

# Illinois Granger



*In Essentials... Unity*  
*In Non-Essentials... Liberty*  
*In All Things... Charity*

March 2022

Vol 2 No 3



## Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

The weather in Illinois and the whole Midwest is crazy this year – roller coaster temperatures, wind, snow, ice, rain, sleet, etc.

March 5, 1872 was the first meeting of the IL State Grange in Dixon and Alfonso Golder was the first State Master. We have started to work on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book of lists and accomplishments. Anyone with information that you believe would / should be shared please let Beverly Smith or me know. I recently met – Rosemary nee Kirk, I didn't ask her last name now, past IL State Grange Chaplain and daughter of Past State President Dorsey Kirk. Rosemary is downsizing and thought there were items ISG would be interested in. I went to Oblong IL and collected the items. Check out my Facebook page to see some of the items. The most prized are the assembly of Demeter sashes. As I clean up and go through the items, I will share more. AMAZINGLY March 5 is also the day of the Youth Spring Fling, the schedule looks great. I plan to bring raffle tickets for the quilts and table runners from the National Grange quilt blocks of 2019.

The Illinois State Grange Scholarship Applications are available from Robin Kindberg, IL State Grange Secretary. Contact her for the application and get back to her ASAP.

Plans are being discussed for virtual March Leadership training sessions. Please watch email, social media and USPS mailbox for information when dates have

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## Spotlight on Grangers



## Charlotte Mehrtens

Bluff Grange #1826

Member 47 years

President Bluff Grange (present), President St. Clair County Pomona Grange #26 (present)

Illinois State Grange Chaplain (present), Lecturer for Bluff (past), Secretary St. Clair County Pomona (past) State Women's Activities Director (Past)

I've attended National Grange workshops, 7<sup>th</sup> Degree National Grange member

Worked National Grange Convention last time in Peoria

I belong to Zion Evangelical church in Millstadt

Serve on church council where I serve a secretary, President of Sisters in Faith at church. Serve on Mission committee and other committees as needed,

Married to Don for 59 years, 60 years in September

Have one daughter Kim and son in law Mike

Three grandchildren Brad (wife Abigail), granddaughter Abbie (fiancée Ronnie)

Granddaughter Lindsay

Two great grandsons Carson 7 years old and Lane 5 months old

I enjoy playing dominoes, counted cross stitched, fishing, and traveling

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been chosen. I will send emails to Masters/Presidents and Committee chairs/Directors to check on availability and presentation ideas. Also to start a discussion on whether it should be virtual or in person.

Plans are being made for the 150<sup>th</sup> State Session, August 26 - 28, Boone County Fairgrounds, Belvidere, IL more information should be coming in the next few months.

The National Grange President's Conference was held February 18-20, 2022 in Myrtle Beach, SC. The weekend was so busy with workshops: Fundraising, Heirloom, Is your Data in shape, Need to Know Grange information, Youth fair, Burton talked about Grange Legacy, Chris talked about Prepare, Perform, Persist, and Prevail, Mandy and Sam Show, Pete talked "Do we say it enough?", Amanda talked about Bad Apples, Phillip – Social Media. Some of these topics will be discussed at the March Leadership Conference. We toured the Georgetown area and a church that Oliver Hudson Kelly visited while visiting the area. It was a GREAT event.

We held National Grange Executive Committee meeting before the President's Conference. Much to discuss and decide on. I'll let you know some of those items at Spring Fling or Leadership meetings.

Start to plan now for November 15- 19, 2022 156<sup>th</sup> Annual National Grange Session, Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, Nevada.

I hope that many of you are working on membership and have many activities planned for the upcoming Grange year. Grange month in April will have theme "RAISED RIGHT HERE". Watch the Patrons Chain, National Grange website ([nationalgrange.org](http://nationalgrange.org)) and the Illinois Grange website ([IllinoisStateGrange.org](http://IllinoisStateGrange.org)) for the details. Remember projects for Community Service, Juniors, Youth, Agriculture committee, Family Activities committee make a well-rounded Grange, and are a good way to get your Grange and Community working together again.

### Junior Department

Please note changes made.

With the state session being earlier this year the age deadline for Mini-Juniors and Juniors at Heart will be changed to Aug 1st, instead of the September 1 deadline that is listed on forms handed out at GRIT

Thank You, Mindy

## ISG SECRETARY REPORT

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Hope this finds everyone doing well, staying healthy, warm and dry. It is nasty weather up here in Northern Illinois today rainy and icy. Just a few reminders:

1. Completed Scholarship Applications are due to me via email by 9PM on March 1, 2022.
2. 990N forms- Please remember to file them as soon as possible.
3. Bonding Forms – Be sure to return the bottom portion of the form if your Grange has decided to opt out of bonding with the National Grange. Your deadline was Feb.15, 2022 and I still do not have one from every Grange.
4. Hopefully all Granges will be updating your Grange By-Laws soon and remember to send a copy of your Grange's updated By-Laws to the State Grange Secretary by June 1, 2022 just for our records.
5. FYI – Did you know according to the National Grange By-Laws (11.9.4) that in order to be in proper attire at all levels of the Grange meetings and/or events a member must wear prescribed regalia or an official Grange pin. How many Grange meeting and/or events do you attend without wearing a Grange Pin?

Everyone stay healthy and safe until next time. There are lots of things coming up in the future so watch for details to be posted.

Fraternally Submitted

Robin Kindberg

ISG Secretary

### Illinois State Grange Juniors



"Time" capsule anyone? What would you put in it? What are some of your favorite things? What about some history of your Grange? When it started, what are some traditions?



## **“Instrumental to the Industry - The Past, Present, and Future of Agriculture”**

by Mary Brubach, Agriculture Committee Chair

As each year goes by, there are fewer children growing up on farms, ranches, and the likes. This leads to a shortage of those with practical experience going into all the supporting fields of Agriculture.

We have a lot to learn from the Past, more to learn in the Present day, and an infinity of knowledge to pass on to the Future.

We in Prairie Grange have a member who was raised on a dairy farm, then continue to farm on a dairy farm, and as of today spends every year volunteering at World Dairy Expo. Jim had a conversation with Ruth Blasingame about how he would love to help on the farm but he has a lack of knowledge when it comes to the modern Technology of today's farming. Jim would love for someone to offer up the time to teach an older farmer some new tricks.

Those of us in modern day farming, have a lack of knowledge of yester year's techniques, and could stand to learn some understanding of them. Between the Past and the Present we create the future.

currently have a nephew who is a Freshman at South Dakota State University majoring in Agriculture Engineering. He is quite sought after for internships simply because of his practical hands-on knowledge and experience of growing up on a dairy farm. We both remember it as if it was yesterday when my sister's family started up their robotic milking parlor. The night I spent with Randy pushing cows, I remember him complaining of design flaws. These flaws happened due to the engineer's lack of practical knowledge. I told Randy to keep all this in mind while working on his degree. He is able to point out said flaws thanks to being raised with older forms of milking, and having learned the habits of cows. At the same time being raised in a more modern world, he understands the importance of how the past impacts what happens in present day, while understanding both lead to a better future for Agriculture.

Every day it is important that those of us who have practical hands-on knowledge of Agriculture that we support those fields who support us. It is up to us to provide the opportunities for those who have no practical experience with the practical experience. It is also up to us to listen to those who have come before us to help us with the problems of today, all while paving the path for the future.

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST**

By Beverly Smith

A few months back the Hecathorn Family gave me this interesting piece of Grange history. The Illinois State Junior Grange Report Book from 1992. JoAnne Calhoun was State Junior Director. She received “Outstanding Achievement Award and ribbon” for this very detailed account of all the activities of the Junior Granges in our state. At that time there were 8 active Junior Granges with 106 members. Many of our current State Grange Officers are from this era. There were so many activities that these kids did! There were North and South Junior Camps. Among the projects that year was a Junior Grange Cookbook with proceeds to help Illinois host National Grange in 1994. I was reminded that I was a Junior Grange Deputy for JoAnne. She had me emcee the Junior Grange awards presentation at State Grange. I enjoyed going through this notebook. I will add that the glue back then did not hold up so I had to re-glue many clippings!

JoAnne was also State Grange Women's Activities Chairman 1978-1979. Again, she assembled a very detailed report book with the yearly theme: “Reach Out With Communication”. Others on her committee were 1978: Emalee Colver and Arline Magee and 1979: Emalee Colver and Edna Schwaegel. The National Grange Chairman was Jenny Grobusky. Illinois' goal for National Grange Sewing Contest was 900. We had 949 entries that year: 611 Grangers, 338 non-Grangers, 48 subordinate Granges; 34 met their quota and 5 Pomona Granges. We were very honored to have two National Grange winners that year. Class C was Mrs. Lynn Conrad a non-member rep of Burns Grange. Class E was Mrs. Robert Lyford of Guilford Hope Grange, who is still a member. The sewing contest participation was so successful (my opinion) I often think it was a mistake to discontinue it. A major project accomplishment that year was donating Junior Grange manuals to Flora Grange after losing them in the Grange Hall Fire. The Women's Activities luncheon held at State Session was well attended with National Grange Master John Scott and his wife as special guests.

Well that was the way it was back then. I hope you enjoyed what I shared with you. Hopefully by the time you read this there will be signs of spring!

## **Buddy Meal Preparations**





## Ruth's Challenge for March

### Mary Beth Lee was #1

Address for Turkey Hill Grange is 1375 East State Route 15, Belleville, IL 62220-4804.



Turkey Hill Grange organized in 1874 and met in various members' homes. In 1886 the first building was built for the Turkey Hill School and Turkey Hill Grange. The school used the lower level and the Grange met on the upper level. In 1904 the building burned killing a young man. The second building was built immediately on the same foundation with the school meeting in the lower level and the Grange meeting in the top level. By 1936, the members believed that that second building was in such poor shape that it should be replaced. That second building was soon sold and removed. Members immediately set about building the current building that was completed in less than four months on the same foundation size of the 1886 building. By 1937 the school no longer met in the building, so the Grange occupied the entire building – the original cost estimate to replace the building was about \$13,000 but ended up costing over \$17,000. In 2004 an addition was added which included a three-stop elevator and four handicapped rest rooms – the cost of the addition was estimated to be \$250,000 but ended up costing \$250,100 as some 35 parking spaces were paved rather than the planned paving of only four spaces.



### #2 Emerald Mound—Mindy Schiefer



Set up for our 100th celebration. A flag for each branch of service is on the stage for the Quilt of Valor presentation that was part of program.

### #3 Flora Grange Hall—Elaine Huska



## 5 #4 Beaver Valley—Dayle Paulson

Beaver Valley Grange Hall  
traveling down the road...



Beaver Valley Grange Hall before the move.



Beaver Valley Grange Hall off the  
foundation and on jacks.



At the corner of the two Beloit roads waiting  
for Com Ed to lower the lines.

### Beaver Valley Grange #1791

February 11, 2022 meeting met at Community Grange Hall with Master Brian O'Dell presiding. Those present were Steve & Dayle Paulson, Chip Messiner, Susan Banks, Rick & Renee O'Dell, Brian & Marisa O'Dell. Guest was Brandon O'Dell.

Minutes from our last meeting were approved as they were written. Members had been emailed a copy of the minutes. Treasurers report was given and approved. Reports were given on Agriculture, Legislative, Community Service, and Youth Fairboard. We did not have a meeting in January due to weather so the announcement of Steve & Dayle retiring from Fairboard was given. Brian and Bryson O'Dell will take their spots on the Fairboard. Steve and Dayle said they are still interested in continuing to help where they can at the Fair. Community Service projects were discussed for Pomona and Beaver Valley. Several options are open. Beaver Valley has volunteered to help with The Viet Nam Wall on May 14<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4 pm. Beaver Valley Grange is working on getting t-shirts for our Grange to wear when we have special events.

Fraternally submitted,  
Dayle Paulson, Publicity

## Leroy Community Grange Report

The meeting was called to order by Master, Rocky Temple. Pledges and prayer were led by John Kennedy. A thank you note was read from Brooke Glander who won the 4-H photography award that our Grange sponsored. Old Business included a report about Hometown Christmas tree decorating, and gifts that were bought and delivered to our adopted family. Scott Yunk reported that he delivered the hats and mittens we collected to Manchester school. A vote by email was taken earlier this month regarding the scholarship we sponsor to a North Boone senior. It was decided to sponsor a \$500 scholarship again this year. Discussion on bonding the secretary and treasurer, It was decided to select the \$50,000 worth of coverage for the \$88 premium. Volunteers are needed for the Spaghetti supper which we co-chair with County Line Grange will Saturday, March 26th at Zion Lutheran Church. We will start prepping at noon, and serving from 4-7 p.m. 4-Hers will be providing desserts. We will be providing a raffle basket, It was decided to spend between \$65-75 for the basket. Joe's wife will put the raffle basket together. Tax forms were sent to Colton Friemuth, the winner of our 2021 raffle. Reminder that dues are to be paid by April 1st, and are \$64/family, \$32/member.

Ed Kasper reported on the 2022 raffle. Paul Temple attended the board meeting and they approved us to increase our raffle to \$10,000.00. Tickets are at the printer now and will be available to sell soon, Each ticket is \$100.00, with a 50/50 payout of \$5,000.00. The drawing will take place on Friday, August 12th, prior to the Bull Riding. The BBQ Cookoff is the weekend of June 24-26th, and we have agreed to serve breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Joe Muzzillo and Jeff Vance will co-chair the breakfast committee. We will be selecting Outstanding Community members, Police, Fire, Teacher, Grange Member and Non-member, and will plan on recognizing them at a banquet in May or June. The Certificate of Exempt Status for our property was completed and returned to the Assessment Office. Remember to turn in your Community Service forms to Sandi Kennedy. We are also looking for ideas for Community Service projects for the coming year. One idea was brought up to participate in Operation Shoe Box, where care packages are sent to the troops. Ed Kasper discussed possibly doing something to recognize long time fairboard members.



## 6 PRAIRIE GRANGE NEWS

Prairie Grange held their meeting in full form on Monday, February 21, 2022 with worthy President Ruth Blasingame presiding.

Committee reports were heard: Prairie Grange will be hosting a Town Hall meeting to get to know the Candidates who are running for Boone County Sheriff so watch for more details.

Spring Fling is March 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-4:00 at Hopewell Grange. This is open to all Grangers so come join us.

Buddy Meals are being planned for the month of March so watch for the date to announced soon.

For New Business: Prairie Grange is looking into getting New Grange Shirts and name badges or lanyards for it's members. More details will be available soon.

The Wall That Heals will be coming to Belvidere Fairgrounds May 11-14, 2022 and volunteer help is needed. If interested in helping please contact Emalee Colver from Flora Grange.

Prairie Grange will be celebrating it's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 23, 2023 so watch for details.

Reminder Illinois State Grange Session will be August 26-28, 2022 at the Boone County Fairgrounds with Boone and Winnebago Granges serving as the hosts. Watch for more details coming out soon.

When you attend a Grange meeting or event are you in proper attire? According to the National Grange By-Laws all Grangers must wear proper regalia or an official Grange pin.

Prairie Grange Annual Consignment Auction will be held Saturday, April 9, 2022 beginning at 9:00 AM so if you have some treasures you want to part with please contact Lyle Lee or John Henninger for details on what to do with those items otherwise come and join us on that day you never know one persons junk is another person's treasures.

Our meeting was closed in full form at 8:00PM and refreshments and fellowship followed.

Robin Kindberg  
Publicity Chairman

## County Line News

We had our Christmas party in January instead of our regular meeting. We played a take away present game. Everyone ended up with a present. We enjoyed food from Rosati's and Pacemaker. Everyone had a wonderful time. Thank you to John and Carol Null for hosting.

Our regular meeting for February was the 9th. We welcomed guests Cindy Webster and Vicki Clark. We also welcomed them as new County Line members.

Hosting the meeting were Kathy, Doug and Ned Loy. Also Cathy Zei. Thanks for the delicious food. Thanks to Ruth and team for the Valentine decorations.

Committee reports were given. Ruth - Membership welcomed the new members. Ed - Fairboard, said not too much going on right now. The Loys are going to start working on our 2022 Grange Day soon.

Anna said Linda had posted to our website. Linda passed around the Community Service paper and explained what community service is to the new members.

The new Grange Hall/Museum is coming along well. Jo Ellen reported that the lighting is going in. She has a new placement for our old County Line sign. Heat will be going in soon.

We will need to start working on the inside soon.

Congratulations to our member Emily Feick on her \$750 dollar scholarship we voted to give her.

Our 4-H Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser that we have with Leroy Grange will be March 26 from 4-7pm. This will be at the Zion Lutheran Church in Belvidere, located on the corner of 6th St. and Pearl St.

Our Lecturer, Tamra gave us a trivia quiz for her program. Treasurer reports and all reports were given. We closed our meeting and held our G Dollar Bill collection and Penny March. Stay safe and healthy everyone.

## Community Service

Heather Ellwanger – Director

Hello everyone!! It is time to start thinking about what to put in the **Shoebox for Soldiers**. They always look forward to crossword books, socks, lip balm, playing cards, small card games, pre-packaged snacks, beef jerky, gum, crackers, etc. Toiletries, baby wipes, and glass cleaner wipes. My son and his fellow soldiers would like books, comics, anything to pass the time.

So if you can think of anything that a soldier would like to have from home that would fit in a shoebox please feel free to collect it and we will make a soldier happy. It will give them a touch of home



## Turkey Hill Grange Presentation

On February 11, 2022 Turkey Hill Grange held a celebration and recognition for William Dan Cook as National Grange Law Enforcement Officer of 2021. He was nominated by Turkey Hill Grange and was chosen by Illinois State Grange to be judged in competition with others from

State Granges. He was chosen as the National winner at the National Grange Convention last November in Wichita, Kansas. He was presented the award by Lynette Schaeffer, Chairman of the National Grange Executive Committee and President of the Illinois State Grange.

There were many guests in attendance including fellow members of the Belleville Police Department, his friends, his mother, Norma Wierciak, his wife, Julie and daughter Danielle. His son Holden was unable to attend. Belleville Mayor Patty Gregory congratulated Dan Cook and Captain Todd Kielbach, representing the Belleville Police Department, talked about Dan's actions and diligence to duty when successfully pursuing and capturing three robbery suspects involved in a robbery in Belleville. The suspects were also investigated for a string of robberies in St. Louis, MO. Officer Cook's actions contributed significantly to the overall success of the investigation and reflect great credit upon himself, the City of Belleville and the Belleville Police Department. There was media coverage by several newspapers and Fox News TV Channel 2 in St. Louis, Mo on the 10PM and 11PM news that evening. The members of Turkey Hill are very proud of Dan Cook.

We closed our meeting and held our G Dollar Bill collection and Penny March.

Stay safe and healthy everyone.

## Turkey Hill Grange News

Following the Recognition program for Dan Cook, the meeting was opened by President Charles Treser. Chaplain Pro Tem, Ron Bersett, gave the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by the National Anthem. Treasurer's report was given by Marilyn Coe. Secretary Chris Bersett read the Minutes of the last meeting and called the roll of officers. The Charter was draped in memory of Joyce Dintelmann. Lecturer Tami Hughes announced next months program will be presented by Penny Kessler, who served in the Peace Corp in Liberia and Uganda prior to Covid.



The Agriculture Report - Dale Helms discussed some items from the Corn Growers meeting, including areas of the country and world that are struggling with the effects of dry conditions on the wheat crops. Storms have damaged the natural gas supply, affecting nitrogen production, leaving farmers struggling with low supplies of fertilizer. Many of them are having a hard time deciding whether to plant corn or wheat.

Building Report: Ron Bersett reported that the clean-up day went well and several other repairs are to be completed in the near future.

Stacy Rutledge announced that the yard sale date has been set for April 23, 2022. She will be selling our Jams & Jelly along with other items at the O'Fallon Vine Street Micro-Market on March 26, April 19 and 30th. Jam & Jelly making was held on February 16th. The Hall Rental and Catering Report was given by Charles Treser- the kitchen group has been very busy the last month serving meals to farm groups and the public for meetings and dinners. David Donley and Stacy Rutledge announced the Chicken Dinner plans are underway for April 3rd. The meeting was closed and refreshments were served. Our next meeting will be on March 11, 2022.

## UNION GRANGE

At our February meeting we discussed our plans for the Secretary and Treasurer jobs now that Linnea Miller is not able to fulfil those jobs since she is in rehab at P.A. Peterson. Ron Erbe has agreed to be our Treasurer and Vivian Johnson will keep minutes and perform the Secretary duties. They have visited the bank and completed paperwork to get their names on the checking account, which was quite the ordeal. Vivian has completed the 990N, the not for profit paperwork, filled out paperwork for membership awards, and returned the bonding form. Who knew how much our Secretaries really do behind the scenes?

Besides collecting dues for this year, we made a motion to have our meetings on the first Saturday of each month. We voted to send dictionaries to Rock House Kids. We voted to have the secretary send letters to those who haven't paid their dues in several years. We updated Union Grange's by-laws and sent a copy to the State Secretary.

Elaine Hyer has agreed to be our Community Service chairman. A letter to Russ Stauffer from National Grange President, Betsy Huber, on 80 years of continuous membership was read and Elaine volunteered to present it to Russ on our behalf. Congratulations Russ.

We discussed if we want to have a little or big party in 2023 when we will celebrate our 150th anniversary as a Grange.

Vivian Johnson logged into a zoom chat for a planning meeting for the 2024 National Grange host states meeting that will be held in Bettendorf, IA. Many jobs needs to be filled and several people/states volunteered for a few of those jobs.

Our March meeting will be lunch at Thunder Bay Grill.

### What's Happening In Flora Grange?

By Lindakay F. Ebel

Flora Grange #1762 held their dues paying potluck dinner/meeting on Tuesday evening, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the Flora Grange Hall with some thirty-five members in attendance. After a delicious dinner, members moved upstairs and Master Albert Q. Ebel called the meeting to order with Pledge to American Flag and Grange Salutation. Roll Call was taken, and minutes of the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were amended and voted on.

The charter was draped for a 50 plus year Grange member, Joseph Kirk who passed away on January 27. Two new members, Anna and Alex Haugen were brought into Flora this evening and Jack Ratcliffe gave the obligations and they were welcomed by all in attendance.

Deb Silver reported Walter Petroske of Poplar Grove will be turning 101 years of age this week and she

passed a birthday card for all Grange members to sign and she will take it to him. Bob Scherer, Agriculture reported the grain prices are going up, however, the price of seed this spring will be higher also. Dan Burow reported there are a lot of farm shows for people to attend.

Todd Hegge reported the fair board has Neil McCoy for their main entertainment and will getting more contracts signed soon. Farmland Protection will hold a meeting on Thursday evening, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Membership chairman, Lindakay Ebel welcomed our two new members and encouraged all members to go out and get new members. She stated that our ISG Master Lynette will be meeting with the Deputies on membership sometime soon.

Treasurer, Lindakay Ebel gave the treasurers report for January and February, and the hard copies of yearend totals for each category for 2021 for members. She also gave the profit for all the fundraisers for the year of 2021. A motion was made and seconded to not take the bonding for the year of 2022.

Lindakay Ebel stated when turning in hours for community service hours, please state what they are for. Emalee Colver gave an update on The Wall That Heals, stating the Wall That Heals will arrive in Belvidere on Tuesday, but will not open to the public until the afternoon of Wednesday, May 11 and will be open to the public until afternoon of Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. She had signup sheets for workers.

Phoebe Calabrese announced that Belvidere North FFA held a raffle and Todd Hegge won \$92.00 and Todd donated it to Flora Grange, total of \$184.00 was given to Flora Grange.

Master Ebel announced that Boone County Pomona Grange will be held on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 pm, dues are \$5.00 per person. The first State Convention committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm, if interested, contact Ruth.

Laurel Ratcliffe announced Flora Grange will be holding a set-down Roast Beef dinner on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Grange Hall. More details to be announced. Laurel Ratcliffe also read the new proposed Flora Grange #1762 bylaws. There were several changes made by members, these will be made, and re-read at the March Flora Grange meeting.

Belvidere North FFA will be holding a dinner/auction on March 25 and asked if Flora Grange would like to donate. Laurel Ratcliffe made a motion to donate two roast beef dinner tickets, it was seconded, and motion passed.

Program Chairman Jack Ratcliffe had a TV Game Show and divided the group into two parts and played a Valentine game. Everyone in attendance had a fun time and enjoyed it a lot. Thanks Jack!!

\$72.00 "G" were collected. Valentine's Day to all Master Al Ebel closed the Grange meeting in full form. Next Grange meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.



## 9 Illinois State Grange Youth

Karie Blasingame

Gearing up for a great time at Spring Fling on March 5<sup>th</sup>, hope you were able to work it into your plans. We will be announcing the location for the Statewide Grange Picnic at the event. I am excited to have 3 great workshops that should lead you to a better understanding of the topics presented by Grange members from across the country. If you wanted to head to Washington D.C. for the D.C. Experience, I hope you got your registration in on time. This event is likely to be one of the last held in our National Grange building and if you haven't had the honor of seeing the building while we own it this would have been a great opportunity. It is also a great opportunity to learn how to speak to some of our elected officials and head to Capitol Hill. I hope that everyone who applied for a State Grange Scholarship got their application to Robin on time. Remember these scholarships are for anyone looking to further their education full-time. Looking forward to Midwest Grange Leadership Conference in Iowa this year June 24-26. Hope you can make it there. We are selling raffle tickets for quilts and other quilted items; that were made from quilt squares from the state of Illinois, purchased at the National Grange Session in Minnesota. There is also a stained-glass Grange emblem I believe, in the raffle. Get your tickets early and often like votes in Chicago. The money raised will be used for helping with National Grange Session I believe when it is in our region in 2024. Volunteer to be the member from your Grange to sell raffle tickets in your area. Start planning your vacation in 2023 for Curtis, Michigan and join Lynette, Don and I at the third Grange Revival. You can get more information about Grange Revival online at [grangerevival.com](http://grangerevival.com). If you check out the website, you will see all 5 of us from the state of Illinois who were at the last Grange Revival right in the middle of the picture! Can't wait for another group shot like that one! Speaking of photos – there are new deadlines for the National Grange Photography contest. June 30 is the new deadline, start looking through any photos you have taken in the past year, you are able to submit up to 3 photos in each category. This year they are Agriculture, Trucks, Sky and Water. Let's show them what Illinois has to offer.

## Calendar of Grange Events

- 3/5 Turkey Hill – Meet the Candidate
- 3/26 County Line/Leroy Spaghetti Supper  
Zion Lutheran Church
- 4/3 Flora Roast Beef Dinner
- 4/3 Turkey Hill Chicken Dinner 10 :30-3
- 4/9 Prairie Grange Consignment Auction  
Boone County Fairgrounds
- 4/23 Turkey Hill Yard Sale
- 5/7 EM Trailer - Lebanon May Market
- 8/9-14 Boone County Fair

### 8/26-28 State Session-Boone Fairgrounds

11/15-23 National Grange Session Sparks NV  
Nugget Casino Resort

### 2023

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

### 2024 National Session Quad Cities

#### Ongoing:

Emerald Mound - desserts at Summerfield Lions Club  
fish fries Mar 4,11,18,25, Apr1,8

#### Donations:

##### Illinois Granger

\$20 Anonymous

#### Memorial Scholarship

#### NOTE:

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

**Ruth Blasingame**

**[illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com](mailto:illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com)**

**815-299-7884**

**8711 Deer Run Drive Belvidere, IL 61008**

#### A NOTE FROM RUTH THE EDITOR

**As you get new members in your Grange please ask them to consider taking the Granger by email. That should always be their FIRST option. We were down to 292 printed copies for a moment and then I got a list of new members from the State Secretary. My goal is still 200.**

**Four people read my challenge last month!!!! So my next challenge is this. Send in a picture of the Master/President of your Grange!! Let's see how many I get!**





## Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens—Chaplain

Praise and thank the Lord for He is Good

Will March come in as a lion or as a lamb?

Most of the state has been a lion all winter so let's see what the spring will be. I think that darn ground hog in PA sees his shadow every year regardless what the rest of the country sees, but guess what, we still have six weeks of cold, snow, and any kind of weather that it wants to be. We are so thankful that God provides for our needs and watches over us always.

I know that in our part of Southern Illinois the sunrises and sunsets have been so beautiful this winter. I'm so glad that God shares His beauty with us during the winter. As winter turns to spring and the flowers begin to bloom, grass turns green again, and spring is in the air let us remember that God is great. Easter is late this year but remember there is always hope in life.

We pray for those who are in need of healing, those who have lost loved ones, that life is good and we always have God to thank for our gift of life.

*Go Now In Peace:*

*Go now in Peace, Never be afraid. God will go with each hour of the day.*

*Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.*

*Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.*

*God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love.*

*Peace and love unto all of you.*



## Well done good and faithful servants

**Joseph C. Kirk**

1938-2022

50 year member of Flora Grange



**Jerome Hemmer**

1932-2022

Turkey Hill Grange

Jerry Hemmer, 89, of Belleville, born July 27, 1932 died January 29, 2022. He was a self-employed insurance broker before his retirement. He was a member of St. Henry Catholic

Church and very active in church and Diocesan groups. He was very active in Belleville clubs especially Youth groups and served as a past alderman. He was a Sgt. in the US Marine Corps and served in the Korean War. He was presented with a "Quilt of Valor" by Turkey Hill Quilters in 2019. He had been a member of Turkey Hill Grange for 17 years. He was very active with Grange projects and never missed working at the Grange Barbecue held weekly during the summers. He always had a smile for everyone. The Grange Service was conducted prior to the funeral at St. Henry Church in Belleville on February 11, 2022. He is survived by 5 children and their spouses, nine grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and a brother.



HISTORY PROVES THAT WHERE  
AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN  
FOSTERED, THAT NATION HAS  
PROSPERED AND REACHED A  
HIGH DEGREE OF PERFECTION;  
BUT WHERE IT HAS BEEN  
NEGLECTED DEGENERACY BEGAN.

First Degree: Chaplain







