



Illinois Granger

Volume 104

April 2020

No. 3

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

Calendar Of Events

Mar 30-Apr 15 – Quarterly Reports to Robin Kindberg ISG Secretary **Note new deadline
April 11 – Prairie Grange Consignment Auction CANCELLED
April 18 – State Junior Day – Boone County Pomona host CANCELLED
April 18 – Beaver Valley – Paulson Agriculture Museum Open House 12 Noon ???
April 18-19, 25-26 Big Thunder Storage Release at Boone County Fairgrounds
April 25 – Spring Fling South CANCELLED
May 7-10 – Wall That Heals – Boone County Fairgrounds – Flora Grange
May 29-31 – Grange Campout
May 30 – State Grange Picnic
June 6 – Flora Grange Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser
June 9-12 – Flora Grange Safety Town
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 – Wurstmart Dinner 10:30-3:30
2021
July 20-25 – Grange Revival - Sturgis, SD

NOTE: At this time all items on calendar are subject to cancellation. Check with the hosting Grange.

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

Ruth Blasingame
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Lynette Schaeffer President Illinois State Grange

Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms April 2020

The weather in southern IL is wet, there is still a lot of mud and everywhere you walk it is sloppy. This is the way I have started many of the columns the last year – WET WET WET and it is raining as I write this column. We have spent the time outside; it has been wonderful with the sunshine. But I have never never thought I would be starting a column with I hope you are all following the Governor J B Pritzker's directive to "shelter in place". Concerns over COVID 19 virus are growing each day. On March 20, 2020 the Governor said no meetings and only leaving home for essentials. All schools were closed March 16. That means we can do many important activities -like going outside – exercising, enjoying a park but to keep a safe distance. "Social distancing" is staying at least 6 feet from anyone. Please follow social distancing when doing the necessary trips to the grocery store, drug store, gas stations, etc. Schools and many other businesses are closed since the proclamation from the Governor until at least April 9. Please follow the guidance to stay at home as much as possible and be safe. Yes, I know that means no Grange meetings or activities. We are all trying to get through this pandemic safe and sound. Please have "meetings" via other methods, conference calls, video calls, Facebook face time, zoom calls, etc. See if there are projects that you/your Grange can safely do, following the guidance from the Governor. Be Smart. Be Safe. Be concerned for your neighbors and community. Follow all medical recommendations during this pandemic.

Thanks to those who attended the Leadership conferences March 7 at Turkey Hill Grange Hall and Community Grange Hall March 8. Thanks to the special guest Amanda Brozana-Rios, National Grange Communications Director, for her presentation on getting the good Grange word out. Presentations were given by Karie (Youth), Ethan (Lecturer) how to take a selfie, Mindy (Juniors) dot pictures from Australia, myself everything I learned at Master's conference and others shared information about their committees. Much was discussed, and much information was given out. Many Grangers attended, and I was really glad to see each and every one of you at the meetings. You are all the leaders of the Granges in IL.

April is Grange Month and I hope the Granges have been making plans to celebrate. The theme is "Cultivating Connections". It might be a good time to present awards to Community

Citizen, honor a Teacher or Firefighter or Law Enforcement Officer. Have an open house to honor veterans and present Quilts of Valor. Or have a special speaker. The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is April 25, maybe work with your local pharmacy to have a booth to distribute the drug disposal bags. We will have some bags available at the Leadership meetings. Making connections with the people of your community or other local community organizations

is a good way to celebrate Grange Month! Any Grange that would like a packet of all the pages handed out, please let me know. Grangers were informed about "getting your Grange house in order", the changes in the 2020 National Grange session in Pennsylvania, Publicity Contest, Granges in Action, National Grange Benefits,

Continued on Page 2

Reminder:

In these times of 'shelter in place' because of the Covid-19 lets keep our fellow Grangers in mind.

Call them, email, Facebook, send a card. Do something to stay in contact especially with our older Grangers.

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Lynette continued from page 1

Good Day magazine, Safe Gatherings, and more. I will be sending the information to the IllinoisStateGrange.org website. Please check there or the NationalGrange.org

The State Executive Committee is planning their first zoom call for the meeting. We plan on doing all the items on the agenda but from our homes!! We will be deciding on a scholarship recipient, discussing upcoming state sessions, and other business. I am disappointed that there was only one application for a scholarship. Please help us to advertise the scholarship availability for next year. Any Grangers that are continuing education and have been a Granger for at least a year are eligible. Plans are being made to ‘kick off’ the celebration for the 150th anniversary at the 149th State Session. Come to the meeting in September to get a start on our celebration.

Congratulations to National Grange Young Patrons Tracey and Phil on the arrival of Charlotte. She arrived early but I am sure Tracey and Phil were ready. Grandma Ruth was there to help and Aunt Karie was there to help them go home from the hospital. Congratulations to the whole family.

Boone County Pomona Grange Report

Boone County Pomona Grange was called to order at 7:05PM by protem Master Dave Geske. Minutes from the previous meeting were in written form and were approved as presented.

The Grange was placed at ease to hear a speech entitled “Miscommunication of Agriculture between the Producer and the Consumer” by Delanie Muck which was very informational.

There were 11 Proposals for Membership into Pomona Grange and all 11 were accepted and were welcomed into the Boone County Pomona Grange.

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COPY DEADLINE FOR NEWS AND
PICTURES: 4th Thursday OF EACH MONTH
Please send all news and
pictures to:
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DONATIONS: \$10.00 PER YEAR
For correction of addresses mail
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Belvidere, IL 61008

Committee Reports were heard: Legislative – Brother Al Henninger asked that we keep all those people in Tennessee who were affected by the tornado in our prayers. He also reminded us to be concerned with the upcoming election.

Agriculture – Brother Al Ebel told us how the weather can affect the crops we plant and he hoped that this year would be a better year for our crops then what last year was.

Health, Education and Welfare: Sister Dayle Paulson reminded everyone to continuously wash your hands, cover your mouth if you sneeze, cough into your elbow and to stay home if you are not feeling well.

Youth: Karie Blasingame reported she had 1 youth, 6 Juniors and several young at heart Juniors at Spring Fling in Feb. They did lots of neat things as well as contest entries for Junior and Lecturer Departments. March 8th is Leadership conference here in Belvidere. I hope everyone comes. Statewide Picnic will be same weekend as Campout May 29-31, 2020 at the KOA in Rochester, IL near Springfield. Youth and Junior Auctions will take place on the 30th so if you have items please get them to someone who is planning on attending that weekend.

Community Service: Jerry Paulson thanked everyone who brought items for the Haven Network tonight.

Membership – Lindakay Ebel reported we need to keep asking people to join the Grange for we have lost several members to death this year. We still have until June to get our numbers up so Keep Asking.

Fair Board: Lyle Lee reported several new events this year at the fair. This year’s fair books will be online so check out the Boone County Fair Facebook page and website for more details. Also Diamond Rio and the Oak Ridge Boys will perform on Saturday night of the fair.

Grange Reports were given: Beaver Valley – April 18th they will be hosting an open house at the Paulson Agricultural Museum in Caledonia starting at 12 Noon with lunch and program at 1PM.

Big Thunder: March 21st will be their Applebee’s Pancake Breakfast fundraiser and April 18 & 19 and 25 & 26 they will be releasing storage from the fair grounds buildings.

Capron – will be providing parking lot security for the Urban Farm Girl event at the Fair grounds May 9th.

County Line- They will be sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner along with Leroy Community Grange on March 7th to raise fund for the local 4-H programs.

Flora: Sponsoring a Scoopie Night at Culver’s on March 31 from 5-8PM and proceeds go to the Wall that Heals. April 19 will be a Roast Beef Dinner and June 6th will be their Applebee’s Pancake Breakfast fundraiser. They are asking other Grangers to help with the Wall that Heals which they are sponsoring May 7-10 at the Boone County Fairgrounds. Please come out and see this site and volunteer a few hours. Please contact Emalee Colver if interested.

Leroy Community: Donated hats and gloves to local schoolkids, They helped a local Granger move and they also helped with the Spaghetti Dinner for the 4-H.

Prairie Grange – Consignment Auction is set for Saturday April11, 2020 and help is needed.

Don Ellwanger reported his Dad Fay Ellwanger a long time Granger was to have heart valve replacement surgery and everyone wished him well.

ISG Secretary Robin Kindberg reminded everyone she needed their birthdates for the National Grange Database so please see here after the meeting.

The Grange was placed at ease and Karre Jo Cromwell from Edward Jones was introduced. She spoke on Ways to protect ourselves from scams and fraud. Older generations are more susceptible to these types of situations for they will believe the person on the other end and give out personal information over the phone. This

was very informative.
The meeting of the Boone County Pomona Grange was closed in full form at 8:30PM

*Fraternally Submitted,
Karrie Kindberg
Publicity Chairman*

**March 2020
Flora Grange News**

By Lindakay Ebel

Thirty-eight Flora Grange members attend the March Flora Grange meeting on Tuesday, March 10th, 2020, 7 pm at the Flora Grange Hall with Overseer Loren Due opening the meeting in the absence of Master Albert Ebel. Meeting was opened with the Grange Salutation and Pledge to American Flag. Roll call was taken, and the minutes of February 11, 2020 were approved.

Reports were given: Family Activities, Deb Silvers reported the Quilt Block contest is Shoo-Fly quilt block pattern, 12.5” x 12.5”, all blocks entered should incorporate shades of teal or turquoise. This is not only for women, also categories for junior and for men. Forms are online.

Quilting, Emalee Colver reported the dates Flora Grange members will be quilting at the hall, all Flora Grange members are invited to come, bring a lunch and whatever you would like to work on. Agriculture., Bob Scherer reported the grain prices are down, hopes the spring will not be as wet as last spring. Building and Grounds, Jack Ratcliffe reported we will have to start doing some house cleaning in the Grange hall. Chaplain Donna West had nothing new to report. Fair board members told of the raising of the prices for winners of the Father/Son and Mother/Daughter, told of the tickets going on sale for the entertainment and Jack Ratcliffe told of some of the entertainment for this year.

Farmland Protection will have their annual meeting on March 12, 7 pm at the Fair office, downstairs, all are invited. Membership, Lindakay Ebel told of all the National Grange Membership Benefits, such as shopping at Office Max, receive cash back from stores such as Kohls and Target, etc, TicketsatWork, UPS savings program, Lenovo, Pharmacy cards, United of Omaha Life Insurance Company, LifeLine Screening, Travel Hotels/Rentals, Hearing Programs, Pet Insurance, Home Services, Identity Protection/Theft and many more. For more information contact Loretta Washington, lwashington@nationalgrange.org.

Deb Silvers reported the dates for Safety Town will be June 9-12 at the Boone County Fairgrounds; she is working on new safety programs for the children. Emalee Colver reported she still needs some helpers for The Wall That Heals and told of the Scoopy Night at Culvers in Belvidere on March 31st from 5 to 8 pm. Dates, The Wall That Heals, May 7-10th.

- Upcoming events:**
March 31 -Scoopie Night at Culvers in Belvidere – 5 to 8 pm
April is Grange Month
April 19th – Roast Beef Dinner (Canceled)
May 7 – 10 – The Wall That Heals – Boone County Fairgrounds
June 6 – Applebee’s Flapjack Fundraiser
June 9 – 12 – Safety Town – Boone County Fairgrounds
July 9 – 12 –Kennel Dog Show – Boone County Fairgrounds
August 11 – 16 j- Boone County Fair
Lindakay Ebel gave the financial report. Old Business: Laurel Ratcliffe told of the bags to dispose of unused medicine, and the proper way to dispose of it. She picked some of these bags up when attending the Grange leadership on March 8th along with other Grangers. Sharon Fidler also

told of the new Grange logo which we learned about at the leadership meeting. Lindakay Ebel reported a lot of good information was given out at this meeting for everyone, including the juniors and the youth.

Motion was made to nominate Delphine Calabrese for our representative for the Queen contest for the 2020 Boone County fair.

Program leader Joanne Fidler did not have a program this evening. Emalee Colver collected \$96 in ‘G’ bills this evening. Birthdays were Deb Silvers and anniversary was Albert and Lindakay Ebel on March 24th. Meeting was closed and members enjoyed fellowship and refreshments.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14th, 2020 at Flora Grange, Hostesses will be Jim and Val Langendorf and Karen and Jerry Hart.

County Line Grange News

Our regular meeting was held March 11th. Emily Colver from Flora Grange was our guest. Hosts for the evening were Jason and Jen Schmeling. Thanks for the delicious BBQs and treats. Ruth decorated for St. Patrick’s Day.

Committee and Treasurer reports were given. Minutes we’re discussed and accepted.

We discussed the 4-H Spaghetti Dinner held March 7. Everything went well and everyone enjoyed delicious spaghetti and desserts. There was lots of baskets and items for the raffle. 4-H Members, their families and Grange Members worked really hard to make the dinner a success.

Upcoming events such as our Scholarships, Relay-for-Life, Grange month, etc. were discussed. We have received many applications for our Scholarships. These will be discussed and our students chosen.

Emily Colver talked about “The Wall That Heals” that is coming to our Boone County Fairgrounds, May 7-10, 2020. There is a “Scoopy Night” fundraiser March 31 at Culver’s in Belvidere to help fund the Wall. She also had 50/50 raffle tickets for sale.

Ed gave us updated information on the plastic we have been saving.

We closed our meeting and had our Penny March.

We pray everyone and their families are able to avoid the Coronavirus and stay healthy and well.

News From Hopewell Grange

By Janice David

Hopewell Grange met in March and discussed topics that were presented at the Leadership Conferences as we had representatives at both meetings. One topic of particular concern was the “Get Your Grange House in Order” form which is of vital importance. Additionally, we talked about moving ahead with plans for hall repair as the weather gets warmer.

Plans were firmed up for the April 25 Vendor Fair. We have had quite a bit of interest from vendors at this time. Also, the Unity Point Methodist Wellmobile is scheduled to be at the hall that day from 9 to 11 to provide free health screenings.

We thanked Elaine Hecathorn for making reservations for us at the Barn III dinner theater where we had a wonder meal and enjoyed a hilarious play. There were 20 Grangers and friends at the performance.

During the Lecturer’s program, we heard a clarinet solo by Cassie Renken. Hopewell will meet again on April 13.



Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central Illinois uses many items on an ongoing basis to keep our House running smoothly. We rely on donations to maintain the supplies that help make our families comfortable in their home away from home.

Urgent Needs

- Disposable Crockpot Liners
- Ziplock 1gal / 2gal bags
- Ziplock snacks & sandwich bags
- Febreeze Air Effects/Air Fresheners
- Pledge furniture polish spray
- Swifter Dusters
- Twin size white sheets
- Kitchen Booster Seats
- Jumbo Clorox/Lysol Wipes
- Glade Carpet Freshener- Fresh Linen Scent
- Packaged Gravy- Chicken, Turkey, Beef
- Beef Broth
- Chicken Broth
- Vegetable Broth
- Cheddar Cheese Soup
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Foil Pans with lids
- To Go Containers
- Individual Wrapped Fruit Snack
- Individual Packaged Potato Chips
- Individual Snacks of Any kind
- Breakfast Bars
- Cereal/Boxes and Individual
- Hot Cereals
- Sugar
- Cake Mixes Any kind
- Individual Applesauce
- Individual Fruit Cups

Laundry Items

- Stain removers
- Laundry Pods- dye & scent free
- Laundry Pods
- Dryer Sheets

Kitchen Items

- Paper Plates
- 2 qt. and 6 qt. Cambro food containers
- Food prep gloves
- Plastic cups with lids
- Styrofoam coffee cups with lids
- SOS Pads
- Sponges
- Mr. Clean Magic Erasers
- Powdered Coffee Creamer
- Sugar
- Styrofoam 16oz Cups with lids
- Glad 13 cup container Family Size XL (Square)
- Glad Pot Luck Size 10 cup XL (Square)
- Glad Deep Dish Large 8 Cup (Square)
- Glad Tall Entree (Square or Rectangle)

Cleaning Supplies

- 4-gallon trash bags
- Mr. Clean Multi-Purpose Cleaner
- Kitchen sized trash bags
- Stainless Steel Cleaner
- Oreck Vacuum Bags (XL Upright & Miele)

Miscellaneous

- Latex gloves
- Booster seat
- Stick Deodorant
- Shaving Cream (travel-sized)
- Shaving razors
- Chapstick
- Gift Cards (for gas stations, Walmart, Target and various local restaurants)



Happy Wheels is a new program launched in Summer 2015 that is designed to serve families who wait for hours without leaving the hospital or their child’s bedside. Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central Illinois is committed to serving as many families of seriously ill children as possible; however, not every family served at the Children’s Hospital has the need to stay at the Ronald McDonald House. The program allows RMHCCI to serve more families in a new way than ever before.

The Happy Wheels hospitality cart provides a bit of comfort as it travels the hospital hallways, bring parents some needed relief while keeping the little ones entertained with books, fun activities and toys. It is meant to spread cheer to all, young and old, during their visit to the hospital.

As a part of this new program, we ask for support to continually stock the Happy Wheels hospitality cart with items to distribute to families. Please view the list below and consider how you might be able to help us keep the cart full in order to sustain this program. **Thank you for your support!**

Happy Wheels Hospitality Cart Wish List

***Please note that all items must be new, never before been used. Thank you!*

- Small Legos
- Barbies
- My Little Pony
- Cardboard books
- Adult activity books (crossword, coloring books, sudoku, etc.)
- Action figures
- Boy/girl baby bibs
- Items for teenagers (boy and girl)
- Small toddler toys (boy and girl - toy trucks, baby dolls, etc.)

Unprecedented

This issue reaches in a time unprecedented in any of our lifetimes, it seems. Learning to “shelter in place” to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus has created a whole new way of communicating and supporting each other. One huge impact for Granges is the inability, or at least enormous impediments, to gathering together for meetings and other events.

I know we have all heard about “Zoom Meetings” and other ways to connect by way the Internet. Some of these technologies are easily available to individuals and small organizations while others are more suited to corporations, or may be expensive to set up.

What is a virtual meeting? It’s just like a regular meeting, except that the participants are remote, rather than in one place. Using the microphone and video camera, if available, participants can speak to others in attendance and see video of co-participants. You can join without video, or even join via phone. The host or participants can share information displayed on their own computer to the full group. Participants can contribute annotations on shared documents. You could even share a presentation from one site, an online video, or even a musical performance as part of the literary program. It really is quite a great option used extensively to facilitate work groups and could serve as a substitute to tide us over until we can resume regular Grange meetings. Unfortunately, none of the systems have a Potluck feature.

Given that we don’t know how long the current situation may last, and that you might want to organize a virtual meeting in the coming weeks or months, I thought I would share a little about some of the options in front of you. I have not used all of these but would be happy to help you figure things out if you find challenges using them. Also, the options I discuss are only those that can be used free or for a very modest fee. None of my comments should be construed as an endorsement, but rather information to help you decide if this might be useful for you.

Zoom (zoom.com) is one of the fastest growing options for holding online meetings. It is easy to use (there are lots of helpful YouTube videos to get you started) and it provides all the most useful features. The free option allows meetings from 1-100 participants with video and screen sharing capabilities. The only limit is that meetings can be at most 40 minutes long. The entry “Pro” option cost \$14.99/mo/host and lifts the limit to 24 hour maximum meeting time. This option also includes storage for recordings so people who can’t attend could watch the proceedings later. My workplace uses this and it really works well.

GoToMeeting (gotomeeting.com) is another very popular platform for webmeetings. It is roughly equivalent to Zoom in many ways. It has a very full-featured App that let’s you do virtually everything from a mobile device. It does not have a free continuing option (other than a free trial, which is a great option just to try it out) but has a basic plan for \$12/mo/host with a limit of 150 participants. I’ve used this quite extensively, too, and it works quite well.

ezTalksMeetings (etalks.com) is another full-featured platform that offers a free version. It includes audio, video, screen sharing, and collaborative whiteboards. Like Zoom, the free version meetings are limited to 40 minutes. It’s entry full suite costs only \$10/mo/host for up to 100 participants.

Microsoft Teams (products.office.com) is an interesting option if you also would like access to additional software for word processing, spreadsheets, and PowerPoint. For \$12.50/mo you can host meetings with anyone and also maintain access to Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Access, Outlook, and Publisher. You may be familiar with Skype for Business; Microsoft Teams has replaced that product.

Google Hangouts (hangouts.google.com)

is a personal video calling service supported by Google that is free and can serve as a good vehicle for getting together online. Its readily portable across virtually any device. The biggest shortcoming is that meeting size is limited to 10. If you have a small Grange or if you mainly want to facilitate smaller meetings for committees, this is probably ideal. No setup is required and calls and sharing are easy.

Again, there are many more options out there than these, but these are some of the more tested and popular choices that have a reasonable entry point in terms of price.

And if you do put together a platform for a business meeting, remember that you can also use this as a dynamic way to present a literary program. Invite a specialist in some area of interest to join your call and give a presentation. Ask your Junior Grangers to share some of the things they are doing and discovering online as their school projects transition to online work for the remainder of this school year.

YouTube is a source of virtually unlimited variety: musical performances by classical or popular groups, TED talks on fascinating topics, Travelog videos of places all around the world, virtual tours of major museums and cultural sites. The options are almost unlimited. Don’t let this time be an excuse to let this important part of our heritage go by the wayside.

And finally, don’t forget to just have fun. You can sponsor a fun movie night for your whole community. Identify a movie available on YouTube or streaming service that people have access to, set a time to watch it, and open a simultaneous online meeting, or just use Twitter or a Facebook group where families can share their comments and memories, while they all eat popcorn and other treats. I just did this last week in an effort sponsored by Playbill.com where people were invited for Friday Night at the Movies to watch the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein Cinderella with Leslie Ann Warren, a version that I know many of us my age were raised on. It was a real treat. See if you can organize something like that with your own Grangers until conditions allow us to meet together again in person.

Until then, stay healthy and happy!

***Fraternally,
Ethan Edwards
Illinois State Lecturer***

ISG Secretary Report

Hello,
Hope this finds everyone healthy and feeling well, it is hard to believe what is happening in our world today.

Here are just a few things I need to touch base with you on:

1. Remember March 2020 Quarterly Reports are due too me between March 31st and April 15th. I really need your cooperation on this situation.

2. Glad to see so many attended the Leadership Conferences March 7 or 8th and you picked up your Grange packet. The rest of you who were unable to attend will be receiving yours in the mail very soon if not already.

3. Now is a good time to check over your Grange membership list to be sure you have all of your Grangers name, mailing address and birthdates and email or mail me a copy if I do not have a copy already. Thank you to those who have completed this project, it makes my job easier.

Also stress to your Grangers that this information will NOT be given out. It is to help us get more benefits from different companies for our members.

4. Be thinking about honoring your Grangers during Grange Month for all the years of service they have provided for our great organization.

40, 55, 60, 65, and 70 year seals are \$3.00 each and they are available from the ISG Secretary (checks made payable to Illinois State Grange).

50, 75, 80, 85 & 90 years all come from National Grange. There is a \$10.00 fee for the 50 year certificates and \$5.00 fee for the 75 year ones but the rest are free. There is however an additional \$3.00 fee to National for shipping so be sure to include it if necessary.

The 25 year Silver Star certificates cost \$3.00 each, Seals for 40, 55, 60, 65 and 70 years of service are available at \$3.00 each. The 25 year certificates and the seals all come from the ISG Secretary (Make checks payable to Illinois State Grange). I also have a few years pins available if anyone is interested just mail me your requests along with the appropriate checks. Put all your Seals and certificate requests other than the 25 year Silver Star one on the Bright Golden Yellow sheet Form M. The 25 year Silver Star certificate request goes on the Silver Star Certificate form O. Be sure to mail all seals and certificate request to the ISG Secretary and she will send them on to National. Also be sure to include the checks for either National Grange or for the Illinois State Grange depending upon which awards you need.

5. Watch the mail in the future for State Session information and Resolution Information as well.

***Stay healthy,
Robin Kindberg
Illinois State Grange Secretary
12971 Olson Road
Caledonia, IL 61011
robinkindberg5@gmail.com***

Stay Home

by Jennifer Tobin-Tinch

Hello All! As you know, we are order a “shelter at home” order and for a social butterfly like myself this has been a difficult adjustment! I have decided that I’m in better health than some of my family and friends, so I’ve been checking on them regularly and helping to keep them stocked up on groceries and supplies. That way I’m not always in my 4 walls and I am able to do what I know God wants me to do-help others. I’m so thankful for being able to help. I was so bored yesterday that I actually helped cut down some small trees at my house and planned where a big garden will go in my back yard! I can’t wait for hockey to start back up and for my beloved Chicago Cubs to start their season! I hope that all my fellow Grangers across Illinois and the United States, stay healthy and are blessed at this time and always!!

Agricultural Report

By Earl David, Isg Ag Chairman

Spring planting time is almost upon us. I hope you have decided what areas you would like to consider for our Ag contests and have lined up your seed or have started or located young plants. We all are mindful of the need to reduce the amount of chemicals that we use on our crops or in our gardens. Farmers in Illinois and elsewhere spend a great deal of time educating themselves on the best ways to apply chemicals and in determining the least amount they can use to get desired results. On a smaller scale, we need to look at our lawns and gardens and think about ways to get the results we want without using chemicals or at least reducing their use as much as possible.

Starting with seed, some plant varieties are more resistant to wilt, fungus, and other tough diseases, so it is worthwhile to consider what seed you will plant. The next problem is likely to be weeds. This usually requires hand weeding,

mulching, and setting traps (as for slugs). Plant spacing can reduce the need for weeding if you are working with something that can be crowded a little bit. Weeding is best done when plants are very young and then by not disturbing the ground any more than necessary so that dormant weed seeds are not encouraged to germinate. Then it is mulch, mulch, and more mulch. If you need to water, keep it as close to the target plants as possible. Weeds seem to do very well without any additional water! If the weeds get ahead of you, at least lop off their heads to prevent them from going to seed and planting more weeds.

Last month’s column talked a little bit about pollinator plants. Those plants attract beneficial insects to the garden to help get rid of insect pests. There are also many other plants that repel specific types of insects. Some of these are chives, fennel, basil, lemon balm, lavender, and mint. There are many more. You may need to do a little research to determine which would be most effective in your own garden. Best wishes to everyone for a great growing season.

Donations

The following donations were received:
\$10 Ed Cosman, County Line Grange, for the Illinois Granger

\$20 Lester & Betty Hardt, Broad Hollow Grange, for the Illinois Granger

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.

Shelter at Home with Ruth Blasingame

During these trying times I hope everyone is following “orders” and staying at home. I was in St. Peters Missouri enjoying my new granddaughter when all of this began. I had been there since January 22 when Tracey found out that the baby was coming early. I spent long days with Tracey in the NICU after Charlotte Grace Jones was born on January 23. We stayed in the NICU until Friday March 6. Then I stayed at home with them until Sunday March 15. I felt I needed to get home to make sure that Jimmy and the rest of my family were doing okay. BUT I certainly wish I was still holding that beautiful baby. Right after I got home the shelter in place came out. Now I do not know when I will be able to go south again. The baby is growing and changing daily and she just doesn’t understand video calling yet.

Karie has an “essential” job since she works at WalMart and everyone needs groceries and cleaning supplies. She comes home, changes her clothes and washes up before she comes upstairs by us.

Sarah has an “essential” job because she is a nurse. It is a very scary situation for our healthcare workers. Jeremy is also “essential” as he is a mechanic, so he is going to work everyday right now but may have to take time off later. Their foreign exchange student, Gaspard, from Belgium, got sent home last Friday. They are trying to keep their sanity by doing home improvements and playing games or watching

movies together.

Tracey is home with baby Charlotte right now but Phil is going to work everyday. He changes in the garage and washes up so he doesn’t bring anything home to them. They get out for a walk with the stroller as often as weather permits.

Marilyn is working from home. She works for public health as a trainer. Her boyfriend is also working from home. He is a software engineer for medical applications.

Jimmy and I are staying home. I am keeping busy. I have made 35 masks so far. 27 went to Sarah for herself and her co-workers at the nursing home. Karie wears one at WalMart. One of her co-workers asked for a couple for her dad. And I was concerned about Jennifer Tobin-Tinch going out so much so I had Karie drop a

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couple off on her porch. I will sew some more now for the nursing home and anyone else who needs them. Sadly all of this has not made a dent in my fabric stash. Next I am going to sew a Quilt of Valor for someone from another Grange that I feel really deserves one. And whenever I sit down in my chair I pick up whatever crochet project I am currently working on.

I MISS PEOPLE!!! Jimmy rarely talks much anymore. Truthfully he only talks when I’m really busy and can’t pay attention!!! His hearing is much worse so we have some very interesting conversations depending on how he interprets what I say. He is unable to use hearing aids so this won’t get any better.

I would say enjoy your time at home, but it would be much more enjoyable if we weren’t having a Pandemic.



What I Learned from My Great Grandma and Grandma

By Mary Brubach, Prairie Grange

I was very fortune to have my Grandparent and Great Grandma spend the summers with us on the farm while growing up. My Great Grandma was just 20 when the Spanish Flu hit the US, she was my age during the Dust Bowl and Great Depression, and she had my grandma just a few short years after the Spanish Flu. These two ladies lived through some of the hardest times that America has seen. During a time when we didn’t have Social Media, Televised Press Conferences or even a Pandemic Response team.

Little did I know that those summers just a few decades ago would actually prepare me for the current situation that we find ourselves in.

Those summer days not so long ago, I learned from these two ladies, how to sew a straight line, put pleats in a skirt, and even how to thread elastic through a waist. Those simple skills are allowing me to help make cloth masks for those who don’t have access to medical grade masks, but need a way to protect themselves, or to make baby wipes for those with young ones still in diapers.

Those two ladies taught me that nothing food wise ever got wasted. You cooked a chicken, the giblets could become dog or cat food, you cooked the carcass to make broth that one would then can to be able to use at a later date. The produce grown in the garden, was grown in abundance so one would have food for the winter. When the news mentioned how the grocery stores were bare because everyone was panic buying. I looked at my husband and said we’ve got this. We have freezers full of meat, fruits, and veggies. We have shelves full of canned goods from long hours of processing goodies so nothing would go to waste. I knew if we needed, could share with others, so they had food for their tables also, and we still wouldn’t go hungry.

Most importantly these two ladies taught me about faith, about prayer, and how no matter how tough life got, God would always be by our side providing for us. During this time of “Sheltering in Place” I know that the Good Lord will always take care of us, and by his Grace we will get through the Pandemic of this century.



Windows

Two weeks. The longest time of my life ever, and it is just the start. It’s only week two of social distancing and at times I feel like I’m about to lose my mind; I feel like it’s harder psychologically than physically. Since Adam works for the fire department and I work for the local blood center, we are both “essential” employees. I still wake up and go to work like normal, but life seems more hectic, and slow all at the same time. We’re doing our best with home schooling, we realize how amazing our teachers are now more than ever! The social distancing has made basic trips to the grocery store feel like visiting a different planet. Its hard to find our sense of community, that we are all in this together, that avoiding each other today may well save us tomorrow.

While searching for ways to stay connected, I found a great way to communicate with my neighbors while having some fun at the same time. We used painters tape to create designs on the inside of the windows, took some paint (anything washable, I used 2/3 acrylic paint mixed with 1/3 dish soap), and foam brushes to create a fun art project that others can enjoy as well. I started with the bay window in the kitchen, and randomly put strips of tape up, creating a variety of triangles, squares, rectangles and such. Once I removed the tape it gave the window an amazing stained glass feel. A few days later we moved on to the front windows and storm door. For these we made hearts, and then applied random strips just like before. I got the hearts idea from a Facebook page titled “Happy Heart Hunt”. They are encouraging people across the nation to put hearts in their windows so that we can search for them from the safety of our cars. I even created a smiley face and wrote “Hi”. I thought about putting “SOS” to be funny, but decided against it, I didn’t want to panic the neighbors! The paint easily comes off with water. This was such a fun and easy project that I now plan on doing this for every holiday. There are several other easy craft projects that can be found online. I hope that you all can enjoy some of the quarantine, and be sure to stay home, stay safe, stay healthy!





Weather Alert!!!!

During the tornado warning on Saturday March 28 in Winnebago county the Meyers family had a bit of fun sheltering in place in their basement. They donned their ATV gear for protection. Gotta have a sense of humor through these times.

Youth Department News

As we begin a new month of very different things happening in our world then we are used to, remember some of the precepts of our order, add dignity to labor, to our fellow man be honest, be just and fear not, make sure you are following the rules your workplace has set for you and also remember to think about others as well. Try to stay home as much as possible, only go to the store when you need to and if you have a compromised immune system do not go out at all. Only one person needs to head to the store. As someone who works in a retail position, I am the person in my family who ventures out every day, however I try to keep everyone else in the house as safe as I can. I change out of the clothes I wore to work the moment I get home and wash them right away.

What are your Granges doing right now to help your community? Some of our members are making masks for our members and others who work on the frontlines. I have been lucky enough to receive multiple masks that I can wear to work and I appreciate them. Sarah has also taken many to the nursing home where she works to help out. Other members have been calling our older members and checking to see if they need anything picked up for them. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. We are all in this together, if you need help and we can, we will help whoever we can.

During this time of being home, National Grange has put together Facebook Live video streams to share information on National Grange projects and programs. They are posted on the National Grange Facebook page and even if you miss the time they are live, you can go back and watch the video later. This is a great way to learn about other programs at the National level, or to find out what others are doing.

Unfortunately, I have had to cancel Spring Fling South which was supposed to happen on April 25, 2020. President Trump has expanded the shelter in place order and I am sure the Illinois Governor will follow suit. I hope to reschedule it for later in the summer or early fall, we shall see what unfolds. We still have our camping weekend on the schedule for May 29th - 31st at the KOA in Rochester, IL. We still have RV sites and camp sites available. We will follow any guidelines the campground puts forth; I feel like we are all in a holding pattern right now.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Leadership meetings in Southern Illinois and Northern Illinois, Amanda Brozana-Rios shared

some great information with our members and I think everyone learned something new that they could take back to their Grange. As of right now the Midwest Grange Leadership Conference will be held at the Boone County Fairgrounds, June 26th - 28th, 2020. This is our regional conference open to everyone ages 5 – 105, cost and registration are available on the National Grange website. Again, we will be waiting until the last minute to cancel if we need to, however, I'm hoping we won't need to.

Hope to see everyone soon.

Prairie Junior Grange News

by Jennifer Tobin-Tinch

At the March Prairie Junior Grange we made Easter Cards for our grandparents and ones that will be mailed to members of Prairie Grange. Scarlett's Mommy Sara taught us part of the Pledge of Allegiance in sign language and gave us a handout so we can practice at home.

Our April meeting has been postponed due to the covid-19 pandemic. Miss Mindy will let us know when she will be able to come up and have our Junior Day at the Grange hall. As soon as we have a better idea of what is going on due to covid 19, I will post on the Prairie Junior Grange facebook page when we will meet in May as well.

Miss Mindy has been sharing some coloring sheets and activities on the Illinois State Junior facebook page-please go check it out! I would like to ask everyone to please make a picture or 2 with your Junior, take a photo of them making it, and then mail them to a local nursing home or to an elder person from your Grange. Thank you for helping to brighten someone's day!!

Stay home. Stay healthy. Be blessed.



Membership

By *Lindakay Ebel*
Isg Chairman

April Is Membership Month

Yes, April is Membership Month. We are now in our last quarter of our Grange year. Hard to believe isn't it. Have you sent your 3rd quarterly report to our Illinois State Secretary Robin Kindberg? I also hope you have kept track of how many NEW members you have recruited this year and how many you have lost, as the end of June I will be sending out my report on this. Enough of that, now let's get down to business on recruiting and how we can get new Grange members.

When you are recruiting new members, have you told them all the great things about our Granges. I know we all love the great friendships we have made, the good food our Granges serve, and the fun and fellowship, and the personal happiness and the community pride within our Granges, but we seem to neglect one thing, the many BENEFITS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE which is offered to our members. Let me tell you just a few of them.

When Shopping:

Office Depot/Office Max- Making copies or their products.

Visit <http://www.officediscounts.org/grange.html>

Kohl's or Target, purchases

TicketsatWork – Tickets on movie tickets, theme parks, hotels, tours, etc.

UPS Savings Program – 1-800-636-2377

Lenovo – Laptops, tablets, desktops, and accessories – Call 800-426-426-7235

Travel Hotels/Rentals – Hertz, Avis, Budget

Health Care

Lifeline Screening 866-204-9860

Pharmacy Card – www.uspharmacycard.com/

Healthcare Exchange – 1-855-553-1776

Insurance – United of Omaha Life Insurance Company

MetLife Home & Auto 1-877-491-5089

AFLAC Supplemental Health Benefits – www.aflac.com/nationalgrange

Hearing Program – www.hearinamerica.com or 1-800-286-6149

Pet Insurance – 877-738-7874

Home Services 1-800-474-4047

Identity Protection/Theft Insurance

For more information contact: Loretta Washington, Benefits, 202-628-3507, Ext. 109

lwashington@nationalgrange.org.

She is one special lady and can answer all your questions and is very friendly.

I encourage each of our Grange members to sit down and have a serious conversation about where your Grange is going. Too many times Granges have told me that they do the same projects year after year and watch their Grange decline. Perhaps it is time to try a new method and approach our Grange in a different manner.

So, I am asking each Granger during the Month of April to invite someone to your Grange meeting or a Grange activity, explain to them what Grange is all about, what we do, tell them the rewards, tell them the benefits, tell them what we do to help our communities and our neighbors, and the list goes on and on.

Oh Yes, I almost forgot, the letter of MEMBERSHIP this month is the letter 'R'. With this month, I will only say, please do not REST when it comes to RECRUITING. RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT.

REMEMBER the coronavirus is temporary. Have patience, be kind to one another, this is a time to pull together. When and if you must go out, be kind to all people. There is no need to drive RECKLESSLY or be RUDE to a store clerk. We're all subject to the same stress, and we're all in this together.

Finally, REMEMBER that this is a battle that we will win. This crisis will pass, and it will pass sooner if we all pull together. When it does, we will emerge, we will celebrate, and we will prosper once again.

In Closing, Happy Grange Month. God Bless Each of You and Yours.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

By Beverly Smith

Since we are all trying to keep from getting the coronavirus, perhaps you might have more time to read your Illinois Granger. Right? So, I have some interesting Grange history to share with you. I am always amazed of what new Grange history I can learn. This is a good one. Where was I when this happened? I can't believe I never heard of this first one!

In 1985 farmers were really hurting (called the Farm Crisis) so popular singer Willie Nelson presented a concert in Champaign, IL. They named the concert "Farm Aid Concert". It was used as a means of informing the public about conditions in rural America and be a fund-raiser for assisting farm families. The National Grange was represented at the concert by Russell Stauffer, then Master of The Illinois State Grange and he was National Grange Overseer. Wow, Russ you have to fill me in on this great experience next time I see you! (Found this on page 269 of People, Pride, and Progress)

Herschel D. Newsom was one of the great National Grange Masters. He was appointed to many special committees and commissions by Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy. Very impressive! He also served on a variety of boards. At every opportunity Herschel attempted to get the Grange into the public eye. At the 1953 National Grange session he attracted the most notable speakers of political status. Did you know? Painter Norman Rockwell (a Vermont Grange member) presented a portrait of Newsom to him at that session. (Page 208 of People, Pride and Progress).

Back in the years of President Hoover, the Brigham-Townsend Act of 1931 was passed. It was an attempt to regulate the use of oleomargarine in the United States. The Grange supported this measure, because "oleo" as a butter substitute adversely affected the incomes of dairymen. In 1878 Pennsylvania passed a law restricting the sale of butter substitutes. Grange members supported this first. West Virginia called for all oleomargarine, artificial or adulterated butter to be colored pink. Pink oleomargarine? The states of Vermont, South Dakota and New Hampshire passed laws requiring margarine to be dyed bright pink. Sellers of non-pink margarine could face a \$100 fine or 60 days in prison. Some wanted it to appear artificial and unappetizing to eat. The Supreme Court overturned the "pink laws". The Grange also made it known that they were concerned about purity and proper labeling of food products. (Page 155-156 of People, Pride and Progress) Think about all this next time you "oleo" your toast!



American Values.

Hometown Roots.

Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens



Chaplain's Corner Charlotte Mehrtens

So how many of us would have thought that the middle of March 2020 our whole world would be turned up-side down so quickly. We have gone from peace and happiness to sheer panic. We have gone from doing whatever we wanted to do without limits, to being told we need to shelter in place, how fast our world can be changed in just a short time.

From Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I 'am with thee: be not dismayed; for I 'am your God. I will strengthen you; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

So many of us are so dismayed since many of us have never lived through something like this in our life time. But at this time we must stand strong in our faith with God for He is with us always. Do not panic but draw strength though our Lord for He is in control. If you are sheltered in there are many things that we as Grangers can do to help others in need. Make a meal for a neighbor or friend. Pick up the phone and call someone for a chat or maybe even a good laugh it takes the pressure off of both of you and it passes the day a little faster. My Mom is in the nursing home and no visitor allowed she does not have a phone so I sent her a card and letter letting her know that we are okay. Don is home from the hospital after a five day stay he came home right before this all happened so he is not allowed out at all. We did take a walk outside today in the sun and he is getting stronger. Many friends have called to check on us, they offer their help when we are in need, just doing the little things mean so much in everyone's life to be REMEMBERED.

In this time we remember those who are in need, those who mourn the loss of loved ones, blessing to those with greatness in their life. Stay strong in these times of need. Remember to pray for the world for we shall get though this together.

From Numbers 6: 24-26

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee;

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee'

The Lord lifts up His countenance upon thee and gives you Hid peace.

Peace , Love and Blessings

Happy Easter to all

"I can do things
you cannot, you can
do things I cannot;
together we can do
great things."

– Mother Teresa