



Illinois Granger

Volume 104

December 2020

No. 10

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



Lynette Schaeffer President Illinois State Grange

Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms November 2020

The virtual 154th National Grange Session is in the books. It was nice seeing all the delegates and officers even if it was via ZOOM. I am appreciative of the extra work the delegates were able to achieve prior to the Convention via the ZOOM calls for the committee meetings. Thanks to the National Grange Master Betsy Huber, Burton Eller and the staff for all of their extra efforts. The session committee reports, budget work, election of Executive Committee members. Leroy Watson (NH) and Susan Noah (OR) were re-elected and installed. It was unique for the High Priest to complete that task. The resolutions that IL sent to National were added to policy statements for the Agriculture and Citizenship for the Mental Health Programs and Destruction of Monuments. Labor, Judiciary and Transportation believed the roundabouts was a state issue. I was proud to take part in the National Grange Memorial Service in honor of Brother Norm Keller. Sister Henrietta was able to watch as the service was streamed on YouTube. The theme for the next year will continue with the "Cultivating Connections". I will share more information in the next few months and on the GRIT ZOOM conference on Sunday 11/22/2020.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 22 Pie pick up – Boone County Fair Administration Bldg 6-8 PM
Jan 15 4th quarter report due

I have no other entries for the Calendar at this time. We are on restrictions from the governor again.

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.

Donations to the Illinois Granger:

Jim/Sonjia Olstad Prairie Grange \$10

Donations to the Honor Memorial Scholarship fund:

\$25 Prairie Grange to honor Gary Turner

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

The IL State Grange budget will be balanced and sent to all the delegates right after the GRIT conference. Todd Hegge, of Flora Grange was installed as an Executive Committee member by Robin Kindberg with assistance from Flora Grange members. Thanks to those who completed this task. We held an IL Ex Comm meeting via ZOOM on November 15.

GRIT (Grange Resources Information Training) ZOOM conference on Sunday 11/22/2020. The presenters will be sharing their information. I have asked them to share that information on the Illinoisstategrange.org website.

Grange Revival July 20 – 25 is in Sturgis, South Dakota at Days End Campground. Registration is now open. Check the nationalgrange.org website.

Hope you are all safe and well as we go backwards in the COVID 19 pandemic – we are at groups of 10 or less, no indoor dining, schools back to virtual or hybrid (mixture of in person and virtual) wearing masks and 6' social distance. State officials recommend small family gatherings for Thanksgiving. Hope all are doing your best to follow the recommendations. Yesterday there was breaking news of vaccines being available soon. Let us all pray that the vaccine works.

ISG YOUTH PIE SALE

The pie sale by the Illinois State Grange Youth in the north is a huge success! 67 pies were ordered for the Thanksgiving delivery. So far 16 pies are pre ordered for the Christmas delivery. A huge Thank You to everyone who ordered pies from the Youth. Another huge Thank You to Yolanda's Bakery in Belvidere for providing the opportunity for this fundraiser. I'm sure the Youth will be offering pies for other holidays in the future.

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Deadlines for Articles for the Illinois Granger

December - November 19 Print Nov 27

2021 Contests

January	No Issue
February - January 21	Print Feb 26
March - February 18	Print Mar 2
April - March 25	Print Apr 2

Repeat Contests

May - April 22	Print Apr 30
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State Session Info

June - May 20	Print May 28
July - June 24	Print July 2

State Session

August - July 22	Print July 30
September	No Issue

October - September 23	Print Oct 1
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Contest Results

November - October 21	Print Oct 29
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2022 Contests

Some of these dates may seem very early but I am trying to get the Granger in the mail as close to the first of the month as possible. Please send in information for your Grange, send events for the calendar, send the obituaries from your Grange. I can only print what I receive from you.

You can text me at 815-299-7884
Message me on my Facebook Messenger
E-mail illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com
Send mail to:
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ILLINOIS GRANGER

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

Please send all news and
pictures to:

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Belvidere, IL 61008

illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com

DONATIONS: \$10.00 PER YEAR

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

A Note from Ruth

The Illinois Granger would like to hear soon from the following Granges. Winnebago County Pomona

St Clair County Pomona
Bluff Grange
Broad Hollow Grange
Enterprise Grange
Floraville Community Grange
Emerald Mound Grange
Shiloh Valley Grange
Progressive Grange
Leaf River Grange
Perryville Grange
Union Grange
Big Thunder Grange
Capron Grange
Leroy Community Grange
Harmony Grange
Galt Grange
Richland Grange

If your Grange name is not on this list please continue to send in your articles as you have been doing.

The Following Officers/Directors/Deputies are encouraged to write one article per year for the paper. It does not have to be about your office. You can write about your kids, a hobby, anything interesting to you that you feel we would enjoy reading.

Officers:

Steward – Brad Wade
Assistant Steward – Rick O’Dell
Lady Assistant Steward – Carrie Fisher
Treasurer – Kevin Joseph
Gatekeeper – Don Ellwanger
Ceres – Sara Ellwanger
Pomona – Patti Lee
Flora – Angie Dickerson
Executive Committee – Gary Hecathorn
Executive Committee – Frank D Wurth
Executive Committee – Todd Hegge
Deputies:
Boone – Jean Thornberry
Boone – Adam Ellwanger
Winnebago – Vivian Johnson
St Clair – Kenny Joseph
St Clair –
Tri-County – Debra Wade

If your Office/Name is not on this list please continue to send in regular articles. But, also feel free to submit a fun, interesting, non-Grange information article at any time. We love to hear personal stories.

If just two or three people from this list would send one article it would be so much easier to fill the Illinois Granger with news from Granges and Grangers from across the state. It doesn’t have to be a huge article and don’t worry about spelling or grammar, I can fix that, please just let us know what is going on with you personally or in your Grange life.

I’m not asking most of you for an article every month. I would just like at least one article per year, please.

News From Hopewell Grange

By Janice David

The fall season was a busy one at Hopewell as we finalized some needed repairs and made plans for our annual wiener roast. Work parties were scheduled for two weekends in October. On the farm scene, the weather was fairly dry throughout the harvest and farmers were able to finish up in good shape and still have time to get in some additional field work. Yields were good considering how dry it was during the latter part of the summer.

At our October meeting we received an application for membership from Jaden Fisher.

Jaden is moving up from Hopewell Junior Grange. His application was approved, and we welcome him as a new member. Congratulations Jaden!

Hopewell was disappointed that we were unable to host the Illinois State Grange officers and delegates. We all hope that next year will allow us to meet in person and have a normal or nearly normal session. As with all of you, we struggle with the question: “When will it end?”

Much of our meeting discussion centered on plans for the Pancake and Sausage Supper that took place on October 22. This was a totally drive-thru event this year. The local community was supportive, and with the help of our Juniors and some other young people from the community the event was quite successful. Thank you to all who helped and to all who bought meals and/or bought fresh meat.

When we met in November, we were in the midst of seven consecutive days of unseasonably warm weather that resulted in some new temperature records. Members reported that cauliflower and other cold weather vegetables were doing well in local gardens. The NTA group reported that about 42 children attended a Halloween trunk or treat. Hosting that event brought up the suggestion that we needed electrical outlets near the front doors of the hall.

Our state delegates reported that GRIT will be a Zoom meeting on November 22 and that next year’s state session will be held in Collinsville, Illinois. Literary program was an exercise to estimate the cost of Thanksgiving Dinner for two (since we are supposed to limit guests this year). Lecturer Elaine Hecathorn also distributed a Thanksgiving sheet that members could complete at home. Our next scheduled meeting is December 14 at 7 p.m.

November Flora Grange news

By Lindakay Ebel

Flora Grange #1762 did not hold a meeting in the month of November due to the Governor’s orders of no more than 10 people gathering, due to the COVID-19.

A few of our Flora Grange members did meet for their quilting and sewing on the weekend of November 14 & 15 to work on quilts and other sewing projects of their choice, and will again be meeting on Saturday, December 12th and Sunday, December 13th.

Other projects being worked on; Jack and Laurel Ratcliffe repaired some 15’ pieces of the siding on our Flora Grange Hall due to the high winds on Saturday, the 14th, that came off and other pieces that were partially off. Jack serves as Flora Grange’s Building and Grounds chairman.

Some of our Flora Grange members were a part of the GRIT,(Grange Resources and Information Training), held on Sunday, November 22nd with presentations by the following Chairman: Agriculture, Community Service Director, Editor, Family Activities Chairman, Junior Director, Lecturer, Legislative Director, Youth, Illinois State Secretary Robin Kindberg and Master Lynette Schaeffer. They each gave information for the year of 2021 and this can be found on the Grange’s website or will be sent to the Grange secretaries.

This month Flora Grange made a direct donation to the Salvation Army this year instead of the Bell Ringing as in prior years.

Flora Grange will be a part of the ‘Holiday Lights Drive Through’ and have a Christmas display at the Belvidere Park this holiday season along with other Granges and businesses, so be sure to take your children through the park to see the Christmas lights and displays.

Flora Grange will also be a part of the Hometown Christmas again this year. We

purchased a Christmas tree for a family and will also purchase lights for the Christmas tree and our Junior Grange members and other Grange members will be making ornaments for the tree. Instead of purchasing gifts for the family this year, we will be purchasing gift certificates. These items will then be delivered to the family.

Members of Flora Grange wish all of you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving and a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If traveling, travel safe, remember to wear your mask, and keep your distance from others and stay well.

Looking forward to 2021 and hopefully things with the COVID-19 will be better, so we once again can be together to hold our Grange meetings, our 150th Illinois State Grange session and once again have things be back to normal and, oh yes, have our Boone County Fair.

God Bless each of You.



*Al and Darlene Henninger – 72 years on Nov 19th 2020
If you see them, wish them a very happy Anniversary!!!*

Prairie Grange News

Hello, hope all is well with everyone. Prairie Grange held a zoom meeting for our November 16th meeting. We had several members in attendance.

It was decided we will cancel our annual Christmas potluck due to the pandemic but we will still get together on Dec.21 for a zoom meeting. Everyone was encouraged to join us for a fun night. We will be sharing Christmas stories, poems, jokes, riddle and songs so we can all get in the Christmas spirit.

We are still collecting toys for the local Salvation Army toy drive since the event of the Joy of Christmas was canceled through the Evangelical Church. Contact Jennifer Tobin-Tinch for drop off information.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Turner Family on the passing of our long time Grange member Gary Turner who passed away this week.

Also our thoughts and prayers go out to our newest Grange member Eric Powell's family on the recent loss of his brother.

Everyone is encouraged to send cards and wishes to Grangers Al and Darlene Henninger on their recent birthdays, both turned 91 years young and on their 72nd Wedding Anniversary which will be Thursday November 19th. Congratulations!

Everyone was reminded that GRIT Conference will be Nov. 22 at 1:00PM via zoom watch for details. Also check out the illinoisstategrange.org website for contests and other information.

Everyone stay healthy and we will see you Dec, 21st via zoom for our next meeting.

Robin Kindberg
Publicity Chairman



A Path Toward Improvement In Rural America

Roughly 57 million Americans live and work in a rural community. Living in a small rural town is a unique and precious experience, in which neighbors respect one another and work together. Rural America is also a powerful economic engine.

However, living in a rural community also comes with challenges and unique health care needs. For example, geographic circumstances often put rural Americans at a disadvantage when it comes to accessing medical facilities and transportation difficulties for residents trying to reach healthcare providers. Whether it's a hospital, a doctor's office or a physical therapist, the numbers show that these facilities are oftentimes scarce, requiring residents to travel great distances to reach them.

What makes this barrier to treatment worse is that small town hospitals have been closing at an alarming rate for years. Since 2005, 176 rural hospitals have closed permanently across the United States. Of course, with a lack of hospitals and medical facilities comes a lack of health care personnel. According to research from the National Rural Health Association, there are less than 40 primary care physicians per 100,000 rural American dwellers.

And while COVID-19 has resulted in an acceleration of virtual physician/patient visits, this has been particularly challenging for rural America, where 53 percent of residents lack access to 25 Mbps/3 Mbps of bandwidth. Lack

of high-speed internet hinders the ability of rural Americans to access technologies, such as a virtual doctor's appointments. These staggering numbers point to a less than ideal situation for rural residents in need of care, particularly those without high-speed internet or those that require in-person treatment options.

One prime example is rural Americans living with chronic pain. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that 24 percent of rural adults suffer from chronic pain, compared to 18 percent of urban dwellers. The high prevalence of chronic pain in rural communities coupled with the severe shortage of hospitals and physicians in these areas, creates a severe access issue.

Americans suffering from chronic pain often find it difficult to continue working or performing the most basic of daily activities. Ensuring chronic pain sufferers have access to a trusted physician who can work with them based on their specific needs to find the most effective treatment plan is a critical first step. We also need more treatment options that are both safe and effective to fit the unique needs of rural Americans living in pain.

Therefore, the National Grange, where I serve as president, recently adopted a resolution to prioritize and address the issues surrounding chronic pain in rural America. We pledge to support more research to be done to help identify the causes of chronic pain in rural life. We will dive

Continued on Page 7



American Values.

Hometown Roots.

2021 Illinois State Grange JUNIOR DEPARTMENT Contests

All Junior Contests - Individual must be a Junior, or 1+ member
Three age groups: 5-7, 8-10, 11-14. Entry age as of 1/1/2021
(National Guidelines)
Any entry that is not labeled and does not follow rules may be disqualified from judging, but may still receive a participation ribbon.
Maximum size is given in measurements of length-by-width-by-height

Mini-Juniors: Any child who is 5 by September 1, 2021 may send up to 3 entries to session. These projects will not be judged as other age groups are, but will receive participation ribbons.

Junior at Heart: Any Granger over the age of 20, as of September 1, 2021, may submit a project. These projects will be voted on by fellow Grangers for Best of Show .

Host State - Kansas

Small World - Ireland

Make a 3-D display (Maximum size 10x10x8"high) or poster (up to 11x14" finished size after mounted for stability) which represents the country. Identify and explain at least three items of country.

Recycling--Shoebox Mini-Float

To help celebrate the 150th IL State Grange Session we will decorate a shoe box. Can be any small box with maximum size of 14x10x6"

Weather

Make a project that demonstrates...for example a tornado/calming bottle, or illustrates, some kind of weather, or one of the four seasons. Maximum size 11x14"

Endangered Animals

Learn about an endangered animal and share information on an 8x10" size poster; or in a speech, props may be used. Maximum 5 minutes.

Yellow Brick Road

For this project you can share a collection of YELLOW items...minimum of 4, maximum of 12. Please include an explanation of why you chose included items.

~OR~
Make a 3-D object out of "bricks" aka Lego building blocks. Minimum size 2x2x2", maximum size 8x8x12"

Melinda (Mindy) Schiefer
IL State Grange Junior Director
10949 Faust Road, Trenton, IL 62293
(618) 444-2852 or schefr5@gmail.com

ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE AGRICULTURE CONTESTS' ENTRY FORM SEPT. 2020 – SEPT. 2021

NAME _____ GRANGE _____ COUNTY _____
(CIRCLE the category AND item). One entry per person each category. (vegetable, fruit, flower, etc. Must be from current Grange year, Sept. 2020 Sept. 2021).

I.VEGETABLE

1. Beans, Green (4)
2. Beans, Golden Wax (4)
3. Beets (4)
4. Cabbage (1 head)
5. Cauliflower (1)
6. Cucumbers (3)
7. Eggplant (1)
8. Garlic (3)
9. Gourds (3)
10. Okra (3)
11. Onions (White (3)
12. Onions (Yellow (3)
13. Peppers (Sweet) (3)
14. Peppers (Hot) (3)
15. Potatoes (Red) (3)
16. Potatoes (White) (3)
17. Sweet Potatoes (3)
18. Squash – Acorn (2)
19. Squash – Winter (1)
20. Sweet Corn (3 Ears)
21. Tomatoes – (Cherry) (3)
22. Tomatoès – (Red (3)
23. Tomatoès – (Yellow (3)
24. Zucchini 6-8" – (1)
25. Most Unusual Shaped Vegetable
26. Vegetable Other Than Above1.
(3 if Small or 1 if Large)

II. FRUITS

1. Apples -Red (4)
2. Apples -Yellow (4)
3. Cantaloupe (1)
4. Crab Apples (4)
5. Grapes (3 Bunches)
6. Pears (4)
7. Plums (4)
8. Pumpkin (1)
9. Watermelon (1)

III. HERBS

1. Potted specimen of an herb, named
2. Collection of Herbs, 4 or more

IV FIELD CROPS

- 1 3 Ears of Corn
2. Longest Ear of Corn
3. 3 Ears Indian Corn, Husked
4. 3 Ears Popcorn
5. Corn, (1 Qt. Bag)
6. Oats, 1 Qt. Bag)
7. Soybeans (1 Qt. Bag)
8. Wheat. (1 Qt. Bag)
9. Sunflower-Largest Head

V. FLOWERS

1. African Violet plant
2. Succulent
3. Houseplants
4. Asters (3 stems)
5. Cosmos (3 stems)
6. Marigolds (3 stems)
7. Zinnias (3 stems)
8. Any Other (3 Blooms)
9. Fairy Garden (Not from a Kit)

VI. MARKET BASKET (8 or more Items)

VII. JUNIOR DIVISION (AGES 5-8 & 9-12)

1. Poster featuring Farm Safety (any size)
2. Miniature/Fairy Garden (Not from kit)
3. Vegetables (State age on entry tag)
4. Livestock Poster
5. Food Production Poster

(JUNIOR CONTEST OPEN TO CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN OF MEMBERS IF A GRANGE DOES NOT HAVE A JUNIOR GRANGE.)

2020 – 2021

AGRICULTURE INFORMATION ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE

2021 AG CHAIRMAN
JUSTIN SCHAEFFER
10012 RIEDER ROAD
LEBANON, IL 62254
618-792-1717
jschaeff79@gmail.com

RULES AND INFORMATION:

1. ONE ENTRY PER PERSON IN EACH CATEGORY.
2. On entry form with list of items; Print Name, Grange, and County for EACH PERSON entering an item. Make extra copies of form.
 - a. Circle either Vegetable, Fruit, Herb, Field Crop, Flowers or Junior Division and note Junior age group where required.
 - b. Circle item under each Category (i.e., Fruit, Grapes. Etc.)
 - c. Please note how many items are required on sheet so you don't get disqualified.
3. VEGETABLES, FRUITS, HERBS, FIELD CROPS, FLOWERS AND JUNIOR DIVISION must be grown or harvested between Sept. 2020 - Sept. 2021. They will be auctioned unless picked up prior to the time announced at State Grange.
4. Plants can be from previous years. Plants can be auctioned if you want.
5. MINIATURE GARDEN/FAIRY GARDEN -MAY NOT BE MADE FROM A KIT.
 - a. Be creative but ideas are also available in magazines, on computer or at libraries, etc.
 - b. Suggestions: Use items from your yard, garden, woods and can be slices of wood, low sided plastic container or other items easy to transport.
6. MARKET BASKET:
 - a. Must fit 30" table length
 - b. May be individual or group submission
 - c. Must be set up by entrant or representative.
7. JUNIORS or children or grandchildren of Grange members if a Grange does not have a Junior 1 Grange. (Ages 5 - 8 and ages 9- 11)
 - a. Circle Age category on entry form -The age is the age of the child as of September 2021.
 - b. Fill out top of entry form with Name, Grange, and County.
 - c. Poster on safety on the Farm, (any size of poster).
 - d. Vegetables – Many juniors, children and grandchildren help their parents garden, so juniors may enter the vegetable category.
 - e. If children are not gardening, this may encourage them to do so.

FAC COMMITTEE

The year 2020 is just about over. We will have to call it the “year that never was.” So let’s try to do it over again in 2021.

Our contests are the same as 2020 except we have added one new category – Face Masks.

Looking forward to all the entries next September.

Sharon Fidler

FAC Chairman 2021

Any Questions call 815-323-8976

Leave message or text

Agriculture

Have you ever wondered what the Farm Bill is? The farm bill is a piece of legislation that is passed roughly every 5 years. The Bill brings together our Nations Farmers, Ranchers, Agriculture Commodity Producers, our Natural Resources, and so much more. In many ways the Farm Bill is misunderstood. I will be doing a series of articles for the Granger diving deeper into the Farm Bill, the 12 titles that make up the current Farm Bill, and the 5 areas of Funding in the Farm Bill.

This Bill is drafted by the Senate Committee of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, plus the House Committee on Agriculture. Their job is to look at the Titles that make up the Bill. A title is a chapter of a farm bill. The number and names of titles can change with each farm. The 2018 Farm Bill has 12 titles.

There is a lot that is not included in the farm bill such as the following:

- Farm and food worker rights and protections
- Public land grazing rights
- Irrigation water rights
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA) food safety
- Renewable fuels standards
- Tax issues
- School meals
- The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program
- Some pesticide Laws
- Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act

These are not included because they fall outside the jurisdiction of the writers of the Farm Bill and the Agriculture Committees.

The projected Funding for the 2018 Farm Bill is \$428 Billion. This \$428 Billion is split between 5 major areas. These areas are Nutrition (76%), Crop Insurance (9%), Commodities (7%), Conservation (7%), and Other (1%). There will be future articles on these 5 areas.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out any member of the Illinois State Grange Agricultural Committee, or our Ag Chairperson Justin Schaeffer. We are here to help educate on the workings of the great, vast world of Agriculture.

I am looking forward to writing more articles diving deeper into the 2018 Farm Bill.



Quilts of Valors



*WOW, What a wonderful Quilt!
It was my honor to serve our
wonderful country! Thank You
Flora Grange and Laurel Ratcliffe
for this Quilt of Valor! We will have
it on our diningroom table for all
who enter our home to see! With
Honor and Thankfulness, Ernie J.
Ratcliffe*

On November 14 Turkey Hill Grange held a Quilt of Valor presentation ceremony. Eight veterans were awarded Quilts of Valor. That is the highest award a veteran can receive outside of the military. Shown in the photo from the left is Carl McPeck who served in the Army 1948-1952. His quilt was made by Chris Bersett; Ronald Haynes who served in the Air Force 1963-1991. His quilt was made by Judy Brindley; Charles Treser who served in the Air Force 1958-1991. His quilt was made by Mary Beth Lee and Julie Heberer; Robert Inman who served in the Air Force 1951-1955. His quilt was made by Mary Beth Lee and Julie Heberer; Sara Blas who served in the Air Force 1972-1994. Her quilt was made by Mary Beth Lee; Stanley Agne who served in the Army 1951-1952. His quilt was made by Mary Beth Lee and Julie Heberer; William Juergens who served in the Army 1952-1956. His quilt was made by Nikki Wilcoxin; Clarence Begole (not pictured) served in the Army 1944-1946. His quilt was made by Judy Brindley. Thanks to our photographer David Philip and pianist Mary Philip. The ceremony closed with the singing of "God Bless America."

Community Service Granger of the Year 2020

Three very deserving individuals were recognized as the 2020 Illinois State Grange Community Service Granger of the Year. We will highlight a winner in the next several Grangers....stay tuned!

Brian Keller – 2020 Community Service Granger of the Year

Brian Keller is a very amazing single gentleman who spends numerous hours doing community service work in O'Fallon, Illinois.

Brian is the President of the O'Fallon History Museum. Besides presiding over monthly meetings, Brian works at the museum every Saturday where they are open for visitors from 1-4. He also gives private tours for scouts and individual people other nights of the week. Since the virus had closed the museum for months, he was still there moving some displays, fixing new displays, and cleaning. He also writes and puts together the Museum Newsletter that is sent out quarterly to all members. He knows an enormous amount of O'Fallon history that he is willing to share with anyone, so he voluntarily writes two history columns for two local newspapers each week. Included in his columns are events from 100, 75, and 50 years ago that he has researched. He spends at least 916 hours a year doing all these projects.

Brian is also President of the Council of the Jerusalem Lutheran Church. Besides singing in the choir, he is overseeing a house the church owns, and working with the people who are now broadcasting an audio version of the church service during the pandemic. He spends 185 hours of work there during the year.

Brian is the volunteer photographer and webmaster for the O'Fallon Veterans' Monument Association that oversees the local Veterans' Memorial. He will post on Facebook numerous pictures of the events happening and related to the Memorial. He spends 56 hours a year in honor of the Veterans' Memorial.

Brian volunteers for the O'Fallon Historic Preservation Commission about 36 hours a year and does photography work for the O'Fallon High School Boys Lacrosse team and O'Fallon Boy Scout Troop 46 which is another 25 hours.

Brian also volunteers as the photographer and social media coordinator for the Downtown O'Fallon Chamber of Commerce. He takes and shares many pictures of the Vine Street Market which is a farmer's market that takes place every Saturday morning from May to October. He will take pictures of every vendor that is present and share them on Facebook. Besides being the Secretary, he does other promotional work for the Chamber and spends 205 hours volunteering for the Downtown Chamber of Commerce.

Brian is the Lecturer of Enterprise Grange and always presents an outstanding program, plus he is a worker for making Apple Butter as our money-making project. He also donates money to our Grange Dictionary project and other local projects.

On January 6, 2020, at the City Council meeting, O'Fallon Mayor Roach proclaimed Brian Keller Day for the city of O'Fallon. This was to recognize Brian for his effort and time to the city he loves.

As a result of Brian's awesome 1423 hours of volunteer work in the O'Fallon community, Enterprise Grange feels Brian Keller deserves and should be recognized with the Community Service Award for Granger of the Year from the Illinois State Grange!

The Illinois State Grange congratulates Brian Keller on this accomplishment. Thank you for your service – "well done good and faithful servant."



*Mayor Roach proclaimed Brian Keller Day for his
Community Service to the city.*

Rural America Continued from page 3

into various issues to determine why there is such a high prevalence of pain among rural Americans, and what we can do to change it. Because chronic pain has contributed so much to the tragic opioid crisis in rural America, we will support national and state initiatives that encourage the research and development of new pain relief therapies that avoid opioids and other addictive drugs. Lastly, we will host robust policy discussions about pain management among our fellow Grange members and their rural communities to ensure our unique needs are being met.

We must not forget the power of rural America, and we must refuse to leave the millions of Americans suffering from chronic pain in these areas behind. By joining the conversation, educating ourselves and others and pushing for change, we can take the necessary steps forward to address the barriers to health care that rural Americans face and provide a brighter future for those living in pain.

Betsy Huber is president of the National Grange, America’s oldest agricultural, rural life and small town citizen advocacy organization.

Community Service

What a weird, crazy year. With State Session moved to a virtual setting, our statewide community service program has had to be adjusted. As a result, I would like to continue collecting donations for Ronald McDonald and carry that into next year. As a reminder, Ronald McDonald provides families with a place to stay and a hot meal while their children are undergoing hospital treatment. At state session in 2019, when we announced that this would be our 2020 project, we had no idea that our family would be utilizing them a few short months later. There was a Ronald McDonald room at the hospital where Charlotte stayed in the NICU for 45 days. We could go in there to freshen up, get snacks, and take a short break. So this charity has an even bigger meaning to me now.

There are three different types of items we can collect for them. The one everyone knows about is pop tabs. They also need a lot of supplies for the house especially cooking supplies and individual snacks. They also do a happy wheels cart at the hospital, where the children can pick a brand new toy, like legos or barbies. We will split the collection of items between the Central Illinois and St. Louis Chapters as those were the planned locations for the 2020 and 2021 State Sessions.

Any of the items that have already been collected that have an expiration (like food or toiletry items) can either be donated locally or if you can get them to me, I will take them to the St. Louis Ronald McDonald house which is in immediate need for those types of items. Just let me know either way, so that I can keep a record at the state level of what is donated and where. Since we aren’t doing a normal collection of items this year, we will save awards for most items donated for next year and include both years in the totals.

Tensubordinate Granges submitted community service reports, totaling 42,950 hours of service. This is down three reports and roughly half of the total hours submitted from last year, which is to be expected, given the pandemic. I would like to thank the following Granges and Community Service Directors for submitting reports and present them with a Certificate of Achievement for their participation in the 2020 Illinois State Grange Community Service Program.

Grange Name	Chairperson(s) Name	Total Community Service Hours
Beaver Valley	Dayle Paulson	2,778
Big Thunder	John Nall	1,440
Broad Hollow	Betty Hardt	335
County Line	Linda Mullins	2,140
Enterprise	Gladys Williamson	3,559
Flora	Laurel Ratcliffe	6,639
Perryville	Beverly Smith	139
Prairie	Robin Kindberg	12,465
Troy Grove	Ethel Bauer	1,339
Turkey Hill	David Donley	12,116

The Granges with the largest participation per member were:

Fourth Place – Enterprise Grange – 77 Hours per Member

Third Place – Beaver Valley Grange – 84 Hours per Member

Second Place – Turkey Hill Grange – 87 Hours per Member

First Place – Prairie Grange – 104 Hours per Member

The winning Grange reports were:

Fourth Place – Enterprise Grange – Gladys Williamson - \$25

Third Place – Flora Grange – Laurel Ratcliffe - \$50

Second Place – Prairie Grange – Robin Kindberg - \$75

First Place – Turkey Hill Grange – David Donley - \$100

The Grange with the most improved score on their Community Service report is Big Thunder Grange. Congratulations John Nall. Thank you for your Grange’s renewed participation this year.

Turkey Hill was the only Grange to nominate an Outstanding Teacher, Firefighter, and Law Enforcement Officer of the year. I really appreciate Turkey Hill taking the time to do this and would like to remind other Granges how important it is to recognize those supporting their communities.

Firefighter of the Year – Bradley Borkowski of Northwest Fire District – Nominated by Turkey Hill Grange

Teacher of the Year – Marcy Hock of Abraham

Lincoln Elementary School – Nominated by Turkey Hill Grange

Law Enforcement Officer – James Hendricks of St. Clair County Sheriff’s Department – Nominated by Turkey Hill Grange

There were two nominations for Non-Member for the Year, one for Junior Granger, and three for Granger of the Year. Given the extremely high caliber of the nominees and the fact that their Granges made special effort to nominate them, given the weird circumstances surrounding this year, I have decided that they all deserve to be recognized, so they will all be receiving certificates from the Illinois State Grange Community Service Department.

Non-Member of the Year:

Loren G. Salzman – Nominated by Guilford Hope Grange

Carol Schlitt – Nominated by Turkey Hill Grange

Junior Granger of the Year:

Lucy Tourigny – Nominated by Turkey Hill Grange

Granger of the Year:

Ruth Blasingame – Nominated by Prairie Grange

Brian Keller – Nominated by Enterprise Grange

Mary Beth Lee – Nominated by Turkey Hill Grange

Thank you for your support in 2020 and let’s plan to do even more in 2021!

Fraternally Submitted,

Tracey Jones

IL State Grange Community Service Director

ISG Secretary Report – November 2020

Here are a few reminders for all the Secretaries:

1. The Date when the quarterly reports are due to the ISG Secretary has changed. The reports are due to the ISG Secretary by the 15th of the month following the end of the quarter.

QUARTER ENDS DUE TO ISG SECRETARY

March 30 April 15

June 30 July 15

September 30 October 15

December 30 January 15

2. 990-N POSTCARDS – If you receive one of these in the mail please go online and file it. Be sure to make 2 copies of the confirmation letter you receive when you are finished. Keep one for your records and send one to the ISG Secretary.

3. RECOGNITION AWARDS – There is a new form to order the seals and the 25 year Silver Star Certificates. There is no shipping charges on them if you order them from the ISG Secretary. The cost is \$3.00 each. Checks are made payable to the ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE and mailed to the ISG Secretary.

If you wan to order a 50 year Golden Sheaf or 75 year Diamond Award these come from National Grange. Cost is \$10.00 + Shipping and Handling costs. (See back of form M for more details. You need to fill out Form M (Golden yellow sheet) make checks payable to NATIONAL GRANGE BUT you must send them to the ISG Secretary first and allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

4. G Bills – We are collecting G Bills again this year for the Honor Memorial Scholarship Fund. Collect them until State Session 2021. If want to turn them in sooner send a check in the amount to the ISG Secretary and make checks payable to ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE.

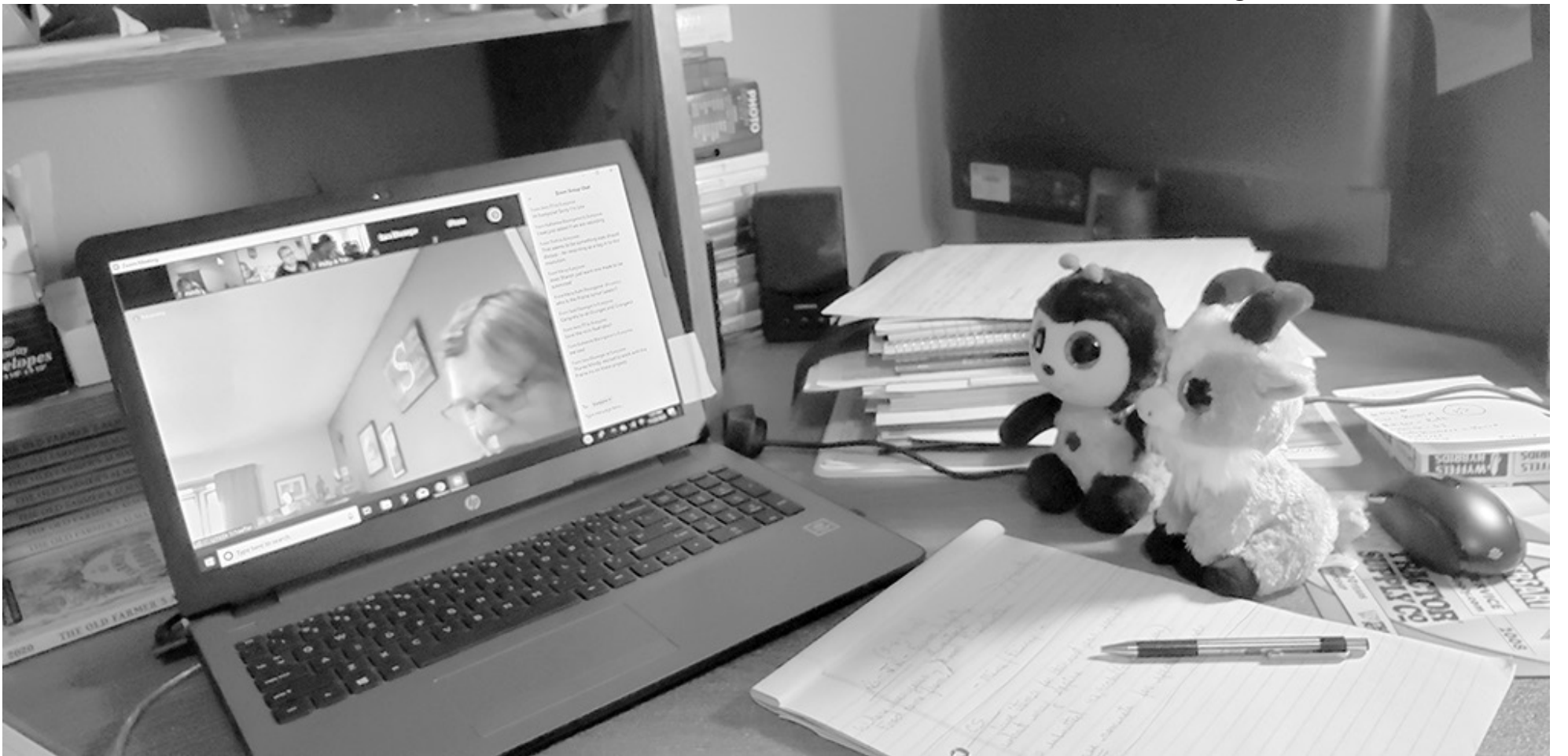
5. QUARTERS – We are collecting quarters for the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the ISG in September 2021. Bring check for the amount to State Session or mail a check made payable to the ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE.

6. PENNIES – We are also collecting Pennies for the National Grange Building Fund. Send the amount you collect in a check made payable to the ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE.

GRIT CONFERENCE is set for Sunday November 22, 2020 at 1:00PM via ZOOM due to Covid pandemic. Watch Granger for locations.

Watch the Illinois Granger, the ISG website and ISG Facebook page, lots of information will be posted there.

Any questions contact me via email, text or call me. Robin Kindberg, ISG Secretary



Dot and new friend Shane sitting in and watching the GRIT Zoom meeting to find out what is coming up this next year.

Criteria:

- Needs to be at least 720 px wide
- Can be no bigger than 1640 px by 856 px
- Needs to include a Grange emblem in some way

Rules:

- Can submit more than one Facebook Cover
- Must be submitted by midnight January 1st
- Must be submitted in JPEG or PDF form
- Open to ALL Grange members

ISG Youth Facebook Cover Challenge

SEE WHAT YOU
CAN COME UP
WITH

2020 – 2021 Illinois State Grange Youth Department

I would like to try some new ideas this coming year.

1. I will be starting on the 4th Monday of the month in December with an online ZOOM meeting for anyone who would like to join. December 28th will be the first ZOOM.
I will send the ZOOM information to anyone who responds on Facebook or to the new youth email account: isgyouth@gmail.com
Schedule so far for the ZOOM Meetings
December 28th 7 pm – Introduction of State Youth Projects possible community service project
January 25th 7 pm – Introduction of National Grange Youth Projects continue working on CS project
2. I had posted online an online project for anyone to participate in. As I got no entries I am reintroducing it at the GRIT conference and modifying the deadline to January 1st. I think it will give us something fun to try and play around with

- during the strange holiday season we are entering into. It is a Facebook cover photo challenge all details will be available on the Illinois State Grange Facebook group and online at the Illinois State Grange Website.
3. Look for more online options to do things together as we all need to see people other than our immediate family and our coworkers.
 4. I can't wait for restrictions to be lifted but until they are we need to find ways to do things together. Youth can help you figure it out. If you have a smart phone you can probably get logged onto a ZOOM meeting. Join Facebook, we post so many things online and you can see what other Granges are doing across the country. The PA State Lecturer and other departments have joined forces and twice have held an online painting party. For a nominal fee they all ZOOM together at the same time and are taught how to create something together. It costs a little more if you have them send you the supplies, but it's not a bad idea.
 5. Keep checking online and in the Granger for deadline updates and new programs.

Junior Department

Melinda Schiefer – Director

Today, like millions of other people, I went to work. I didn't design a beautiful skyscraper, I didn't write a proposal to save an endangered species, and I didn't drive a bus or fly a plane or write a crucial bill that would someday become a law.

However, I did spend time with some very important people. I read a story to an attorney, I sang the alphabet song with a Supreme Court Judge. I ate lunch with a pastor, and patted the back of an engineer until he fell asleep. Taught a policeman how to tie his shoes, and introduced an astronaut to the color red. Tomorrow, who knows whom I'll meet, but one thing is for sure...They will be very IMPORTANT for they are our precious children, and the hope of our very future.

~~Unknown~~

8 November 2020 Illinois Granger

Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens



As I write this Christmas is just right around the corner. It has been a very busy month even though we are home bound, Thanksgiving family dinner cancelled because of the virus and we don't really know what we can plan for Christmas, will it be like Thanksgiving not being with family and friends, we do not know. Many times I do believe that God is testing us to really see if we are His children and that He will guide us out through this wilderness of virus. So how strong is your faith right now, I know that sometimes I wonder if my faith is strong enough to hold me up. But I know that God is either carrying me or walking beside me because otherwise I couldn't make it.

Do you have a favorite Christmas song? I think mine is "O Holy Night" the first verse O holy night the stars are brightly shining; I see it as the sky is so bright with stars and so peaceful that you can feel God's presence is all around us. It is the night of our dear Savior's birth. It was long awaited and finally our King is born. The thrill of hope the weary world rejoices. For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Is that what we are waiting on, that He shall bring peace and light unto the world again? Fall on your knees and hear the angel's voices, proclaim the birth of Christ, Oh night divine. Oh How beautiful that we can claim Christ as our one and only Savior.

May the Lord Bless each of you this Holy season and hold you in His loving arms

Peace to you and Merry Christmas keep the faith because Christ our King is with us always

BLAST FROM THE PAST

By Beverly Smith

I am wintering in Florida. I received an email from Dave Donnelly and he is in Florida for the winter also. We have been conversing about the 150th Illinois State Grange celebration activities.

I want to thank Robin Kindberg for the detailed lists of Grange artifacts the Northern Illinois University has stored there. The following charters are there: Black Oak#1910, Black Oak Juvenile#54, Carroll Co. Pomona#87, Hanover Scenic#1935, Jordan#1880, Palmyra#1912, and Whiteside Co.#83. Counties represented for Grange artifacts are: DeKalb, Carroll, Boone, Winnebago, JoDavies, Whiteside, and McHenry.

We watch many different tv channels while in Florida. A particular public tv cooking show highlighted a man named Tim Farmer of Kentucky. He was barbequing a pig and then he started lead singing in his band. (He sounded very much like Dale Rhode) I noticed that he did not have use of his right arm or hand. So I looked him up on "google". He has an incredible story of being a Marine, home on leave in 1984 and got into a motorcycle accident. He lost use of his right arm and hand but that did not stop him from the things he enjoys in life. He was quite the outdoorsman and worked for Kentucky



Gary Turner 1933-2020

Longtime Prairie Grange member

Fish and Wildlife Department, hosted tv show "Kentucky Afield", fly fishes, works a bow & arrow, and is a music and cooking enthusiast and operated his farm in Franklin Co., KY. He was quite an inspiration.

Did you know that the first Secretary of Agriculture was a Granger? In 1889 President Grover Cleveland appointed Norman J. Coleman of Missouri to the post. He had been Master of Potomac Grange. He was a very active supporter of the Grange movement and was hailed with much satisfaction from the Patrons.

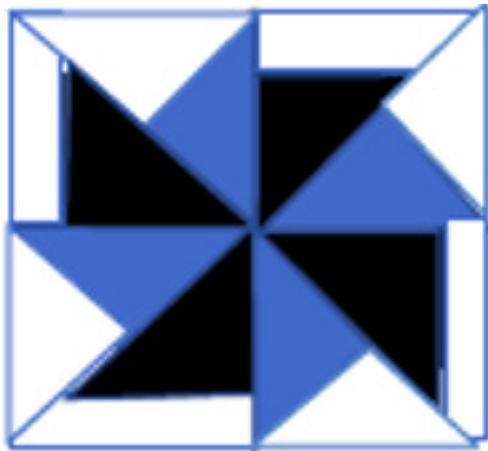
2020—The year that was---that wasn't! Hope you have a wonderful Christmas holiday and Happy New Year. Bring it on 2021!

Fellow Grangers—

Here are the categories and rules for the 2021 Lecturer's Department Contests. More complete details of the National contests can be found at NationalGrange.org. The full information packet distributed at GRIT should be available from your local Grange leaders or from the Illinois State Grange website or the Illinois State Grange Lecturer's Department Facebook page.

As of now, we must assume that the National Grange Photography Showcase, Publicity Items, and Evening of Excellence contests will operate according to tradition. After the first of the year, the new instructions for these contests should be available on the National Grange website.

The pattern for the quilt-block contest has been announced for 2021; It is "Pinwheel."



Instructions are currently included in the 4th Quarter "A Quarter's Worth" publication that can be downloaded from the Lecturer's Programs page of the National Grange website.

The official separate entry form for next year has not yet been posted.

For state contests, I have left a number of the categories intact since we were unable to have a full competition in 2020. Most things will continue in the same vein as is traditional, except for one significant change. Photography and Creative Writing entries may be submitted in physical form (photographic prints and printed documents) or electronically via email or flash drive.

All categories will be judge in three divisions: Adult (>14), Junior (11-14), Junior (8-10), and Junior (5-7).

Photography Categories

Water

Tall

Selfie

Time-Lapse (3-4 pictures taken from the same vantage point)

Comedy Video (20 seconds or less)

Creative Writing Categories

Prose: "Imagine that..."

Poetry: "Transformation"

Media Arts and Crafts

Painings/Drawings/Pastels

Dimensional Media Projects

Personal Collection (12 related items)

Handcrafted Holiday Ornaments (2 divisions)

Fabric, sewing, needlecrafts, etc.

Other materials and techniques

NEW! Before and After (a documented DIY project where something was transformed in a significant way)

Group Project

Subordinate Grange Banner; show your pride in your Grange and contribute to adding color and character to our state sessions. The idea is to have banners to represent the breadth of our membership across the state. These can be of any media or techniques as long as they are mainly flat and can hang easily. Below is the Shiloh Valley Banner, used only as an example of one idea with the hope that it will inspire your own.



It's a long time until contest time, but winter is an ideal time to get started on projects!

Also, if you are on Facebook, be sure to check out the page I created for Lecturer's Department winners. Search for Illinois State Lecturer's Department and "like" it to be notified of new activities and notices from the Lecturer's Department.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season!
Ethan Edwards



*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*