



Volume 104

August 2020

No. 7

# Illinois Granger

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 7,8,9 - Get your Fireman's Donuts at the Boone County Fairgrounds  
Aug 14,15 - Cosmo Corn Drive Thru Presale only at the Boone County Fairgrounds  
Aug 16 - Turkey Hill Ham and Peach Dinner - preorder and prepay only  
Aug 16 - Youth Winery Tour North - contact Karie for info  
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  
9 am Registration 9:30 Meeting Starts  
Oct 25 - Turkey Hill - Wurstmart Dinner 10:30-3:30  
Every Tuesday from now thru Aug 11 Prairie Grange will be selling 50/50 Share the Pot Raffle Tickets at the Fair Administration Building from 4-8 pm

## 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 Wisdoms and Visions

Well the weather here in southern IL has been hot, steamy and rainy, way weird compared to the normal. We have been picking blackberries and peaches. The chickens and squirrels are getting the peaches faster than we are. The blackberries have had a longer season than normal. I have frozen and eaten pretty much all I can. We plan on making wine with some of it. Crops are looking pretty good.

I hope many of the Granges are able to start having meetings and fundraisers again in this phase of the IL COVID 19 plan. Please follow social distancing and wearing facial masks to minimize the spread of the COVID 19 in your area. I know that in St Clair County recently Turkey Hill and Emerald Mound both have had successful fundraisers.

As you have all probably seen, the 149th IL State Grange Session will be different than ever before, a one-day session at Hopewell Grange Hall for delegates and state officers only. September 12, 2020 starting registration at 9:00, meeting at 9:30. There is a \$15 fee per delegate or officer, this includes lunch and booklet. I am hoping to be completed by 3:00 PM. Facemasks are requested for all those attending. We will work on resolutions, budget and election of one Executive Committee member. Lyle Lee is currently holding that office and he has decided not to seek re-election, so anyone interested in holding that position please let me or one of the delegates

know. This person will need to be from Boone or Winnebago counties. There will be no contest items on display. Community Service books are still due, please read Tracey's article in this paper or previous ones. There will be a National Grange Community Service contest. Photo contest items, please check with Ethan, I believe there will be a national contest. Check with Mindy or read her articles about Junior Contests. Delegates will get committee assignments when the resolutions are sent to the Granges, the committees will be able to meet via Zoom to create their report. There will only be time at the meeting to finish the report. The budget and financial information needed for the creating the budget will be sent to the finance committee.

I will be looking for a person to fill in on the Agriculture committee - to be Chairman in 2022. Justin Schaeffer will be the Chairman starting after the 2020 session. Sharon Fidler will continue as the Family Activities Chair.

Come to the GRIT conference to see what the contests are - provided the situation with COVID 19 have not changed. An official date has not yet been set for GRIT.

Hope to see your Grange represented at the 149th State Session at Hopewell Grange Hall, September 12, 2020.

Lynette



*American Values.  
Hometown Roots.*

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# What’s New at Turkey Hill Grange?

The members of Turkey Hill Grange had a conference call board meeting in May followed by a ZOOM all member business meeting. Both were necessary to conduct the Grange business. Our biggest success is that our member Jim Coe updated our website so that orders for our Pre-order, Pre-pay Grilled Pork Chop dinner could be made and paid in advance through our website, <turkeyhillgrange.org> (events). With just a click, you can order now for our next dinner which is the Ham and Peach dinner on August 16. With the uncertainty of the Covid 19 as well as the weather, there is real comfort in having dinners pre-ordered. We are happy to say that the pork chop dinner was a sell-out.

Our Junior Grangers have been busy with their craft projects and their community Garden which they partner with a church group. In September Turkey Hill Grange will have Junior Grange Night at the regular meeting. The Juniors will present a program and show their projects to the Subordinate members. They have invited the Juniors from Emerald Mound Grange to join us.

The Turkey Hill Grange Quilting Group keeps growing and is busy selling raffle tickets for a beautiful quilt handmade by Judy Brindley. These ladies are also working on ten Quilts of Valor to be presented later this fall.

*Submitted by Jane Helms,  
President Turkey Hill Grange*

## Big Thunder Grange

June 25th meeting

Please keep the Henningers in your prayers hopefully they will be out of Maplecrest by Monday. Al is doing much better.

We lost 4 members so we need 4 new members steward, lecturer, flora and Pomona

Boone county fair has been cancelled.

July 19th flora grange is having a drive thru pork chop dinner choice between 1 or 2 chops, choice

on potato salad or baked potato and a choice of vegetable. Cost is unknown at this time. Keep checking Boone County Shopper for details.

Flora Grange is also doing a butter braid fundraiser. \$14.00 per braid delivered in August.

Aug 23 County Line Grange is having a chicken dinner. This will also be a drive thru service also \$10.00 profits going to the Boone County Fair.

Big thunder Grange Applebee’s pancake breakfast will be rescheduled for later date so please hold on to your tickets.

Jim Marks Scholarship ceremony was cancelled due to Covid. Dave Geske did a presentation via phone. It went to a student at Marengo High School, Andrew Millard an FFA member h. He is going into wildlife and fisheries with future goal of fish and game warden and continue with his farming interest.

Fair board report: all events have been cancelled that were booked for fair. Keeping track of lost revenue from fair. Door in cattle barn has been fixed. Grange hall will reopen june 26th but any events will need health department approval. Cosmos will be at fairground on the Sat and Sun of fair week for sweet corn purchase this will also be a drive thru service and pre ordered.

Sunshine club has sent cards to the Henningers, Hamiltons, Fuchs and Ramos family.

Ag report - corn is under 3 for cash, hogs are down, cattle down.

Grange dues were due in January.

## Troy Grove Grange

Troy Grove Grange met July 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Hall. 6 sisters and 4 brothers were present.

Community Service Chairman Ethel Bauer requested information on reporting the year due to the pandemic.

Agriculture Chairman Jim Weber reported crops are looking good. We have been getting rain and storms but no apparent damage to crops.

Legislative Chairman Roy Plote reported there is an apparent coin shortage due to the mints being shut down. Avery has an internship with IL State Representative Jeff Keicher, 70th District. As there can be no large gatherings, Avery is making phone calls to gauge how voting will go.

Youth Chairman Avery Plote reported on his year as FFA Section 7 President. Last summer was spent traveling with other officers to visit political office holders including Senator Durbin. Last Fall Avery was making Chapter visits. He attended State and National Conventions. Avery will be attending Champaign for his Sophomore year with plans to become an Ag teacher.

In communications, a thank you was received from the National Grange for the “G” dollar bills. Illinois State Grange Session will be at Hopewell Grange for one day only with officers and delegates only in attendance.

Ethel Bauer nominated Ethan Plote as Troy Grove delegate for Session. Jim Weber seconded. All approved.

Joan Dennison made a motion that we eliminate refreshments due to the pandemic for now. Avery Plote seconded. All approved.

The next meeting of Troy Grove Grange will be August 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Hall.

## Boone County Pomona News

Boone County Pomona Grange members gathered at the Grange hall for a delicious potluck meal followed by our first in person Grange meeting since January. There were 47 members in attendance and 4 via zoom.

Election of 3-year term Executive Committee position was held. Jack Ratcliffe was re-elected for another 3-year term on the Boone County Pomona Grange Executive Committee. Congratulations Jack!

Grange reports were given: BEAVER VALLEY – Held their first zoom meeting ever. Still collecting items for The Haven Network especially gift cards and postage stamps.

BIG THUNDER – Held their first zoom meeting

– Working on a project to benefit the Boone County Fair since it was canceled this year due to Covid-19.

CAPRON – No report

County Line – Held an outdoor meeting in June – Planning to have a Curbside drive-thru Chicken Dinner on August 23 at the Boone County Fairgrounds cost is \$10 and reservations are required.

FLORA – held 2 phone meetings – Roast Beef Curbside Dinner was huge success. They are planning a Pork Chop curbside drive-thru dinner on July 19th . Cost \$12 for 2 chops and reservations are required.

LEROY – No Report

PRAIRIE – Had a zoom meeting in May and in June held an outdoor meeting – They are selling 50/50 Share the Pot raffle tickets. 50% of total tickets sold goes to Boone County Fair and the other 50% will be split between 3 winners: 25% for 1st prize – 15% for 2nd prize – and 10% for 3rd prize.

Robin Kindberg invited all Grangers to come to the Quilts of Valor presentation she was doing on July 4, 2020 at 10AM at their farm.

Susan Banks reported Kirkland Lions were having a curbside drive-thru Pulled Pork Dinner on July 3rd at Lion’s Park in Kirkland to benefit the Kirkland Lion’s Club and cost is \$10 per person.

Two new members were welcomed into Pomona Grange and they were from County Line Grange.

Reminders: Resolutions are due to the ISG Secretary by August 1st and Delegate meals are also due to ISG Secretary by August 1st.

Community Service reports are due August 19th. Remember to be collecting items for the Ronald McDonald Happy Wheel Cart and for the Ronald McDonald Charity House wish lists. You can get your items to a state officer, delegate or Ruth is willing to take them for you. Ruth is willing to take any Community Service books down to Tracey to save on postage. She is going down around the week of August 12th. So if interested contact Ruth or Karie Blasingame.

Meeting was closed at 7:30 PM.

*Karrie Kindberg, Publicity Chairman*

## Guilford Hope Grange

Guilford Hope Grange Charter will be draped in black when we meet in person July 28 at the farm of LindaKay and Al Ebel in Kirkland. Brother Dave Cummings passed on May 19 and many members attended the drive-by service at Delehanty Funeral Home in Loves Park. Several dishes, plants and a donation were delivered to Phyllis and the family to share during their bereavement.

All the Grange meetings March through May including the planned garage sale to benefit Midway Village Education fund were cancelled this Spring due to the Pandemic. On June 29 an outdoor meeting was held with 8 members and 2 guests socially distanced, according to the State guidelines, near the Mill at Midway Village Museum with boxed sandwiches. Master Wayne Lyford and Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Wheeler brought members up to date with business. Sister Martha Byrnes introduced Loren Salzman, a Vietnam veteran originally from Greeley, Colorado who has lived in Rockford since retirement, and earlier when he was comptroller for the Clock Tower Resort. He is active in several veteran organizations, including the Vietnam Veterans Honor Society, works year-round on the Top of Illinois Veterans Stand Down, is President of the YMCA Men’s Club and in charge of their annual Christmas Tree Sales, and many more community service activities. He was presented with the Guilford Hope Grange 2020 non-Grange member community service award. Photo is of Loren in his camo uniform.

*Martha Byrnes  
815-670-9624*



*Loren Salzman*

### ILLINOIS GRANGER

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# July Flora Grange News

By *Lindakay F. Ebel*

Flora Grange #1762 held a meeting on Tuesday, July 14th, 2020 with thirty-six members in attendance wearing face masks and social distancing at their Grange hall.

Master Albert Q. Ebel called the meeting to order and Chaplain Donna West offered prayer followed with the Pledge to the American Flag and Grange Salutation. The charter was draped in memory of Lois Knox by Master Ebel and Chaplain West.

Roll Call was taken, and the minutes of the June 9, 2020 were approved. Membership application of Aaron Eucker was approved, and Jack Ratcliffe inducted the new member and Aaron was welcomed by all in attendance.

Reports were given by standing committees: Deb Silvers had no report, however suggested everyone purchase raffle tickets being sold for the Boone County Fair. We have some here tonight, or you can get them from Ruth or Karie Blasingame. Bob Scherer, Agriculture, stated farmers are now combining their wheat. Building and Grounds, Jack Ratcliffe reported doing mowing and cutting of trees at the Grange hall, had to get someone out to look at the air-conditioner and one of the refrigerators.

Chaplain Donna West had nothing new to report, if anyone knows of anyone ill, please call her. Jack Ratcliffe reported the 2020 Boone County Fair has been canceled, as everyone knows, however, a lot of work is still being done at the fairgrounds. Been working on the bleachers, mowing, spraying, and they had to lay off some of the help, so help is needed.

Emalee Colver reported Farmland Protection has not held any meetings, hopes to hold a meeting in September. Marion Thornberry, Legislative, reported a lot is going on in Springfield. There was also some talk about there may be several roundabouts in our area.

Membership chairman, Lindakay Ebel stated it has not been easy to recruit new members this year when you cannot invite them to a meeting. She thanked those who have recruited members and welcomed Aaron Eucker into our Grange.

Health Education, Fabienne Calabrese reported to wash all your fruits and vegetables with water and other items from the store with soap and water. Continue to wash your hands with soap and water, this is the best, not all these other products on the market.

Laurel Ratcliffe, Community Service, reported she talked with Applebee's and they will be calling if we can do a fundraiser; we are still on the list. Laurel also discussed the Pork Chop fundraiser drive thru dinner to be held at the Grange hall on Sunday, July 19th, stating we have some 225 reservations so far. Emalee Colver reported she sent the necessary papers on The Wall That Heals in for a date for 2021. She stated we will probably not hear until sometime in November.

Pomona Grange was held on Wednesday, July 1st with their annual picnic and members voted on one executor director to serve a three-year term. Jack Ratcliffe was voted to again fill this three-year term.

The Illinois State Grange Convention will be held for only one day this year at the Hopewell Grange on Saturday, September 12 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Motion was made to send Master Albert Q. Ebel and Treasurer Lindakay Ebel as our delegates again this year; motion carried.

We discussed resolutions, and Marion Thornberry will write a resolution on the roundabouts and send to Illinois State Grange Secretary Robin Kindberg before August 1st.

Motion was made and seconded to not have a Granger, Non-Granger, Teacher, Fireman or Policeman of the year, this year.

Laurel Ratcliffe told of a fundraiser, Butter Braids, our group will be tasting tonight. She has order forms for those that may be interested in purchasing.

Emalee Colver collected some 295 'G' bills this evening. We sang Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to those celebrating.

The Vietnam Fund will hold their first ever Agent Orange Awareness event bringing more awareness to the continuing impact of the Vietnam war. The memorial site will be lit up in orange candles on August 10th, 2020. Flora Grange voted to sponsor a candle to honor our 13 Flora Grangers that served.

Motion was made to send \$50.00 to the Illinois State Grange scholarship Fund.

The August Flora Grange meeting will be held one week later, August 18th, instead of the 11th and there is a committee to plan a Grange Family picnic for the month of September.

Meeting adjourned and members enjoyed samples of the Butter Braids product and punch, served by Laurel and Jack Ratcliffe, a fundraiser of Flora Grange which members sign up this evening to purchase.

Note: Talked with Flora Grange member Theo Hildebrand today, as I do quite often. Theo has been a member for many, many years, and she and her husband Ralph were very active at one time in Flora Grange. Theo is in Maple Crest Care Centre, 4452 Squaw Prairie Road, Belvidere, IL 61008 and would love to hear from some of our members who knew her. She misses everyone as they cannot have visitors, but she loves cards, letters and phone calls. Theo will be 102 years young in September, and she loves to play cards. Al is her partner, and she lets him know if he goof's up!!! Theo is as sharp as a tack, and all who knows her, loves her, she is one special lady. We celebrated her 100th birthday at Flora Grange several years ago and she had way over 100 people attend her party, and she thought no one would attend. Before she went in Maple Crest she used to attend our Flora Grange meetings and our Roast Beef dinners and sell tickets for our Applebee's fundraiser.



*Lyle & Patti Lee celebrated their 25th anniversary with a trip out West to visit family and to go see the Grand Canyon. They also got to golf in 4 different states along the way. They were married on July 15th, 1995 and attended the Northern Zone picnic the next day with all their Grange friends. Together they own and operate Lee Auction Service (after Patti retired from Jack Wolf C-J and Lyle sold his tree service). They have a beautiful blended family of 6 children and are blessed with 13 wonderful grandchildren and 4 awesome great grandchildren. They enjoy Grange (members of Prairie, Boone County Pomona & The Illinois State Grange), The Boone County Fair, golfing, bowling, playing Yahtzee and card games. They are also active in the Pioneer Club at their home church of Zion Lutheran in Belvidere.*





## Prairie Grange News

Members of Prairie Grange gathered at the Grange Pavillion at the Boone County Fair grounds for their annual picnic. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all. A short meeting followed.

Seven new members were welcomed into Prairie Grange.

Reminder that Resolutions were to be turned into the ISG Secretary by August 1st.

Discussed Delegates to State Session. It was suggested that since it will be only Officers and Delegates in attendance that Sara Ellwanger (Ceres) and Don Ellwanger (Gatekeeper) be the delegates. Lyle Lee moved Sara Ellwanger and Don Ellwanger be Prairie Grange Delegates to this years State Session and Pat Henninger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Community Service – Robin reported she has handouts of items requested for the Ronald McDonald Charity House wish list and what items are requested for Happy Wheel Cart for the State Community Service project.

She also reminded everyone we are still collecting G Bills for Memorial Scholarship Fund, L Bills for State Junior Department, Pennies for the National Grange Building Fund and Quarters for the 150th Grange Celebration next year.

Robin, Ruth and Karie presented the 2019-2020 Prairie Grange Membership Awards:

75 year Certificate – Al Henninger



75 year Certificate – Darlene Henninger  
50 & 75 year Certificates – Hazel Kanaly  
55 year seal – John Henninger  
40 year Seal – Robin Kindberg  
30 year Seal – Lyle Lee  
25 year Certificate – Adam Ellwanger  
25 year Certificate – Pat Henninger  
25 year Certificate – William Johnson  
25 year Certificate – Patti Lee  
25 year Certificate – Hazel Kanaly

That is a total of 525 years of service to the Grange

Congratulations to all the recipients. Well done good and faithful servants.

Prairie Grange held a Baked Goods and a Potted Plant Auction. \$329 was collected and added to our Auction proceeds from last month to make our total \$549 to be used on our special community service project.

**Robin Kindberg**  
**Publicity Chairman**



*American Values.*  
*Hometown Roots.*



*Rose Eller will be heading to Washington Community High School*



*Jeryn Stephens will be heading to Metamore High School*



***Congratulations to four Hopewell Grange Jrs.  
for graduating 8th Grade.  
These four have been with Hopewell Juniors  
since it restarted in 2012.***

*Jaydon Fisher will be heading to Limestone Community High School.*



*Kaylynn Bennett will be heading to Washington Community High School*





# ISG Secretary Report

Hope this finds everyone doing well. Been busy getting ready for State Session. It will be a 1-Day Event Saturday Sept. 12, 2020 at Hopewell Grange Hall in Washington, IL from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM and is for STATE OFFICERS AND DELEGATES ONLY.

Delegates watch the mail for details. We will be assigning all Delegates and Officers to Resolution Committees. All committee work will be done ahead of time via zoom meetings. Watch your mail for details.

Karie Blasingame is going to be doing Zoom Training on August 10, 2020 at the Administration Building at the Boone County Fair grounds for anyone interested. One session will be at 4:30PM and another at 7:00PM. If you are a delegate in the northern part of the state feel free to come to either session.

This ends the reports for 2019-2020 Grange year.

Onto 2020-2021 New Grange Year

1. 3rd Quarter Quarterly reports are due to ISG Secretary by October 15.
2. 2020-2021 Grange Roster changes are due to ISG Secretary October 15.
3. You will be getting a 990N postcard in the mail between October and December PLEASE go online and fill it out. Be sure when you get your confirmation page to PRINT 2 copies of it, one for your Grange records and one for the ISG Secretary. Keep in mind when you leave this site you can not go back to print the pages.

PLEASE come to GRIT there will be lots of important information presented there from lots of officers and department chairman. This is also where you will find out what the new contests for the coming year will be.

*Robin Kindberg*  
*ISG Secretary*

## Youth Department News

August 16th at 11 am, we will be meeting near the administration building of the Boone County Fairgrounds to head out on our 1st winery and brewery tour. We will be headed to DC Estate Winery first where they are having Lone Canary play at the winery that day. We will be leaving there to head to Lena, Illinois to Wishful Acres Farm and Brewery. Both places require masks inside the buildings while purchasing food and beverages or using the facilities. Both places also have limited seating so they suggest bringing your own chair. This should be a fun outing for those of us over 21. The farm closes at 5 so we should be back in Belvidere early.

I would like to thank Chloe Konieczki for signing up for this year’s public speaking contest which was held via ZOOM. She was unable to attend during her time slot, but would have represented our state well. Which leads me to remind everyone that putting alarms and reminders on your phones calendar is a great way to make sure you don’t miss anything. I utilize an online calendar that looks pretty called Artful Agenda that links into my already useful Google calendar. I set it to remind me about events 1 day before and again 1 hour before so even if I forget I still have time to get there depending on how far away the event is from where I am. Try out different ways to keep track of all the things happening in your life until you find the right one for you. It could be a paper planner with stickers and different pens that make it fun to keep updated, any tool that helps keep you on track is good.

Tell me what you would like to see at next year’s Spring Fling. I am hoping that we will be able to travel to Southern Illinois and head over to the Grow exhibit like we had planned this

year. I will check with Turkey Hill Grange to see what dates they have available and if they are still willing to host us the evening before. What other fun learning activities would you like to do? We could partner with the Junior Grangers and go somewhere fun. Our imagination is our limitation. What would you like to do? Don’t forget! Be on the lookout for someone to write a recommendation letter for you if you are looking to apply to the Illinois State Grange Scholarship. It always comes out the beginning of January and you need 2 recommendation letters from people who know you, and one letter from the president of your Grange. Get them early and half the challenge is complete!

I am excited to remind everyone that the Midwest Grange Leadership Conference will be held at the Boone County Fairgrounds the last weekend of June, 2021. We should be able to camp in the campground or stay in the Grange Hall or Administration Building on air mattresses. Those of us who live nearby can travel home each night and if anyone would like they could stay in one of the hotels in the east side of Rockford. Do you have any workshop ideas you would like to share at the event? Let me know and we can work them into the schedule. There is a separate schedule for Juniors, Youth and all other subordinate Grange members. Some events will be together, but most will be separate. If you would like to help in anyway please let me know.

I will be holding a ZOOM training class for any delegate who does not understand how it works on August 10th 4:30 pm or 7 pm at the Boone County Fair Administration Building. If you are unsure how to use ZOOM please attend or call me and I will give you a meeting number to call in to. This is how we will be doing ALL of our committee meetings this year. You can attend these meetings on your computer or on your phone. Participation is key, by practicing beforehand you will understand how to use either the computer or the phone in version. Contact me at 815-299-0313 or by email at kblasingame77@gmail.com. I will post the ZOOM information on Facebook the night before, or I can send it by email to you. You can attend in person or virtually. This will be great practice for this years State Grange Session.

## Agricultural Report

*by Earl David, ISG Ag Chairman*

How quickly our lives can be changed. We always knew this was a possibility but probably didn’t see it happening to us—at least not so suddenly in 2020. My year to serve as the ISG Ag Chair began in quite a normal fashion with a successful meeting at the Boone Co. Fairgrounds. Albert and Lindakay Ebel were gracious and helpful in making the transition. The annual GRIT Conferences and the northern Leadership Conference allowed me to talk with many Grangers throughout the state. All went along well until mid-March when things shut down. Now my year is ending with the cancellation of a “regular” ISG meeting, and the year will go out “not with a bang but a whimper.”

Thank you to all who helped out at the various meetings and throughout the year. Please keep up your enthusiasm as we move into a new Grange year and a new set of circumstances.

Agriculture in general has had a lot of challenges. Markets would generally have rallied after trade deals were secured with Mexico and Canada and with China’s agreement to buy more of our agricultural products, but those pluses were offset by the COVID-19 hit that strained our economic supply chain and slowed or stopped economic activity in many parts of the world. At this point in time, though, we are seeing the US government step in with some farm aid packages and other countries are beginning to stockpile grain and other agricultural commodities. These

are promising signs. We hope our farm economy will soon be on the rebound to higher prices.

Switching to our personal farms and homes, we will soon be moving into the fall season and that brings the best time to plant trees. Think about your own location. Have you lost trees to storms, insects, or disease? Have some just reached maturity and died? Keeping a good variety of trees on your property is an ongoing task. September might be the ideal time to replace one or two.

The Arbor Day Foundation has six suggestions for tree planting:

1. Call before you dig—Get utilities located.
2. Handle the root ball with care—keep roots moist.
3. Dig a proper hole—2 or more times wider than the root ball.
4. Planting depth—the trunk flare should sit at slightly above ground level with the top roots covered by one to two inches of dirt.
5. Backfill with native soil—tamping gently to remove air pockets.
6. Mulch—allow a couple of inches clearance around the trunk before mulching two to three inches deep.

Trees we plant are an investment in the future. They provide shade, serve as windbreaks, and reduce air pollution. Your county extension service can make recommendations for the best trees for your growing conditions and landscaping goals.

## Blast From The Past

*By Beverly Smith*

August is usually a great summer month that I truly enjoy! Well, it is my birthday month but I always attend and volunteer at the Boone County Fair! Not this year, though. It will be so strange when I go to Belvidere in a few weeks to buy the yummiest sweet corn and not feel the Fair anticipation in the air.

Thanks to Vivian Johnson for supplying me with some Grange history from Union Grange. In 1973 they celebrated their 100th Anniversary. They had a very nice program including the National Grange Master John W. Scott as main speaker. I now have the program booklet and several photos from the celebration in our county’s scrapbook. Many female Union members made up the “Kitchen Band”. They performed at many Grange functions as well as parades. Union Grange Junior Grangers were very active, too. They did the ritual, had camp-outs, craft days, sang and put on programs.

Winnebago County Granges had bowling teams going back to the 1940’s. We had men’s, women’s and mixed leagues back in the 1970’s and 1980’s. We had bowling banquets at a Grange hall. It was a fun night of socializing, a Grange-cooked meal and awarding many fancy trophies too. Let me tell you there was tough competition between the Granges.

Another find I discovered in my Grange box from my garage was an Illinois State Grange Song book from September 1983 called “Rainbow Singers”. It has 32 songs starting with “Rainbow Song” and ending with “Good Night Sweetheart”. It also includes a skit called “A Grange Is” I am guessing that the State Lecturer made this up with extra songs to sing at Grange meetings that do not show up in our regular song book.

## Lecturer’s Report

I’m hoping your summer is being productive and enjoyable in spite of the strangeness of our national health situation. I was able to take a couple days to go camping and nature continues to bless us with a wonderful natural environment here in Illinois even as so much of our constructed world is somewhat limited at the moment. I know that so many people assume that the mountains or



the beaches are the ultimate in scenic pleasures, but for me, there’s nothing more beautiful than the fields of Illinois, the gentle rivers, and the tree-covered hills.

You probably know that the State and National Sessions have been greatly modified for 2020. Even though things will not be operating under the usual circumstances, there are still options to participate in some of the traditional Lecturer’s Department contests. I hope that you will consider participating in these activities in their modified form.

Evening of Excellence  
There will be no live national talent showcase this year, but plans are in place to have a virtual showcase. Each state can identify a “best of show” entry that will be invited to participate in a virtual national showcase later in the year via Zoom. I would like to arrange to have a Illinois State Showcase to occur in late September where we can join together and share some fun. The regular rules apply. Acts can be musical or spoken word or any sort of performance. This is a great opportunity to expand performance opportunities for Grangers who might not be able to attend our state session. Please call me at 618-795-8021 or email me at eedwards@alleni.com by August 23 if you are interested in performing. Once I have a roster of the participants I will plan the actual state showcase and send details via the next Illinois Granger.

Photography Showcase  
The traditional photography showcase where each state sends photographs for display at the National Session has been cancelled. But in its place there will be a digital photography contest where individuals can submit up to three photographs on line for judging. I will have entry details in next month’s Granger, but start gathering your ideas. The only caveat for this contest is that entrants will give permission to the National Grange to use any of the photos in Grange marketing and publicity.

Quilt Block  
The Quilt Block contest continues really without any changes. I would like to collect all the blocks from Illinois for local judging. Please send your quilt blocks to me at 300 E E St, Belleville, IL 62220 by September 15, 2020. I will make sure that all submitted blocks make it to National Lecturer Chris Hamp by the submission deadline. Remember that there are separate categories for men and youth. I’m hoping we might get an even broader sample of entries from this popular event. My intention is to provide a web location where we can all view the entries from Illinois.

State Contests  
Given the difficulties of gathering actual entries, we will be continuing with only a portion of the state contests.

Talent  
We will attempt to have an online talent show in the latter part of September (see above). Email your interest in performing to me (eedwards@alleni.com) by August 23 so that I can arrange details for publication in the next Illinois Granger. Let’s make this a well populated event! To enter, all you will need is access to the Internet and a laptop or mobile device compatible with running Zoom meeting software. (I can help with those details if needed).

Photography  
The photography contest will proceed as normal, except that entries need to be emailed to me by September 15, after which they will be posted to an online location to share. Remember, our categories are: Abandoned, Extreme Close-up, Selfie, Time-lapse, and Video. I particularly hope to get some fun entries in the Selfies category. For now, just send your entries to me in an email (eedwards@alleni.com) with the Subject Line “PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST.” Include your name, Grange name and number, and age group. Note, this will not be linked to the substitute National Grange photography contest. You will need to enter that separately if you are

interested.  
Creative Writing  
Creative writing contest will also proceed unchanged. The only difference is that entries must be submitted by email (eedwards@alleni.com) by September 15. The prose topic is “My Happiest Day Ever;” poetry topic is “Home.”  
Grange Banner

# Community Service Updates

from Tracey Jones Illinois State Grange Community Service Director

Nominations for Firefighter, Law Enforcement Officer, Teacher, Granger, Non-Granger, Junior Granger which were originally due by July 15 have been extended to August 19 (postmarked). Because we will not be able to invite the winners to State Session to present them with the awards I am extending the deadline to the same date, August 19, that the Community Service reports are due. I understand that many Granges have been unable to meet and may not have been able to do as many community service events. It’s important that you still fill out the report because we must have 25% of the Granges in the state submit a report in order to receive award money from the National Grange. Also, the National Grange wants to keep track of all community service related to Covid 19 specifically. They have a form that they would like to be filled out to capture this service. I will ask for it to be added to the Illinois State Grange Website with the other community service forms.

Still eager to get this collection off the ground, so there will be special recognition given to any Grange that submits a picture of their banner.  
As always, don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I’m looking forward to gathering some items that we can at least share vicariously.  
Ethan Edwards, Illinois State Lecturer

Please send your donations for Ronald McDonald House to State Session. They will be collected and delivered to them.  
Thank You

## Donations

The following donations were received for the Illinois Granger  
\$40 Richard “Col” Nelson – Flora Grange - donation 4 years!  
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

## 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](mailto: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.



# Membership

By Lindakay Ebel

As your Illinois State Membership Chairman for the past three years, I would like to thank all the Grange members that recruited new members. I realized this past year was not an easy year to recruit, as you could not be out and about, and you could not invite them to your Grange meetings and activities.

I would like to thank all Grange membership chairpersons and secretaries that completed my end of year forms and returned to me each year. Special thanks to Ruth Blasingame for finding space in the Illinois Granger each month for my membership article and to Robin Kindberg for her help when I had questions.

Last, I especially want to thank a special person who was the prior membership chairman, Charles Treser from Turkey Hill Grange for all his help through my three years and in ordering all the plaques and bars for members who recruited members and received these awards.

I enjoyed visiting the various Granges, I had intended to visit more this past year, however COVID-19 stopped me from doing so.

One last favor, please complete the Membership form Ruth has in the Granger (or call me with your numbers) or send or email to me.

Wishing you a great 2020-2021 Membership year and God Bless each of you and your Grange.



David W. “Dave” Cummings  
( March 04, 1938 - May 19, 2020 )

David W. “Dave” Cummings, 82, of Roscoe passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, in Rockford. He was born March 4, 1938, in Rockford, the son of David Stuart “Pete” and Vivian (Updyke) Cummings. He attended East High and graduated in the class of 1956. He married his love and best friend, Phyllis Bender on September 17, 1960, and they had three children. In their early married years, Dave ran milk routes and farmed in Belvidere where the tornado wiped out a dairy herd and their home, he later farmed on several farms in Winnebago County. He was also employed at Rock Valley College, then was elected, and served as Harlem Township Road Commissioner and was president of the State of Illinois Road Commissioners during the latter part of his term. He retired from his career at the Illinois Tollway. Dave enjoyed playing catch

with his kids, camping and canoeing at Rock Cut with family and friends, vacationing out West with his brother’s family, grilling chicken with his Grange [Guilford Hope #6] at the Boone County Fair and he loved the Chicago Cubs! He was an avid CB radio enthusiast using the handle “Park Farmer.” Following retirement, he spent the winters in Florida. He enjoyed babysitting his grandchildren and attending all their sporting events. Dave is survived by his wife of 59 years, Phyllis; son, Jeff (Debbie) Cummings; daughters, Jackie (Rod) Turbot and Jodie (Garry) Larson; grandchildren, Matt (Randi) Cummings, Roger (fiancé, Tia Walls) Cummings, Travis (Katie) Larson, Alysha Cummings and Skyler Cummings; great-grandchildren, Jillianne Cummings, Isabelle Cummings, Tailynn Cummings, Dylan Kotsch, Kendyll Cummings and Tatum Cummings; brother, Bruce (Susan)

Cummings; sister, Virginia (Jeff) Baker; many loving nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents; and brother, Herbie.

Graveside service was Saturday, May 23, in Argyle Scottish Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

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

– Mother Teresa

## Chaplain’s Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens



Happy August, how are you surviving this summer? Things are truly different this year compared to past years. Do you seem to have the downers more, I do for sure. After breakfast as I sat in my chair in the living room, I watched four hummingbirds dart back and forth to the feeder on the window. Our granddaughter gave it to us after Don came home from the hospital at the end of April. We have so enjoyed watching them, and sometimes they can get really mean and fight each other. I believe once in awhile they must feel the pressure of the world the way we see it. I think that with all the pressure of being not allowed to be out and about, knowing that we have to distance ourselves six feet apart, or wear masks everywhere we go, not being able to gather with family and many other changes in our life. we also turn on the mean side or become not so nice to others. We tend to lose our patience much easier also, we must stop and ask ourselves is this what God wants us to do, I don’t think so.

I think that our Father wants us to be happy, helping others as we can, we all have our own problems but they are small compared to someone else’s. We need to thank our Father that we have eyes to see the beauty He has set before us like the hummingbirds darting around us. Just think God’s little creatures will all fly back to South America this fall, even as tiny as they are God will give them the strength to fly all the distances just as He also gives you and me the strength we need to overcome all the perils we face. It is not always easy to accept the changes that we face but with God in our life it is much easier to turn to Him for help and hope.

We ask for God’s blessing to all that are facing rough times in their lives, the farmers who are worried about their crops, for those who must make decisions about opening up schools, work places and others. We thank God that for the happy times in our lives and rejoice for those with great news in their life.

Just remember the love in your heart absolutely makes a difference.

SMILE because God loves you and me.

## Obituary

Lois Knox

1933-2020 Flora Grange

## DONUT TIME



**Saturday &  
Sunday  
August 8th & 9th  
ONLY \$10  
per dozen**

**Prepay & Reserve Your  
Pick Up Time At  
BCFD2DONUTS.SQUARE.SITE  
or Grab-N-Go 3-4 PM**

**These Flavors Available In A Full Dozen  
WHITE FROSTING W/SPRINKLES  
CHOCOLATE FROSTING W/SPRINKLES  
OR CINNAMON SUGAR**



**Enter at Boone County Fairgrounds  
Gate 5 off McKinley Ave.  
Questions: lightyourfire5K@gmail.com or  
Facebook.com search BCFD2FFASSN**