



Volume 104

July 2020

No. 6

Illinois Granger

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 15 – DEADLINE for Community Service Granger/Non Granger/Junior/Firefighter/Teacher/Police
July 15 – Quarterly Report due
July 19 – Turkey Hill Pork Chop Carryout Dinner
July 19 – Flora Grange drive-thru Pork Chop Dinner at the Flora Grange Hall
Aug 9 – Turkey Hill Ham and Peach Dinner 10:30-3:30
Aug 16 – Youth Winery Tour North contact Karie for info
Aug 19 – DEADLINE for Community Service Report (book) (postmarked)
Aug 23 – County Line Grange drive thru Chicken Dinner – Boone County Fairgrounds
Sept 12 – Illinois State Grange Session – Hopewell Grange Hall – Officers and delegates only
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



Lynette Schaeffer President Illinois State Grange

Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms July 2020

Crops are doing well so far. Wheat nearly ready for harvest. We were starting to get pretty dry then it rained about .7 of an inch. Below average rainfall by at least 2 inches.

I hope you are all still following the Governor J B Pritzker's directive to "shelter in place". Going to the next phase for IL June 26. I am hoping that Granges will start to meet again, and possibly hold outdoor meal fundraisers, maybe drive through meals. Fifty people at a social distance is the new number that can gather in one place. Be Smart. Be Safe. Be concerned for your neighbors and community. The health of our Grangers, families and communities is most important. COVID 19 virus cases are declining in IL the last two weeks and that is a good start for it being eradicated.

We held IL State Grange executive committee meeting last Saturday June 20, via Zoom. State session will be a one-day event at Hopewell Grange Hall, 474 Grange Rd September 12, 2020, starting at 9:30. The meeting will only be delegates and officers. There will be a \$15 fee per person, this will cover the booklet and catered meal. Session business will be resolutions, election of Executive Committee member and budget. The resolutions and delegate names are due to Robin Kindberg on August 1. As soon as possible, the resolutions and committee assignments will be sent out to the Grange delegates. The committee chairs will be able to 'meet' via

Zoom to complete their committee report. Then at session the committees will be given time prior to presentation to review the report that was completed via Zoom. The election of the Executive Committee person will be the position currently held by Lyle Lee. Lyle has stated that he will not be seeking re-election. According to Bylaws the position must be filled by a member in good standing from Boone or Winnebago counties. We are hoping everyone will wear facemasks but not required to wear one. As always if the Master/President is unable to attend the session, the subordinate/community Grange can elect/appoint other delegates. We are hoping that all the Granges will be able to send delegates and participate in this shortened 149th IL State Grange meeting. The Program Directors will be letting everyone know about contests and programs for the next year.

National Grange session will be held in PA as scheduled for two days only. Only Delegates and National Officers are to attend. There will only be business of resolutions, budget and election of two Executive Committee members. Watch the National Grange website (NationalGrange.org) for how all the Program Directors are handling this shortened session.

The National Grange Communications Director, Amanda Brozona-Rios is still finding great topics for the Cultivating Connections on FaceBook and YouTube. Please review the nationalgrange.org website for the schedule of presentations. Review any initial presentations that you have missed. I especially appreciate the presentations by Burton

Eller, National Grange Legislative Director.

I hope that many of you will be able to celebrate Independence Day, July 4th in a meaningful Patriotic way. Thanks to all Veterans and all those who have served in the military. Proud of grandson William for joining the Army, he left yesterday for basic training.

ISG Secretary Report

Hope this finds everyone doing well. Here are just a few things about upcoming events:

2nd Quarter ends June 30th – Dues are due to me by July 15th please

RESOLUTIONS are due to me via email or mail by July 31st.

Illinois State Grange Session 2020 will be held Saturday, September 12, 2020 at

Hopewell Grange in Washington, IL from 9:30AM until 3:00PM

This is a 1-DAY EVENT –

STATE OFFICERS AND DELEGATES

Continued on Page 2...

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

Secretary *Continued from page 1*

815-978-0452

Troy Grove Grange met June 19, 2020 at 7 PM at the Hall. 6 sisters and 2 brothers were present. Community Service chairman Ethel Bauer reported that Grangers met at 10 AM on Saturday May 23 to place flags on Veteran's graves. We were pleasantly surprised to see flags already in place. Philip Harth from the Mendota American Legion later contacted us and related that they had placed the flags and would like to do it yearly if that was acceptable. We agreed as it has been difficult for some members to walk the uneven ground. Agriculture Chairman Jim Weber reported that corn and beans look good. Much better than last year's flooding rains. We could use a little rain now. Legislative Chairman Roy Plote reported on the current political condition. Because of the pandemic there has been little campaigning. Youth Committee reported that Avery Plote had unsuccessfully ran for a State FFA office. Troy Grove Grange sent 185 series G dollar bills to National Grange for the building repair fund. Janet Plote reported that State Executive will be meeting this weekend to decide on Sessions for this year. The next meeting of Troy Grove Grange will be July 16, 2020 at 7 PM at the Hall.

Belvidere, IL 61008

Dayle Paulson

Since our meeting we have learned that Hopewell will host officers and delegates for this year's State Session. We are excited to welcome them to our hall in September.

Chaplain Donna West offered prayer to begin the meeting and attendance was taken by secretary Laurel Ratcliffe. We had two new applications for membership that were approved and Secretary Ratcliffe informed the membership of the loss of a member, Lois J. Knox, 87, of Belvidere who passed away at her home on May 17, 2020.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Emerald Mound Grange #1813

By Lori Henrichs, Lecturer

Emerald Mound Grange just opened its doors! On Wednesday, June 24, we had our first in person meeting since the COVID 19 shutdown. It was great to see everyone’s face! We are a small group, so we were within state guidelines for attendance.

We held our elections, and all in office were re-elected. Then we discussed what kinds of fundraisers we will be able to do that the state will allow. Our next fundraiser is a BBQ dinner on Monday, July 20 from 4 – 7 pm. On the menu will be a choice of BBQ pulled pork, sloppy joes, or jumbo brat sandwich for the entrée. We will also have 2 sides and a piece of cake. The price is \$7 per person. Word has it that Henrietta Keller will make her famous potato salad. Bottled water and canned soda will be available for \$1 extra. Dinners are available as carry out or dine in. We will limit 50 people to the dining room at a time and will keep groups spaced out.

Members voted to give again this year to the local Chapter One charity for school supplies. This year, the organization is donating school supplies to the classrooms instead of having students in need come out to the school supplies fair. They thought more students might need a little help this coming year, since more parents’ jobs were probably affected by the COVID 19 shutdown.

Prairie Granger Report

Prairie Grange held an informal meeting on Monday, June 15, 2020 outside at the Boone County Fairgrounds with about 30 people in attendance practicing social distancing.

We discussed the Food Cart Frenzy event which we sponsor every year. Due to Covid-19 we canceled this year’s event. We decided to give a monetary donation to the local Salvation Army and we encouraged the other Granges that would have been involved to do the same.

Boone County Pomona Picnic will be July 1st at 6:30PM at the Grange Pavillion at the Fairgrounds. Chicken and table service will be provided and everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass and your own beverage.

We discussed that hopefully after July 1st Granges will be able to meet inside the Grange halls again.

Prairie Grange Picnic will be July 15th at the Grange Pavillion at 6:30PM each family is asked to bring one hot and one cold dish to pass and your own drinks.

Good News to hear: Brother Fay Ellwanger is home from hospital and rehab but Brother Al and Sister Darlene Henninger are now at Maplecrest for rehab after having some health issues and Sister Soniia Olstad fell and severely broke her arm. We wish them all speedy recoveries.

Master Ruth Blasingame presented a Scholarship from Prairie Grange to Brock Irwin who is a Junior at UW Black River Falls Wisconsin campus majoring in Dairy Science. Brock is also the ISG Scholarship recipient this year. He is currently interning at place in Minnesota where he is working with Robotic Milking. Congratulations Brock!

We had a lengthy discussion about State Session and what our Grange felt we should do. Most members felt a one day event would be ok but don’t hold it at a hotel use a central location like Hopewell Grange maybe and have just Officers and Delegates in attendance. Maybe set up a zoom meeting at a Grange hall, one in the southern part of the state and another in the northern part so if you wanted to see what was happening you could. Decision will be made this




weekend at the Executive Committee Meeting. Prairie Grange is selling 50/50 Share the Pot Raffle ticket for the Boone County Fair. 50% collected goes to Boone County Fair. The other 50% is split 25% to 1st place winner, 15% to 2nd place winner and 10% to 3rd place winner. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00. Drawing will be on August 16, 2020 at 12:00 Noon. Contact a Prairie member if you would like to buy tickets. Prairie Grange donated to the National Grange Building Fund and members are still collecting G Bills, L Bills for Juniors, Pennies for

National and quarters too. Lecturer Karrie Kindberg presented a short program on Rali RX project that the ISG has partnered with to help dispose of medications properly. Everyone took several packet to distribute throughout the community. The meeting closed at 7:30PM. Following the meeting we held a Bake Sale Auction and we raised \$220.00 to be used for a Community Service in the future. Robin Kindberg Publicity Chairman

Prairie Grange Raffle

Prairie Grange is having a 50/50 Share the Pot Raffle to raise money for the Boone County Fair. 50% to the Fair 25% for 1st prize, 15% for 2nd prize and 10% for 3rd prize. Tickets are \$1 each or 6/\$5. If you would like to purchase tickets contact any Prairie Grange member or stop by the Fair Administration building on Tuesdays from 4-8 pm. Thank you.

No 1333



Prairie Grange Supports the Boone County Fair

50/50 Share the Pot Raffle

1st Prize: 25 %

2nd Prize: 15 %


3rd Prize: 10%

Donation: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

Proceeds to be divided.

Drawing held at Noon August 16th, 2020 at the Boone County Fair

Winner need not be present to win.



No 1333

4 July, 2020 Illinois Granger

Beaver Valley Grange

Beaver Valley Grange met via Zoom for their May meeting on May 31, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Secretary reported our Annual Report was paid and turned in. Community Services hours were turned in. Pomona will probably not have a meeting however Marisa said for the month of June The Haven Network would love to receive STAMPS. They also have “Kits” for \$15.00 if you would like to donate money for them. You can donate directly to The Haven Network at thehavennetwork.org; or mail to The Haven Network, 124 N Water Street, Ste #201, Rockford, IL 61107. Also, they always have things on their wish list located under Events tab. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Reports were given for Fairboard, Membership, Community Service and presentation of Certificates. Discussions on National Grange, and State Session. Be safe and stay healthy.

Dayle Paulson, Publicity

Donations

The following donations were received for the Illinois Granger

\$10 Lyle & Patti Lee, 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

2020 Illinois State Grange Session

The Executive Committee has decided that the 149th IL State Grange Session will be a one-day meeting held at Hopewell Grange Hall on September 12, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm. This decision was made due to COVID 19 concerns. We are only inviting Delegates and State Officers. Each Subordinate and Pomona Grange is eligible to send two delegates, and there would be 2 youth delegates this year. If the Master is unable to attend, delegates can be elected or appointed by the Grange.

There will be a fee of \$15 per delegate/officer. This will cover booklet with all reports, registration fee and lunch (fried chicken- check Illinois Granger).

The business that will be conducted will be resolutions, budget and election of Executive Committee member. This is the position that Lyle Lee holds at this time and he has decided not to run again for this office. This position needs to be filled by someone from Boone or Winnebago Counties, according to our Bylaws.

We are hoping that you are all working on resolutions that are due to Robin Kindberg on or before August 1, 20. Don’t forget to send supporting documentation. At that time, we also need to know who the delegates will be. The Delegates will be assigned to committees and will be sent when all the resolutions are returned to the Granges. The Committees will be given access to Zoom for teleconference/tele-video communications so that they the members can discuss the resolutions. Then at the State Session the decisions of the committee will be presented and voted on by the delegates. The

committee will be given a brief amount of time at the meeting to review their report.

COVID 19 face masks are recommended but not required.

Watch the IL Granger, Illinois State Grange and Illinois Granger Facebook pages and email for any updates. Any questions please contact me.

The draft schedule at this time:

149th Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange

Hopewell Washington, IL, September 12, 2020

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM Registration

9:30 Open in the Sixth Degree – Lynette Schaeffer, Master

Roll Call of Officers/Delegates

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

Meeting place for 2021

Reports –Treasurer (Budget), Kevin Secretary, Robin – Credentials

Election of EXEC Committee member

Lunch - Committee review documents during lunch break

Resolutions

Installation

3:00 Grange Closed in the Fourth Degree

July 2020 Membership

By Lindakay Ebel
Membership Chairman

June 30th ended our 2019-2020 membership year. I am enclosing the Illinois State Grange 2019-2020 Membership form in the Granger for all secretary’s or membership chairman to complete and send back to me at (6199 Wolf Road, Kingston, IL 60145) or email apebel2011@gmail.com to me by July 30, 2020 so that I can complete my report.

As we complete the membership year, I have two final letters of the word MEMBERSHIP to complete. The letters I and P. When I think of the letter I, the only thing that comes to mind is, there is no I in the word team. Remember that when working on a team project, let others help, it is not just one person, I.

The letter P, it takes a lot of PEOPLE to have a Grange, it takes a lot of PATIENCE to work with our junior members sometimes, and also at our meeting or other activities when things do not always go the way we think they should go. We should always be PROUD to be Grange members and invite PEOPLE to join us and we have many PURPOSES in our organization.

Our Granges have many PRINCIPLES of faith, hope, charity and fidelity and loving our neighbors, and we need to renew our PLEDGE to combat prejudice and racism and continue to strive to do better.

Since our founding in 1867, we have lived by our motto, “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty’ In all things, charity,” We have always welcomed and invited people of all races, creeds, religions and nationalities into our membership. We have asked none to join us who cannot see good in their fellow beings, who are willing to put to work their generous hearts and open hands to raise all their neighbors and communities.

This ends my third year as your membership chairman, and I have enjoyed serving and working with all the Grange members, and we must all continue to strive recruiting new members into our Granges.

God Bless each of you and the best in recruiting new members in 2020 - 2021.

Illinois State Grange Youth Department

Sunday August 16th, the Youth Department will be hosting a winery/brewery tour for those over 21 years of age. We will be beginning our tour at noon at the Boone County Fairgrounds where we will figure out who the designated drivers are and how many vehicles we need to take. Please be early so if we all get there we can leave early. I have a call to DC Estate Winery, where will go first. There will be live music by Live Canary, at the winery that day from 1 until 4 pm so we want to get there early and tour before the fun begins! Around 2:30/3 pm I would like to leave DC Estate Winery and head to Lena, Illinois to a small family owned brewery called Wishful Acres Farm and Brewery. They are only open until 5 pm on Sundays so we need to get there in time to enjoy homebrewed beer or root beer in their beer garden. Both places offer snacks to purchase and do not allow outside food and beverages. I need to know how many would like to go on the trip with us so I can coordinate vehicles. If you are willing to let us use your vehicle or you would like to be a designated driver please let me know. Cost depends on what you order. I would like everyone to chip in on some gas money for those vehicles we are using to drive to both places.

For all of our youth members are you participating in any of the National Grange programs advertised on the National Grange Youth page? If you need any help or would like to do one of the projects but need help starting let me or a member of your Grange know. Deadlines are coming up for the pillar project. You may have already completed something in school that with a few adjustments can be submitted to the National Grange Youth projects.

Don’t forget we can all complete Junior Grange projects and send them in for the Junior at Heart program. If you have questions please contact Mindy Schieffer or myself.

I know that state session will look different this year, but the executive committee is trying to find ways to keep everyone safe during this time. Keep an eye on the Granger for more details the closer we get to September. Make sure when your Grange meets in July you write or approve at least one resolution to go to State Session. We are in a unique period of change in our country at this time. I hope that we will rise to the occasion and show the world that our organization is relevant and timely.

So God Made a Farmer

By: Mary Brubach, Prairie Grange

God said, “I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, ‘Maybe next year.’ I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain’n from ‘tractor back,’ put in another seventy-two hours.” So God made a farmer.

We’ve all heard the famous Poem “So God Made a Farmer” by Paul Harvey many times over. This poem describes how much love and passion a “Farmer, Rancher, Caretaker of the Land” puts into his/her everyday life, but have you ever stepped back and wondered “Who takes care of

Illinois State Grange Membership 2019 - 2020

Membership Report for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

Pleased remit to Lindakay Ebel, 6199 Wolf Road, Kingston, IL 60145, or email: apebel2011@gmail.com not later than July 30,2020. Please call me at 715-493-2344 if you have any questions.

- 1. Grange Name & Number_____
- 2. Grange County_____
- 3. Membership Chairman or Secretary_____
- 4. Number of members as of July 1, 2019_____
- 5. Number of members as of June 30, 2020_ _____
- 6. Number of members lost between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020_____
- 7. Number of new members between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020_____
- 8. Net gain in membership as of June 30, 2020_____
- 9. Net loss in membership as of June 30, 2020_____
- 10. List names of new members and who signed their membership application (two signatures). Please use additional sheets to include all your new members for the year.

Example

New Member	Recommended by
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____

Awards at the Illinois State Grange Session include:

Each Community Grange will receive \$5.00 for each new regular & affiliate member.

Each Community Grange will receive \$5.00 per person for regular & affiliate members resulting in net gain.

Community Grange member who signed the application for four new members between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 will receive a plaque.

A bar will be given to those previously awarded a plaque.

Please indicate whether a plaque or bar should be awarded to eligible members.

Please encourage members to bring previously awarded plaques to the Illinois State Grange Session so that bars may be attached to their plaque.

Special thanks for your help, you make my position so much easier by completing this annual report.

the Farmer, The Rancher, or the Caretaker of the Land.”

Over the past few years, “The Caretakers of the Land” have experienced significant economic stressors that is compared to the Farm Crisis of the 1980’s. These stressors have caused an increase in mental health problems for our “Caretakers”.

Statistically about 25% of the Farmer/Rancher/ Caretaker of the Land population suffer from mental illness rather it be from stress, anxiety, depression, or a diagnosed mental illness. According to the Rural Health Organization states that the male suicide rate among Farmers and Ranchers is 43.2 per 100,000 verses their counterparts in every other occupation which is 27.4 per 100,000.

So, I ask you what you are doing to take care of our farmers. Have you sat with them while they cried over the death of calf who is next year’s profit, and listen to them think out loud about where they will get the money to pay their bills since they lost that calf?

Like many, farmers get stressed over things that are out of their control, but they rely on heavily to help them make their living. Take last year for an example, many farmers here in

Illinois were unable to get their fields planted due to too much rain, many worried how were they going to make their land rent, or pay back their operating loan. Government subsidies and insurance only pay so much.

Ever thought about that rancher, who accidently got kicked by a cow, and now has a broken leg. He/She is laid up for at least 6 weeks. This a person who is used to being able to do everything themselves, but now they must rely on someone else’s help.

Farmers, and Ranchers have been stepping up to help their counterparts through the hurdles of mental health. Wisconsin State Farm Bureau has developed a program called “Farm Neighbors Care”, where farmers are paired with other farmers to do wellness checks.

The Rural Community has also started their own help line for those who need to talk. It is 1-800-Farm-Aid (327-6243).

So, God made a Farmer to be the caretaker of his land, now I leave you with who is the caretaker of the farmer? What are you doing to help the farmer? What can we as Grangers do to help our farmers and ranchers?



*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*

6 July, 2020 Illinois Granger

Agricultural Report

by Earl David, ISG Ag Chairman

What a difference a month makes! When I wrote my Illinois Granger article last month, many areas were so wet that farmers were replanting corn and soybeans. Now, in our part of the state (Tazewell and surrounding counties), we are so dry that crops are at a standstill and the ground is cracked. I hope that most of you are having better luck with the weather and that your field crops and gardens are in good shape.

July is usually the month when we begin our county fairs and 4-H shows and other events, but this year they are not happening or are being held through some type of virtual arrangement. Once again COVID-19 has dealt us a disappointment. Although we will not be able to host our usual Agriculture displays at State Session, I hope you have good harvests from your flowers and vegetables and that you will share with friends, neighbors, and maybe your local food banks.

If you made an effort to plant some things that attract pollinators, you may be beginning to be rewarded for your efforts. As more and more plants start to bloom, the bees, butterflies, moths, and other insects begin to appear. In fact the week of June 22 – 28 has been designated National Pollinator Week.

However, there are a few insects that help with pollination that we really don't care to have around. One of those would be "bore bees" also known as carpenter bees, and now we have a new threat from the Asian giant hornet that is coming to us from Japan. The carpenter bees, like carpenter ants, cause a lot of damage to wood while the giant hornets kill honey bees or a large scale.

I hope everyone is having a nice summer and look forward to seeing you all again in the not too distant future.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

20% off Harvest Hosts Membership for RV-ers

Grange members can now enjoy 20% off their membership with Harvest Hosts, which has more than 825 partner sites across the U.S. and Canada that allow members with RVs to stay one night free on the property of an agriculturally-oriented business. In addition to the ag-based destinations, individuals can add to their membership the "+ golf" option that includes more than 350 golf courses.

There is an app associated with Harvest Hosts that provides maps of the destinations, trip routing and planning and much more. Members of Harvest Hosts can also enjoy other RV-oriented savings. Grange members with RVs are encouraged to check out Harvest Hosts at harvesthosts.com and use the code GRANGE at checkout.

2020 National Grange Convention

The National Grange Executive Committee is very sorry to announce that the 2020 National Grange Convention will have many changes because of the Covid-19 pandemic and therefore will be open for National delegates and officers only. No visitors or Grangers will be invited to attend in person this year.

The convention will be cut to two days and the

only business will be voting on resolutions and electing two executive committee officers. Extra activities, such as the Evening of Excellence, Youth and Junior Public Speaking and Sign a Song, will take place virtually. The Seventh Degree will not be exemplified this year.

Other recognitions such as Community Service awards, Distinguished Grange, Grange Legacy Family, and the Quilt Block Contest, will be held and awards given, but there will be no ceremony. National Grange Department Directors will be sending out information regarding their programs and how they will be handled this year, so stay tuned!

The Valley Forge Casino Resort, site of the convention, has been closed since March 14 to this date (June 6). We don't know when it will be permitted to open, because the counties around Philadelphia are a hot spot for the virus. The hotel is willing to allow us to downsize our convention to two days, 80 people, hopefully without penalty, so we are exercising that option at this time.

Also we do not want to endanger any of our members by asking them to travel and to spend days in a large crowd. The health and safety of our Grange family comes first. We feel it may not be safe to gather, even by November. Many of your State Sessions will see major changes this year also. We hope you will understand this decision, and keep on working at the local level as much as you can to help your communities.

Fraternally,
Betsy E. Huber
National Master



*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*

ALERT:

YouTube Contest, "With Justice for All," Seeks Submissions from Students About the Effect of Covid-19 and Recent Tragedies on Their Educational Experience.

Prizes include 11 scholarships for students who best address the question, "How has your school delivered on the promise of equal access and educational excellence, particularly during these challenging times?"

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Center for Education Reform (CER), in partnership with the Freedom Coalition for Charter Schools, the Children's Scholarship Fund, and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, today launched "With Justice for All," a national YouTube contest for students.

Over the last few months, students and schools have faced significant challenges from distance learning and national tragedies. Times like these highlight how a great education is the most important asset a student has to effectively change the world.

So CER decided to ask students directly: Has your school delivered on the promise of equal access and educational excellence, particularly during these challenging times? Tell us how well your school did — or didn't do — in providing you a great education.

"We want you to be able to take charge of your education," said Jeanne Allen, CER's founder and chief executive. "We want to assist you in writing the next chapter of your education story. Tell us your story, and we'll tell everybody who needs to know, especially those in power."

Videos must be shorter than three minutes, hashtagged with #MyEducationVideo, and submitted to MyEducationVideo.com by 11:59 PM EDT on July 4, 2020. Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of celebrity judges. Awards include 10 \$2,500 scholarships — and one \$20,000 scholarship — to the high school or college of a student's choice. Winners will be announced during a live-streamed ceremony (date and time T.B.D.), and their videos may be shown to delegates at both of the 2020 national conventions this summer.

"We've designed this contest for students ages 13 and older, because we know it can be hard to get your ideas about education heard when you're a kid," said Allen.

For more information, visit MyEducationVideo.com.

President's Message: A Step Toward Normalcy

by Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President

Greetings from your National Grange Headquarters, where we are beginning to welcome staff back at least part-time. We still hear peaceful demonstrations in the street every afternoon, but some of the plywood protection has been removed from store fronts nearby and things are very slowly opening up again, even though the pandemic continues.

It is still a strange time! While some Granges are again holding in person meetings outdoors or with social distancing, many State Granges are making plans for state sessions with delegates only in attendance. Some are brainstorming totally virtual sessions in case that becomes necessary this fall. You will need to do what your state's Governor requires and what your own

members feel comfortable with. My own Pomona is planning a July 11 picnic meeting outdoors, with social distancing and boxed lunches—no shared food! If you do decide to meet, just be wise and careful and protect our more vulnerable members.

Meanwhile, most fairs, festivals, and parades have been cancelled and it looks like it will be a quiet, peaceful summer—although time seems to be flying by as quickly as ever. Your National Grange staff and directors have been busy setting up contingency plans for contests and programs to replace the Regional conferences and National Convention activities.

And now that you have more time at home, I expect lots more entries in all our contests! The

Youth sponsored Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song Contests deadlines have passed, but there's still plenty of time for quilt blocks, photography, and Community Service notebooks. Be sure to complete your Distinguished Grange application by August 1. If you have generations of family in the Grange, check out the Grange Legacy Family application on the website and have your family recognized with a certificate of appreciation. And there's still time to practice that talent to perform in the Evening of Excellence.

Be sure to stay tuned for announcements about the daily Cultivating Connections programs and any announcements about your State Grange Sessions and other activities. Enjoy the wonderful summer weather!

Grange Issues Statement Addressing Racism, Inequality and Organization's Foundation Of Inclusivity

The National Grange unequivocally opposes racism. The voices of Grange members across our country join those who cry out in sorrow for the lives lost to racist actions, for the divisions racism has cleaved between us and for the inequality that racism has spawned across our beloved nation.

Since our founding in 1867, we have

lived by our motto, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." We have always welcomed and invited people of all races, creeds, religions and nationalities into our membership. We have asked none to join us who cannot see good in their fellow beings, who are willing to put to work their generous hearts and open hands to raise all their neighbors and communities.

Our Grange founders provided us a Declaration of Purposes for our organization that addressed a need for unity and civil discourse: "We shall constantly strive to secure harmony, good will, and brotherhood... We shall earnestly endeavor to suppress personal, local, sectional, and national prejudices... We desire a proper equality, and fairness; protection for the weak; restraint upon the strong; in short, justly distributed power." These words still guide us today.

One does not merely join the Grange, but lives by the principles of faith, hope, charity and fidelity and loving their neighbor as themselves.

We have a deep commitment to the freedoms of speech, expression and peaceful protest enshrined in our Constitution for all people. The Grange's Declaration of Purposes also teaches us that "...difference of opinion is no crime. Progress toward truth is made by differences of opinion, while the fault lies in the bitterness of the controversy." Therefore we urge everyone



to exercise their individual rights of expression in a civil and respectful manner. Each day, law enforcement officers must uphold the law equally while exercising good judgment and compassion.

Just as we do in each of our meetings, we must meet the peaceful expressions of various opinions with open ears and open hearts.

In this time of social unrest and anxiety, Grange members renew our pledge to combat prejudice and racism and will continue to strive to do better. We continue our 153-year-old tradition of welcoming all to our membership, building an inclusive family fraternity and providing our communities with a place for civil discussion and proactive, positive change.

Lecturer's Photo Contest Update

The Photography Showcase of the Best of Show winners from each State Grange at National Convention has been canceled. In its place will be a Virtual Photography Contest – open to ALL members and non-members, regardless of age. Entry Form is attached.

Improvise, Adapt, Overcome

By Joe Stefenoni,
National Grange Membership &
Leadership Development Director

The United States Marine Corps says that all Marines are "trained to improvise, adapt and overcome any obstacle in whatever situation they are needed."

The evening of June 14th, Redwood Valley Grange #382 in Redwood Valley, California presented "Live at The Grange," an evening of musical talent digitally broadcast. This Grange is fortunate to have a number of members who are professional musicians, performers and artists, so this event was a natural display of the time and talent available to the Grange. They also used this as an opportunity to connect with the community, explain the Grange mission & activities and ask for donations to further Grange projects. The event was broadcast on their website as well as on YouTube. This event is the prime example of a Community Grange adapting and overcoming the challenge of creating community engagement during COVID.

This event highlighted the special talents of the members at Redwood Valley Grange. All Granges across the country are filled with members who have special and unique talents to share with the wider community. During this time where Grange cannot meet and hold community activities like we are accustomed to, we should be looking at how we can improvise, adapt and overcome this particular challenge. Does your Grange have a wealth of musical talent like the Redwood Valley Grange? Are there artists of other mediums who could teach an art project on a zoom call? Can your Grange host a community forum about how to create community while remaining socially distanced?

Engagement with members and community is critical in normal times, but even more so during COVID. Community Granges have always been notable community centers for enlivening activities and events. At your next meeting (digital or socially distanced), take the time to map out a plan for an event that engages the community and shows how the Grange benefits both them and the community. This may even mean dusting off your grange.org website and updating social media. No matter how it looks, be ready to improvise from the way we've always done things, adapt to the current situation, and overcome the challenge we face.

For more information about Redwood Valley Grange, you can visit their website redwoodvalleygrange.com or Facebook page facebook.com/RVGrange/. To watch their "Live at The Grange," see it on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQgqCfCcpg0>

8 July, 2020 Illinois Granger

Blast from the Past

By Beverly Smith

Were you watching the protests in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, May 30th? I started to cringe when they announced they were on H Street N.W. 1500 block. Even though it was probably 50 + years since I visited the National Grange Building, I knew the address 1616 H Street, N.W. is in very close proximity of the White House. The Patrons Chain Newsletter verified my fears. They reported that a rock was thrown through the front windows and landed some 20 feet inside the building. National Master Betsy Huber stated “that our building is a treasured asset, we paid the price of having a building in the heart of Washington, D.C.” Unfortunately, 2020 is etching some very unusual marks on our Grange history.

I have to share some shopping news with you. Yes, my neighbor and I went on a short “garage sale” trip over by Poplar Grove. On our way back home, we stopped at “Second Hand Rose”. A very cute shop located right next to the former Poplar Grove Grange hall by Route 173. They have antiques and farmhouse décor! Maybe you could check it out too!

A big “Thank You” to Vivian Johnson for giving me some Grange History Goodies! She was Winnebago County Pomona Lecturer back in 1985-1986. She assembled a very extensive program booklet of the years’ activities. It included lots of games, quizzes, songs, readings, and cake walks. I always loved the cake walks and hoped that I would win the chocolate cake! Two of our yearly traditions was to attend New

England Grange Bingo night and also have a Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper cooked by Lee Baxter and Charles Temple at the Westfield Grange hall.

Here is an excellent idea of game/quiz. Vivian took pictures of landmarks in our county (Winnebago) for the members to guess. We all have landmarks and sometimes don’t even visit them. In 1986 we toured one of our county’s historical landmarks — The Coronado Theater. It was a movie theater but also performers such as Bob Hope, Louis Armstrong, Sammy Davis Jr. and the list goes on entertained there. The theater is elaborately decorated with special plaster work reminding you of a palace. It also houses a grand pipe organ. We enjoyed a special organ performance by our Grange member Donald Milne who played there quite often. Another recollection is that is where my high school graduation was held.

Chaplain’s Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens



provides for us but He is always with us even when we think He isn’t with us.

I found this little saying and I hope it will give you something to think about.

Hope and Faith always have your back

Sometimes they’re following right behind us, constant and comforting.

Sometimes, they’re beside us. Encouraging us and cheering us on. And sometimes they’re leading the way, moving us forward. Just remember that hope and faith are always there for us, whenever we need them the most.

Remember keep your faith in all the days ahead and pray to God for your needs. He does listen and provides. Where there is hope look for brighter days again. We pray for those who have been ill, have lost loved ones or who are lost during these times. We rejoice for those with great news to share with others. We PRAISE the Lord for He is good. Until next time MAY GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU IN HIS CARE.



2019 Quilt Block Contest

RULES

- A. The National Grange Quilt Block Contest is open to everyone.
- B. All contest entries must be received by the National Grange Lecturer by **October 31, 2019**.
Send entries to:
Christine Hamp, National Lecturer
16418 N. Birdie Road
Nine Mile Falls WA 99026
- C. Any entries received after the deadline will not be judged. However, all entries received will be exhibited at the 153rd National Grange convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- D. The quilt block you enter in the contest for judging must be made by you.
- E. There is no limit on the number of quilt blocks a person may submit, but choose one quilt block per person to be judged.
- F. All entries will be retained by the National Grange to be made into finished quilts and other items to be sold at a later date to raise funds for the Grange Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity.
- G. A 2019 Quilt Block Contest Entry Form must be completed for the block to be judged.

GROUPS

- Group I – Adult (Age 14+)
- Group II – Junior (Age 13 and under)

PRIZES

- Monetary prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in both Groups.
- Ribbons will be awarded to all entrants.