



Lynette Schaeffer President Illinois State Grange

## Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

Oh my, it has really been a strange year and this September has been really weird without a State Session. The Executive Committee felt the necessity of postponing the session to make it virtual on October 18. You can participate in the meeting from your home. The Boone County Fair Administration building has been offered for the delegates and officers in that area that want to come to the building to participate in a Zoom meeting. Emerald Mound Grange Hall has also been offered for the St Clair County delegates and officers. The Zoom call information will be sent out soon to the registered delegates and officers. Thanks to all the committees for all their work to get the reports completed before the September 12 date. In this year of COVID 19 many 'normal' events and activities have not been normal. The plan for the event is to be virtual, but if you come to Boone County or Emerald Mound Hall please bring the G bills for the scholarship fund, Pennies for Building Fund and items for the Community Service project for Ronald McDonald House. During the virtual meeting we will be adopting a budget, electing an Executive Committee member, and adopting session committee reports.

Congratulations to Prairie and Turkey Hill for being selected as Distinguished Granges for IL. I am very proud of both of these Granges and thank them for all their efforts in the name of the Grange.

I am glad that some Granges are holding meetings and fundraisers again. If any Granges want to use the Zoom license for a meeting please let me know.

We have not yet decided when we will be holding

# Illinois Granger

Volume 104

October 2020

No. 8

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 22 – Hopewell – Pancake and Sausage Dinner – Drive thru pick up  
Oct 25 – Turkey Hill – Wurstmarkt Dinner 10:30-3:30  
Nov 11 – Prairie/County Line Veterans Day Program

2021

July 20-25 – Grange Revival - Sturgis, SD

I have not received any entries for the calendar at this time. I also have not received any obituaries (this is a good thing) or any donations for the Granger. I hope that all of you are active and doing well.

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

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

Ruth Blasingame

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the GRIT training and if it will be in person or virtual. We will be sending out information soon after the October 18 meeting.

National Grange Session is still planned for November in Pennsylvania for the Delegates and Officers. After the meeting I will send out information about the National session.

Hope you are all safe and well.

## ISG Secretary Report

The 149th Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange will be on OCT. 18, 2020 via ZOOM Meeting. (One at the BC Fair Administration Building and the other will be at Emerald Mound Grange Hall). It will be from 9:00AM until around 12:00 NOON. DELEGATES AND STATE OFFICERS ONLY.

DELEGATES: You will receive your Delegate Books from Lynette (if you live in St. Clair County) from Robin (if you live in the north) and if you are from Hopewell you get yours from Gary and the other ones will be mailed to your house. These books will be your responsibility and you must bring them to state session Oct 18th. Any questions contact ISG Secretary.

SECRETARIES:

1. ROSTER FORMS were mailed to you. Please fill them out and return to me by Oct. 1st.

2. QUARTERLY REPORTS DATE CHANGE –

Quarters end March 30, June 30, September 30 and December 30. (These did not change)

DATE TO BE TO ISG SECRETARY CHANGED – The Quarterly Report Forms need to be to the ISG Secretary

by the 15th of the month after the Quarter Ends

(April 15, July 15, October 15, January 15) Please try to get them to me by the 15th of the month after they quarter ends so we can meet our deadline with National Grange on time.

3. 990-N POSTCARDS – You should be receiving them in the mail between September and December – Fill it out online as soon as you get it – Make sure to PRINT 2 Copies of the Confirmation letter – Keep one for your records and send the 2nd copy to the ISG Secretary. If you do not receive one in the mail by December 1st please let me know.

4. “G” Bills – “L” Bills – Pennies for National Grange Building Fund and Quarters for the 150th Celebration – If your Grange Collected any of these PLEASE send them to the ISG Secretary.

5. BE sure to watch the ILLINOIS GRANGER, [illinoisstategrange.org](http://illinoisstategrange.org) and the Illinois State Grange Facebook page for details.

Any questions feel free to contact me via email, text or phone.

Fraternally submitted,

Robin Kindberg

Illinois State Grange Secretary

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**Flora Grange Quilts of Valor**  
*Pictured at Flora Grange’s Quilts of Valor presentation are:  
Front row L to R – Jim Langendorf, Gene West and Stan Johnson.  
Back row L to R – Butch Peters, John “Dick” Maguire, Ron Eucker, Jerry Hart, and Gary Klinefelter.*

## Quilts of Valor Ceremony

By Lindakay Ebel

Flora Grange #1762 held a Quilts of Valor ceremony to honor eight local Veterans that served their country with a Quilt of Valor at the Belvidere Historical Museum on Sunday, September 13, 2020.

A Quilt of Valor is the highest civilian honor we can bestow on these Veterans. We thank them for their service, sacrifice and valor. They

are not forgotten.

Emalee Colver greeted and welcomed everyone on behalf of Flora Grange and Shelley Johnson of Sunshine Stitches Quilt Shop, here in Belvidere and thanked all who attended.

Albert Q. Ebel, III, Master of Flora Grange led all in the Pledge to the American Flag, followed by Flora Grange Chaplain Donna West offering a prayer.

Shelley Johnson gave some history on the Quilts of Valor to those attending the special ceremony, stated the Quilts of Valor Foundation was founded in 2003 by Catherine Roberts, and its mission was to cover our nation’s military, that is, to cover them with quilts and honor their service. To do that, a team of volunteers donated their time and material to make quilts collaboratively.

Since 2003, some 200,000 Quilts of Valor have been presented nationwide. Members of the Flora Grange get together once or twice a month at the Flora Grange for a weekend and work on making the quilts.

Each quilt has three parts: Front of the quilt is the beautiful colorful material, the pattern and the pattern and style, the middle is the batting which stands for the warmth and the comfort and the back is for the strength and stability.

The Quilts of Valor are made by members of Flora Grange and the material is purchased from Shelley Johnson of Sunshine Stitches Quilt Shop. After the quilt is complete, the quilts are brought to Shelley and she quilts the quilts for each person at no cost to them for purchasing all the materials from her shop.

Emalee stated two Quilts of Valor were presented at the National Grange Convention last November 2019 in Minnesota, one to Marion Thornberry who served in the Army, and his quilt was made by his wife, Jean Thornberry, and the other quilt presented at the National Grange Convention was to Todd Hegge. Todd served with the United States Air Force and his quilt was made by his mother, Emalee Colver.

Today the quilts were awarded to Ron Eucker who served in the Army and his quilt was made by Mary Jean Lane. Stanley Johnson of Poplar Grove served in the US Navy and his quilt was made by Joan Fidler.

Flora Grange member Sharon Fidler made a quilt for Flora member Eugene West who served in the US Army in 1954-1956. JoAnn Wienrank made her quilt for Gary Klinefelter who served

his country in the Army, 1969-1970.

Emalee Colver made the quilt for John “Dick” Maguire, who served in the Marine Corp, 1969-1971 and Emalee Colver also made a beautiful quilt of Valor for Flora Grange member Jim Langendorf who served in the Navy 1963-1967.

Jerry Hart of Belvidere served in the Army from 1962-1964 and his quilt was also made by Emalee Colver. A Quilt of Valor was presented to Butch Peters who served in the Army from 1969-1971, quilt made by Laurel Ratcliffe.

Shelley Johnson thanked all these special Veterans for serving their country and other Veterans also for serving.

Shelly then read a poem titled ‘A Toast to the Flag’.

Refreshments were served and friends and family members were thanked for attending today’s special ceremony and they enjoyed fellowship together and everyone enjoyed looking at all the beautiful Quilts of Valor and the time and love that went into each quilt.

## Flora Grange August News

By Lindakay Ebel

Flora Grange held their August meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at the Flora Grange Hall with thirty-two Grange members in attendance.

Prior to the opening of the meeting, Lindakay Ebel stated our oldest Grange member, Theo Hildebrand would be celebrating her 102nd birthday on September 1st and asked Grange members to sign the card she had to pass around. Theo loves to hear from Grange members and what better way to let her know our Grange is thinking of her on her special day.

Master Albert Q. Ebel, III opened the meeting with the restriction of 6 feet distancing and masks being observed and respected due to the COVID-19 virus. Pledge to American flag and Grange Salutation were said by members and Chaplain Donna West opened the Bible and led us in prayer.

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Laurel Ratcliffe and the minutes of the July 14th, 2020 were approved. The application of new member Katherine Brodhacker was approved, sponsored by Jack and Laurel Ratcliffe.

Standing Committee reports were given: Agriculture, Robert Scherer reported on damage to many fields in Iowa received recently due to high winds and he stated the USDA is surveying fields this week trying to determine lost acres. Jack Ratcliffe stated that the storm touched six states and that Northern Illinois had some damage in our part of the county, including our own at the fairgrounds. Al Ebel stated there was a lot of damage to several of our neighbors, and in our area, we had 80 mph winds, according to an article in the newspaper.

Chaplain Donna West read a letter, also a card from Darcie Chamberland regarding the loss of her sister. On the fair board report, Jack Ratcliffe reported on the damage of the poles and the electricity and stated the electrician we had for the fair has decided to close the business, so they will have to find a new source.

Legislative, Marion Thornberry stated nothing is going on due to the stalemate involving the postal system and COVID-19. Membership, Lindakay Ebel, praised Jack Ratcliffe on his ability to talk membership during the drive thru Pork Chop dinner and recruited a new member. Great job Jack!!! She said she is proud of Flora Grange, recruiting 10 new members this year, even though we lost several, and also several due to death. We must all get out and try to recruit this year.

*Continued on page 3*

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For correction of addresses mail  
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*A check for \$1000 was presented to Dave Byrnes of Midway Village Museum.*

## Guilford Hope Grange

Guilford Hope Grange met in the garage of Stanley Lyford residence with 9 members and 1 guest Granger present..

The meeting was opened in the 4th degree and stating the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dave Byrnes shared information of what is happening at the Midway Village Museum; all of the safe events they are holding. These include a virtual WWII presentation, Hometown Heroes, All Hallows Eve, Macab / Evening of Illumination, a Christmas Tea and Christmas in the Trenches. With Midway Village Museum being our yearly Community Service project, we are always happy to hear what is going on.

A report was given on our Grange garage sale. Our Community Service check to the Midway Village Education Fund was presented for \$1,000.00. Dave was very grateful on behalf of the Museum.

The secretaries and treasurers reports were given and approved.

Master Wayne reported the dictionaries for the 3rd graders have arrived but need to be picked up in Kenosha (Sue Lyford ordered through Barnes and Nobel) before they can be distributed.

A budget was presented for the 2020 / 2021 year for the members to

Health and Education, Fabienne Calabrese spoke on the importance of cleaning sleep machines and how to clean them with a Q-tip.

Community Service, Laurel Ratcliffe thanked everyone for helping at the Pork Chop dinner, it was a great success. Also, the Butter Braid fundraising event. Lindakay Ebel thanked Laurel for all her hard work in both events. Laurel stated she contacted Habitat for Humanity, but no return call was received.

Laurel Ratcliffe reported on September 13 some Quilts of Valor will be distributed at the Museum in Belvidere. Due to the restrictions imposed by the health department of the COVID-19, the event will be by invitation only. Invitations have been sent out. Because of the number of quilts made, it was necessary to divide the recipients. It is planned that in 2021 when we hopefully will have The Wall That Heals, another distribution of the Quilts of Valor can take place. It is reported that over 40 quilts have been made by Grangers from Flora Grange.

Treasurer Lindakay Ebel gave a detailed treasurers report from the time of our last meeting in July, July 14 to August 18th, including income and expenses and the profit on the Pork Chop dinner and the Butter Braid. The report was approved.

Master Ebel reminder members of Pomona Grange on Wednesday, September 2nd and the

Youth Fair Board will be holding a fundraising auction that evening and asking Grange members

to contribute goodies for the auction, also to bid on items.

The 149th Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange will be held at Hopewell Grange Hall at Washington, Il on Saturday, September 12 and Master Al Ebel and Lindakay will be our delegates again this year.

We will hold the election of officers for Flora Grange at our meeting in October. Lindakay Ebel suggested if there is some committee you would like to serve on, or if there is some office you may be interested in to let the Master know ahead of time. It was suggested that if you presently are holding an office or on a committee and want to be removed let him know and not take an office or be on a committee just for name only, and not do the job.

State Deputy Jean Thornberry had no report this evening.

Laurel Ratcliffe spoke of some of the projects which she noticed on the fairgrounds, namely the need of eave troughs on buildings and the grandstand, and the benches in Flora Grange's Mini Park also needing attention, as well as several other areas.

We discussed having another Pork Chop drive-thru dinner in September to support the



*JoAnne Reid receiving her 75 year Grange membership certificate. Presented by Guilford Hope Grange Master Stanley Lyford and Carolyn Wheeler, Grange secretary.*

review and approve.

Resolutions for the Illinois State Grange 2020 convention were passed around and reviewed for any comments.

Guilford Hope Grange will be sending \$180 in "G" bills to State Grange for the Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Guilford Hope Grange was organized in 1871. Our guest Granger, Beverly Smith, showed her updated information on the Winnebago County Grange and Guilford Hope Grange. The Guilford Hope Grange book goes back to about the 1940's with many pictures and articles including bowling teams back to 1945. Bev does a tremendous job in researching and adding Grange information as she is given.

Meeting was adjourned with location invitation for the next meeting. Nancy Lyford

Boone County Fair, to again be held at the Flora Grange. Date to be September 20th.

Youth report was given by Allyson Aves and Fabiene Calabrese to hold the Flora Grange Family Picnic to be held at the Albert and Lindakay Ebel Farm, rural, Kingston on Tuesday, September 8th, 2020. The meat will be furnished by the youth group, Grange members (ladies) pulled type of dish provide for the meal. The committee also encourage members to bring a white elephant gift, value of no more than \$10. Guests are invited and gifts will be awarded. Games will be held, and a nice, relaxing evening is being planned by the youth group. The family picnic will start around 5 pm. Contact the Calabrese's if attending.

\$68.00 of 'G' bills were collection this evening.

Birthdays and anniversaries for the month – Allyson Aves, August 2nd –Theo Hildebrand, September 1st. and anniversary - Fabienne & Tim Calabrese August 4th.

The Flora Grange quilting group will meet Labor Day weekend at the Grange Hall, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Sept. 5, 6 & 7.

Chaplain Donna West closed the Bible and said a prayer.

Master closed the meeting in full form.

Refreshments were served by Marion and Jean Thornberry and Lonn Buzzel.





*Thanks to Charles Treser for leading a money making project with his concession trailer, Turkey Hill members will be able to have the dormer windows on the building painted before winter. The corn dogs, French fries, and brats were delicious!*

## Boone County Pomona Grange Report

Boone County Pomona Grange met September 2, 2020 with worthy Master Ruth Blasingame presiding. Secretary and Treasurer’s reports were approved as presented.

Committee Reports were heard: 1.) Brother Al Ebel reported crops look pretty good but we do need rain.

2.) Sister Dayle Paulson reminded everyone to wear your mask – wash your hands and stay safe. Also pray for the children as they start back to school during this difficult time.

3.) Brother Jerry Paulson and Sister Marissa ODell thanked everyone for their donations to the Haven Network this past year and keep in mind they are always in need of memory boxes, packets of Kleenex and stamps.

4.) Sister Lindakay Ebel thanked everyone for their job at getting new members in fact Flora got new members during their Curbside Pork Chop Dinner.

5.) Sister Jennifer Tobin-Tinch reported everyone was doing OK right now. She did express condolences to the Jerry Hart Family on the recent loss of a family member.

6.) Brother Lyle Lee reported that God was with us when we cancelled this year’s Boone County Fair for the storm that went through



*American Values.  
Hometown Roots.*

recently did lots of damage at the fairgrounds, tore down several trees and electric poles and transformers. It could have been a whole lot worse if there were tents up and campers on the grounds. They have started to have events at the fairgrounds but under strict guidelines of the Health Department.

### Grange reports were heard:

1.) Big Thunder will be doing the storage at the fairgrounds the first few weeks in October,

2.) C a p r o n members will be on parking lot duty at the Urban Farm Girl event.

3.) County Line reported they served 498 chicken dinner during their curbside chicken dinner.

4.) Flora had a very successful Pork Chop Dinner and are planning another one on Sept.20th.

5.) Prairie is planning a Veterans Day Celebration on Nov. 11 along with County Line Grange.

### New Business:

Election of Fairboard Officers will be at the November meeting and it will be done according to Health Department guidelines.

A committee was assigned to review and modernize the Boone County Pomona Grange bylaws.

Meeting was closed and a Baked Goods Auction was held with all proceeds going to the Boone County Youth Fairboard members for projects they want to do.

Karrie Kindberg  
Publicity Chairman

## Troy Grove Grange

Troy Grove Grange met August 20, 2020 at 7 PM at the Hall. 4 sisters and 3 brothers were present.

Agriculture Chairman Jim Weber reported that we are experiencing dry conditions. Very little rain in August. The Derecho did not do much crop damage locally but Iowa suffered major crop loss and building damage.

Community Service Chairman Ethel Bauer reported the Community Service report has been sent in. Due to weather, illness and the pandemic the hours were greatly reduced and no Community Service honorees were selected. Legislative Chairman Roy Plote reported the Governor is encouraging passing of the change in State Income Tax rates. If this Constitutional protection is passed the rates can be changed across the board with no approval from citizens. Also reported was low cattle prices for an extended length of time did not result in adequate help.

Election of officers was held. Ethel Bauer nominated the following slate of officers: Master - Roy Plote. Overseer - Ethel Bauer. Lecturer - Joan Dennison. Steward - Mary Pat Westfall. Assistant Steward - Sue Ladson. Chaplain - Avery Plote. Treasurer - Jim Weber. Secretary - Betty Meznarich. Gatekeeper - Ethan Plote. Ceres - Janet Plote. Flora - Joyce Hoelzer. Executive Committee- Betty Meznarich ‘21. Jim Weber ‘22. Joan Dennison ‘23. Musician - Roy Plote

Jim Weber seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Janet Plote will do a schedule for 2020 - 2021. The next meeting of Troy Grove Grange will be September 17, 2020 at 7 PM at the Hall.

Troy Grove Grange met September 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Hall. Agriculture Chairman Jim Weber reported crops are getting close to harvest ready. Some beans are already being combined. August was dry as most areas received less than an inch of rain. September has been wetter with inches of rain received. There is a beetle infestation South of the Illinois river.

Legislative Chairman Roy Plote reported farmers are waiting on the aid for animal and field crops that had prices affected by COVID. Lockers are booked out more than a year. The upcoming vote on the state tax is resulting in several mailings. If the amendment change is voted in the legislators can vote any tax rate they want. Our Constitutional protection will be voided.

In communications Janet Plote reported State Session has been changed to a ZOOM meeting. The date will be announced later.

A discussion was held regarding our easement through a neighboring property

The next meeting of Troy Grove Grange will be October 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Hall.

## Prairie Grange Report

Prairie Grange met August 19, 2020 with worthy Master Ruth Blasingame presiding. Secretary report was approved as presented.

Committee Reports were heard: Brother Al Henninger reported that the Democratic Convention gets underway tonight.

Sister Jennifer Tobin-Tinch reported Juniors have not met due to COVID.

Sister Karrie Kindberg reported they have collected several items for Ronald McDonald Charity House and Happy Wheel Cart for the State Community Service project.

Sister Jennifer Tobin-Tinch reported Donna Ellwanger was at Van Matre for recovery. Fay Ellwanger, Al and Darlene Henninger were all at home now and doing well.

Sister Mary Brubach reported 76% of the corn has been planted in the state. We need to pray for the farmers in Iowa who sustained severe damage to their farms and crops from the storm that went through.

Sister Robin Kindberg reported she has put several articles in the Granger this year.

Brother Adam Ellwanger reported they have a Fairboard meeting this week, Brother Lyle Lee reported they are beginning to have events at the fairgrounds under strict guidelines. Sister Ruth Blasingame reported the raffle Prairie had did well. We sold \$4800.00 in tickets. 50% of proceeds went to the Boone County Fair as a fundraiser. The other 50% was divided into 1st prize \$1400.00, 2nd prize \$750.00 and 3rd prize \$480.00. The 1st prize winner donated all of his winnings back to the Boone County Fair Association. Boone County Fair Association received \$3800 from their fundraiser.

New Business: 1.) On November 11, 2020 Prairie Grange and County Line Grangers are having a program to honor local veterans as a community service project.

2.) Election of Officers was held and the Officers of Prairie Grange for the years 2020-2022 are as follows:

Master – Ruth Blasingame, Overseer – Adam Ellwanger, Lecturer – Mary Brubach, Steward – Don Ellwanger, Ass’t Steward – Riley Kpnieczki, Lady Ass’t Steward – Sarah Meyers, Chaplain – Jennifer Tobin-Tinch, Treasurer – John Henninger, Secretary – Karie Blasingame, Gatekeeper – Kevin Brubach, Ceres – Heather Ellwanger, Pomona – Ann Johnson, Flora – Angie Umehoefer, Ex Comm – 3yr – Al Henninger, 2 yr – Lyle Lee, 1 yr – Paul Zeien,



Boone County Fairboard – Ruth Blasingame, John Henninger, Jeremy Meyers, Don Ellwanger.  
3.) We discussed the resolutions and sent them onto state.  
Meeting was adjourned and we held another baked goods auction and the proceeds are going to our Community Service project.  
Robin Kindberg  
Publicity Chairman

# September Flora Grange news

By Lindakay Ebel

This year in place of a September meeting, the Youth Group of the Flora Grange organized and planned a Grange Family picnic at the farm of Master Albert and Lindakay Ebel, rural Kingston on Tuesday, September 8th.  
The Youth Group purchased the meat and each family was asked to bring a dish to share to the picnic, either a vegetable, salad or dessert.  
Thirty-nine Grangers attended the fun evening planned by the youth members, Phoebe and Delphine Calabrese and Allyson Aves, assisted by the Youth Leader, Fabienne Calabrese.  
Allyson Aves welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming on this rainy evening, followed by Flora Granges Chaplain Donna West offering a dinner prayer.  
Following the delicious dinner, the Youth planned and set up bingo, in which all who attended was given a bingo card and marker, and Grange members had a very enjoyable time playing bingo. The Youth also purchased many great prizes and gift certificates for the winners. (Outside games and a bon-fire had been planned, however due to the rainy weather, had to plan indoor games.)  
All that attended would agree it was an evening of good food, good fellowship and a lot of laughs, as many thought they had a bingo, but they did not, but laughed anyway.  
Many thanks to Phoebe, Delphine, Allyson, Fabienne, also Hayden and Debbie who helped throughout the evening. Many are looking forward to next year already!

# News From Hopewell Grange

By Janice David

In September Hopewell had the pleasure of recognizing two long-time members by presenting them with membership seals. Gary Hecathorn received a 55-year member seal and Karen Mortimer received a 40-year member seal. Congratulations to both! Also we welcomed a new member - Cassidy Renken. Cassie has been with our Junior Grange, and we are pleased to be able to include her in our community Grange membership. Welcome Cassie!  
Some repairs have been made to the hall, particularly servicing the air conditioning unit. Also, several roofing companies have been contacted to inspect the hall roof to determine what is causing several ongoing leaks.  
Under committee reports, the Ag. Chair talked about recent rains and the prospects for the upcoming harvest. The Junior Granger report included the success of a recent outdoor movie night and plans for a Bingo night in the near future. The NTA (Nitsch Theater Arts) group is meeting at the hall for practices every Wednesday for the next several months. They are planning a Halloween Monster Mash for the children as many local activities will not be taking place because of COVID19. They also plan to host a Storyteller Workshop at the hall on October 3.  
After some discussion, the fall Vendor Fair was postponed until April 17. However, plans for the annual Pancake and Sausage Supper on October 22 continue. The Tazewell County Health Department

will support offering this meal on a carry-out basis only, and members are planning accordingly. We hope this new format will be well received by the community.  
The Literary Program asked each one present to answer the question “How has COVID19 changed your life?” A fall wiener roast is planned for our meeting on October 12.

# Beaver Valley Grange

September 11, 2020 meeting met by Zoom with Steve & Dayle Paulson, Jerry Paulson, Rick & Renee O’Dell, Brian O’Dell, Susan Banks and Bryson O’Dell. This day 19 years ago was remembered.  
It was reported that State Session was rescheduled to October 18th and will be a virtual meeting online. Dayle has the collection of quarters to turn in, and Susan has the dollar bills. Pomona Community Service donations to The Haven are still ongoing. They have “kits” that can be purchased and they will always take donations of money, memory boxes, memory sticks and frames. Dayle reported that her Community Service report was mailed to Tracey. The rest of the meeting was dedicated to reviewing all of the resolutions.  
Fraternally submitted, Dayle Paulson, Publicity

# County Line Grange

We had our meeting Sept. 9th. We welcomed 1 guest, Marissa O’Dell from The Haven Network and 1 new member Ned Loy. Hosts for the evening were Ruth Brodeski and Tim and Barb Fitch. We enjoyed yummy wings, meatballs, chips and Edward’s doughnuts. Thank you.  
We combined our Officer election, dues paying, and planning committee meeting into one. We are happy to have JoEllen Coleman return as our Master. Congratulations to her and all the Officers.  
We discussed our Chicken Dinner fundraiser for the Boone County Fair. Thanks to all who helped make it a success. The Private Barn Party, which is a fundraiser for our Grange, was held Sept. 12. Everyone enjoyed themselves.  
We voted to make a donation to the Northern Ministry. Discussions were held on the new museum, State Grange, and the Christmas tree for the needy. Lots of changes going on due to the Covid virus. Our next meeting will be our Halloween party.  
Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

# Proposed Illinois State Constitutional Amendment about Income Tax

David Donley - Legislative Director

Some Illinois State Grange members have requested comments about the upcoming proposed Illinois Constitutional amendment up for a vote this November. Our Illinois State Grange President (Master) asked me to make some comments for the October Illinois Granger. Here is the proposal: The proposal on the ballot would replace the existing single 4.95 percent rate with a six-bracket progressive income tax. Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s plan would raise taxes on income over \$250,000 to 7.75 percent, income over \$500,000 to 7.85 percent, and income over \$1 million to 7.95 percent. People at the bottom of the income scale would receive a small tax cut: The first \$10,000 in income someone earns would be taxed at a 4.75 percent rate instead 4.95, and income between \$10,000 and \$100,000 would be taxed at a 4.9 percent rate.

# Illinois Granger October, 2020 5

The following are the comments of the writer and do not necessarily represent the consensus of the Illinois State Grange or its members.  
FIRST AND VERY IMPORTANT: Everyone should examine each and every argument either for or against the proposed amendment very close. For example, the ad with the mature lady commenting on future taxing of retirement income. What prohibits the current administration from taxing retirement income now? Nothing now. Illinois along with a few other states has chosen not to tax retirement income. The proposed amendment has nothing to do with retirement income. Also, consider the farmer’s ad – is his Illinois taxable income more than \$250,000? If it isn’t, then he is in line for a tax reduction if the proposed amendment becomes a part of the Illinois Constitution. Also, note that only taxable income is taxed, not all income as some income is offset by expenses and other deductions and credits. : Many, if not all, of the arguments both for and against the proposed amendment have added their own twist to it – that is, they have strongly implied and in some cases, flatly stated, that there are things in the proposed amendment that are not there. The following are in no particular order but are considerations when determining to vote YES or NO:  
\* For the proposed amendment to be adopted, 60 percent of the votes cast must be in favor, that is must be a YES vote.  
\* To the best of my knowledge, everyone has been and will be bombarded with arguments both for and against the proposed amendment. Additionally, every legal address in Illinois has received a blue flyer in the mail from the Illinois Secretary of State. The flyer gives the proposed amendment to the Illinois State Constitution as well as some arguments for and against the amendment.  
\* A ‘yes’ vote does not prohibit future tax increases or any control of State Government spending. It does reduce the State Income Tax for 95 to 97 percent of individuals, small businesses, and small farmers. Most businesses and farms showing a taxable profit are organized under one or more of the legal means of limiting tax liability such as corporations, limited partnerships, etc.? If that is true for a particular business or farmer, there will likely be no impact on the business’s or farmer’s employees or owners. This fact is not admitted to by those arguing against the amendment.  
\* As stated by the Illinois Secretary of State, the tax filers making less than \$21,000 per year contribute 14.4 percent of their income to state and local taxes compared to those tax filers whose taxable income is in the top one percent of Illinois tax payers, only 7.4 percent of their income goes to state and local taxes. Is it fair that low and middle income taxpayers pay a grater percentage of their taxable income than those, as the proposed amendment states, have a taxable income greater than \$250,000? Each of us as voters should answer that question.  
\* Not included in the flyer or any of the ads is the fact that once an entity’s taxable income exceeds \$250,000 all of that entity’s taxable income is taxed at the higher rate.  
\* Should not we expect organizations representing businesses and farmers to have strong views toward any proposed, real or imagined, tax increase whether it will impact their members or not? Where are the organizations that represent large groups of low and middle income tax filers?  
\* Of course, none of us can predict what future legislators will enact with respect to taxes or spending. Each of us as a voter, has the responsibility to vote for those candidates who will control spending and taxes as well as demand the Illinois State Constitutional requirement for an annual balanced budget.  
\* There is nothing that prohibits the Illinois State Legislature from increasing the current tax rate above 4.95 percent and it would apply to every tax payer regardless of taxable income. The proposed amendment places a limit on the rate based on a tax payer’s taxable income.





# NATIONAL GRANGE

## OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

1616 H ST. NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20006 | PHONE (202) 628-3507 | FAX (202) 347-1091

*American Values. Hometown Roots.*

National Grange policy strongly supports whole milk as part of a well- balanced school nutrition program. However, the USDA -HHS Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, as they draft the latest Dietary Guidelines for America, may not be considering recent scientific evidence on the benefits of saturated fats and the healthy role they play. We encourage you to review the information from the American Dairy Coalition, contact your Senators and Representative, and ask them to delay the Dietary Guidelines report until all pertinent scientific dietary information is thoroughly considered by the Committee. A link is provided to connect you with your elected officials.

### Your Action Needed:

## It's Time to Get Whole Milk Back in Our Schools

### *The U.S. Dietary Guidelines Need to Be Fixed!*

The Dietary Guidelines for America (DGA) sets our nation's leading nutrition policies. They directly influence WIC, SNAP, and school lunch programs, shaping the tastes and preferences of the next generation of consumers. The DGA is used by physicians, nutritionists, dietitians, and other health professionals to "promote good health, prevent chronic disease and help Americans reach a healthy weight." By law, the guidelines are required to be updated every five years by USDA and Health and Human Services to incorporate the latest research and advancements in nutritional sciences.



### Why This Matters Today

The DGA program was introduced in 1980, yet public health has steadily declined in the 40 years since implementation. Childhood obesity and diabetes diagnoses have tripled, adult obesity rates have doubled, and 25 million American adults have diabetes. The current guidelines are not working. Despite criticism from top professional groups of experts, the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee refuses to address serious allegations regarding the flawed process used to update the guidelines.

In 2015, Congress commissioned a third party review completed by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM), at a cost of \$1M to taxpayers. The purpose was to evaluate the process used to update the very influential and far-reaching guidelines. However, the majority of recommendations from NASEM have been ignored in the proposed 2020 DGA draft.



## What Science Says

The Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee continues to place caps on saturated fats, despite clear evidence this is not supported by the latest research. These caps limit whole milk and butter in consumers' diets in exchange for low fat dairy or plant-based beverages and meat substitutes. Recent studies suggest again and again that regular consumption of full fat milk products promotes a healthy weight and lower risk of obesity, as well as reduces the risk of osteoporosis, diabetes and hypertension. Continuing to ignore the latest evidence is harmful to the health of the nation, particularly children.

ADC supports the *CHOICE* of offering whole milk in all daycare and school nutrition programs. Science concludes that full fat dairy products not only improve nutrition, but also learning readiness and satiety, especially for those most nutritionally at-risk. It is vital to increase dairy product consumption domestically as well as internationally by increasing consumption of full fat milk products.

## What Can You Do?

Congress must intervene to ensure the publication is updated in the guidelines and includes recent scientific evidence on the benefits of saturated fats and the healthy role they play. Americans deserve a comprehensive redesign of the flawed Dietary Guidelines process. Congress must take a look at the potential conflicts of interest that members of the Subcommittee on Dietary Fats may have. We cannot allow those who have stake in groups advocating vegan and vegetarian lifestyles to control the fate of American diets or dictate the continued exclusion of healthy, insulin-moderating fats in the nutrient dense food that our dairy farmers produce each and every day.

ADC is asking for your help. **Contact your elected representatives and ask them to delay the report by the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee to ensure USDA and HHS have adequate time to review and address the flawed process and implement recommendations from NASEM.** Demand the caps on saturated fat be removed so that schools once again have the ability to provide students with whole milk. Americans deserve sound science, not a vegan or vegetarian agenda. We cannot afford to wait five more years to get this right.

## Historian Report for 2019-2020

By Beverly Smith

Last September our State Grange made history holding our state session at the Boone County Fairgrounds. The accommodations were set up for all the Grange festivities. Unfortunately, this years state session will also be in the record books because of the coronavirus. Thank you to Hopewell Grange for hosting our one-day event. Next year will be our 150th State Grange Session. Hopefully we can celebrate it in good fashion!

This year I tried to put interesting articles in the Illinois Granger for you. I really appreciate your kind comments about my writings. Brian and I spent the winter months in Florida so I took Grange materials with me so I could write my articles. I will condense the articles here in my report.

For February's article, I was very lucky to come across a book on the shelf in Aunt Wyn's sunroom. It mentioned the Bonhomme Grange in Missouri, where Uncle Finis was from. This Grange influenced the betterment of everything pertaining to agriculture, horticulture and domestic economy in this community. What was the odds of finding this in Florida!

March: The popularity of everything "Farm" in today's culture only emphasizes what we have known all along. I am referring to the Installing Officer address: "Since God placed man on earth, agriculture has existed. -----". To us "Farm" has always been cool! Now we usually call each other "Grangers" but we really are considered "Patrons". We are members of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. Husbandry pertains to careful, thrifty management and farming. The

Grange influenced the roots of FFA (Future Farmers of America). A Virginia Grange member Henry Groseclose developed the ritual and procedures for these new clubs to go by. In 1928 President Calvin Coolidge addressed the National Grange session noting the Grange's long existence was due to its sound foundation. I was very sad to hear of the passing of my Grange friend Scott Henninger.

April: In 1985 when the farmers were hurting, Willie Nelson presented a concert in Champaign, IL. (Check out the entire list of performers online, it is a large, diverse and famous lineup) Its mission was to keep family farmers on their land. Our State Grange Master Russell Stauffer represented the National Grange there. Herschel D. Newsom was one of our National Grange Masters who acquired great status. He was appointed to many committees by various Presidents. At the 1953 National session he was presented a portrait by Norman Rockwell, notable artist and a Vermont Grange member. Also in 1931 The Grange supported the Brigham-Townsend Act to regulate oleomargarine. Some states wanted oleomargarine to be colored "pink" to make it unappealing versus butter. So thankfully this did not prevail.

May: The eighth session of National Grange made history. It met in February 1875 in Charleston, S.C. and also November 1875 in St. Louis, Mo. This is because they changed sessions from then on to be held in November. In 1888 the National Grange passed a resolution "Woman's Work in the Grange" but it took until 1910 for them to add a permanent standing committee called "Home Economics".

June: I always love to find boxes of Grange treasures at my house. Many Grange song booklets brought back memories of singing

these at Grange meetings. I also shared a poem "Why I Like The Grange" with you that I had from a Connecticut Grange newspaper.

July-August: In these days of protests in Washington, D.C. our National Grange headquarters received some violence. We are located in the heart of the capital. Over the year I have received many Grange photos and treasures. A special Thank You to Vivian Johnson. She provided me many Union Grange and Winnebago County Grange items.

## Relief Funds for Farmers

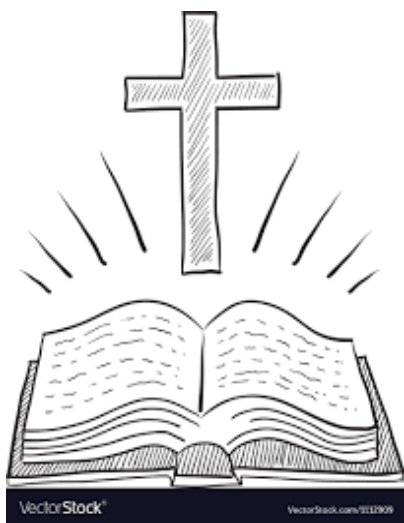
"The National Grange applauds the Administration and Secretary of Agriculture Perdue for providing an additional \$14 billion in relief funds for agricultural producers who have continued to face market disruptions amidst COVID-19. This includes several commodities under the latest Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2) that were not previously eligible and will make America's food chain even more resilient for the future. The signup period of September 21 through December 11 gives farmers and ranchers additional flexibility to participate in the program. With an ever-turbulent market in the midst of a pandemic, this additional aid is a lifeline for agricultural producers across rural America." -National Grange President Betsy Huber

To see more updates on coronavirus relief for farmers go to [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).



# Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens



Happy August, so 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. As I sat after breakfast in my chair in the living room I watched four hummingbirds dart back and forth to the feeder on the widow. Our granddaughter gave it to us after Don came home from the hospital 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 distances ourselves six feet apart, wearing masks wherever we go, not being able to be together with family at gathering plus many other changes in our life we also become on the mean side or not so nice to others. We lose our patience easier also, we must stop and ask ourselves is this what God wants us to do and be, I don't think so.

I think that our Father wants us to be happy,

helping other 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 creators 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 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.

## HAVE YOU RECEIVED UNSOLICITED SEEDS BY MAIL?

**1 Retain Seeds and Packaging.  
If opened, double-bag and  
seal the seeds.**

**2 Report anonymously at  
800-877-3835 or  
SITC.Mail@aphis.usda.gov**

**3 Do NOT plant or discard  
the seeds!**

