



# Illinois Granger

*In Essentials... Unity*

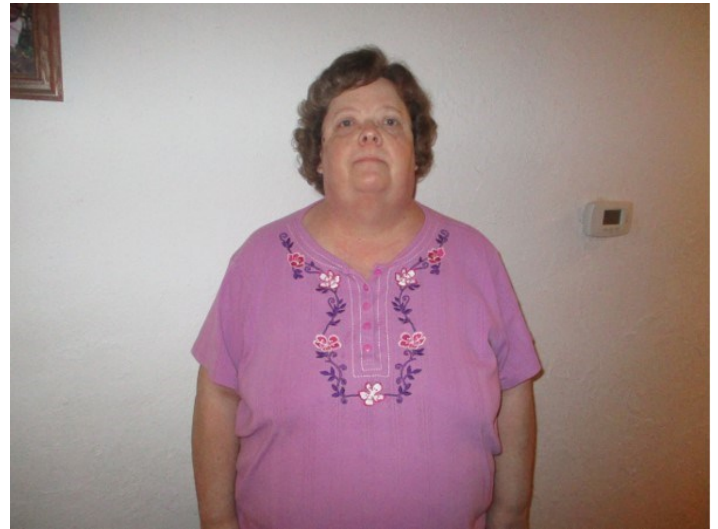
*In Non-Essentials... Liberty*

*In All Things... Charity*

June 2022

Vol 2 No 6

## Spotlight on Grangers



**Debra Wade**

### **Illinois State Grange Executive Committee**

Past State offices: Chaplain, Flora  
Served on the State Junior Committee  
Help with the State Youth Committee

Hopewell Grange #1747 50 years plus Junior Grange  
Offices Held: Lady Assistant Steward, Chaplain  
Past Pomona Master

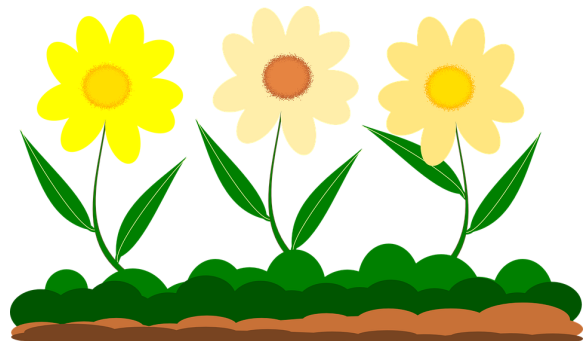
I have been married to Kevin Wade for 44 years. We have two children: Bradley Wade and Carrie Fisher. Five grandchildren: Jaydon, Clayton, Jaxon and Cruz Fisher, and Liam Wade

I used to bowl.

I am retired now. I formerly worked at 2 pizza restaurants, grocery store, Hardees, K-Mart, and 2 different banks.

Member of St Marks Lutheran Church

**One thing to know about me: I love my time with Grange members and hold them dear to my heart.**



## **Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms**

Well today as I write this article the weather is near normal but still a little cooler than it should be and it is WET! Farmers are having trouble getting corn and soybean seeds in the ground. We were able to get the first cutting of hay. Hope many of you are able to plant seeds for the Agricultural Contests.

Thanks to Karie, Hopewell Grange and all those who helped with the Grange Picnic. Karie and I were glad to award several scholarships to worthy recipients. Congratulations! I was glad that Sammantha, Rebbecca and Delphine were able to attend. I appreciate all those that attended and spent time breaking bread with other Grangers. The food was good and wide variety of side items. Other scholarship recipients will be getting their scholarships when they attend a State Grange event.

Don, Lana and I will be going to National Grange Headquarters to start reviewing, scanning items, listing and sorting through papers. We will spend several days in this task, we hope to get a little time to do some sight seeing while we are there.

The Midwest Grange Leadership conference will be held in IOWA, June 24-26, 2022. Watch for details in Facebook and National-Grange.org. Registration is online now.

Plans are being made for the 151<sup>st</sup> State Session, August 26 - 28, Boone County Fairgrounds, Belvidere, IL. More information should be coming in the next few months. I believe the menu has been settled and it looks

Cont from page 1

delicious. Hope you are all working on contest entries for session. Illinois State Grange Quilt Raffle tickets will be arriving at your Grange in box or USPS box soon. They are \$1 each or 6/\$5. National Grange Secretary Deb and PA State Grange President Wayne Campbell will be our National Grange representatives. I am looking forward to having you all to meet them. Don and I will be going to PA session in October, I am looking forward to seeing how PA State Grange Session goes.

Be aware that some of the dates for contest entries are June 30!! These National Contests do not have to go to the State Grange first – you can send them to both National and State. Some of the National Grange Contest dates have changed check out Facebook or [nationalgrange.org](http://nationalgrange.org).

Start to plan now for November 15- 19, 2022 156<sup>th</sup> Annual National Grange Session, Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, Nevada.  
All Grangers are determined workers that persevere.

### Debbie Campbell National Grange Secretary

Debbie Campbell has been a Grange member for 41 years. She is a member of Oliver Grange #1069 in Newport Pennsylvania where she holds the office of Lecturer/ Program Director. She is also the Treasurer of the Perry County Pomona Grange which she has held since 1999.

She is currently the Pennsylvania State Grange Secretary which she has served since 2012. She has also held the office of Pennsylvania State Grange Pomona and Pennsylvania Junior Grange Director. Debbie also served two years on the National Junior Grange Committee under Emalee Colver, former National Junior Director.

Debbie has been married to Wayne Campbell for 48 years. They have three children—Jennifer, Ashley and Nathan and four grandchildren—Bryce, Riley, Na-



than Jr. and Lyrick. Her grandson, Bryce, was the 2019-2021 National Junior Grange Ambassador.

She is a member of St Paul's Lutheran Church of Newport where she has been Treasurer since 2009.

Debbie retired after 35 years with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She currently works part-time as the Secretary/Treasurer of Tuscarora Township.

Debbie and her husband Wayne (Pennsylvania State Master) will be the National Representatives at our 2022 Illinois State Grange Session.

### Prairie Grange Report

Forty five Grangers and Guests gathered on Monday, May 16, 2022 for the annual Prairie Grange Appreciation Dinner that was prepared by our own member Jennifer Tobin-Tinch.

After enjoying the delicious meal we had the honor of presenting Prairie Grange Scholarships to 4 of our Grange members: Sammantha Meyers, Rebecca Meyers, Chloe Konieczki and Jackie Anderson. Congratulations ladies and keep up the good work.

It was also reported that a couple of our Grangers put together a display for Rali Rx and they distributed medication disposal kits to people who attended the auction to help fight the opioid problem in the community.

Fraternally submitted,

Robin Kindberg  
Publicity Chairman



### DEADLINE EXTENDED TO SEPT 1ST!



2022 National Grange Quilt Block Contest

Sponsored by the National Lecturer

ADULT, JUNIOR AND MEN'S DIVISIONS

Visit [bit.ly/22QuiltBlock](http://bit.ly/22QuiltBlock)  
for all details and entry sheet

Wonky Star

Star may be in any color family (solid or print)  
on white or light gray background.  
Final size - 12.5" unfinished.

## ISG SCHEDULE      **Friday August 26, 2022**

### **8:30 AM – Noon**

Registration and Contest entries in place in display room  
Tour – Grange Hall/Museum and One-Room Schoolhouse

### **1:00 PM – Open in the Sixth Degree – Lynette**

**Schaeffer**, President

Open to all Delegates and Grangers attending  
Roll Call of Officers – Close in the Sixth Degree – Open in the Fourth

Degree

Presentation of Deb Campbell, National

Grange Secretary, PA State

Secretary and Wayne Campbell President of

PA State Grange

Welcome – **Lyle Lee**, Boone County Fair

Board President

Response – **Karie Blasingame**, Vice President

dent

Roll Call of Delegates

Adoption of Order of Business – **Frank D.**

**Wurth**, Chair Exec Comm

Meeting place for 2023

Invitation of Meeting Place 2024

Reports – Treasurer - **Paul Zeien Jr** (Budget),

Secretary – **Robin Kindberg** (Credentials),

Exec Committee Secretary - **Debra Wade**

### **2:15 PM – Recess**

### **2:30 PM – Election of Officer (one Executive Committee Member)**

Appointment of Session Committees Assignment of Resolutions

Committee Instructions by President and Vice

President of Resolutions

then Resolutions will go to Committees

### **4:00 PM – Grange Closed in the Fourth Degree**

Committee Meetings

### **6:00 PM – Main Banquet**

### **7:00 PM – Evening Program**

Introduction of Special Invited Guests

Summary of Address of State President –

**Lynette Schaeffer**

Community Service Awards – **Heather**

**Ellwanger**, Director

Membership Awards – **Robin Kindberg**,

Secretary

### **8:30 PM – Committee Meetings**

## **Saturday, August 27, 2022**

### **7:00 AM – Breakfast AG Chariman Mary Brubach**

Speaker – TBD

### **8:00 AM – Opening in Fourth Degree**

Roll Call of State Officers

Roll Call of Delegates

Reading and Adopting of Minutes

### **8:45 AM – Junior Grange Report and Awards – Mindy**

**Schiefer**, Director

### **9:45 AM – Report – Committee on Finance and Accounts –**

### **10:00 AM – Recess**

### **10:15 AM – Committee Reports**

### **11:30 AM – Family Activities Luncheon –**

**Lori Henrichs**, Director

### **1:15PM – Obligation of Fifth Degree – Karie**

**Blasingame**

Conferring of Sixth Degree – IL State Grange Officers

### **3:00 PM – Recess**

### **3:15 PM – Grange Historian – Beverly Smith**, Director

### **4:00 PM – National Grange Representative Report/**

Workshop – **Debbie Campbell**

Committee Reports

### **5:00 PM -Grange Closed in Fourth Degree**

(take possessions with you)

### **6:30PM – Youth/Young Adult Banquet – Karie**

**Blasingame**, Director

### **7:30 PM – Evening Program**

Talent Show – **Ethan Edwards**, Lecturer  
Auction

## **Sunday, August 28, 2022**

### **8:00 AM – Church Service – Celebration of Life –**

**Charlotte Mehrtens**, Chaplain

### **8:45 AM – Opening in the Fourth Degree – Youth/**

**Young Adults**

Roll Call of Youth Officers

Roll Call of State Officers

Roll Call of Delegates

Reading of State Grange Minutes

### **9:00 AM – FAC/AG – Final Reports and Sash Transfers**

Lecturer Report – **Ethan Edwards**

Committee Reports

Quilt Raffle Drawing

Completion of Remaining Business/

Installation of Exec Comm Officer

Closing of the 151<sup>st</sup> Annual Session

**MEAL RESERVATIONS ILLINOIS STATE  
GRANGE AUGUST 26-28,2022**

**\_\_\_\_\_FRIDAY EVENING BANQUET**

**\$25.00 per person**

Smothered Pork Chops, Onion Chicken, mashed potatoes, au gratin potatoes, California medley, corn, Romaine Salad with oil/ vinaigrette dressing, rolls, pistachio cake, chocolate cake, white cake, lemon cake, coffee, ice tea, lemonade and water. Kids meal -eat off menu -\$10.00

**\_\_\_\_\_SATURDAY AG BREAKFAST**

**\$15.00 per person**

French Toast casserole, potato casserole, sausage, scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, toast, Danishes, apples, bananas, oranges, juices, milk, coffee, and water. Kids meal – eat off menu \$7.00

**\_\_\_\_\_SATURDAY NOON-FAC LUNCHEON**

**\$15.00 per person**

Ham and Cheese Sandwich on bread, Egg Salad and Chicken Salad on croissant, potato salad, coleslaw, potato chips, fruit salad, jello, ice cream dessert, coffee, ice tea, lemonade and water.

Kids meal – eat off menu \$7.00.

**\_\_\_\_\_SATURDAY EVENING – PASTA ARRAY**

**\$20.00 per person**

Marinara sauce, meatballs, Italian sausage bites, alfredo sauce, alfredo sauce with chicken, broccoli, spaghetti, fettuccini, baked mostaccioli, Italian salad with Italian dressing, Italian bread, garlic butter, variety of bar cookies, coffee, ice tea, lemonade and water. Kids menu- eat off the menu \$9.00

**\_\_\_\_\_SUNDAY MORNING -GRAB-N-GO**

**Donations accepted**

Bagels, cream cheese, donuts, yogurt, granola bars, fresh fruit, juices, milk, coffee.

Please let us know how many will be participating

**Names for Delegate Badges or Meal Tickets**

\_\_\_\_\_DELEGATE BOOKS - \$5.00 each. All Delegates and officers are required to purchase a book. Any Granger can purchase a book also just let Robin know by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make all checks payable to: **ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE**

Mail all Reservations **by August 1, 2022** to:

**ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE**

**Robin Kindberg—Secretary**

12971 Olson Road

Caledonia, IL 61011



## ISG Secretary Report

Hello Grangers,

Hope this finds everyone doing well. We finally got in the fields up here in northern Boone County this week. Been to wet to get crops in but we are on the move now and hopefully will be finished before next weekend if Mother Nature cooperates this week.

Here are a few important dates you need to be aware of:

1. JUNE 25, 2022 – ROOM RESERVATIONS – Hopefully by now all Officers, Deputies and Committee Chairs have let Lynette or myself know if you will be staying at the hotel and how many nights you will be staying at the hotel. If you have not done so yet CALL ME NOW 815-978-0452.  
Grangers who are not an Officer, Deputy or Chairman and you want to make a hotel reservation contact me before June 25, 2022 to get the Grange price 815-978-0452.
2. JULY 1, 2022 -RESOLUTIONS and Delegate NAMES – Need to be to me before July 1, 2022.
3. AUGUST 1, 2022 DELEGATE BOOKS – All State Officers, Delegates, Deputies and Committee Chairs are required to purchase a Delegate Book Cost is \$5.00. If you are going to be a Delegate this book can be ordered when your meals are ordered.  
If you are not a Officer, Deputy or Committee chair you can send me the payment made payable to ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE.  
Grangers who want to purchase a book can send your payment to me as well.  
These must be ordered by August 1.
4. AUGUST 1, 2022 – MEAL RESERVATIONS – Those who are Delegates must have your Grange Secretary fill out the Meal form, order your books and send the check made payable to: ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE.  
Any other Granger who wants to purchase meals for the banquets must fill out a Meal Reservation form and send it along with payment made payable to ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE and mail it to me by August 1, 2022
5. JULY 15, 2022 – Officers, Deputies and Committee Chairs your reports are due to me by July 15, 2022. Tell me what you have done over this past year and what Grange activities and or events you have attended and email it to me by July 15<sup>th</sup>.
6. DRESS ATTIRE – Business Casual – Suits are not required but dress pants and shirts are suggested. State Officers, Deputies and Committee members are asked not to wear jeans during meetings and banquets. It will be warm outside and in the buildings so dress nicely but appropriately.

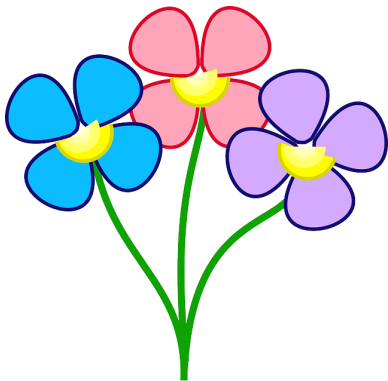
Any questions contact me 815-978-0452 and leave a message or email me robinkindberg5@gmail.com.


Illinois State Grange Secretary

Robin Kindberg

12971 Olson Road

Caledonia, IL 61011





## 2022 PUBLICITY ITEM CONTEST


**2 Divisions**

- In-House
- Professional (Paid/In-Kind)

*Granges can enter multiple publicity items!*

**WINNING ENTRIES MAY BE USED BY  
THE NATIONAL GRANGE AND  
DISTRIBUTED TO OTHER GRANGES**

**Submit using the link [bit.ly/22grangePR](https://bit.ly/22grangePR)**



**PLEASE NOTE  
NEW DEADLINE  
June 30, 2022**

## Illinois State Grange Youth

Karie Blasingame  
ISG Youth Director

This has been one crazy spring. My dad and I just planted a bunch of perennials that I bought at a local flower auction to fill in the empty space in the flower bed on the North side of the Boone County Community Grange Hall, we have been trying to get the flowerbed planted since the beginning of the month, but Mother Nature had different plans for us. Every time I had a day off, it would rain and we couldn't get the ground tilled, or we got some of it tilled but the rest was too wet. Finally all the stars aligned yesterday and Lyle Lee was able to finish the tilling, I purchased the plants at the auction and dad and I planted them before it started raining. Hopefully everyone will enjoy seeing it this year at State Grange Session in August.

The price of gas is insane right now, but hopefully we will have some Grangers from the state brave the prices and head to the Midwest Grange Leadership Conference in Muscatine, IA. The conference will be held at Spring Valley Bible Camp on June 24 – 26, 2022. It is \$90 for the weekend and registration is due by June 17<sup>th</sup>. Registration can be found on the National Grange website or on our Facebook page Midwest Grange Leadership Conference. This Bible camp is just outside of the Quad Cities so we will be able to familiarize ourselves with where National Grange Session will be in 2024, kinda get a sneak peak. Please contact me if gas is going to hold you back from attending this event, we might be able to give a need based Scholarship if you save your gas receipts. Hope to see you there!

## Beaver Valley Grange #1791

Our May 13, 2022 meeting was held at the Grange Hall at 7:00 pm. Reports were given for Agriculture, Deaf Activities, Community Service hours, Health Education and Welfare, Legislature, Pomona, Fairboard and Youth Fairboard. We had an update of the Flagpole project and our T-shirt project. We discussed our schedules and times for the The Wall That Heals.

State Session report is that we are doing Hospitality and Renee gave us the information for the fees, and meal tickets. Attire for delegates and Officers is Business Casual no jeans. Our delegates for this IL State Session will be Rick O'Dell and Brian O'Dell. July 1st resolu-

tions are due. We are still collecting old phones, you can drop off at the Admin Office. President Brian O'Dell pre-



sented Past Master pins to Steve Paulson, Jerry Paulson, and Renee O'Dell. Our By-laws had been presented at the last meeting and with one correction a motion by Steve Paulson was to approve, 2nd by Jerry Paulson and it was approved.

“We Remember Them” - Jerry Paulson presented a memorial service for friends and past members that had passed this last year. Our next meeting will be on June 10th and Rick & Renee O'Dell are serving. Fraternally submitted, Dayle Paulson, Publicity

## Note for State Session

Illinois State Grange Flora Marilyn Hoffman has requested that the dress code for the Sixth Degree on Saturday will be: Male officers—white dress shirt and black pants Female officers—white dress or white blouse and skirt or pants.

## Note from the Editor—Ruth

Please let me know when someone from your Grange passes. Let me know when people move to a new home. Let me know when someone has to move to assisted living or a nursing home. We can have a list so we can send cards.

I am constantly working on the mailing list. We don't need to mail newsletters that come back to me. We are down to mailing 274 newsletters and emailing 218. I would still like to get that number lower. Please if you are able consider taking the newsletter by email.

## Flora Grange News

By Lindakay Ebel

Overseer Loren Due called the Flora Grange meeting to order on Tuesday, May 17 with some 45 Grange members in attendance in the absence of Master Albert Ebel. Jack Ratcliffe briefly reported on the condition of Treasurer Lindakay Ebel who had surgery at Sherman Hospital in Elgin on May 16 and Al is with her.

Roll call was taken, minutes of April 12 meeting were approved, and Emalee Colver read a message followed by draping of the charter for Andy Fidder. Members then recited the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary read applications for memberships, motion to accept, and Jack Ratcliffe gave the short form obligation to Bruce Latt, Catherine Barnes, Linda Williams, Rhonda Settle and Sherry DeBuhr. The new members were welcomed into the Grange.

Committee reports were given by each committee chairperson: Jack Ratcliffe reported a meeting is being held with the livestock superintends and the officers of the fair. Marion Thornberry reported on the upcoming election and how important that privilege is to be an American with voting rights, so get out and vote.

Emalee Colver thanked everyone for the help in hosting The Wall That Heals, all the planning that went into it, the setting up, the week of it being there and the tearing down. Emalee read a very impressive note sent to her by a cousin who reported that the gentleman who road in the escort bringing the display to the fairgrounds stated he actually felt welcomed back home from serving in the war. Deb Silver stated she has community service report forms to be completed if you worked during this time, to be completed and to be turned into Lindakay so she can put in our Community Service book.

Laurel Ratcliffe and Allyson Aves will be working on the full-page ad for Flora Grange for the Boone County Fair.

Robin Kindberg reminded members of the State Grange session to be held in Belvidere, August 26-28, delegates and resolutions due by July 1st, reservations for meals, etc. by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

There was also discussion on the lunch stand closing and Laurel suggested having lunch stand open on Tuesday and Wednesday from 11-7 and then assess the situation.

The recipients of the Illinois State Grange Scholarship from Flora Grange were announced as Allyson Aves and Delphine Calabrese.

'G' bills were collected, and count revealed \$51.00.

A Memorial Service was presented by Chaplain, Emalee Colver and five members of Flora Grange lit a candle for each one of our deceased members as well as members who have lost family members within the past year.

The Grange was closed in the fourth degree.

Next Flora Grange outing will be our Flora Grange Picnic on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 6:30 pm at the Flora Grange Hall. Bring a Dish to Pass & Own Table Service. \*Awards for Distinguished Individuals and Scholarships will be presented.

Serving Committee: Gene & Donna West, Mary Harbison, Tammy Taylor & George McGee.

## Boone County Pomona Grange Report

Boone County Pomona Grange held their meeting on Wednesday May 4, 2022.

We took in 2 new Pomona members tonight. Committee reports were given. Election coming up soon be sure to get out and vote. Crop prices remain high but inputs for farmers are sky rocketing and prices on gas, food and everything is rising. Midwest regional Conference is going to be June 24-26 in Muscatine Iowa, cost is \$90 those interested must register soon.

Our Chaplain sent cards to Heather Ellwanger (surgery), Linnea Miller (in Rehab), Fidder Family (Andy passed away). Grange reports were given: Beaver Valley Grangers are collecting old cell phones. Big Thunder Grange said storage is over for this year. County Line is working on the new Grange Building/ Museum. Flora Grange held Roast Beef dinner and served 188 people, they held an Easter Egg Hunt and are getting ready for the Wall That Heals coming May 12-15. Capron Grange is preparing to park cars at Urban Farmgirl Show in May. Prairie Grange reported they had a successful Consignment Auction. They also had display for Rali Rx at the auction and passed out medication disposal kits.

Received thank you cards from Elaine Hyer for the Grange Ceremony at Russ Stauffers Visitation,

There was a lot of discussion about having the Grange Sandwich Stand closed or open during fair. No decision was made.

Brother Lyle Lee Fairboard President presented copies of the Boone County Fair Association By-Laws for everyone to look over and they will be voted on at the next Pomona meeting.

Sara Ellwanger also presented everyone a copy of the Boone County Pomona Grange By-Laws and they will also be voted upon at the next Pomona meeting.

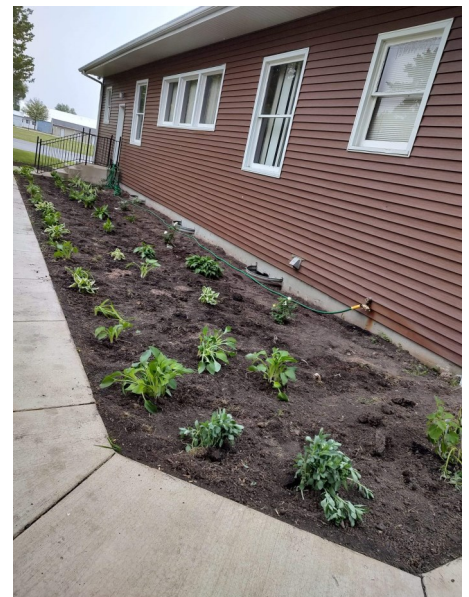
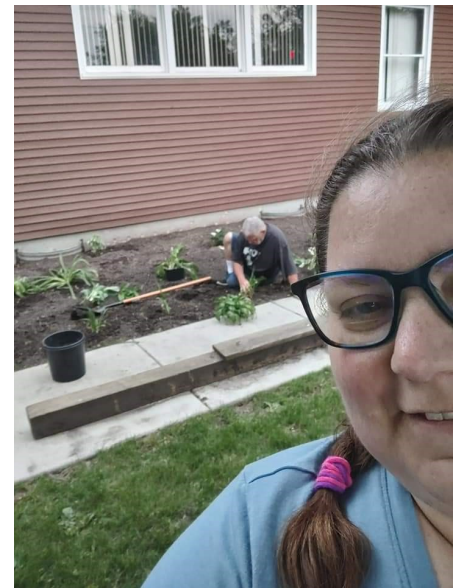
We sang Happy Birthday to all those Grangers that have birthdays in May. Happy Birthday Brother Al Henninger 93 years young (May 22).

Meeting was closed in full form at 8:10 pm. Refreshments and Socializing followed. Next meeting is Boone County Pomona Picnic Wednesday July 6, 2022



## Boone County Pomona Grange Community Grange Hall Flowerbed

Prairie Grange members have been digging out the old landscape timbers and cutting them, tilling and planting the new flower bed on the north side of the Community Grange Hall. They planted snowball hydrangeas, hosta, sedum, lilies, lots of bulbs, lilies of the valley, day lilies, freesia, hollyhocks, gladiolas, sunny knockout roses and the list goes on. Behind the porch will be a wildflower pollinator garden. Feel free to pick a bouquet there later this summer. Karie says "hopefully".



Those who helped were: Lyle and Patti Lee, Mary and Kevin Brubach, Maria Mendez, Rebecca Meyers, Jimmy and Karie Blasingame.

Pray for rain so lots of  
beautiful flowers will appear!!!



## Calendar of Grange Events

- 6/3-4 Boone County Classic \$5  
Fri—2 PM Sat—12 Noon  
30+ 6 horse hitches  
Boone County Fairgrounds Belvidere
- 6/24-26 Midwest Grange Leadership Conf.  
See Youth article
- 7/9 Virtual Telethon for National Grange Foundation  
Funds raised are used to help the Youth Program
- 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 11/10-17

Donations: Illinois Granger

\$50 Anonymous

\$100 Anonymous

### NOTE:

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

Ruth Blasingame 815-299-7884

illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com

8711 Deer Run Drive Belvidere, IL 61008

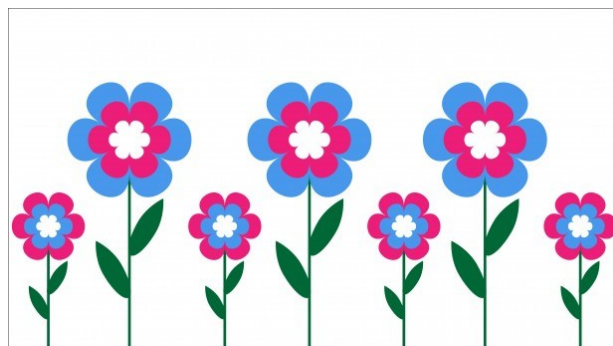


**Boone Co. Classic**  
**Draft Horse Show**  
**Featuring the Nation's Top Six-Horse Hitches!**  
**Boone County Fairgrounds**  
**8791 IL Rt. 76**  
**Belvidere IL 61008**

FRIDAY, JUNE 3	SATURDAY, JUNE 4
2:00 PM	12:00 PM

**\$5 GATE ADMISSION**

**LOCAL FOOD, BUSINESS & SHOPPING VENDORS ONSITE**



Alvin A. R. Henninger May 22

93 Years Young!! Happy Birthday



**Seeking Talent Submissions and Testimonials!**

Grangers of all ages are welcome to submit a video of a talent or testimonial about your Grange Youth/Junior experience, to be a part of our 2nd Annual Virtual Telethon!

Submissions must be received by July 1.

Send to: [youth@nationalgrange.org](mailto:youth@nationalgrange.org)

Questions? Reach out to Mandy or Sam!

**GRANGE FOUNDATION Virtual Telethon JULY 9, 2022**





## Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

Welcome to JUNE let us praise our Lord for its beauty. We find the beauty at our door steps, we just have to look at the ground, straight out from us and look around us. Many of us share our time and talents to help others in need, Adopting a family at Christmas time , donating clothes to someone in need, sharing Thanksgiving baskets, and helping many others in our own ways. Many times we do not do it to receive awards and praise but we do it out of our own heart. When we give out of our love for God, without concern for receiving the praise of others, we can trust that our gifts, large or small will be used by Him to help meet the needs of those receiving them.

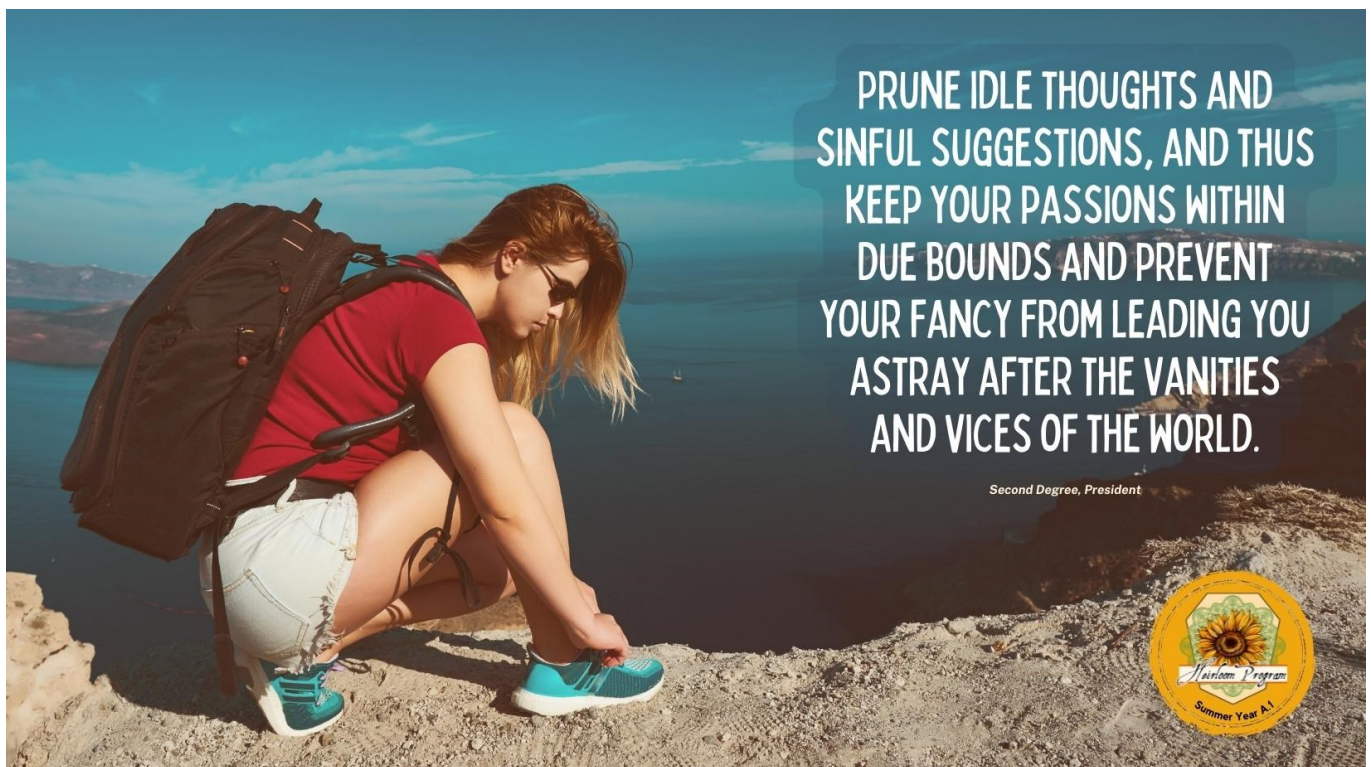
When Jesus says we should “not let (our) left hand know what (our) right hand is doing (Matthew 6: 3) He is urging us to give without need for recognition. Blessings to those who are graduating and moving on to their next step in life. May God watch over each of you with His love. To those of you who are mourning the loss of a loved one we pray that God will wrap His arms of comfort and peace around each of you.

Hopefully we can get outside between the rains and soak up the spring smells of the earth, flowers, and enjoy the world that our Lord has shared for us. Until next time, cherish each day and ENJOY life.



### Engagement Announcement

**Marilyn Blasingame and Seshanth Kammanpan are planning to wed this summer in New York City. Seshanth is a software engineer for Amazon and Marilyn is a Senior Capacity Building Assistance Specialist for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. They will continue to live in Brooklyn. Marilyn is a member of Prairie Grange #1832. She grew up in Belvidere IL before leaving to attend IMSA, Notre Dame and then the University of Pittsburgh with a two year stint in the Peace Corps in Mongolia. She has a Masters in Public Health. Seshanth is from Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. He went to college here in America achieving two Masters degrees in Software and Electrical Engineering and stayed here to work. They met while both were working in Pittsburgh. They are enjoying the sights and the food in New York City.**



From the State Lecturer

The deadlines for the National Lecturer's contests have changed (and change again) compared to other years. This year all quilt blocks and photography entries are due by September 30.

The deadline for submitting quilt blocks has been extended to September 1. This year's quilt block is "Wonky Star." Rules and entry forms can be found at the National Grange Website, [www.nationalgrange.org](http://www.nationalgrange.org).

The deadline for the virtual photo contest is still June 30. Each individual can submit up to three entries. The categories are Agriculture, Sky, Trucks, and Water. All pictures must be submitted electronically prior to the deadline.

Remember to be working on your state competitions. Most of the categories from last year are still valid (including ornaments, artwork, photography, collections, and before-and-after). In addition, there is a new competition for birdhouses. Use your imagination to create an attractive and functional birdhouse.

If you are looking for inspiration, there are a number of resources on the Internet with plans and pictures of houses of varying complexity. One good starting place is this listing of 28 plans for birdhouses (<https://www.thespruce.com/free-birdhouse-plans-1357100>). There are also a host of ideas to be found on [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com).

I also happened upon this "Storytime" clip from Mr. Ron at the Princeton Public Library. (<https://fb.watch/denadHktdQ/>) The theme of this episode is Houses for Birds. It might be a fun presentation for your Jr. Grangers to encourage their own building of a birdhouse.

And be sure to think about what you can contribute to our talent show. It creates a very nice program at state session when we have a few strong entries. This year's National Session is near Reno, Nevada—a distance away but certain to be a fun destination. It would be great if we had an entry to represent Illinois!

And finally, make plans to attend the Midwest Leadership Conference, June 24-26 in Iowa. It is a great time to share ideas with Grangers of all ages from our neighboring states.



## What Does it Mean to Be a Communication Fellow?

By Ethan Edwards

You probably have heard of the National Grange Communication Fellows program. Maybe you've wondered about applying yourself. Or wondered what it involved.

Well, I had the privilege to serve as a communication fellow for the National Session in Wichita in 2021. I just wanted to share an "insider's" view in case it might encourage you to apply.

I as one of three "official" fellows, although the communications team that I was a part of included the communication director, photographer, assistants, a number of past fellows. As described, fellows are responsible for writing content for and assembling the Patron's Chain newsletter that is produced and distributed at the end of each day.

Reasons to be a fellow:

- Contribute to a fast-paced, high energy team
- Hone your interpersonal skills in interviewing and interacting with Grangers from across the country
- Develop your writing and communication skills
- Learn more than you ever dreamed about the way the National Grange carries out its mission and implements its programs
- Form fast friendships with Grange leaders from across the country

On top of all of this, it was really a great deal of fun. We arrived a few days early at the conference site and began to work together, setting plans, and putting into place the systems that we would be using throughout the week.

Once the session began and delegates began arriving, we each had daily assignments for conducting interviews with first-time delegates, attending various banquets and reporting on speaker presentations, attending sessions and reporting on activities of the assembled body as appropriate, and writing human interest stories as uncovered. It was hectic at times making sure you were at all scheduled assignments and getting articles written, but it was always rewarding to achieve success.

With all the activities and writing going on, it isn't until into the evening that the actual newsletter begins to take shape. So then starts the editing and proofreading necessary to produce a publication of quality. It usually was around midnight before we did our final (but oddly fun) task of delivering the newsletters to the individual rooms of Grangers staying in the hotel. (And then in my case, I was up for a couple more hours in delightful conversation with my roommate.

So expect long, full days. But also know that you will be growing and expanding your own skills and knowledge along the way. You will leave with a host of new friends and many improved skills for leading Grange activities and communication efforts in your community, Pomona, and State Granges.

Information about applying is available at the National Grange web site ([nationalgrange.org](http://nationalgrange.org)). The deadline is July 8, 2022 with notification regarding acceptance by August 1. The program is open to Grangers of any age, not just young people. I highly encourage anyone to take part in this really great program.