



Volume 104

May 2020

No. 4

# Illinois Granger

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



Lynette Schaeffer President Illinois State Grange

## Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms May 2020

The weather in southern IL dried up almost to the point of too dry – in just a couple weeks. I hope you are all following the Governor J B Pritzker's directive to "shelter in place" today 4/23/20 he extended the order until May 30. COVID 19 virus cases seem to be starting to level off, so hopefully we can get back to normal in June. On March 20, 2020 the Governor said no meetings so I hope that your Grange is meeting via Zoom, Teams or conference calls. "Social distancing" is staying at least 6 feet from anyone. Many stores are now requiring masks covering mouth and nose and only one person. Please follow social distancing when doing the necessary trips to the grocery store, drug store, gas stations, etc. Be Smart. Be Safe. Be concerned for your neighbors and community. Follow all medical recommendations during this pandemic. The health of our Grangers, families and communities is most important.

I hope many of you are watching and participating in the daily National Grange Connections. There are many topics of interest and special guest speakers. If you miss them the first time go to the National Grange Facebook page to see the recordings. The Saturday night date nights are very entertaining. Grangers are a talented group. Amanda Brozona-Rios is working hard to keep all Grangers connected.

April is Grange Month and the theme is "Cultivating Connections." It was spent differently this year, from a 6-foot distance and

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 7-10 – Wall That Heals – Flora Grange CANCELLED  
May 29-31 – Grange Campout CANCELLED  
May 30 – State Grange Picnic CANCELLED  
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 15 – Quarterly Report due  
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

illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com

815-299-7884

8711 Deer Run Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008-905

with a face mask on. The connections were checking on neighbors and family. Grange can be celebrated whenever Grangers are working hard in their communities and want to recognize the Community Citizen, honor a Teacher or Firefighter or Law Enforcement Officer. Have an open house to honor veterans and present Quilts

## Shelter at Home With Lindakay Ebel

Flora Grange did not have a meeting in the month of April, we did not hold our annual Roast Beef dinner on April 19th, and we will not be holding The Wall That Heals that was scheduled for May 7 – 10th, so not much going on with Grange, and Pomona is not meeting either. Sure, miss all our Grange friends.

Someone asked me 'what are you doing with yourself with all this time on your hands'? I have kept very busy, have not become bored, have not watched TV and have not had much time to read, other than my daily church study.

So, during this time, I decided to keep going on my house cleaning which I started after the first of the year, cleaning each room from ceiling to floor and everything in between,

of Valor. Or have a special speaker.

At this time the IL State Grange picnic on May 30 has been postponed – please watch and listen for the next date.

The Midwest Grange Leaders Conference is still set for June 26 – 28 and still scheduled for Boone County Fairground.

closets, drawers, woodwork, windows, cleaning out all my cabinets, new shelf paper, etc. upstairs and on the main floor. I also have my storage area completed in the lower level and have only the lower level family room left to do.

Finally, when we had nice, warm, sunny days, Okie, my Old English Sheep Dog and I went outside and started to clean all my flower

Continued on Page 2...

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



**Shelter in Place** contiuned from page 1  
beds and rake up all the leaves under the bushes and shrubs. A lot of work, but they look so much better.

There were times, if I worked too hard one day, I had to take a day off the next day, then I would sew on a quilt I am making, or work on an embroidering hanging project I have been working on for some time. (My Grandmother taught me to quilt and embroidery when she

stayed with us each summer, and I always looked forward to her coming each year, she was very special to me).

Al takes me to the Northwestern Kishwaukee Hospital in DeKalb to get my weekly blood test since my hospital stay in November, however, I go in and out as fast as I can. I talk with my doctors over the phone, all but one, and I do go to see him.

Al has kept himself very busy getting his John Deere corn planter and grain drill ready for whenever the weather breaks and we can start planting our corn and soybeans. He also has been working on our John Deere riding lawnmowers, as it is the season for mowing.

I must say, I do miss all the people that visit our Red Farm Antique Shop since the closure, but it is best that we too, remain closed for now. Hopefully things will get better soon, and we can go back to our usual busy life again.

From time to time, I do set down and write a note to people in nursing homes or call them on the phone, just to let them know we are thinking of them, as they cannot have visitors at this time, and it has to be getting lonely for them, not being able to see their loved one and friends.

Stay well Grangers, take each day as they come and enjoy your time at home, and may God watch over each of you and your family.



*American Values.  
Hometown Roots.*



**ILLINOIS GRANGER**

IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY by  
ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE

8711 Deer Run Drive,  
Belvidere, IL 61008

Periodicals Postage paid at DeKalb, IL  
Postmaster: Please send address  
changes to:

The Illinois Granger,  
8711 Deer Run Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008  
Lynette Schaeffer, Editor  
10041 Rieder Rd.  
Lebanon, IL 62254  
RUTH BLASINGAME,  
News Editor  
8711 Deer Run Dr.,  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
815-299-7884

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEWS AND  
PICTURES: 4th Thursday OF EACH MONTH

Please send all news and  
pictures to:

RUTH BLASINGAME  
8711 Deer Run Drive  
Belvidere, IL 61008

[illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com](mailto:illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com)

DONATIONS: \$10.00 PER YEAR

For correction of addresses mail  
to: The Illinois Granger  
8711 Deer Run Drive  
Belvidere, IL 61008



ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE  
CAMPING ADVENTURE

CANCELLED!

Due to the continued Stay At Home Order, We have cancelled this year's Camping Adventure and State Wide Picnic May 29 - 31st of this year. While the campground was excited to see us come, I felt like no one would want to travel on the last day of the order. We will try again next year!





## Are We Still at Home????

*Ruth Blasingame*

I have been sheltering at home this whole time. To keep myself busy I’ve been making masks for others. So far three members of Prairie Grange have made a little over 650 masks. It has certainly cleared out a lot of my stash of fabric and that is a good thing!! I also made scrub caps for Sarah and her friends at the nursing home. And I mailed some caps to a nurse in Pennsylvania.

Elastic has been a problem but I have an angel by the name of Missy Severson who hunts it down for me. She leaves packages on my porch. The rickety old porch on the front of our house has become a popular place. I put the masks in zip lock bags with names on them and hang them on the railing. Only twice have I seen the people who come to pick them up. I talked to Cindee Robinson when she came to pick hers up. I made her one with chicken fabric for her farm egg market and one with broccoli fabric just for fun. (Both fabrics were leftovers from quilts I made for the ag dept for State Session different years.) And I talked to Missy one day when she was dropping a bag off for me and picking up masks for her family.

I find interesting things on the railing in return for the masks. Sometimes I find money donations, banana bread (twice), a chicken pot pie, a shepards pie, homemade sauerkraut, strawberry juice, pickles, knitting needles, a beef roast, bacon and homemake cookies. I’ve gotten a lot of thank you notes on the railing and in the mail.

I have mailed masks to New Mexico, Nebraska, Wisconsin 2, Missouri, Pennsylvania 2, New York 2, Texas, Tennessee and multiple packages to Illinois. I have given them to the County Clerks office, the County Administrators office, the Blood Bank, nurses at Swede’s, retail workers at WalMart and Dollar Tree, Sullivan’s grocery store, the list goes on and on. And it all started with the nurses at the home where my daughter Sarah works. I get phone calls, texts, Messenger, Facebook any way you can communicate I’ve gotten requests for masks.

Most of my family are “essential” workers. They go to work everyday. Sarah is a nurse on a Medicare unit at a nursing home. Her husband is a large equipment mechanic, her sons work in renewable energy and her daughters are working at a grocery store. My other son-in-law is an engineer so he is working. Tracey is still on maternity leave and Marilyn is working from home. Karie works in customer service at WalMart. So out of the 13 members of our family only 5, me and Jimmy, Tracey and Charlotte, and Marilyn are not going out to work every day.

I hope that this will all be over soon. We can go to our camper but we can’t socialize with the other campers. What fun would that be? We have gone up and gotten it ready for summer but we didn’t stay, we didn’t stop anywhere on the way and we didn’t talk to anyone but each other. I love my family but I am really tired of Jimmy and Karie. JUST SAYING. I need some other people to talk to!!!!

Have a great May everyone.

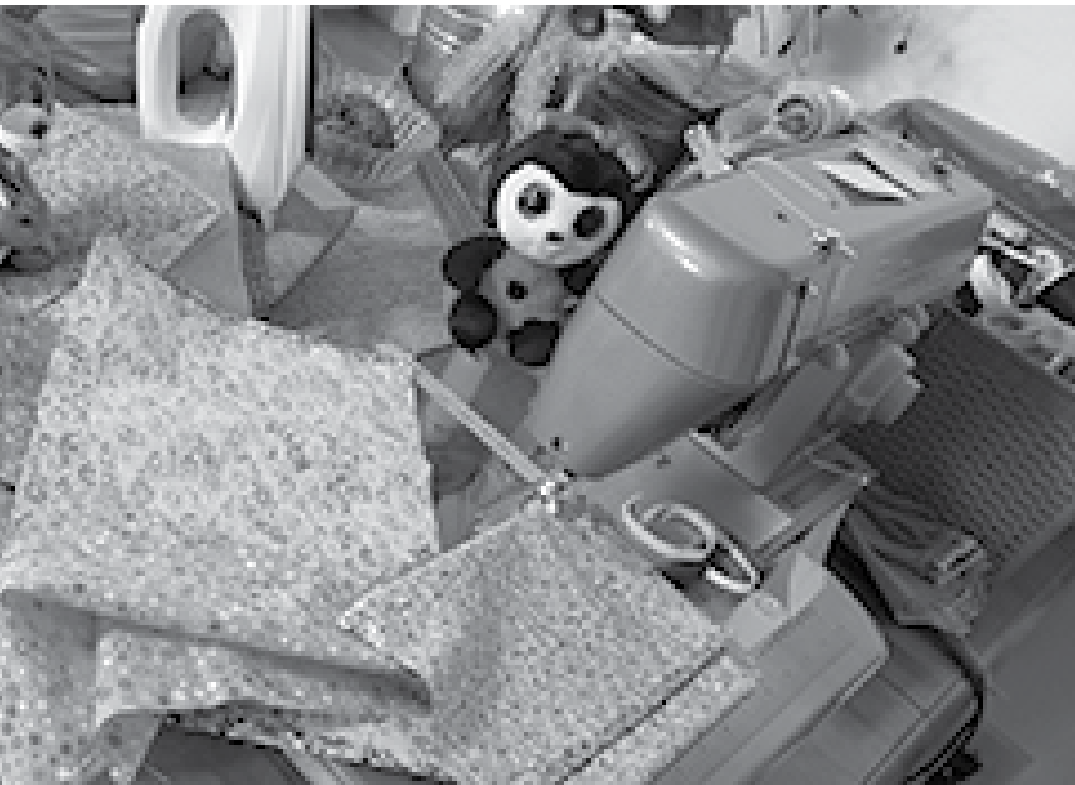


## Illinois State Grange

*Melinda Schieffer*

With extra time at home, we cutting, ironing... and sewing. upcoming blood drive, and to w the cutting and ironing for now



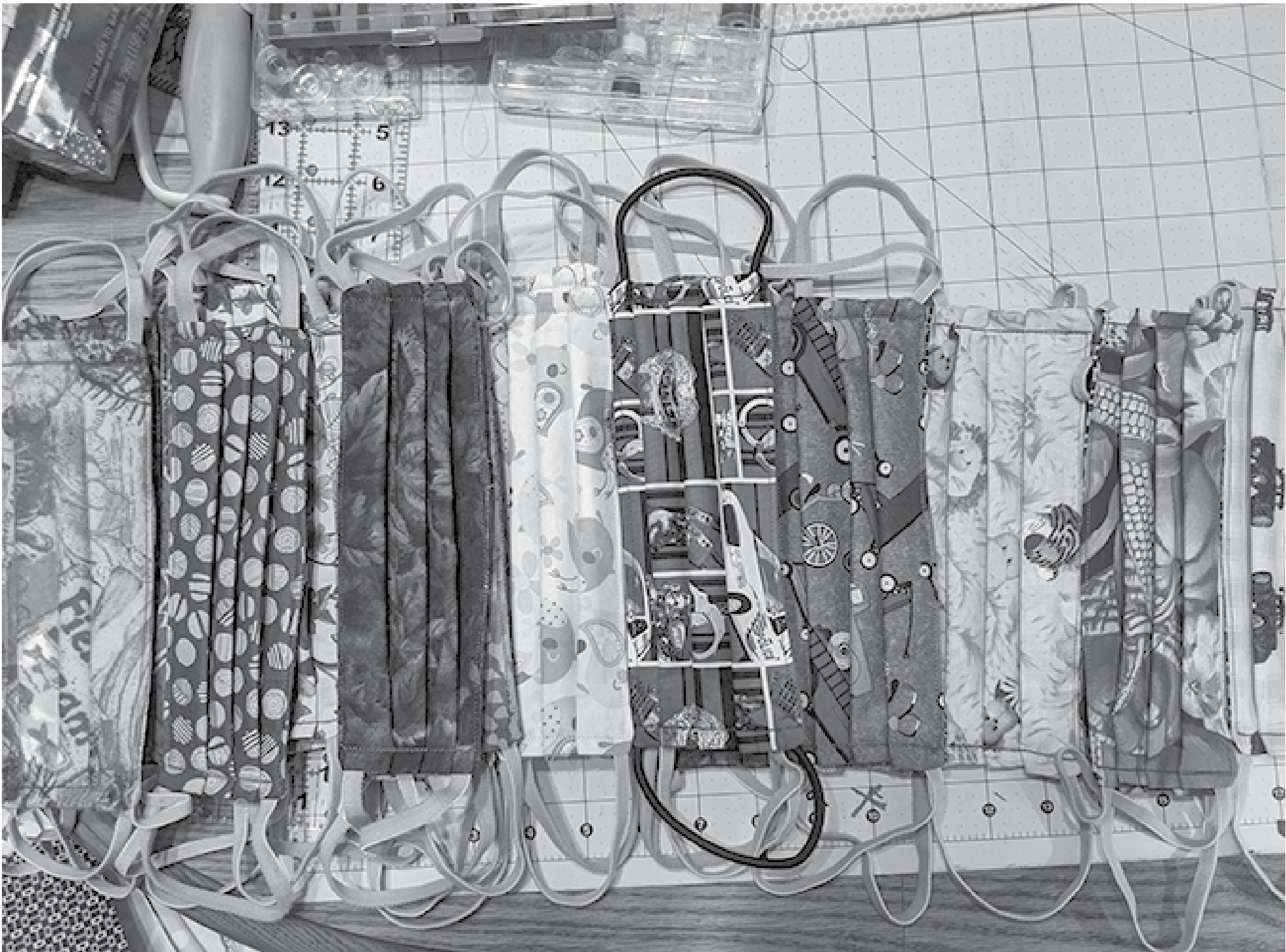


*American Values.  
Hometown Roots.*

## Grange Juniors

are learning some basic skills. Measuring, These masks will be given to donors at an workers at a local pharmacy. Let an adult do so you can stay safe.





# May 2020 Membership

*By ISG Membership Chairman  
Lindakay Ebel*

April was Membership month. Did the Granges celebrate and hold open houses? Probably not. We were all told to follow ‘orders’ and stay at home. So, I am guessing that Grange members did not do much recruiting of new members in the month of April. However, in the previous months, if you did approach anyone on becoming a Grange member, or if you talked to people about the Grange, now would be an ideal time to make a phone call, see how they are doing and ask them if they thought anymore about joining our great organization, The Grange.

The Grange started in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s with farmers and other rural residents, however, in recent years, the decline of family farms has affected the Grange and we have members from all walks of life. Today the Grange is not just about agriculture, we are a family-oriented Grange, and we have more Grangers that live in the small surrounding towns than on farms.

The Grange offers something for everyone. Each Grange works for their community, doing various tasks, such as helping at food pantry’s, Salvation Army, helping families who are struggling, County fairs, Habitat for Humanity, and each year the ISG has various projects each Grange donates items to also.

This month we have the letter ‘S in the word MEMBERSHIP. With this month, I will SAY, please do not STOP thinking about the Grange, keep the SPIRIT, SEND a letter to a friend in the hospital or nursing home, and SHARE your love to them; remember they cannot have any visitors. This is SOMETHING all of us can do, including our junior members, just a SIMPLE thing, but will mean so much to them and will put some SUNSHINE in their day.

Stay STRONG. We are Grangers, we have the STRENGTH to carry on, to SEE the light ahead, and SOON we will be back to holding our monthly meetings and fundraisers and our SPIRITS will once again be high, and we will be together eating our delicious SNACKS that us Grangers make and SHARE.

SO, during this time of ‘Sheltering in Our Homes’ know that God is with you, taking care of each of you and with him we will get through this. God Bless each of you and your family.



# Secretary Report

Hope this finds everyone doing ok. I have been busy sewing masks for my twin daughters that work in retail, and for several family members. I have also started a project I have always wanted to do, Quilting. I am just learning how to do it.

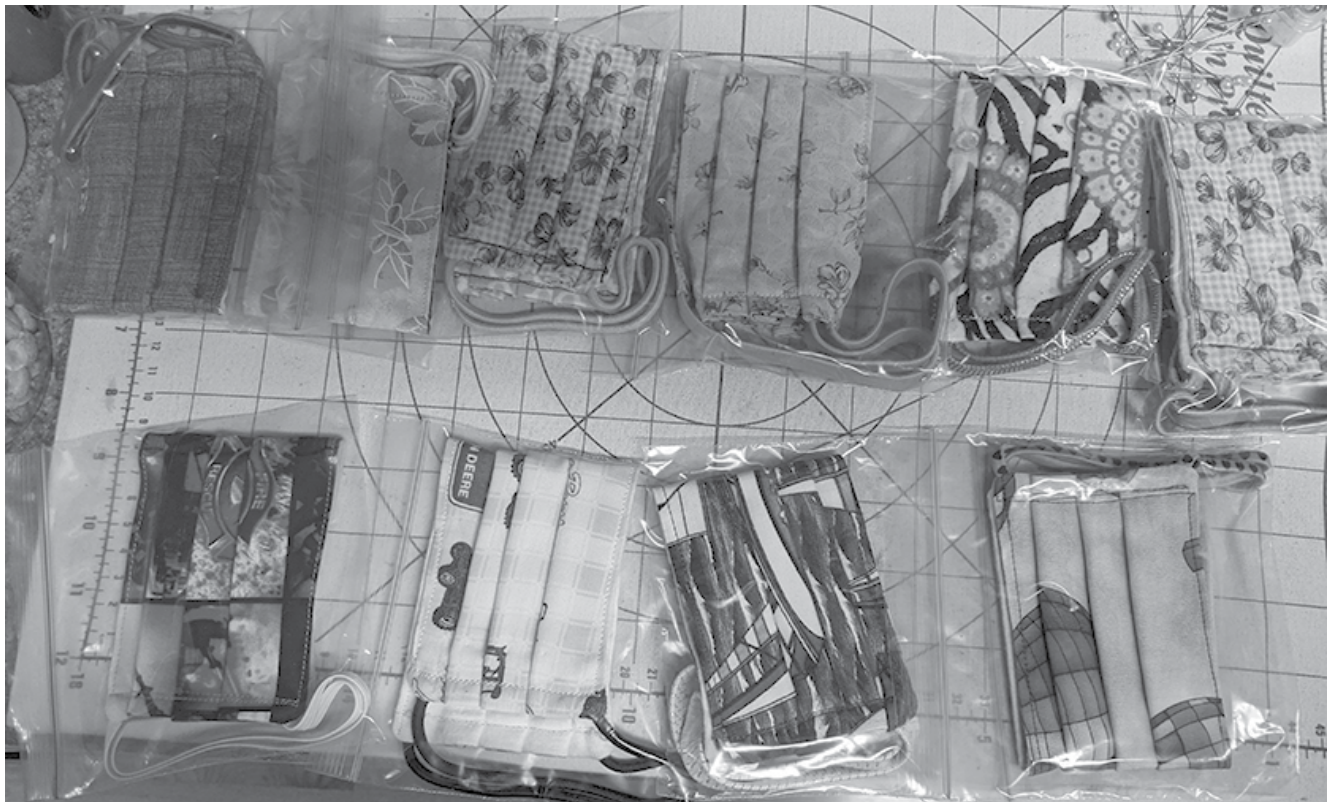
Just a reminder that quarterly reports are due to me by the 15th of the month following the end of the quarter.

Everyone take care, be safe for we are all in this together and keep praying this will end soon and we can get together soon.

Robin Kindberg  
ISG Secretary



*American Values.  
Hometown Roots.*



# Agricultural Report

by Earl David, ISG Ag Chairman

Planting may be well underway when you read this, but so far very little has been completed here in central Illinois. Our temperatures have been a roller coaster, and the warm days were not consistent enough to get the ground really warmed up with nights dipping below freezing every several days. All in all though, it seems to be a better start than last year. It would be a stretch to call it normal as everyone has had to contend with the Covid19 lock down and all the ways that has impacted our day-to-day activities.

For many it is a good thing to have outside chores to give us plenty of exercise and keep our spirits up. Isn't it fortunate that gardening can be a solitary activity? Last month I mentioned the value of mulch in the garden and was reminded that shredded paper can be used as mulch. With extra time on our hands because of the lock down, we finally got around to shredding old records that should have been taken care of long ago and as a result ended up with bags of shredded paper. You may need to wet it down a little, but once in place, it will work fine.

If harvesting at ground level isn't as easy as it used to be, think about going vertical. This is particularly helpful for cucumbers, but there are a number of other vegetables and flowers that do very well on some old fence, garden netting, or other materials you might have lying around.

To get some slow to sprout seeds started, you might try using a strip of moistened burlap over the planted row to keep the moisture available until the sprouts peak through and then remove it. And don't forget those plastic bottles. With the bottom and cap removed, they make miniature greenhouses to protect young plants from the weather (and the rabbits).

Have you been reading about the wonders of beets? They are higher in iron than spinach, have a lot of antioxidants like blueberries, and are pretty easy to grow in our area. For best results plant them when the nights are around 50 degrees.

Consider what useful soil additives you have around your home that can help your garden. Crushed up eggshells will add calcium, repel insects, and add to your mulch. Adding baking soda to the soil around your tomatoes can cut the acidity and make them sweeter. Many gardeners swear by Epsom salts to add magnesium and sulfur which are often lacking in the soil. Coffee grounds need to stay away from your vegetables but are good for hydrangeas and azaleas.

If this summer season proves to be a mosquito

producer, you might consider interplanting some mosquito repelling plants in your porch and deck pots such as lemon balm, lemon grass, basil, lavender, and catnip. One study showed that catnip was 10 times more effective than DEET. But you need to consider how you feel about cats!

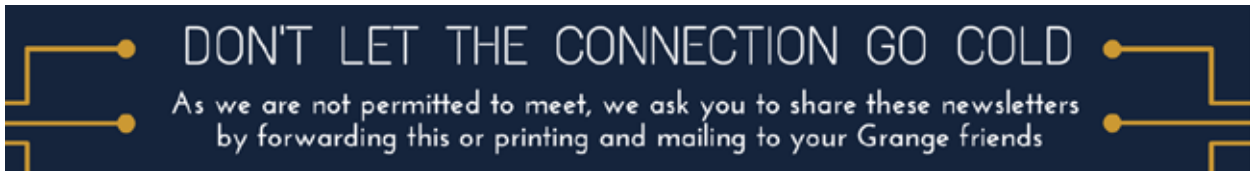


# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

HAPPY GRANGE MONTH!

April 24, 2020



## Embracing alternatives to physical meetings can stave off entropy

By Betsy Huber, National President

As we complete the sixth week of isolation and social distancing, how are you doing? How has your life changed? Or more importantly, how has your outlook on life or your priorities changed? Are you looking back at all the many activities you used to do, the frantic rush from work or school to home to sports to clubs to shopping, even to Grange events, and wondering if they were worth your time?

As you are thinking these thoughts, I hope that you're feeling that Grange was one of the important parts of your life and you will continue your involvement in person when we are finally released. If you have doubts, I hope you will think of what you can do to make your Grange time more valuable—to you and to your family and community. Do you just meet, greet, and eat? Or is there a purpose to your meeting? In these difficult times I'm sure you can find a more meaningful purpose for your Grange, even if you can't meet together in person. This is why I strongly encourage you to hold virtual Grange meetings during this time—so you can plan a new purpose, or new ways of carrying out your purpose in the future.

I came across a word last week—**entropy**, the [inevitable](#) and [steady](#) deterioration of any system or society; the tendency for all things to go from order towards [disorder](#). This is what I fear for our Community Granges in this time of isolation. If your Grange goes for two months, three months, or who-knows-how-long without connection, will it slide into entropy and disappear? Please don't allow this to happen to you!

The National Grange allows and encourages Granges to meet by phone, Zoom, Skype, Go To Meeting, or any of the many virtual methods available. Don't allow a virus to be the death of your Grange!

You don't need to be the Master to initiate a virtual meeting procedure. Any youth or grandchild can set up the mechanics and offer to host. They may get in the habit of attending the meetings and become involved in your Grange. My Grange has been including members in meetings by conference call or Zoom for the last four months—yes, even before the virus—and we have had attendance from members we haven't seen in many years. Those who have moved away, are attending college, or just lost contact with us and are now back. We've had great discussions and it really is a wonderful way to keep in touch. Why not give it a try next week! We want to use this crisis to make our Grange grow, not go into entropy.

## Donations

The following donations were received for the Illinois Granger

- \$20 Catherine Homan, Flora Grange
- \$20 Richard and Gloria Nelson, Flora Grange, for 2020 & 2021
- \$10 John and Pat Henninger, Prairie Grange
- \$10 Al and Darlene Henninger, Prairie Grange
- \$10 Clint and Teri Henninger, Prairie Grange
- \$10 Randy and Kerry Cloyd, Prairie Grange
- \$10 Jimmy and Ruth Blasingame, Prairie Grange
- \$10 Karie Blasingame, Prairie Grange

Donations to the Granger can be sent to Ruth Blasingame 8711 Deer Run Drive, Belvidere, Illinois 61008. Make checks payable to: Illinois State Grange

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. Make checks payable to: Illinois State Grange

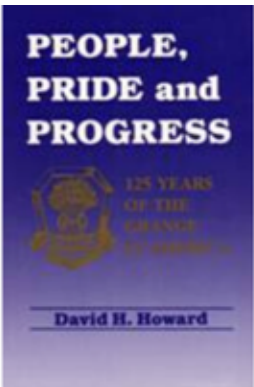


# PEOPLE, PRIDE AND PROGRESS: 125 Year History of the Grange

Written by David H. Howard  
Was \$12.

**NOW ONLY \$6, plus shipping**

Order online at [grangestore.com](http://grangestore.com)  
or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109



## Time to build skills for the future

By Joe Stefenoni, Membership and Leadership Development Director

Quarantine log – day... I’ve lost count.

As we all are looking for different activities to occupy our spare time, this is a perfect opportunity to utilize your quarantine/shelter-in-place/social distance to read a new book, learn something new and/or develop a new skill. While doing all of these, there can be a focus on the Grange as well.

If learning more about the history of the Grange’s legislative, civil and social accomplishments is your desire, most of the literature written on the history of the Grange organization can now be found digitally. The National Grange has republished a number of these volumes as ebooks on the Amazon Kindle store, others can be found on Google Books ([books.google.com](http://books.google.com)) and some can be purchased directly from the Grange Supply Store. From Oliver Hudson Kelley’s *Origins and Progress of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry* published in 1875 to *People, Pride and Progress* published in 1992 by David H. Howard, the history of our organization is a rich fabric that is often intertwined with the progress of our nation. A deeper understanding of the journey our Grange has taken over 152 years builds an appreciation for our past and a better vision for our future.

This is also a time to learn and study our ritual. If you have access to a Grange Manual, pull it off the bookshelf and read through the impressive ceremonies contained within; from the opening and closing ceremonies to the degree work to the Installation of Officers all are filled with teachings that are relevant. When we are again able to meet together, offer to lead a discussion or demonstration on the piece of ritual you learned or studied. The Unwritten Work is also filled with both historical and relevant instructions about some of the things we do in our Grange meetings or as part of our cultural fabric as an organization. After you learn parts (or all) of the Unwritten Work, you can take the opportunity to participate in the Grange Ritual contest at National Grange Convention this November.

Most importantly, this is a prime time to think about your Grange journey and learn about the various leadership opportunities that are available. What is your next step? What responsibilities do you want to have in Grange leadership? What officer roles would you like to fill, and what does it take to be successful? Do you want to become a State Grange Deputy or start organizing Subordinate/Community Granges? The National Grange has a number of resources available including the “Grange Resource Binder” and handbooks for Subordinate/Community Grange Masters, Secretaries and Treasurers and State Grange Deputies. The National Grange Membership department is also looking for regional assistants across the country to help with membership development and leadership training. For more information about this, email [membership@nationalgrange.org](mailto:membership@nationalgrange.org).

For all Grange members I encourage you to take this time to learn something new, think about how it can apply to your life, your Grange journey, or the future of the Grange. This could be the jumping-off point for your next great adventure of service and leadership.

## Blast from the Past

By Beverly Smith

Are you stir-crazy yet? This is such an unprecedented time of social distancing. I don’t believe Granges have ever been told they could not meet. Even World wars have not kept Granges from meeting. I researched the books and there was no mention of Granges not being able to meet because of a virus pandemic.

Here are some tidbits of Grange history:

The eighth National Grange session was held February 1875 in Charleston, S.C. and the ninth session was held November 1875 in St. Louis, MO.

True: The sessions were both held in 1875 because of the change from February to November. Sessions have been held in November ever since.

In 1888 at the Topeka, KS session the National Grange adopted a resolution to add “Woman’s Work in the Grange” a three-women standing committee to report at the next years session. At the 1889 session the chairwoman

Addie Hale reported on the extensive work, ideas and recommendations that a department be added permanently. This committee reported at each session but failed to convince the delegates. At the 1893 session they voted on a resolution to discontinue the standing committee and referred to them as “the sisters who are members of the National Grange”. Ouch! The next day another resolution was adopted to leave the matter for the State Granges. Then at the 1910 session Elizabeth Patterson introduced a resolution to add the permanent standing committee called “Home Economics” as a department of the National Grange. It was given to the “Good Of The Order” committee and it was finally adopted. The complete committee of six was given their start at the 1911 session. Elizabeth Patterson was the chairwoman and one member was Robert Eaton of Illinois. (Friend of the Farmer book does not say Mrs. Eaton so I am assuming it is Mr. Eaton, who was State Grange Master from 1910-1912)

Stay healthy and hopefully we will all be able to meet again real soon!

## Chaplain’s Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens



So how are you doing with the virus and Stay in Place? I hear so many people are starting to complain about the order. Yes it is very hard to. We cannot meet our friends to have lunch, no meetings to attend, watching church on You Tube, no sports to watch. But you really can do things, just not the way we used to do. I have been taking care of yard work, calling friends, checking with my Grangers, let’s not forget cooking meals more than I had been, and yes taking care of Don. He has now started back to therapy three times a week to get stronger so that will keep us busy. I have also learned to relax, my blood pressure has even gone down. I’m taking this as a down time to reconnect with God. I’ve been watching the wheat grow and waving in the wind. I’ve been watching the farmers work in the fields, the fruit trees in bloom and I thank God that we are so blessed to live the United States of America. The smell of the fresh earth being worked, watching families bond together again and do things that they have gotten away from because they were so busy doing other things. I have five wren eggs in a basket near my front door that will soon hatch. I watch the mother bird dart back and forth taking care of her future family. These are the small things in life that we can now take time to enjoy.

In Romans 12:11 -12

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patients in affliction, faithful in prayer, Share with God’s people who are in need, practice hospitality.

We ask for prayers for those who are going though these times of the loss of loved ones.

We thank the Lord for happiness during this time of lock down and for those who will be graduating seniors who will not be able to do their ceremony this year, God be with you.

Grace and peace unto all of you



American Values.  
Hometown Roots.