



ILLINOIS GRANGER

Volume 105

July 2021

No. 6

**IN ESSENTIALS...UNITY
IN NON-ESSENTIALS...LIBERTY
IN ALL THINGS...CHARITY**

Calendar of Events

July 10 Guilford Hope 150th Anniversary Open House – Paulson's Ag Museum
July 15 Quarterly reports due
July 20-25 – Grange Revival - Sturgis, SD
July 31 Deadline for resolutions to State Secretary
Aug 10 Deadline for reports to State Secretary
Aug 10-15 – Boone County Fair
Aug 15 Deadline for Hotel and Meals for State Session
Sept 10-12 – Illinois State Grange Convention
Oct 30 – Hopewell Grange Fall Vendor and Craft Fair

Ongoing:

Emerald Mound Grange will be selling desserts at the Friday Night Fish Fries of the Summerfield Lions Club Starting February 26, 2021. 5:30-8 pm

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

Donations to the Illinois Granger:

Kenny/MaryAnn Joseph \$20 Enterprise Grange

Donations to the Honor Memorial Scholarship fund:

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

Ruth Blasingame

illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com

815-299-7884

8711 Deer Run Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008-905



Lynette Schaeffer President Illinois State Grange

Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms June 2021

The weather in southern IL is the typical changeable this week – we broke a record for 101 degrees and had 11 straight days of 90 and above, this week we are cooler. Blackberries will be ready for picking next week or so. Raspberries are delicious. COVID restrictions are lifted now, Wonderful!!

I will be attending the Midwest Grange Leaders Conference this weekend, June 25 – 27 at the Boone County Fairgrounds. I am hoping that many of you will be supporting this event. IL is hosting this year and we hope that many of you will attend whether in person or virtually. Thanks to Karie Blasingame for all her hard work. Watch Facebook for pictures.

The committee for the 150th IL State Grange session has met several times via Zoom video conferencing. I am proud of the discussions and planning we have done for the Weekend of Celebration. September 10 – 12, DoubleTree by Hilton, Collinsville, IL. We have heard that Oliver Hudson Kelley will be attending, and special events are planned. We are going to be selecting the session committees prior to session, committee reports will be completed prior to session then the reports will be presented at the meeting. We are hoping that this will cut down on the business time. We plan to celebrate all weekend long, during the meeting and in the evenings. Make plans to attend, many fun events will be happening during the weekend. There is a draft of the

schedule in this paper. The Grangers of St Clair County are planning a great session.

I hope many of you watched the Grange Foundation Virtual Telethon to raise funds for the Youth and Junior Grange missions. Thanks to those IL Grangers that supported the telethon and the Grange Foundation. They were hoping to raise \$20K and the last I heard they were above \$21K. These funds will help send youth and juniors to National Grange events for the next year.

I attended IL State Grange Executive Committee Zoom video conference last week. Much was discussed about the state session and budget.

I met with National Grange President Betsy Huber and Membership Director Amanda Brozona-Rios at the St Louis Renaissance Hotel

I have been asked to attend and speak at the 150th anniversary celebration of Guilford Hope Grange #6. I hope to see many of you at

the Paulson Ag Museum in Argyle IL in July 10, 2:00 PM.

Grange Revival July 20 – 25 in Sturgis, South Dakota at Days End Campground. Lana Korte, Karie Blasingame, Jennifer Tobin-Tinch, Don and I will be there, and we will be sharing pictures via Facebook. Much is planned for travel and food. It will be a great time with 120 other Grangers from across the country and I can't wait.

Illinois State Grange Secretary Report

Well State Session 2021 is fast approaching. It will be Friday, September 10-Sunday, September 12, 2021 at the Doubletree Hotel in Collinsville, IL.

Secretaries should have received information in the mail with details and deadlines on them as well as the sheet to tell me who your Grange Delegates will be to State Session, what meals they want and all Delegates are asked to purchase a Delegate Book cost is \$5.00 each.

If Patrons want to attend you are asked to make your own Room Reservation by calling the Doubletree Hotel at 866-235-4657 by August 15th. Be sure to say that you are with the Illinois State Grange and the cost is \$105.00 plus tax per night.

Meal reservations are to be made to me by August 15th also. Make checks payable to the

Continued on Page 2...

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ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE.

Remember we are still collecting:
G BILLS for the Honor Memorial Scholarship Fund

PENNIES for the National Grange Building
QUARTERS for the 150th Anniversary Celebration

If you want to turn the money for these in before state session then just mail me a check for each amount and I will make sure it gets recorded.

Reminder to all State Officers, Deputies and Committee Chairman your reports for the Delegate book are due to me by August 10th.

2nd Quarter Quarterly Dues are due to me by JULY 15, 2021. Please be on time this is very important so I can get things wrapped up before State Session.

Yearly Junior Dues are also due by June 30th. They are \$1.00 per active Junior member or if you hold a Junior Charter the dues are \$7.00 for the year.

Pomona Yearly Dues are also due by June 30th.

If your Grange presented any awards this past year please be sure that I know what they were and who they were presented to before July 15th.

Be sure to watch the August Illinois Granger, Illinois State Grange Website and your emails for more details about State Session.

Hope to see everyone at the 150th Anniversary Celebration at Doubletree Hotel in Collinsville, IL on September 10-12th.

Fraternally Submitted
Robin Kindberg
Illinois State Grange Secretary

Contact me via email: robinkindberg5@gmail.com or via my address at
Robin Kindberg
12971 Olson Road
Caledonia, IL 61011

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ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE

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Please send all news and pictures to:

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DONATIONS: \$10.00 PER YEAR
For correction of addresses mail to: The Illinois Granger
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Guildford Hope Grange

Guilford Hope grange met on May 25th, 1921 at the home of Albert and Lindakay Ebel for a noon pot luck. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The secretaries report was read and approved. Treasurer reported having donated to Shelter Care Ministries in Rockford, IL. and paid for membership awards purchased. Old business created several lists and assignments for our upcoming 150th anniversary open house. Open house will be at the Paulson Agriculture Museum in Argyle, IL. on Saturday, July 10th at 2:00pm. Gene Wheeler will be in charge of the Museum and having it ready. Other members agreed to be in charge of cake, punch, nuts, mints, paper supplies, etc.. Wayne Lyford will check on a Grange flag; Gene thought the museum had an American flag. It has been suggested to contact Beverly Smith on old Grange pictures; some may be at the Grange museum at the Boone County fairgrounds. It was exciting to hear that Betsy Huber, the National Grange Master / President has agreed to attend our celebration. We will meet again on June 7th.

Our community service garage sale to benefit the Midway Village Museum education fund is all set up and ready to go. We agreed to again have no pricing on items and take donations only. In the past we have had people place extra money in our jar because they wanted to help support Midway Village. What a great feeling.

New business: We welcomed Carol Roush, sister of Nancy Lyford, as a new member. So glad to be adding to our Grange with the losses we have had due to the passing of members.

Wayne has been in contact with Gail Ford from the Alpine Academy school about dictionaries. She informed us that next year she would need 15 dictionaries. Wayne Lyford stated he would be in contact with his daughter Sue Lyford to have them ordered thru Barnes and Nobel. Gail told the children use the dictionaries weekly and have even opened them up in their 'free time' to find things. They were also excited in the fact they could take them home to keep but needed to remember to bring them back for their 4th grade class.

Nancy Lyford

Troy Grove Grange

Troy Grove Grange met May 20, 2021 at 7 PM at the Hall.

Agriculture Chairman Jim Weber reported that planting was done earlier than last year. Drier conditions helped greatly. Crops are looking good.

Legislative Chairman Roy Plote reported Governor Pritzker introduced a new budget for infrastructure. Many states are removing themselves from Federal unemployment benefits. Employers are having difficulty filling job vacancies due to the large unemployment benefits.

Community Service Chairman Ethel Bauer reported that 29 laprobes were delivered to VITAS. A thank you was received.

The charter was draped for Joan Dennison who passed on April 30.

Ethel Bauer made a motion to send \$100.00 to the State Grange Youth Fund to honor the deceased members. Roy Plote seconded. All approved.

An in person vote will be taken at the June 17th meeting to place the Hall for sale. Letters will be sent to all members.

The next meeting of Troy Grove Grange will be June 17, 2021 at 7 PM at the Hall.

Troy Grove Grange met June 17, 2021 at 7 PM at the Hall.

Agriculture Chairman Jim Weber reported that the crops are growing but conditions are very

dry. Last good rain was May 25. The corn leaves are curling and corn is stunting

Legislative Chairman Roy Plote reported the Energy bill is being considered. One of the provisions has 20 acre community solar fields to be formed. There is some concern about loss of farm land. Roy visited a nearly 1400 acre solar field near Dodgeville, WI. Byron and Morris nuclear plants have a planned closing by 2045.

A discussion was held concerning the possible sale of the Hall. After discussion Ethel Bauer made a motion to place the Hall for sale. Jim Weber seconded. Ethel presented 6 proxies in affirmation of the sale. Motion was passed by all members. Jim and Roy will have discussions with prospective buyers.

The next meeting of Troy Grove Grange will be July 15, 2021 at 7 PM at the Hall.

Prairie Grange Report

Prairie members gathered for a delicious meal as a thank you for all the hard work that went into the annual consignment Auction. And a special thank you to all the hands that helped prepare and serve that delicious meal.

A short meeting followed our delicious meal. We appointed Don and Heather Ellwanger as delegates to the 2021 Illinois State Grange Convention which will be held Sept 10-12 at Double tree Hotel in Collinsville, IL.

We donated money to the Henninger family to help cover the medical expenses of a granddaughter who was seriously hurt in a car accident this past weekend.

We presented 2 Quilts of Valor to Grangers who were veterans: Russ Kindberg Jr who served in the US Marines and to Jim Olstad who was in the Wisconsin National Guards. Thank you both for your service.

We presented a Golden Sheaf Award to Karl Kindberg for his 50 years of service to the Grange.

We also presented six 25 year Silver Star Awards to: Jim Blasingame, Ruth Blasingame, Katherine (Karie) Blasingame, Sarah Meyers, Tracey Jones and Terri Henninger each for their years of service to the Grange. Congratulations to all!

That concluded our meeting and the next Prairie Meeting will be July 19th and it will be our annual Prairie Grange picnic beginning at 6:30PM at the Grange Foodstand Pavillion.

Robin Kindberg
Publicity Chairman

News From Flora Grange – June 2021

By Lindakay F. Ebel

Flora Grange #1762 held their Family Picnic and awards night on Tuesday evening, June 8, 2021, 6:30 pm at the Flora Grange Hall with Gene and Donna West and George McGee as the serving Committee. All Grange families were asked to bring two dishes to share.

Master Albert Q. Ebel welcomed guests and members and Chaplain Emalee Colver led us with a dinner prayer. Some fifty-eight guests and Flora Grange members enjoyed a delicious potluck picnic dinner prepared by members of the Grange. Following the delicious meal members and guests were ushered upstairs and greeted by the music of the four-piece band of Audrey Fontara. They played several songs and Audrey sang, in which all in attendance enjoyed.

Awards that were presented included the following:

Laurel Ratcliffe presented Donna West with her 35-year membership award.

Flora Grange Member of the Year Award was

presented to Deb Silvers for all her outstanding work done within the Grange and in the community as well as at the Boone County Fair as Superintendent of the amateur textiles (fabric) department.

Non-Granger Award was presented to Debbie White, Administration Assistance to Boone County Fair Association as well as all the other work she does for so many other people.

Teacher of the Year was Miss Mari, Marilee Sellers, preschool teacher for 43 years in Boone County and the award was accepted by Janet Mundy in her absence.

Following the awards three Quilts of Valor were presented to Veterans by Jacquie Becker of Sunshine Stitches of Belvidere. The first went to Catherine M. Homan of Kingston who served in the U S Air Force from 1967 – 1970. Catherine's quilt was presented by Sharon Fidder and Emalee Colver and made by Emalee Colver.

The second quilt was presented to Robert C. Dieterlen who served in the U S Army from 1966 – 1974 and received two bronze stars. His quilt was presented by Joan and Sharon Fidder who made the quilt.

The third quilt was presented to Phillip J. Laws of Belvidere who served in the U S Air Force from 1998 – 2010. Phillip's quilt was made by Sharon Fidder and was presented by Sharon Fidder and Emalee Colver.

Following the Quilts of Valor, the band played several more songs and a short meeting followed as Flora Grange will not be holding a meeting in the month of July, as we will hold a work night on our meeting date of Tuesday, July 13th, 6:30 pm at the Fairgrounds.

Master Ebel led members with the Pledge to the American Flag.

He then announced that the Boone County Pomona Grange will be holding their annual family picnic at the pavilion at the fairgrounds on Wednesday, July 7th, 6:30 pm. and each family is asked to bring a dish to share. This is the meeting where election of officers will be held for the Pomona Grange.

He also announced that Guilford Hope Grange #6 will be celebrating 150 years on Saturday, July 10th, 2021, 2 pm at Paulson's Agriculture Museum, 6910 Argyle Road, Caledonia. Guest of Honor will be National Grange Master Betsy Huber. All are welcome, no RSVP necessary. There will also be tours of the Museum following the program.

The 2021 Boone County Youth Fair board will be selling shirts this year for the fair and Phoebe Calabrese handed out order forms to all those interested in the shirts. She stated there are three different shirts, they will need to know which shirt, the size and need payment when the shirt is ordered.

Laurel Ratcliffe stated we have three young ladies in our Grange that are interested in entering in the 2021 Queen contest, Allison Aves, Delphine Calabrese and Skyler Melillo.

A motion was made to support all three girls, seconded and carried and to pay for half of their fee and they find another co-sponsor for the other half.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to send Master Al Ebel and his first lady to the Illinois State Grange Convention held September 10 – 12 at Collinsville.

Deb Silvers, Family Activities had raffle tickets for the ISG raffle for convention, \$1 for 1, \$5 for 6, and had them with her to sell this evening. She stated they will have many nice items again this year.

Flora Grange will again be serving the Kirkland Lions Club dinner on Thursday, June 24, and will be needing helpers.

Members made a motion to give a gift of \$100 to the Guilford Hope Grange for their 150th celebration on July 10th.

We discussed working at the Grange food stand; we will be working the breakfast stand on Tuesday, August 10 and Saturday, August 14th and the ham dinner on August 12th.

Meeting was adjourned and the Audrey Fontara Band played several more songs. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

***Karl Kindberg
receiving his
Golden Sheaf
Certificate.***

***Jimmy Blasingame,
Ruth Blasingame,
Katherine (Karie)
Blasingame, Sarah
Meyers and Teri
Henninger all
received 25 year
certificates.***



***Emerald Mound Grangers were out enjoying time
together on the Secret Garden tour in Lebanon.***



Quilts



Jim Olstad, Wisconsin Army National Guard and Russ Kindberg Jr., United States Marine Corps received Quilts of Valor at our Prairie Grange Meeting.



Pictured above at Flora Grange Picnic/Meeting and Stitches in Belvidere. Jacquie led the Quilts Of Valor project. The quilt on the left is by Dieterlen (quilt made by Joan & Sharon Fidler), and Phil Laws (quilt made by Sharon Fidler). This makes a total of 24 Quilts of Valor made and presented.



A Quilt of Valor was presented to a veteran in the US Navy. Diana served in the US Navy. The quilt was quilted by Sunshine Stitches and came from out of state.

Quilts of Valors



On June 8, 2021, is Jacquie Becker of Sunshine Grange presented quilts to Bob Nolen and Cathy Homan (quilt made by Emalee Colver); thank you all for your service to our country! The quilts were awarded by members of Flora Grange Quilters.



Emalee Colver, assisted by Loren Due and Marion Thornberry, on behalf of Flora Grange, presented 3 Quilts of Valor on Memorial Day 2021 at the American Legion Memorial Day Service in Harvard, IL. Quilts were awarded to: (L to R) Jimmy “Shawnee” Nolen, Joe McLachlan, and James Matthews. Shawnee Nolen was also honored by the American Legion for his 50 years of service to the organization. Congratulations to all three deserving men and Thank You for Your Service!



Presented on behalf of Guildford Hope Grange to both Larry and Diana Adamson on Saturday, May 15th. They both served in the military from 1969 to 1971 and Larry served from 1969 to 1973. The quilts were made by Nancy Lyford (sister of Larry) and her mother. Due to Diana being an invalid, Nancy presented to them on their 50th wedding anniversary when some of their family



6 July 2021 Illinois Granger

In And Around Wichita, Kansas *The Cowtown Museum*

If you want to see how life was on the frontier in the 1860’s – 1870’s, this is the place to visit. Period clothing, farming equipment, tools and machinery, plus photographs, letters and documents.

There are 54 historic and recreated buildings, located along the banks of the Arkansas River. Twenty-seven of the buildings are original, but relocated. There is a photo shop, blacksmith, carpenter’s shop, print shop, marshall’s office, millinery shop, drugstore, dry goods, saloon, church, masonic lodge, one room school house, music store, depot, hotel and a chuckwagon.

They are located at 1865 W. Museum Blvd., Wichita. Phone number: 316-350-3323. Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 – 5:00 and closed Sunday and Monday. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$8 for seniors.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum

Located 90 minutes straight north of Wichita in Abilene just off Hwy 70 is the home, burial site and museum of our 34th United States President. Eisenhower is one of only 5 men to ever reach the top rank in the army of 5 Star General during WWII. Tours here start with a 23 minute orientation film before seeing exhibits and the burial site, so plan on one hour to four hours of your time. Tour of his boyhood home is every 15 minutes. The home is on the original site where the Eisenhower’s lived from 1898 – 1946.

Adults are \$15 for the museum, \$7 for the home, or \$20 combo. Seniors are \$12 for the museum, \$7 for the home, or \$17 combo. Address is 200 S E 4th Street, Abilene, Kansas and parking is free. Hours are 9:00 – 4:45. If any questions you can call them at 785-263-6700.

Illinois State Grange Youth

Karie Blasingame

Just finished cleaning up from the Midwest Grange Leadership Conference held this year at the Boone County Fairgrounds in the Boone County Community Grange Hall. Grangers from 6 of the seven states in our region and 2 virtual attendees were present. We had 5 Illinois State Grange Officers and 2 committee members in attendance. I would like to thank Jennifer Tobin-Tinch of Prairie Grange #1832 for being our camp cook. She did a wonderful job keeping us fed. This conference was a collaboration of ideas from the lecturers department, junior department and youth department. I worked with Ethan and Mindy to come up with some great ideas that went well this weekend.

Friday night we had a great time playing Grange Baseball, and getting to know each other. People were able to stay at the Fairgrounds or head to a hotel in nearby Rockford. Saturday dawned bright and gloomy at the same time. Because of rain in the forecast, we changed around our plans and went to Paint on State at the Belvidere Heritage Days early to try and bear the rain. We got rained out and came back to the Grange Hall to dry out and start our workshops. We had workshops from the National Grange Youth and Young Adult Development Director, National Grange Junior Development Director, National Grange Membership and Leadership Director and National Grange Communications Manager. Tracey and Phillip Jones, last years National Grange Young Patrons helped Mandy with her workshop. They had a little help from daughter, Charlotte, who spent the weekend entertaining us or taking naps with Grandma. Brianna

Gervais, the National Grange Junior Ambassador explained how ecosystems worked and gave us a demonstration using cookies, pudding cups, green coconut, sprinkles, gummies and other things to create our own edible ecosystem. Workshops were also done by representatives from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Minnesota. We learned about the subconscious brain, how to present yourself while speaking in public, storytelling and how Grange can teach us more about ourselves.

After dinner we had our public speaking contest and awarded a first to the Ohio State Grange Youth Ambassador, Amber Corll and a first to Emma Edelen from Iowa. We collected money and got to see all the interesting things we brought for the Surprise Silent Auction. We had everything from Oodles of Fun to something worth its weight in gold. Ask someone who attended for clarification. A great time was had by all and we enjoyed everyone very much. Iowa get ready, the Midwest Grange Leadership Conference for all members will be invading your state next year! We look forward to heading in your direction and can’t wait to find out the theme. If you have never been to a leadership conference they are not to be missed.

Hope to see everyone at this year’s 150th Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange. I am looking for 16 Grange members between the ages of 14 and 105 to volunteer for the opening drill on Sunday morning. I would like to let everyone know their office by the beginning of August so they might practice and memorize a few of the words so they don’t lose their spot. Please email or text me your office of interest by July 31st!

Family Activities

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our State Grange Session in September.

One of our projects this year is the Quilt of Valor. I have had four commitments from Grangers in Northern Illinois for this project. I’m hoping for a couple more. I will personally be taking them to the National Grange Convention in November. There will be a special prize given to the First place winner in this project.

See you in September
Sharon

What about... Kansas City?

As you travel to and from Wichita you might consider a visit to KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI where you can find these three places to visit:

The first being the National Museum of Toys and Miniatures, located at 5235 Oak Street. The collection of nearly 60,000 historic toys and over 20,000 objects of fine-scale miniatures documents society’s cultural beliefs, technological advancements, and the hopes and dreams of generations from the 18th century to the present. In the miniatures you will see architectural works, fine art, decorative art, tools, equipment and figures made to scale. There is a Louis XV’s study at the Palace in Versailles, and Italian Renaissance studio, a Boston Beacon Hill Mansion. Parking is Free just off 52nd Street. Open Wednesday – Saturday 10:00 – 4:00 at \$8 and \$7 for seniors. You are encouraged to buy tickets online prior to visit. They cannot guarantee availability of tickets onsite. Visit - www.toyandminiaturemuseum.org

Federal Reserve Bank and Money Museum, 1 Memorial Drive. Hours are Monday – Friday 9:30 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 3:30. Pre-reserved tickets are required to enter Museum. Arrive 30 minutes before the end of your reservation. You will be airport-style screened, temperatures will be taken and masks are required. The Guffey Theater is temporarily closed, the Vault Store and

Quarter Machine are permanently closed. Guided tours are temporarily unavailable. Visitors are encouraged to download a free money museum app. for a variety of self-guided tours. Bags of shredded money will be provided one per person as a free souvenir. Website address to order your tickets is: www.kansascityfed.org. You will need a photo ID, state issued or passport. Located in the Crown Center District and is in walking distance from the National WWI Museum & Memorial and Union Station. Guest parking is free in the visitor lot located off of Wyandotte on the west side of the Federal Reserve Bank. Or you may call 816-881-2683 for current information.

The National WWI Museum at 2 Memorial Drive. Open Tuesday-Sunday 10:00 – 5:00 and features the “Over There” Café. Price is \$8 and \$7 for seniors. Guided tours currently suspended. Free parking is located on the south side of the complex. If you’re on I-35 take the Broadway Exit and continue to Pershing Road. This museum was dedicated November 11, 1926 by President Calvin Coolidge. On that day he said: “the memorial has not been raised to commemorate war and victory, but rather the results of war and victory which are embodied in peace and liberty”. As you enter the gallery over a glass bridge above a field of 9,000 red poppies, each one representing 1,000 combatant deaths. You will see a tank, Pershing’s headquarters flag, 1918 Ford ambulance, 1917 Harley Davidson motorcycle, International propaganda posters, and replica trenches.

Blast From The Past

By Beverly Smith

We returned from Florida the end of April. It seemed a very busy time getting back to normal. We had lots of doctor appointments and fortunately got our covid vaccine shots by the end of May. Brian had angiogram May 15 but did not clear out anything for him.

My Grange activities have included meeting with Guilford Hope Grange to help with planning for their 150th anniversary. I will be telling their history on the program. On June 8th I visited Midway Village Museum to meet with their new administrator Patrick O’Keefe. He was previously my boss at Eclipse and it was good to see him again. We talked over an hour about history! I explained the Grange ties to the Barn, Pepper house, Marsh house, the two former Grange halls, and delivered some additional Grange records to be kept there. I also invited him to Guilford Hope’s anniversary. Our visit left him very enthusiastic about Grange history.

Today I spent most of the afternoon clearing out old emails on my computer. I just got it back from repairs a few days ago. I was very delighted to get Grange info from our relative Donna Ellwanger of Prairie Grange. She sent me obituaries of Thomas Denney and his wife Martha. Thomas was Illinois State Grange Master from 1913 to 1918. They were members of Maple Grove Grange in Winnebago County. Thank you to Donna and her brother Dan Wych.

I have been making many trips to recycle a lot of my stuff lately and came across a box with many Grange Lecturer paperwork. Back in the day we used to do plays at Grange. This particular one caught my eye. I am pretty sure this was a handout at Great Lakes Lecturer’s Conference. It is titled “Launching The Grange Into The 80’s”, written by Ruth Ping of Lake Village Grange in Indiana. It is about working to launch a Grange Spaceship! It was going to take Grange membership and all the good programs to launch it. “What should be put into this metal spaceship to be shared with those who come after us?” First of all it should have an American Flag--was the number one answer. Forty some years later we Grange members stand strong on our patriotism!

Lecturer’s Report

Illinois Granger

July 2021

Here we find ourselves in July already. Everything seems somewhat off-kilter for summer here in Southern Illinois, with extreme drought, slow resumption of normal activity after the pandemic restrictions, and the general tendency for time to go faster than we think it should.

I mainly want to share a few items relative to the Lecturer’s Contests at State Session.

- The Photography Contests and Creative Writing Contests have gone fully digital. The ease of dealing with the entries from last year and changing technologies make it clear that we could get fullest participation by switching to digital format. The only real difference is that all entries should be emailed or sent via some other transfer technology like DropBox to me no later than Friday, September 3. Send all submissions to eedwards@alleni.com.

This applies to all photography categories and all age groups. As a reminder, the photography categories for this year are Water, Tall, Selfie, Time-Lapse (3 images), and Comedy Video. For creative writing, this includes the poetry category, Transformation, and the prose category, Imagine that...

The entries will all be accessible in the exhibit hall on large monitors for everyone to see.

If you are unable to send a digital version of your entries, please send them via the US Post Office to Ethan Edwards, 300 E E St., Belleville, IL 62220, for delivery by September 3.

- We are planning special programs for the two banquet nights of the State Session in honor of our 150th Anniversary. In order to prepare adequately for a smooth and well-arranged evening, please let me know by September 3 if you will be entered in the Talent Showcase, either as a competitor or just as a participant. You must let me know in advance to guarantee a position in the program. As always, I encourage a broad a participation pool as possible, but I need to know in advance to plan the Lecturer’s portion of Saturday evening’s program.

- Other entries should be presented to the exhibit hall at state session physically as early as possible on Friday, September 10, but before noon to be guaranteed judging.

- In addition to our returning categories of art (pictures, paintings, and other physical media), quilt squares, collections, and ornaments, please consider creating an entry for the new category, Before and After. More details are available in materials distributed at Grit. If you need a replacement copy of the rules, please request via the email listed above.

- Finally, I hope to see a few more group project Grange banners. Our state Grange’s anniversary would be a great time to have a broad display recognizing the individual active Granges in Illinois.

Fraternally yours,

Ethan Edwards
Illinois State Lecturer

Draft Schedule of Events

of the 150th Annual Session

of the Illinois State Grange

DoubleTree by Hilton, Collinsville

September 10-12, 2021

Friday, September 10, 2021

8:30 AM – Noon - Registration & Contest entries in place in display room - -
10:00 State Officers Practice Sixth Degree Practice
1:00 PM Open in the Sixth Degree – Lynette Schaeffer, Master
Open to all Delegates and Grangers attending
Roll Call of Officers (of original officers current protom) Close in the Sixth Degree
Open in the Fourth Degree
Presentation of Grange honored guests, National Grange President Betsy Huber
Presentation of local officials
Response –Karie Blasingame, Overseer
Roll Call of Delegates
Adoption of Order of Business – Frank D. Wurth, Chair Exec Comm
Meeting place for 2022 Labor Day weekend Boone County Fairgrounds
Invitation of Meeting Place 2023
Reports –Treasurer (Budget), Secretary (credentials), Exec Committee
Recess
2:15PM Election of Officers
2:30PM
4:00PM Grange Closed in the Fourth Degree (Take possessions with you)
5:30PM Main Banquet
6:30PM Evening Program (order may vary – but these will be the items
Introduction of Special Invited Guests
Community Service – presentation of RMDH /Summary of report
Summary Address of State President – Lynette Schaeffer
Comments Betsy Huber, National Grange President
Celebration

Saturday, September 11, 2021

7:00AM Ag Chairman: Justin Schaeffer Speaker:
8:15AM Opening in Fourth Degree
Roll Call of State Officers
Roll Call of Delegates
Reading and Adopting of Minutes
8:45AM Junior Grange Report and Awards, Mindy Schiefer, Director
9:15AM OHK presentation
9:30AM Report – Committee on Finance & Accounts/Budget
Committee Reports
10:00AM Recess
10:15AM Committee Reports
11:30AM Family Homemaking Projects Luncheon –Sharon Fidler Director
1:15 PM Conferring of Fifth Degree-St. Clair County Pomona Grange Officers
Conferring of Sixth Degree – IL State Grange Officers
3:00PM Recess
3:15pm National Grange Representative Report/Workshop
3:45PM Committee Reports
4:30PM Grange Closed in Fourth Degree (Take possessions with you)
5:30PM 150th Anniversary Banquet –
6:30PM Evening Program
Introduction of honored guests
History presentation- David Donley
Talent Show – Ethan Edwards, Lecturer
Ag Auction – Ag Committee and Lyle Lee, auctioneer

Sunday, September 12, 2021

8:00AM Celebration of Life – Charlotte Mehrtens
8:45AM Opening in the Fourth Degree – Youth/Young Adults Officers
Roll Call of Youth Officers
Roll Call of State Officers
Roll Call of Delegates
Reading of State Minutes
9:00AM FAC/AG – Final Reports and Sash Transfers
Community Service Awards/Booklets, – Tracey Jones, Director
Membership Awards Robin
Summary of youth report Karie
Completion of Remaining Business/Installation of Officers
Closing of the 150th Annual Session

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Charlotte Mehrtens



Oh my goodness here we are in July already that is so hard to believe, since it was just winter with cold weather that none of us liked and now we have hot humid weather, see we are never happy are we.

Here it is the 22nd of June and the wheat on the farm was finished today, and most likely by tomorrow evening the wheat ground will be planted into beans and then we start to worry, will it rain enough to make another crop for this year. We are dry and need a good slow steady rain. The corn is bright green even without much rain. Yes we are always worried about something, I had a friend who told me a long time ago that we cannot worry about things we have no control over and put it God's hands that is a lot easier said than done isn't. We are all worriers we need to go one day at a time and put all of our faith in our Lord because it will be His way. WE all need to step back and truly trust in our Lord and follow His direction. I think with this past year of the Covid 19 has taught us a lesson that what we think we need, want, or desire isn't always what we need. We all have a very busy life and are on the go all the time but God helped us though this past year and slowed us down to look around us. We all found time to share the time with our children, family members and our community. Look round us and see what a difference you made and know that we were more relaxed.

Put a happy smile on your face and let happy words come from your mouth and make a happy world around you.

God Bless each one of you, enjoy your summer with your family and friends and make many memories, till next month TRUST IN THS LORD,



Well done Good and Faithful Servant

Sonjia Olstad 1940 – 2021
Prairie Grange



Sonjia was one of my favorite Grangers. She was always smiling and always the first to volunteer to do things at Grange. She was a past chairperson for the State Family Activities Committee. Her and her husband Jim came to many State Sessions.

Sonjia and I did craft shows together for a long time. What a sales person she was! If you don't have one of Sonjia's necklaces you must not have attended one of our shows. No one got away without buying, especially if she knew you. God, I loved her enthusiasm.

I guess God has a reason for taking the best ones. I will surely miss her. But I know she's smiling down on us from Heaven. And I wonder what she's selling up there???

With Love, Ruth Blasingame

Anna Wennmacher
1932 – 2021
Prairie Grange



James Trevathan
1951 - 2021
Flora Grange

