

Illinois Granger



In Essentials... Unity

In Non-Essentials... Liberty

In All Things... Charity

January 2022

Vol 2 No 1



Visions and Wisdoms from Lynette

The weather in south central IL has been beautiful!. We have set several temperature records; it feels more like April rather than December. It was gorgeous on Christmas -we spent time outside, with just a light jacket- it was a little windy. We had great family gatherings.

Bonding information will be coming to the Secretaries and Masters emails and those Granges that do not have email it will be coming to USPS mailbox, soon. The money for those Granges that sign up for bonding needs to be sent to ISG Secretary Robin Kindberg no later than February 6th. Checks need to be made out to National Grange. Robin will compile the checks and send to National Grange on February 9. All the checks need to be at National Grange before March 1.

I am hoping to have a membership meeting in January via Zoom. And I am hoping in the next year to get to more Grange meetings, to work with the Deputies to support all the Granges in IL. All Grangers need to work on keeping each Grange strong and thriving.

Plans are being made to have Leadership meetings in March. I am trying to decide if we should have two conferences or just one. The decision will be made after the National Grange President's Conference. The Conference will be February 17 – 20, 2022 in Myrtle Beach. Watch for an email for attending the leadership conference(s).

Happy and Healthy New YEAR to all of you.

Spotlight on Grangers

Patti Lee

Illinois State Grange Pomona

Boone County Pomona Grange Secretary

Past National Grange Flora

Prairie Grange #1832—27 years

Past FAC Chair for Illinois State Grange

National Grange Ag Committee Chair

7th Degree Participant as Flora

The Loyal Order of the Moose member

Lifetime VFW member

Member Zion Lutheran Church

Zion Pioneer Group Chair

Retired as Office Manager from Jack Wolf Chrysler Jeep after 25 years.

Owns and operates Lee Auction Service with husband Lyle Lee

Works as Cashier for Lee Auction Service

Best skills - typing and cashing

Loves to golf, bowl and garden with husband Lyle.

Helps out with Grange functions and other Community Service activities.

Enjoys spending time with grandkids.



Trinkets from the Treasurer

By Paul T. Zeien Jr.

Everyone I hope that the holiday season brings you and yours very special moments that you can cherish forever. I know that for my family it is always hectic as all get out, but special as well.

This is my first Granger article so please be patient as I might bore some and interest others. I wish to thank you all for the support and confidence in taking over the position of treasurer. I essentially hit the ground running the 3rd week of October and have not idled down since. This is a pretty exciting time for this office as there is significant opportunity to increase efficiency and streamline some processes and procedures. This comment in no way diminishes the good work that has been done prior to the change.

There has been tons of work put into getting the accounts moved and administration items changed. There unfortunately was a bump early on but hopefully we got all checks reissued and resolved at this point. If not please reach out to Robin or me to get that process moving. It would also be very helpful if your Grange had some financial records that I could obtain. Please reach out to me and let me know what you have.

Lynette, Robin, and I have begun to review the process of getting vendors paid. The prior process had some room for improvement, and we have since made those changes and we feel it will increase efficiency and accuracy for paying the bills.

In the effort to save space I will close with a plea to each of you if you have specific questions about the treasurer's office, please reach out to me. My policy is open door to assure total transparency. My contact information is cell: 815-298-5866, email: ilgrangetreas@gmail.com I look forward to working with each of you.



ISG Secretary Report

Hope everyone had a nice Christmas this past weekend and we continue to hope you all have a HEALTHY and prosperous New Year.

Just a few items of business for Grange at this time.

1. 4th Quarter Dues are due to me by JANUARY 15, 2022.
2. Make sure you file your 990-N postcards.
3. You should have received Bonding information and that is due to National by March 1, 2022.
4. SCHOLARSHIP Application Forms are available. If you want one please let me know and I will send it to you. They are due back to me by 9:00PM on March 1, 2022. These are available for any Granger who is going to attend a college, university on a full time bases.

Let's all try to get our dues in on time this year.

Everyone have a safe and healthy New Year.

Robin Kindberg

ISG Secretary

Illinois State Grange Youth

Make sure if you are going back to school or getting ready to graduate from high school, you contact our State Grange Secretary for this year's scholarship application. Due date is coming up fast and you need a combination of things that might take time to get. Remember the Grange scholarship is open to anyone going to school or vocational school full-time.

I am looking for Grangers to share of themselves with our Grange Youth at Spring Fling. Looking for volunteers to give interactive workshops that will grow our knowledge of other things. I'm looking at March 5th or 12th at Hopewell Grange Hall in Washington, IL. Let me know what weekend works better for you, I'm leaning more toward the 5th myself. Send me your thoughts each person sharing can get between 30 minutes to an hour unless you can explain why it might take more time.

You can contact me at kblasingame77@gmail.com or by text message or call at 815-299-0313.

Let's start out this year with a bang!

“Instrumental to the Industry- Engineers and Scientists”

by Mary Brubach, Agriculture Committee Chair

Even through less than 2% of jobs are directly employed by farms, and ranchers, more than 22 million are employed in an Agriculture Related Field. That is 1 in 12 American Jobs can be tied back to the American Agriculture.

This month, we're going to talk about how Engineers and Scientists are important to American Agriculture. My eldest sister once said, “If we want our farm to be here for the next generation, we must take the steps to modernize. So, we are able to farm more efficiently.” These words speak to the truth.

As the population continues to grow, and the amount of farmland that continues to be developed, the more essential it is that we have engineers and scientists to help modernize American Agriculture.

Engineers help farmers and ranchers design and install state of the art robots and equipment that require less labor. If you look at robotic milking parlors, it was Ag Engineers who were hired to design these parlors and develop the robots. It was a computer scientist who developed the software to run the robots, and to monitor the cows.

Mendel is the one who can be credited for the start of gene understanding and the idea of breeding for certain genetics when it comes to plants. American Farmers would not be able to keep feeding the growing population if it wasn't for Plant Geneticists, diligently working in the field and laboratories to improve plant health, yields and much more.

Modern Agriculture would not be where it is at today, if we did not have Engineers and Scientists. So, we thank them for helping us to continue to be the best Agriculturists we can be.

Bluff Grange

We have been meeting every month and making plans for fundraising. In December we went out to eat and have our meeting. We are doing our first fundraiser of the year on January 9th with a meat shoot with the American Legion in Villa Hills at their hall. Chicken and Dumpling will be served during the afternoon for everyone. We are planning a chicken and dumpling drive thru dinner in February and the end of February a trivia night.

The hall has been rented for parties on a regular basis. We are always getting the Grange name out there the best we can.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year

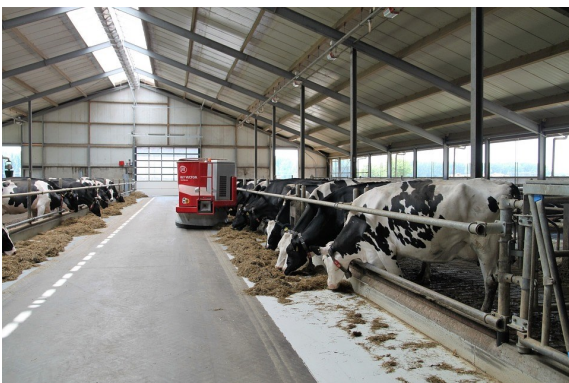


News from Troy Grove

Troy Grove Grange met December 17, 2021 at 6 PM at Ziggies for a Christmas celebration.

Legislative Chairman Roy Plote reported that Scott Halpin from South Wilmington has been selected as State FFA Executive Director. Aurora's mayor may be a Republican Presidential candidate with the backing of Ken Griffin. Lee County has placed a moratorium on all renewable energy construction. LaSalle County has placed an acreage cap on solar energy construction. On December 17, corn was \$5.99.

In old business Trustee Jim Weber reported that Grassers had repaired the furnace. The next meeting of Troy Grove Grange will be February 17, 2022 at 7 PM at the Hall.



County Line Grange News

Hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas.

We had our regular meeting Dec 8. We were honored to have 3 guests and possible new members. JoEllen and Ruth were our hosts. Thanks for the good food and refreshments. The Christmas decorations were beautiful.

Committees, Secretary, Treasurer and all reports were given. Tim reported on Agriculture. He said we had a fantastic Fall. Good weather was still forecast, but we need more moisture. Ruth reported on Membership. We are happy to get new members lately and have more considering becoming members. Kathy Loy is going to start working on what we can do for our 2022 Grange Day. John said our Road-Cleanup is over for the Winter. Jen suggested we post some of our favorite recipes on our Website. Good idea! Ed said we need more plastic collected for our second bench. For Communications, we received a nice Thank You card from Marie Anderson's family.

Hometown Christmas went well. We made a nice profit from our food sales. Our Trim-a-Tree crew did a wonderful job decorating our tree for a needy family.

Windows and doors have come in for the new Grange Hall/Museum out at the Fairgrounds. The LP tank has been installed.

We will be having our 4-H Spaghetti Dinner with Leroy Grange March 26th at Zion Church in Belvidere.

Kathy Loy demonstrated how to fold the strings on our aprons so they don't get tangled up in the wash. This was much needed info for us. Detangling a bunch of apron strings is very time consuming.

Tamra read a Christmas poem for her Lecturer's program. We then closed our meeting, held our Penny March and collected "G" dollars.

Happy New Year Everyone! Stay safe and well.

2022

Flora Grange

Flora Grange held their Christmas Potluck/Party on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at the Flora Grange Hall with some forty-five Grange members in attendance. Hostesses included Laurel, Jack and Tom Ratcliffe and Marilyn Ryan. Chaplain Emalee Colver offered prayer.

Following a most delicious dinner, members made up fresh fruit and cookie trays for shut-in's and the elderly.

Grange members moved upstairs and enjoyed Christmas music played by Grange member Sharon Miller on the organ. We sang Christmas carols followed by a skit.

Our 2021 Boone County Queen Allyson Aves then gave her speech which she will be giving at the fair convention in Springfield in January 2022.

Jack Ratcliffe read a story, we sang more Christmas carols, and Sharon Miller accompanied us on the organ, followed by a visit by none other than Santa Claus, (Tom Ratcliffe) who read "The Night Before Christmas" and talked to the children that were present.

Laurel Ratcliffe had baked a birthday cake for Jesus and lit the candles, we all sang Happy Birthday to Jesus.

We continued to sing carols and a collection was taken for people who lost their homes in the tornado in the southern states. Everyone had a very enjoyable evening and delicious meal.



Emerald Mound Grange

Emerald Mound Grange #1813 Lebanon, IL Loving referred to as “the little Grange that could/can” Emerald Mound Grange officially started on the 6th day of December in the year 1921 with 72 charter members. This was at a time when most Granges had an average of 30. Members met in each others homes and the Emerald Mound Grange schoolhouse. After 9 years of saving, the hall was dedicated on Thanksgiving 1930. A Juvenile Grange was added in May of 1950.

We celebrated our 100th year on Dec. 4th , 2021 by starting with a blessing given Worthy ISG Chaplain Charlotte Mehrtens before our catered meal. Centerpieces were made by Sister Henrietta Keller, and past IL state master, and presented to long time members Sister Teresa Siegel, 71 years, and Brother Norbert Hohrein, 48 years. To have these families as part of the heritage is an honor. Special guests included Lebanon Mayor Cheri Wright and husband Steve, and ISG Master/President Lynette Schaeffer and husband Don. Yearly awards were presented to each current member. Quilts of Valor were presented to Brothers Norbert Hohrein, Tom McCaw, Steven Alltop, Marc Henrichs, and Sister Lori Henrichs by the local Hearts ‘n Hands Quilt Guild. Barbara Sweet, whose family has ties to Turkey Hill Grange, shared history about how the QOV program was started. We wish to thank all those who served, and currently serve, in the military for protecting our freedoms

Worthy Lecturer Lori Henrichs shared fun facts about farm life in the 1920's. Brother Marc Henrichs was recognized as Emerald Mound's Granger of the Year, and he in turn presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Prescription's Plus/True Value for their long time support of our Grange and the Lebanon community. Worthy Master Lynette Schaeffer shared words of wisdom and history to close out our festivities. We wish to thank all those that came to share in our special day, and look forward to many more years of serving in the community, state, and nation.

RAISED RIGHT HERE

Connor Ray and Alyson Aves



Big Thunder Grange

Big Thunder Grange met one week early due to the Christmas Holiday. We had several missing due to health reasons and prior commitments.

We had three guests, Miss Boone County Fair Alyson Aves and our Jim Marks Memorial Scholarship winner Connor Ray and his mother. Alyson gave us a preview of her excellent speech for Springfield. As we were about to make introductions, Alyson looked over and said, “Hello Connor:. They already knew each other having met at the FFA Convention.

Connor told us about MCC (McHenry County College) curriculum and some of the many activities he is involved with. He also plans to continue his education at Platteville (UW) to ultimately become an AG teacher.

Dean reminded everyone of Pomona's dues paying Soup Supper on January 5th, and our next meeting Thursday January 27th. He thanked everyone who rang the Salvation Army bell and contributed to and/or decorated the Hometown Christmas tree.

We all enjoyed our Christmas dinner and gift exchange.

Jack and Al told us of the early beginnings of our Fairgrounds at it's current location, with tents. It was very interesting to hear.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Turkey Hill Grange Quilt of Valor Recipients for 2021

Row 1-Jerry Sauerwein—quilt made by Mary Beth Lee; Bob Gauch- quilt made by his sister, Barb Joseph;
Sandra Schwaegel Schmidt - quilt made by Edith Robinson; Will Clark- quilt made by Joyce Dintelmann;
Darrell Lucas - quilt made by Judy Brindley.

Row2-Richard McCall - quilt made by Edith Robinson; Dick Frette - quilt made by Chris Bersett;
John Manfredi - quilt made by Nikki Wilcoxin; Gary F. Myers - quilt made by Mary Beth Lee;
Bill Bourn- quilt made by Paula Burch; Jerry Koudelka - quilt made by Paula Burke.

Thank You All for your Service!!

A Note From the Editor, Ruth

Once again I am asking anyone who can to change to receiving their Granger by email. So far I have been able to remove almost 50 addresses from the mailing list. I am currently at 307 mailed. I would like to see this number down more, possibly to around 200 eventually. I know we will always have a mailing list but I also believe that many of the mailed copies never get read.

I am asking for more articles from more Granges. Let me know what you are doing. Let me know what you would like on the Calendar. Send me pictures. Send obituaries from your Grange. Send good news, weddings, babies. Let me know if someone is moving to a Nursing Home or Assisted Living. This is all stuff that other members would like to know.

I hope everyone is ready for a great New Year! Let's leave 2021 in the past and make next year a fantastic one. Happy New Year from me.



Checking out the Junior display at Emerald Mound Grange 100th Celebration!!



Juniors are researching Egypt for a project this year.

Check out other Junior Projects.

You can find the complete National Junior Program on the National Grange Website.

www.nationalgrange.org

Bonus Spotlight on Grangers

Renee O'Dell

Beaver Valley Grange #1791

28years plus 10 years

Past Illinois State Grange: Lecturer, Chaplain and Deputy

Subordinate positions: Master, Secretary, Lady Assistant, Steward, Ceres, Pomona, Overseer and Chaplain

National Grange opportunities: Soloist for 7th Degree, trumpet girl for 7th degree, Talent show, Legacy Family Recipient.

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church Elder and committee member. Willow Creek Choir, Sunday School teacher, soloist, usher,

Past Boone County Fair Director non livestock, current fair office staff, Talent Show Judge

Renee has an Associates Degree from Rock Valley College in elementary education.

Renee and her husband Rick will be married 50 years in July.

She worked as a bill collector for 40 years retiring in 2021.

Her special skill is spending her husbands money

Renee's main hobby is Sweet Adelines. She is a fantastic singer. Her other hobbies are reading and loving her grandkids.

She is a farm girl with 5 brothers, showed duroc hogs in 4-H and county fairs.

Renee says she is the favorite child and aunt!!!!



Elf Chloe, Santa, Piper and Chris Ellwanger

Prairie Grange Christmas Party

Santa and Elf Chloe visited the Prairie Grange Christmas party with gifts for the Junior Grangers.

We enjoyed a fantastic potluck meal with roast beef and gravy cooked by Mary Innis and ham cooked by Sheri Bochmann. A variety of other dishes were brought by everyone. There was plenty for everyone.

A white elephant game was played and enjoyed.



Elf Chloe
Santa
Scarlette Ellwanger



Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

Happy New Year to all of you. It's so hard to believe that we are in the year of 2022, it wasn't so long ago that we were getting ready to move into the year 2000. So many worried that the electric grid would shut down, computers would crash, banks would not be able to open. We were about to enter a new era somewhere that many had never ventured into.

Would we wake up the morning after the New Year of 2000 began. Would the world stand still and just come to a standstill. Guess what, here we are 22 years later. Are we ready to take on 2022? These past two years have us living in fear of the deadly virus that is changing the world daily. We ask ourselves, do we stay home, can we travel to see loved ones, do we close schools down, work at the office or work from home. There are so many questions, life is moving on and we trust in our Lord to provide for us. We have all lost loved ones and friends to the virus and scientists continue to work on medicines to keep us safe.

Welcome to 2022. May we all be blessed with God's love and may we rejoice that we have a Savior to watch over us and keep us safe. We send prayers for all the tornado victims who lost loved ones, their homes and towns. May God bless each of them and wrap them in His loving arms.

Many blessing, love and peace to each of you.



Ronald W. Laws

1940—2021

Flora Grange

Boone County Pomona
Grange

Ron owned and operated
a Concession Food stand
at the Boone County Fair

with his wife Sharonne. He worked at Chrysler. He belonged to the Moose, NICA and ISSA, He loved to work overtime and to travel to Florida in the winter.

Calendar of Grange Events

- 1/5 Boone County Pomona Dues paying Soup and Chili supper 6:30 pm
- 1/15 Emerald Mound Grange breakfast 8am—Noon or Run out
- 1/15 Deadline for 4th quarter reports
- 2/6 Bonding to Robin
- 3/1 Scholarship Deadline
- 3/26 County Line/Leroy Spaghetti Supper
Zion Lutheran Church
- 4/9 Prairie Grange Consignment Auction
Boone County Fairgrounds
- 8/9-14 Boone County Fair
- 8/26-28 State Session-Boone County Fair grounds
- 11/15-23 National Grange Session Sparks NV
Nugget Casino Resort

2023

7/18-23 Grange Revival Curtis MI (UP)

Donations:

Illinois Granger

Memorial Scholarship

NOTE:

Please send me any important dates, members in nursing homes, rehabs, or senior living, obituaries, donations, good news from your Grange so I can add them to the newsletter.

Ruth Blasingame

illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com

815-299-7884

8711 Deer Run Drive Belvidere, IL 61008

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

