



# Illinois

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

December 2023  
 Vol 3 No 12

## Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

National Grange Session #ng157 is now in the books. The weather was great and the Northeast Region did a great job of hosting. Don and I were glad to have other IL Grangers attending the parts of session as well; Karie Blasingame, Lana Korte, Emalee Colver, Joan and Sharon Fidler, Jean and Myron Peterson. Karie served as a Communication Fellow. If you read any of the Patrons Chain publications you probably read an article Karie wrote. Thanks for your hard work Karie. Lana served as a Connector Crew, volunteering to assist the Host group. Thanks for your efforts.

Prior to the session starting, Don and I were part of the Hamp Tour '23. More than 30 Grangers from across the country toured Fredonia Grange #1 (NY). It was so nice that the members and friends opened the hall for the visitors. We enjoyed the fellowship and snacks provided. The group also visited the Jello factory, a Big Buffalo Nickel, American Zazoo Co, the only tunnel under Erie Canal and upside down bridge on Saturday, Veterans Day. On Sunday we went to "Cave of the Winds" tour of the Falls, Skylon Observation Deck on the Canada side, and Niagara Falls Power Vista Visitors Center. Thanks to Chris and Duane for adventurous days!

Sunday evening I started National Grange Executive Committee work. And the work of the session had started at that point. Don was chair of the Conservation Committee, and I was Secretary of the Agriculture Committee. Monday – Friday there was committee work and then session work starting on Tuesday afternoon. Much was discussed and decided. Continued on page 2



## Note from the Editor:

Not very many articles were submitted this month, so the paper is a little short.

It would be nice to hear from every officer, committee chair, Grange President, Deputy, and every Grange. If everyone only sent one article it would fill many papers!

My challenge at GRIT was to take a picture of everyone at your Grange meeting and email it to me for the paper.

I have not had any entries yet.

We had 113 members and 4 guests (children) at the last Boone County Pomona Meeting, but, alas no picture arrived in my inbox.

The paper can only be as great as the articles that are sent in.

Ruth



Election of National Grange Officers was held, and there were several changes: Chris Hamp – President, John Benedik – Vice President, Tom Gwin – Lecturer, Chris Johnston – Steward, Walter Hartley – Assistant Steward, Kay Stiles – Chaplain, David Allen – Gatekeeper, Barbara Foster – Pomona, Chip Narvel – Priest Archon. The rest stayed the same – so you guessed it - I was re-elected to the National Grange Executive Committee and was later elected Chair. I want to thank Betsy Huber and all the others who have served as officers, your efforts were greatly appreciated.

Seventh Degree was different this year – we were seated on the same level and the costumes were just the ‘collars’ over dark dress or suit. I was ok with the costume change but would like to have the ‘cast’ at least a little higher than floor level/ level of audience.

I was proud that several Grangers were given awards- I’ll mention those in the next month article. I’ll also mention what happened to the resolutions sent to National Grange from IL.

Lana, Don and I enjoyed the drive home. While we were in New York and Pennsylvania, we saw acres of grapes. We had never seen what seemed to be hundreds of acres of grapes before. We then spent time with his cousin in Indiana. It was a great visit and were glad for the overnight stay.

We had a great Thanksgiving, and I am grateful for much in my life. I hope that many of you were able to share time and food with family and friends for Thanksgiving.



*American Values.  
Hometown Roots.*



**National Grange**

Nov 17 · 🌐

NIAGARA FALLS, NY -

The National Grange, the country's oldest agricultural and rural service fraternity, has elected its 24th President - Christine "Chris" Hamp of Spokane, Washington.

A member of Tualco and Five Mile Prairie Granges in Washington, Hamp has served as Vice President of the National Grange since 2021, Program Director/Lecturer for four years before that, and has been a National Grange officer for more than a decade.

"Thank you for your trust and honor in electing me as your President," she said.

She is also a proud member of the Board of Directors of the [Quilts of Valor Foundation](#).

Hamp succeeds Betsy E. Huber, who was elected in 2015 as the first woman in the position in the Grange's history.





## News from Flora Grange

Flora Grange held a meeting on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7 pm at the Flora Grange Hall with 26 members in attendance. Bryan McWilliams of Atlas General Contractors of St. Charles, IL that installed new fascia and gutters on our Grange Hall came and spoke to members about work he had done and possible other work needed. He was thanked by all for the work he has completed to date.

The meeting was called to order and roll call of officers was taken and minutes of the October 10, 2023, were approved. Lindakay Ebel, Community Service chairman reported this year we will be collecting small stuffed animal to give to rescue squads, ambulances, police, fire departments for if they encounter small children during an accident, fire or being taken to the hospital, this may help to calm them down. These items must be purchased items and new. We will start collecting these items immediately.

Agriculture, Jack Ratcliffe, stated it was a good harvest season. Most of the crops are out of the fields. Fair board, Jack, reported the bathroom project will be completed as planned and he will be taking over as fair president. His first meeting will be tomorrow evening, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Membership, Lindakay Ebel, reported as a member of National Grange, you have a no-cost \$4,000 accidental death and dismemberment benefit. AIL currently has over 39,000 Grange members and farming and ranching professionals covered under AD & D policies at no cost. Return the enclosed card sent to you and list your beneficiary. Those who return the card can also receive a no-cost membership in the recently introduced AIL plus program, your connection to convenient discount on dental care, prescriptions, diabetic supplies, vision care and supplies, telemedicine, chiropractic care and more. You can also receive Child Safe Kits for your children and grandchildren at no cost. These kits help you gather vital data, photos and fingerprints for authorities in the event of an emergency.

Youth, JT Ryan stated they will hold a potluck in December and discuss T-shirts. Family Activities, Deb Silvers talked about the Christmas activities. She will chair the bell ringing and ordered the Christmas tree for the Hometown Christmas. The sewing group will make Christmas decorations for the Christmas tree we donate to the needy family each year and we will give them gift cards again this year instead of purchasing gifts. The quilting groups will meet at the hall this weekend and start making Christmas ornaments for the Christmas tree.

Lindakay Ebel gave the monthly treasurer's report which was approved. Laurel Ratcliffe reported 285 Butter Braids were sold and she thanked all that helped in selling them and those that helped the day they came in and helped to sort them for people to pick up. Laurel, mentioned she received a letter from Mary Harbison who will be handling the food for the breakfasts at the 2024

Boone County Fair. Motion was made Flora Grange will again have the breakfast on Tuesday and Saturday morning during the 2024 fair, motion carried. Laurel will write a grant for the work done on the Flora Grange building.

Deb Silvers and Barb Trevathan will do the bell ringing at the bank again this year. Deb ordered the tree for Hometown Christmas and can be decorated between 5 to 6 pm on November 29. We will also have a display at Belvidere Park again this year.

Program Director, Jack Ratcliffe, gave a quiz on 'trees' which was very educational. \$74.00 in 'G bills' was collected by Deb Silvers. Birthdays in November: Lindakay Ebel & Laurel Ratcliffe. Anniversaries: The Lyfords and the Hart's. Ron Eucker was thanked for helping mow the lawn at the Grange Hall.

December 12 is our annual Christmas Potluck/Party at 6:30 pm at Flora Grange Hall.

Flora Grange will furnish the meat; each family is asked to bring a hot and cold dish to pass.

Also, we will be making up Christmas trays for our shut-in and elderly people, so we are asking Grange members to bring cookies and fresh fruit for the trays. Contact Laurel for more information.

Lindakay Ebel, Publicity.



The ladies of Flora Grange's Friday Quilting group show off the Mystery Project completed at November's session. Everyone enjoyed making the Christmas pillow.

## County Line Grange News

Our meeting in Oct. was our Halloween party. We had two guests, Jeannie and Chuck Westholder. Jeannie Westholder was presented with our "Teacher of the Year" award. Congratulations. No Committee reports were given.

Tamra Brauer, Cathy Zei and Myron and Jean Peterson attended the GRIT conference.

We discussed the upcoming Hometown Christmas celebration. We signed up for the Tree Decorating at the Community Building.

The Halloween party was fun for everyone. Most members came in costumes. Ned Loy won 1st place with his Neptune King of the Sea costume. Sara Istad, and Mark and Deb Zellman won for their Ketchup, Mustard and Pickle costumes. Everyone had a great time.

Linda Mullins

November 8th was our next meeting.

County Line welcomed three new members. Joellen gave out certificates to members with milestone years. Congratulations to all of them.

Thank you to all the Veterans for serving our country. We are gathering clothes, blankets, hats, gloves, coats and lots of food for the Veteran's Drop off Center. A special thank you to Tamra Brauer for collecting the donations and dropping them off for us. Also, thanks to Tamra for making sure the Veterans have received their lunches we provide for them once a month. There's about 30-40 Veterans that the Center feeds twice a day. Thanks go to Kim Robin for donating 2 turkeys to the Center.

Dec.1st at Belvidere's Hometown Christmas, we will be selling all sorts of good food in the Community Building from 5-9pm. We got a tree to decorate and donate to a needy family. This year we have a family of 8 members. We also purchased a gift certificate for the family.

County Line will be ringing the Salvation Army Bell at Pacemaker.

Something that I thought was interesting, our Legislator Jean Peterson reported on, is that Illinois ranks third in United States for soybeans, corn, feed grains and swine. Illinois also exports 44 percent of our crops to Canada, Mexico, China, Germany and Australia.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Be safe and enjoy!  
Cathy Zei



Ned Loy, Mark Zellman, Sara Istad, Deb Zellman having fun at the County Line Halloween Party.

A poster for the 2024 National Grange Lecturer Design-A-Program Contest. The text reads: "2024 NATIONAL GRANGE LECTURER DESIGN-A-PROGRAM CONTEST". Below this, it lists "THREE CATEGORIES:" followed by a bulleted list: "INTERNAL GRANGE PROGRAM FOR ADULTS", "EXTERNAL PROGRAM/EVENT FOR ADULTS", and "EVENT/PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN". A yellow banner says "Cash prizes for your Grange!". At the bottom, it states "Submissions Due September 1, 2024" and "Submit entries at [grange.biz/grangeprogram2024](https://grange.biz/grangeprogram2024)". The National Grange Lecturer logo is in the top right corner.



## Beaver Valley Grange #1791

November 10, 2023 meeting was held at the Boone County Community Grange Hall and Susan Banks, Jerry Paulson, Marisa and Bryson O'Dell, and Miranda Klenz were able to attend by Zoom.

Minutes and treasurer's reports were approved. Committee reports were given for Community Service, Fairboard, Safety, and Pomona. Ag report given by Steve Paulson was on HBH, Homegrown by Heros, and we paused to express our heartfelt thanks to Veterans. Did you know that 1 in every 6 farms has someone who is currently serving or who has served in the Military? For many Veterans, farming & ranching provides a way to restore their spirits as they put their skills to work growing food that fills America's table. The farm bill plays a key role with programs for Veteran farmers including financial aid, risk management support to ease the transition for Veterans through the Homegrown by Heros label. The HBH label certifies products grown & raised by American Veterans so that all American's can support brave men and women who have served to make it possible for us to enjoy the freedom we have in the USA.

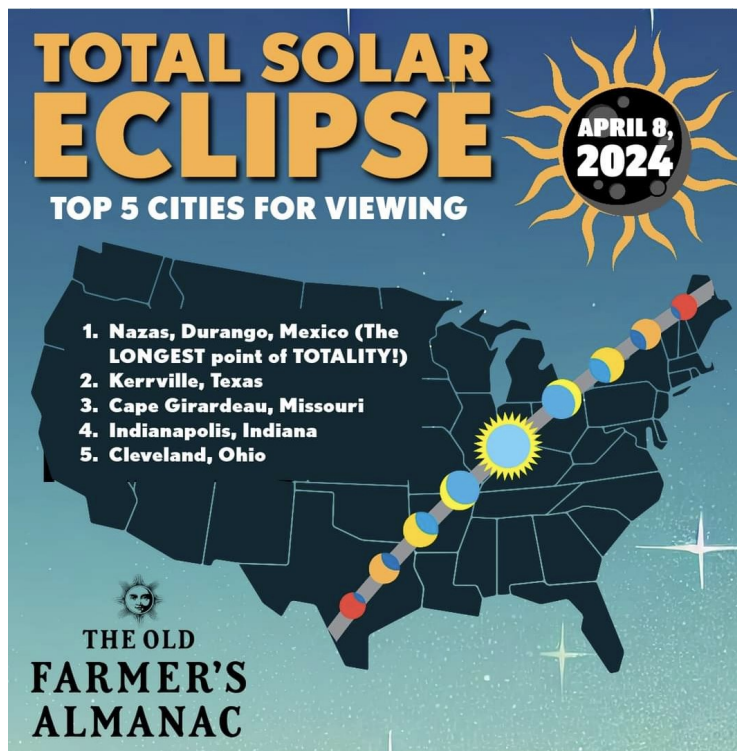
Youth and Young Adults reported by Marisa. The contests are out for State Session. All youth can apply for Youth Ambassador. The scholarship information should be coming out soon. Youth T-shirts are available for purchase. Mirands Klenz reported on her visit to the University of Miami for a leadership program.

Family activity thank you to Dayle & Steve Paulson for helping Susan Banks to serve. Our next meeting is our Christmas meeting on December 8th at 7:00 and we will hold it at the Grange Hall. We hope to wrap presents for the family we have from the Salvation Army. Marisa O'Dell reported on Health Education saying there is a recall on Tyson Dyno Chicken nuggets, may have metal in them. Get your shots for the season. Legislative report given by Bryson O'Dell reported that it was exciting to have President Biden visit Belvidere for the UAW. Membership President Brian O'Dell will order new membership brochures and Miranda Klenz will then work on a welcoming packet for new members. Old Business: GRIT recap and be sure to get your nomination out for Subordinate Granger, Junior Granger, Non-member, Firefighter, Law Enforcement Officer and Teacher. For the Granger, be sure to include obituaries, anniversaries, events and fun pictures from your Grange.

Beaver Valley Grange signed up for the ACP program. For new Business we discussed different fundraising ideas.

Fraternally submitted,

Dayle Paulson—Publicity



## Community Service

Heather Ellwanger – Chair

Hi Grangers,

I hope everyone had a great Halloween and Thanksgiving.

We are starting a new State Grange Community Service Project. It will be Hoyleton Children's Home in southern Illinois. I have talked to them and they will be sending us their information and a list of things that they need. If you would like to check them out you can find them through their website, Hoyleton.com. Info and list will be in a future Granger.

Heather Ellwanger

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Garden Prairie, IL 61038

## Membership Report

Membership numbers at the end of the 3rd quarter for the State Grange of Illinois.

Beaver Valley	38 members
Big Thunder	26 members
Bluff	27 members
Broad Hollow	15 members
Capron	10 members
County Line	53 members
Emerald Mound	17 members
Enterprise	38 members
Flora	139 members
Floraville Community	42 members
Galt	6 members
Guilford Hope	19 members
Harmony	4 members
Hopewell	33 members
Leaf River	16 members
Leroy Community	30 members
Perryville	7 members
The Prairie	126 members
Progressive	19 members
Shiloh Valley	29 members
Troy Grove	31 members
Turkey Hill	129 members
Union	13 members
Total	867 members

With a few Granges planning on closing soon we need to step up our ASK for new members!!

Membership Chairman

Robin Kindberg

815-978-0452

robinkindberg5@gmail.com

## The Prairie Grange #1832

The Prairie Grange met on Monday, November 20. Secretary and Treasurer's reports were given and accepted. Karie reported on her trip to National Session. She said she was still very tired as she had just gotten home late the night before. She reported on a lot of changes at National.

We decided to donate \$500 to B1 Food Pantry. This was our second \$500 donation to them this year. We also decided to choose 4 Maplecrest residents for Christmas with a budget of \$300. We ended up getting presents for 8 Northwoods residents because Maplecrest's were already adopted. Sheri Bochmann, Chloe Konieczki and Ruth Blasingame shopped for the residents. It was a lot of fun. Sheri, Ruth and Karie Blasingame also chose their own resident and shopped for them. This is a great program for an often forgotten group of people.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas party on December 18. The Grange is providing turkey and ham and everyone will bring a hot and cold dish to pass. If you want to participate in the Gift exchange, bring a gift from around your house, no need for new.





# National Grange Weather Watcher Challenge



**Open to Individuals or Groups**  
Watch and track the weather to see how the day-to-day weather  
affects your area!

Learn more: [nationalgrange.org/lecturer-contests](https://nationalgrange.org/lecturer-contests)



2024

## NATIONAL GRANGE QUILT BLOCK CONTEST

*Split-Back Star Block*

### RULES AND GUIDELINES:

[WWW.NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/LECTURER-CONTESTS](https://www.nationalgrange.org/lecturer-contests)

**ADULT & JUNIOR DIVISIONS**

*Deadline: September 1, 2024*



## 2024 National Grange Virtual Photography Contest

*Four Categories:*

- Abandoned Buildings
- Clouds
- Monuments
- State, County, or Community Fair

*Open to Grange members and  
non-members!*

*Cash Prizes!*

**Submissions Due September 1, 2024**

Submit entries at [grange.biz/grangephoto2024](https://grange.biz/grangephoto2024)





## Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

As I sit here pondering what to write this month, it is so hard to believe that soon another month will roll into a new year, and we stop and wonder what a new year will bring us. We start preparing for the birth of the Christ Child to arrive. With many Christmas activities, putting up the Christmas tree, (is it a family affair or is done during the quiet time in the evening that we can think of the coming of the Lord Jesus.) After the tree is finished, I like to sit with just the tree lights shining and think of Christmas past and how the world has changed, children grown older, new babies coming to earth to bring joy and blessings.

The Bible never tells us about the day after the birth of Jesus. We can only imagine that after walking to Bethlehem, finding a place for Mary to give birth, and having the shepherds drop by unannounced, Mary had to be exhausted. Yet as Mary cradled her new born son. I imagine her reflecting on her angelic visitation and the realization of her baby's destiny. Mary pondered such things in her heart which must've lightened the tiredness and physical pain of that day. Like Mary, let's face them by pondering the One who came into our world, forever brightening it with His presence.

My wish for each of you is that you can rejoice in His presence in your life this Christmas season and all though out. May the Lord bless each of you with His love and blessings.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EACH OF YOU**



**THE WELFARE OF EACH IS BOUND UP IN  
THE GOOD OF ALL.**

*Fourth Degree; President*

### Calendar of Grange Events

No items submitted

**2024**

4/20 Turkey Hill Grange 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**National Session Quad Cities 11/10-17**

**Donations: Memorial Scholarship**

**Donations: Illinois Granger**

**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.

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