the home of Steve & Dayle Paulson at 7:00 pm and this was our Dues Paying meeting.

Community Service project was discussed for the next Pomona community See below for information on The Haven Network. They would love to receive the Kleenex packages, the little ones that can be handed out.

Report was given on the visit of The Vietnam wall to Belvidere in May. They will need honor guard volunteers. Dues were collected and given to Susan Banks, Treasurer. Updated community service hours and collected "L" bills and "G" bills and National Grange quarters.

Dayle Paulson, Publicity

Illinois State Grange Lecturer

Fellow Grangers—Hard to believe we are into the new year already. With the progression of time, it's good to remember that it is never too early to consider your Grange projects. In this column I mainly want to update you in regard to information that has come out from National Master, Chris Hamp.

Photography Showcase

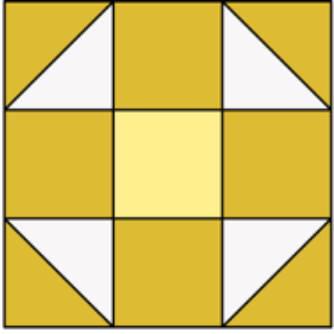
The photography showcase remains unchanged, but I want to restate the guidelines as there continues to be some expectations that still remain from years ago. The basic thing to know there is no separate National Photography Showcase category. A Best of Show will be chosen from the Adult division at the Illinois State Session and that will be sent to be displayed and judged at the 2020 National Session in King of Prussia, PA. So just follow the rules for the state competition and the best photo will go onto National. Just as a personal note, most of the exhibited pieces at this year's session were at least 8.5 x 11, so I would encourage entrants to consider presenting an entry larger than the minimum 5x7.

Evening of Excellence

We had a really good talent show at the Illinois State Session and would like to repeat that next year if possible. We have the opportunity to send one act to the National Session to perform at the Friday night Evening of Excellence. Even if you are unsure that you can make it to the National Session, your talents are greatly needed and appreciated closer to home at our own State Session. At the National Session you are judged in three categories: Vocal, Instrumental, and Variety.

Quilt Block Contest

There's a little bit of a shift in the quilt block contest in that there is no required pattern to follow. Instead, all blocks entered should incorporate shades of teal or turquoise. If you need the suggestion of a pattern, the Shoo-fly is suggested. Blocks should be finished to 12.5" x 12.5". In the last few years, Illinois has only had entries submitted in the "Adult" (or apparently that means "women's"!) division. Remember there are also categories for Juniors and for Men. These categories are judged separately. Entry forms can be downloaded from www.nationalgrange.org.



Shoo-Fly Quilt Block Pattern

Publicity Item Contest

The Publicity Item Contest recognizes any sort of publicity efforts created to promote Grange events of programs. Judging is split between professional and in-house production. The contest recognizes a very liberal view of publicity, so your items may be printed materials, buttons, wearable items—really anything at all that promotes the Grange. There is no limit to the number of different items a Grange may submit. Again, entry forms may be downloaded from www.nationalgrange.org.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Leadership meetings in March.

On a broader note, I was telling some co-workers about Lecturer's Contests at the Grange. One person commented that they were surprised this group, so community oriented, would also focus so on competition. I replied that the contests are less about winning and more about striving for excellence and sharing our talents and visions within the community. The contests added an incentive of a prize to encourage participation.

I was thinking about that comment later when I came across this little story that captures a bit of what I was thinking. The farmer in the story is there for the sharing, not the winning, but realizing that we only improve in how we share our talents with each other.

The story is told of a farmer whose corn each year earned the winning prize at the state fair. One year, a reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew his corn. The farmer told the reporter that he shared his prize-winning seed corn with his neighbors.

When asked why, the farmer explained: "The wind picks up the pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If the neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn."

The same is true for the way we live our lives. If we wish to live in peace and harmony, we should help our neighbors do the same.

Faternally yours,
Ethan Edwards

Donations

A donation of \$20 was presented to the Granger from Steve and Dayle Paulson. Thank you very much for that donation.

Donations to the Granger can be sent to Ruth Blasingame 8711 Deer Run Drive, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.

Donations to the scholarship fund should be sent to Robin Kindberg, State Secretary, 12071 Olson Rd. Caledonia, IL 61011. Please also send a note or email to Ruth so I can include your donation in the Granger.

Secretary Report

February Issue

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and now it is time to get back to Grange work. Only have a few things to pass on to you.

1. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS were mailed out to every Grange Secretary. Feel free to make copies and distribute them to any Granger who is attending college.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS MUST be returned to the ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE SECRETARY Robin Kindberg by FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020.

2. COST OF SEALS & 25 YEAR CERTIFICATES – As of January 1, 2020 the cost of all of the 55, 60, 65, and 70 year seals will INCREASE to \$3.00. All 25 year certificates will INCREASE to \$3.00 as well. Each Grange Secretary was sent a NEW copy of the 25 year certificate order form. Please use this new form to order the certificates and use the Gold Form M to order the seals. Make checks payable to Illinois State Grange Robin Kindberg for these seals. Also use the Gold Form M to order the 50 year Golden Sheaf certificates. Make checks payable to National Grange BUT mail them to the Illinois State Grange Secretary Robin Kindberg 12971 Olson Road Caledonia, IL 61011.

3. If your Grange has not returned the BONDING form. I need to know one way or the other if you do need insurance or if you opt out. Please return to me ASAP.

4. If your Grange receives a 990-N e-postcard in the mail PLEASE file it online. If you do not know how please contact Robin or Karie Blasingame. These MUST be filed every year.

5. MEMBERSHIP LIST – Please be working on getting your Grange membership list updated. Make sure the name and address are correct and also include the date they joined the Grange and if they have taken the 5th, 6th and./or 7th degree

Any questions feel free to contact me at robinkindberg5@gmail.com.

Stay safe.
Robin Kindberg
Illinois State Grange Secretary

Membership

ISG Membership Chairman
Lindakay Ebel

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Did you know that that half of our 2019-2020 Grange year is already over? Where has the time gone. Brothers and Sisters, we have only two quarters left to get out there and recruit new members.

I am so proud of those Grange members and Granges that have recruited new members already this year, now the rest of you have to start recruiting.

When the new Grange year started, I decided to take a letter each month from the word MEMBERSHIP and talk about it and how it relates to our Granges.

We already decided the letter ‘M’ stands for ME, MEMBERS, and MEMBERSHIP. We decided it takes Me to recruit new MEMBERS, so we have a bigger MEMBERSHIP for our Grange.

This month let’s take the letter ‘E’. In our Grange we need a lot of EXCITEMENT, ENTHUSIASM, we need to hold programs with EDUCATION and we need to put a lot of EFFECT into our projects and fundraisers, we

hold ELECTIONS of officers every two years, we have a few ELDERLY (speaking of myself the past few months) in our Granges, and the jobs are sometimes just ENDLESS, but we keep going.

We ENCOURAGE our juniors to become youth members, then they ENTER joining our adult Grange with EASE and EVERYONE helps EACH other in what EVER we may be doing, whether a Grange project or a fundraiser. We try to set good EXAMPLES for our junior members and not to EXPECT to much from them. They like to help with our projects, and they learn from EXPERIENCE and we have to keep an EYE on them.

So, get ENTHUSED and go out and start recruiting to build up our MEMBERSHIP.

God Bless EACH of you until next month.

Illinois State Grange

Flora Angela Dickerson

Valentine’s Day

How did Valentine’s start? Geoffrey Chaucer was the first to record VD as a day romantic celebration. The oldest known valentine still in existence today. It is a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans to his wife.

This holiday has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in the mid-February. This festival celebrated the coming of Spring.

At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius 1st replaced Lupercalia with the name St. Valentine’s Day.

By the eighteenth century, England was celebrating St. Valentine’s with flowers and candy.

St. Patrick’s Day

St Patrick’s Day is the feast day of St Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Who ministered Christianity in Ireland during the 5th century?

First recorded St Patrick’s Day parade was held in New York City in 1762.

Why wear green on St Patrick’s Day? Green is the color of a shamrock. There are 300 varieties of clover. Clovers are known to fix nitrogen in the soil.

The traditional Irish legend held that wearing green made you invisible to leprechauns regardless of the reason.

Cinnamon Applesauce Bread

- 1 ¼ cup applesauce
- ¾ cup sugar
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- 3 Tbsp milk
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp nutmeg
- ½ tsp pumpkin pie spice
- ¼ tsp salt

INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease a 9x5 pan.

In a medium bowl, combine the applesauce, sugar, vegetable oil, eggs & milk

Slowly add in the flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, pumpkin spice & salt

Stir until combined

Pour batter into prepared loaf pan and place in the oven to bake for 60 minutes

Once toothpick comes out clean once inserted in center, remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly before serving.

A Poem
Seasons
Delightful, Nature
Growing, Changing, Appealing

A cycle in Nature
Change
Each season is a new beginning
From Flora, fauna to forever.
Sometimes within a season comes devastation,
With floods, droughts and bush fires,
The wind blows and the sun shines,
We continue to enjoy all seasons have to offer
(Unknown Author)

How About Some History

February

- 1st - First session of Supreme Court, 1790
- 2nd - Candelmas, Groundhog Day
- 8th - Boy Scouts of America founded, 1910
- 9th - National Pizza Day
- 12th - Lincoln born, 1809
- 22th - George Washington born, 1732

March

- 2nd - Mt. Rainer a national park, 1899
- 13th - Earmuffs patented, 1887
- 16th - First black newspaper in US, 1827
- 18th - First walk in space, 1965
- 29th - Knights of Columbus founded, 1882

Benefits to Members

nationalgrange.org/our-values/benefits-to-members/

Our partnerships with Comfort Keepers, one of the top companies in the eldercare industry, Life Line, and the Medical Air Services Association are sure to give you peace of mind about your health. Our partnerships with Hear in America and American Hearing Benefits offer members access to free annual hearing screenings and consultations as well as discounted hearing aid prices to ensure Grangers have hearing care available to them.

- Comfort Keepers
- Life Line Screening
- Medical Air Services Association (MASA)
- Hear in America
- Healthcare Exchange
- American Hearing Benefits

Pharmacy

CVS Caremark offers the RxSavings Plus Card. The U.S Pharmacy Card is a free discount prescription card available to Grangers. Also, a partnership with National Affinity Services allows access to the public subsidized government marketplace. U.S. Pharmacy Card offer excludes members in NC.

U.S. Pharmacy Card Rx Pharmacy Card provided by CVS Caremark (also for pet prescriptions)

Travel Hotel Car Rentals

With discounts from Choice Hotels, Wyndham Hotels, Hertz, Avis, and Budget rental car services, as well as other hotel and rental car businesses, these exclusive Grange benefits are sure to help you when planning your next vacation.

- Orlando Member Discount
- Wyndham Hotel
- Choice Hotels
- Hertz/Avis/Budget Rental Car
- Exclusive Grange Worldwide Hotel and Car Rental Discounts Program

Shopping

We have partnered with Office Depot/Office Max, Shop.com, and The Azigo Cash-Back Shopping Mall. When you shop at these locations or use these services, you are giving back to the National Grange and receiving special deals in the process.

- Azigo Cash-back Shopping Mall
- Office Depot/Office Max
- TSYS Merchant Solutions |
- Flyer Insurance

We have partnerships with United of Omaha Life Insurance Company and MetLife Home and Auto Insurance to give our members discounts on insurance rates and deals. Excludes Washington,

Oregon, California, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, and North Carolina. Members receive exclusive discounts on programs including The TotalProtect® Enhanced Home Warranty, which helps protect National Grange Members from the high costs associated with home repair from Cross Country Home Warranty. INFOARMOR ID Theft Insurance helps protect the identities of Grange Members. It provides comprehensive, proactive identity theft defense, which includes Social Media Reputation Monitoring and Free Credit reports. The program is backed by AIG and is discounted for our members.

VPI Pet Insurance
Cross Country Home Warranty
MetLife Home and Auto
United of Omaha Life Insurance Company
InfoArmor (Identity Protection) | Flyer
For our western states, Grange Insurance Association (GIA) is available, check them out www.grange.com.

If you are a Grange member, please log in to see the benefit codes and start saving.

If you are not a Grange member then click here to find a local grange near you or click here to become an E-Member and you will automatically qualify for Grange member benefits.



The National Grange is pleased to present the Dogs for Better Lives, formerly known for many years as Dogs for the Deaf. The new name better reflects the fact that they now offer three different Assistance Dog programs, which include:

Hearing Dogs
Facility Dogs
Autism Assistance Dogs
This video highlights the Grange's partnership with Dogs for Better Lives. We encourage you to use this as a new tool to get your Grangers involved with Dogs for Better Lives. This video highlights the Grange's partnership with Dogs for Better Lives. This video is available online to all Granges and Grange members and is approximately 2 minutes in length. VIDEO COMING SOON.

There are many different way to get involve from being an Ambassadors, foster a dog just to name a few.

For more information on Dogs for Better Lives please visit www.dogsforbetterlives.org or call (541) 826-9220. EXT 347



American Values.
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The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

January 24, 2020

OP-ED: Youth need faith of older members, opportunities to take reigns

By Mandy Bostwick

Leadership. We tend to hear that word and we just think of it as someone who is in charge of something. Leadership is so much more than just being charge. The Grange has valued the importance of having young members since its inception, but currently we tend to ignore the leadership qualities that our youth of today possess.

Youth organizations such as FFA, FCCLA, 4-H, and more provide opportunities for their members to lead a meeting, speak in public and generally comport themselves in a public setting. Sure, we have opportunities in our State and local Granges when the youth conduct the meeting, but how often do we truly give those youth a role to start their leadership journey?

My goal as National Grange Youth Development Director is to help our Youth and Young Adults by providing more leadership training and experiences. The 2019 National Grange Youth Team traveled around the country, talking about the negative effects of hearing "We've always done it that way" and also highlighted what each of the generations has to offer within the organization. Our Youth and Young Adults have new ideas, social media and technology experience, are innovative and have direct and concise communication skills. These are things that can benefit all Granges. It's up to our Grange member and leaders to allow the Youth entering or continuing on in our organization to use their skills and in turn help bolster the leadership skills they possess and ultimately benefits our entire organization.

Master's Message: Trade agreements great for American farmers, ranchers

By Betsy Huber

Last week was a great week for agriculture. The long awaited U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement was finally approved by the Senate by a large majority of 89-10, improving export opportunities for U.S. farmers. This agreement replaces the 25-year-old NAFTA, but it retains 90 percent of the original agreement and changes only 10 percent. The big benefit to dairy is the reduction in Canadian tariffs on milk and milk products from the U.S. It requires a greater percentage of cars to be produced in the U.S. by higher paid workers. Also part of the pact are provisions to protect the ozone layer, marine environment, and air quality and establish a fisheries management system to prevent overfishing in North American waters.

In addition, phase one of the China-U.S. trade deal was signed by President Trump, relieving uncertainty and loss of exports for farmers. China has promised to more than double its purchase of agricultural products to \$40 billion in soybeans, wheat, cotton and pork. More than 26 percent of U.S. pork exports went to China in November and the agreement will certainly increase that

Grange in Action

nationalgrange.org/grange-in-action/

The Grange In Action program is designed to encourage all Granges to be active in their communities and complete events or projects, no matter how small. Any Grange that does not complete the application for Distinguished Grange can participate in this program. Granges who wish to be recognized at the 2019 National Convention as a "Grange In Action" should complete the following requirements:

Submit a 1 page letter size with pictures and caption of at least 3 various events/activities that the Grange either sponsored or assisted with from Sept 1, 2019 to Sept 1, 2020 – anything over 1 page will be disqualified

The Grange Name, number and State must be on the front of the page

On a separate page please include the Name, address, phone and/or cell number and email address of whom submitted the Grange in Action

Granges that qualify for the 2020 Distinguished Grange award are not eligible for this recognition.

Deadline to submit the 1 page to National Grange is September 25, 2020 postmark or electronic by midnight on September 25, 2020

Mail to National Grange, Attn. Loretta Washington – 1616H Street, NW, 11th Washington, DC 20006

Email to Loretta Washington @ please put in the subject line for the email: Grange in Action report
To be named a "State Grange in Action", a State Grange must have at least 6 Granges recognized

as "Grange In Action."
Some of the entries will be on display at next year's National Convention.
Those Granges that submitted a 1 page entry will receive a certificate with the National Grange President's signature.



American Values.
Hometown Roots.



Text4baby

As a family organization, the National Grange is proud to be supporting and spreading the word about Text4baby. Text4baby was created just over a year ago to give expectant families and new mothers health and nutritional information through the first year of the baby’s life. The U.S. ranks 29th in infant mortality, tying with Slovakia and Poland, and Text4baby is an excellent tool in helping us improve care for our most precious and vulnerable citizens. Anyone can sign up completely free using only their cell phone. Pregnant women, new moms, family members or any interested party can enroll by texting BABY to 511411. Subscribers will receive up to three free text messages each week, timed to their due date or baby’s date of birth, which will provide them with information on how to improve their health and the health of their baby. The only information interested parties need provide is their due date or their child’s birth

date and their zip code. So far, over 135,000 users have signed up for this great program. Text4baby is backed by community health organizations, cell phone providers, health care providers, government health agencies, businesses, and various community organizations.

Anyone can spread the word about Text4baby by encouraging expectant families to sign up for the free service. In addition, you can add Text4baby information to your website, promote it at fairs, in your newsletters, or partner up with your local health agency or clinic. You can visit their website, www.text4baby.org, to see a list of their partners and to learn more about the program.



*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*



Deaf Awareness Grant Program

For many years the National Grange conducted an active Deaf Awareness Program which led to many valuable projects that enabled our members to learn more about deaf people and their challenges. In many cases, great relationships were also built with the deaf community. A fund was developed within the National Grange Foundation for the purpose of supporting deaf activities within the Grange. Because funds are still available, this grant program is being offered to assist states with funding various deaf awareness activities.

Dot’s Daring Adventures AKA Junior Department news

Happy New year! I hope everyone had a wonderful time with family over the holidays. Many of you may have seen in the news about the fires burning in Australia. The bushfires are a normal part of life in Land Down Under, but this season has started earlier than usually due to extra dry conditions. Most of the fires are along the east coast in the regions of Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria. Rain has recently brought some much needed relief to the firefighters. Please keep them in your prayers as this season continues.

I have started a page and group on Facebook to help keep those that are online informed. Please look for Illinois State Grange Juniors and join either or both. I will be posting information and different ideas. These will be another resource to share ideas, and ask questions. Please share photos of what your Juniors are doing, but make sure you have permission from parents when any faces are showing. Any suggestions on what kind of things you would like to see are appreciated.

Looking forward to our first state-sponsored event which will be hosted by Boone County Pomona Grange. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 18. Juniors throughout the state are invited to the Boone County Fairgrounds to join the fun. If your Grange would like to host an event by providing a meeting place and refreshments, please contact me so we can get a date scheduled. I am currently working on dates for our Junior Jamboree/overnight camp which will be held in the southern region. Be sure to read articles for clues to solve “The Mystery of Winnebango Falls”. Did you know the Echidna is one of two mammals that lays eggs? One of the rarest animals in the world they are similar to a porcupine as they have hollow, barbless quills. They can be found in many different kinds of habitats throughout Australia, Tasmania, and New Guinea. One of the Earth’s oldest surviving species it still has many surprises to reveal.

Illinois State Grange Juniors

We recently received a thank you, from the Sharpe family, for a donation we made to share our support for Lillian as she continues in her fight against Leukemia. They appreciate all the love and support they are receiving from their Grange family. Please continue saving your “L” bills. A donation will be made to St. Jude’s in July for what is collected. Lillian’s cousin is our new Junior ambassador, and we got a picture with her BEFORE she was named... what an honor!



Illinois State Grange Youth

Karie Blasingame

Spring Fling North Schedule

- 2 tiers of programs – Everyone is Welcome
- Juniors are 4 ½ to 14- 4 ½ to 8 must be accompanied with an adult
- Youth 14 – 35
- Adult everybody else

Juniors location Boone County Community Grange Hall basement

- 8:30 – 9 am Arrival and Registration
- 9 am – 11 am work on art project for Lecturers Department
- 11 am Lunch with group
- 12 pm – 1 pm Grange Emblem history
- 1 pm -2 pm Seed Art project for National Junior program
- 2 pm – 3 pm Food Safety Tips and Tricks for Juniors
- 3 pm – 4 pm Digital Talent Contest for Juniors – show us your talent and we will record it for you.

Youth also located in the Boone County Community Grangehall

- 8:30 – 9 am Arrival and Registration
- 9 am – 10:30 am Work on art project for Lecturers Department
- 10:30 am – 11 am Intro to the Youth Department- Meet and Greet
- 11 am Lunch with group
- 12 pm – 1 pm Food Safety Tips and Tricks
- 1 pm – 2 pm Grange Emblem History
- 2 pm – 3 pm Overview of National Grange Youth program
- 3 pm – 4 pm Digital Talent Show

I am excited to partner with Mindy and Ethan by hosting times and places that people can come together and work on both National and Illinois State Grange programs and projects! February 22nd from 9 am to 4 pm at the Boone County Community Grange Hall will be a great event for us all. Lots of Grangers have volunteered their talents to share with the youth and Juniors of our State. As you can see we have a Junior schedule and a Youth schedule, all other adults can follow either schedule, help with the Juniors when they can and learn more about Grange and life with the Youth. What you need to bring: the juniors will be working on seed art pictures, if you have any old seeds that you will not use this year you could donate them to the Juniors. We will all be working on art projects for the Lecturers Department, if you would like to bring any art supplies to share that would be appreciated. Also bring an open mind, a warm heart and a close friend to introduce to Grange. Cost of the day is a donation for a beef hot dog lunch with chips and salads. (\$1 suggested donation) also it would be nice if we could bring something to donate to our Community Service project this year, Ronald McDonald house. You should be able to find the list of what they would like on the State Grange website. Look forward to seeing every Grange represented. For those traveling to the north for the event you may stay free in the Grangehall overnight. Showers and breakfast will be provided for anyone staying. Bring your air mattress, and other necessities.



Chaplain’s Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens



I hope that each of you have had a great beginning to the New Year. How many of you make resolutions for the New Year? They say that if you did and you are still following them after twenty one days you have a great chance of achieving them. I don’t make them as I know that something will come along and I will not be able to follow them. I have begun to set small goals for myself and found that I do better than if I were to set resolutions that I would not keep.

My one goal this year is to be a better person, to be more considerate of others and the rough time they are going through. Life is not always easy for us and we must trust our Lord and Savior to see us through those times. Do you have faith that God will bless you even when you think that there is no hope or future? Sometimes we get so caught up in our own problems that we forget about the people around us. Let us all make a goal this year to know our God better and serve His people in their needs.

We pray for those who are sick, for those who mourn the loss of loved ones. We praise God for the love and happiness He shares with us. Praise God for all blessings.

Peace to each of you.
Happy Valentine’s Day

Obituaries:

*Well done
good and faithful servant....*

- Mary Elizabeth Stewart, 99 – 1920-2020 Enterprise Grange
- Warren “Hermie” Hermanson, 88 - 2020 Enterprise Grange
- Jo Ann Hardy Weinrank, 73 - 1946-2020 Flora Grange

Birth Announcement:

Charlotte Grace Jones was born
January 23, 2020 at 5:56 am
She weighed 4 lbs, 17.4 inches
Proud Parents are Phillip and Tracey Jones
of Prairie Grange and Enterprise Grange.

Blast From The Past

By Beverly Smith

Hello Grangers, I am writing this from the land of oranges (Florida)! But I have not seen even one orange tree. There are ranches, cattle and horses around here but the orange groves are gone. Sad. Brian and I attended a county commissioner meeting this past week. Many neighbors attended to voice our opinions against another subdivision! We did manage to convince the board to vote it down. It was a very interesting experience.

As I probably told you before, Brian’s aunt had many many books. I am still trying to clear them out. We have taken many boxes of them to the Goodwill. Well, one day I needed a book to weigh down a rolled up rug. I grabbed this large book. It was “The Moving Forces in the History of Old Bon Homme” as in Missouri. History got my attention, also Brian’s uncle was from Missouri. So I am thumbing through the index-- Farmers Clubs: “On page 327: Bonhomme Grange met in a hall at Wild Horse Creek. The clubs were powerful influence in the upbuilding and betterment of the best interests of its members in everything pertaining to agriculture, horticulture and domestic economy. No sectarian or political discussions were permitted.” Wow, can you believe it “GRANGE”!!

I also received a newspaper clipping from my dad’s cousin which was from The Rockton Herald, May 12, 1966 (Very luckily the date was on the article). It was a picture of the Winnebago County Pomona Grange Degree Team.

Happy New Year 2020 to you all!

Patriots Program: WWII & Korean War

The Korean War Veteran CD is complete and you can get your free copy now. The CD includes a power point presentation on the Korean War, a video and notes on the National Korean War Memorial, and pdfs of firsthand accounts of events in the Korean War. This will continue our program that began in 2013 when we honored our WWII veterans and learned more about this war through 3 different CDs that Lecturers used throughout the year.

The certificates used to recognize your Korean War vet, can be ordered from me and are ready now. To request the certificate, please make sure to include the following information: name of the veteran, name of Grange they belong to or who is giving it out, the name of the local master and lecturer, the city and town the Grange/Veteran is located in and a shipping address. There is no cost to you or your Grange for program material or the certificates. This program is sponsored by Potomac Grange #1.

If you missed out on our program information for WWII it is still available. Get it while you’re requesting your Korean War CD. All you need to do is contact the National Grange at info@nationalgrange.org or call at 888-4-GRANGE. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Plan to Take Action

Schedule

- Sunday, April, 28**
Arrival and check-In
Evening mix and mingle dessert social at the hotel
- Monday, April 29**
Issue briefings and speakers at the National Grange
Agency visits
Congressional Capitol Hill appointments
- Tuesday, April, 30**
Congressional Capitol Hill appointments
Late day/evening departures for some
- Wednesday, May 1**
Finish Congressional Capitol Hill appointments
Return home

Hotel

Our hotel is the Quality Inn, 1587 Spring Hill Road, Vienna, VA 22182. Phone is 703-448-8020. Our group rate is \$79 + 12% sales tax per night. The cut-off date to make a reservation is April 1, 2019. The Quality Inn is located just northwest of the Capital Beltway (I-495) in Vienna, VA. The hotel provides free parking and is just one block from the Metro’s Silver Line for travel to downtown Washington, D.C. The hotel also provides a complimentary full breakfast Monday-Friday 6:30am – 9:30am and 7:00am – 10:00am on Saturday and Sunday.

Please make your reservations directly with the hotel and mention that you would like to book with the National Grange’s block of rooms ** PLEASE NOTE – The National Grange WILL release any un-booked rooms on April 1st and you WILL be on your own for housing.

Metro Transit System

The Washington area metro subway system operates the Silver Line directly between the Spring Hill station to all points in downtown Washington, D.C. Reagan National airport travelers can take the Blue Line to the Rosslyn Station and transfer to the Silver Line to reach the Spring Hill Station. For travel to the National Grange building, take the Silver Line to Farragut West Station at 17th Street. The Grange is a block away at 1616 H Street, N.W. overlooking the White House.

Recomended Dress

We recommend casual for Sunday. Business attire (coat and tie) would be best for Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday is your choice.

Washington at it’s Finest

April is a beautiful time in our Nation’s Capital. Take some extra time to enjoy the flowers, monuments and museums. The Grange building is located in the heart of Washington, D.C. at 1616 H Street, NW so you can either come visit our historic building or use it as your sightseeing base.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Burton Eller at or 202-628-3507, ext. 114.