

Illinois Granger



In Essentials... Unity

In Non-Essentials... Liberty

In All Things... Charity

February 2024

Vol 4 No 2

Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

Hopefully this finds you all healthy, warm and dry. The weather here today (Jan 23) is sunny, warmer than last week and wet. But we are not complaining about the rain – we need the moisture in the soil. The ice yesterday was messy, but I have not heard of anyone sustaining an injury. I know that the northern Grangers have been getting more snow, hope there were no injuries there as well.

If you, as a Granger did not get a letter about the accidental death and dismemberment from a third party, your address is probably not in the listing for your Grange. Please contact your Secretary and/or me to check your address. You have probably received a letter to return from an insurance company conserving \$4000 accidental death policy. Yes, it is legit it is free if you listen to the sales pitch from an insurance representative. They will be offering you the opportunity to purchase more but you can decline the extra policies if you are not interested.

If you do not receive the Patrons Chain from National Grange, please make sure that we have your email address. Thanks to Ruth Blasingame, she shared your listings of email addresses for the "Illinois Granger". I recently sent information out to all the email addresses I have. A few came back, a couple were my typing errors and a couple are not good email addresses. Please make sure that we can stay in touch with you.

An FAC chair for 2026 for the IL State Grange is still needed. ANYONE interested in these positions please let me know. There are people around you that would be willing to assist you with the service. Continued on page 2



Boone County Pomona Meeting January 2024

This is not everyone!! Some had left and some were shy. We have been having a great turnout for our Pomona meetings. And of course Karie and Manny couldn't behave and merge in with everyone else.



Order your Youth Shirt Today!
Check out our order form on
the Illinois State Grange Youth
Facebook group

Retro pick or retro blue
Many shirt styles to choose from
Order soon

All IL Grange students planning on higher education are invited to submit a request for scholarship. If you have been a Granger for 1 or more years please check the website, illinoisstategrange.org, for the application. Get completed form to Robin Kindberg on or before February 29th. All those who receive a scholarship will need to attend a State Grange function in order to receive the scholarship money. Qualifying functions are State wide Grange picnic, State Session and GRIT.

Some IL Granges have signed up for participating in the grants the National Grange has going right now. Please check the Patrons Chain and any other information from National Grange about the ACP, several Granges in IL received money for participating in the ACP. Thanks for participating. I believe there is a year left on this grant.

The National Grange grant for Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award (EADI #30051) for a program entitled “Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors.” “This program provides local Community Granges the resources to educate and inform their areas about what senior citizens should be doing to prepare for surgeries – before the surgery and when they return home,” Joan Smith, project manager said. “There’s also a comprehensive ‘Preparing for My Future’ guide, with questions that any adult should think about. It covers topics from where bank accounts are located and what kind of care you’re willing to have, to who in your community might be able to help you with certain activities post-surgery.” National Grange information on this program will be sent from National Grange soon. I updated the President and Secretary address information for each Grange, so I hope that within the next month your Grange has the information. If you do not receive information, contact me. Please consider signing up to participate in this grant.

The Grange Foundation has a scholarship opportunity for Grange members seeking farther education. Please contact <https://grangefoundation.org/> for further information and to check out this opportunity for all Grangers who have been a Granger for at least one year.

The Grangers of St Clair County had a meeting to discuss and plan the 153rd annual IL State Grange Session at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Collinsville, IL September 13 – 15, 2024. Great things are being planned. Hope you are all planning to attend.

Meetings are being held for the next National Session in Bettendorf Iowa, Nov 12 -17, 2024. IL State Grange is part of the host group. If any Granger is want-

ing to help, please let us know. Emalee Colver was appointed as Registration host. Ruth Blasingame and Lana Korte have been appointed as IL Hospitality hosts for Wed, 13th and IL will assist WI on Saturday. Karie Blasingame is working on Transportation for the convention. These groups will need assistance during the convention. Please contact them if you are willing to help. Always remember if you have a Grange Hall and need to make some improvements, the State Grange has a Hall Improvement Fund. The application form is on the website illinoisstategrange.org. Contact me, or anyone on the IL Ex Committee if you have any questions. The next meeting is March 7, please make sure we have completed forms before then.

Presidents Conference is in Myrtle Beach in February, President’s Day weekend. Don and I plan on going.

Karie Blasingame and Marisa are planning the Spring Fling, March 15-17. The location will be the Boone County Fair Grounds. They are planning a great weekend of fun and discovery. Come join us as we go back in time to the 1950’s. Let them know if you will be attending.

Here’s your chance to get the latest scoop on what’s happening in Washington. Join the National Grange by Zoom on Monday, March 18 for a **Virtual Fly-In** and hear the latest about the public policy issues that affect rural and small-town residents. Check the NationalGrange.org website for registration and information. Happy Valentines Day to all the IL Grangers.



Illinois State Grange Secretary Report

Scholarship Applications are available online on the Illinois State Grange Youth page and on illinoisstategrange.org website or contact the Illinois State Grange Secretary directly.

All Completed applications are due back to me before 9:00PM on February 29, 2024.

When your Grange gets new members be sure to send me a copy of the application form.

Also remember 2 sponsors are required on all new member application forms per National Grange.

Next quarterly dues are due to ISG Secretary between March 30th and April 15, 2024.

If anyone is interested in this position please contact me or Lynette Scheaffer.

Any questions contact me robinkindberg5@gmail.com

Robin Kindberg

Illinois State Grange Secretary

Flora Grange #1762

Flora Grange #1762 did not hold a Grange meeting on Tuesday, January 9th, 2024, due to the bad weather. The Officers and Executive Board thought it best the meeting be cancelled, due to the bad weather.

Even though a Grange meeting was cancelled, Grangers are still working on community service projects weekly in their local communities.

The next Flora Grange meeting will be on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 6:30, with our dues paying supper and regular meeting.

Lindakay Ebel,
Publicity

Pomona Grange Community Service

Special thanks to Lyle and Patti Lee for the huge tote of little 'stuffed animals' to be given to children that are transferred by a rescue squad, police or fire departments to a hospital or other emergency facility to help comfort them. This is Pomona Grange's Community Service project this year.

Lindakay Ebel
Heather Ellwanger
Pomona Grange Community Service Co-Chairman

UNION GRANGE

A recap of happenings since July. JULY: potluck and ice cream at Sally Campbell's. AUGUST: Corn boil and potluck at Vivian Johnson's. We voted to accept

Elaine Hyer's letter to drop her membership. Vivian Johnson will be our delegate at the state session in September. Resolutions were read and discussed. Rollie Greenland is in rehab after a fall at a Lake Zurich facility. OCTOBER: Enjoyed lunch at Pizza Ranch in Roscoe and resolutions and other items of interest were discussed. NOVEMBER: Rollie Greenland hosted us at Heritage Woods. Vivian Johnson covered highlights from the GRIT conference. Ron Erbe read some history of one of our founding fathers, John R. Thompson. Motion made to make a donation to Rock House Kids, Vet's Drop-in Center and the Rock River Valley Food Pantry. Game of unscrambling flower names was played. DECEMBER: To celebrate Union Grange's 150th anniversary on December 18, we gathered for breakfast at Cracker Barrel on December 17. Sorry Rollie Greenland couldn't join us as he had COVID-19. We had a Christmas card exchange and at a later date Rollie's card's, plus some cookies were delivered to him.

Friend of the Fair Award

Fair Board Director Ruth Blasingame is all smiles after being presented 'The Friend of the Fair' award at the IAAF Convention for her 24 years and counting of service to the Boone County Fair where she has also served as Chairperson of the Ticket Sales committee and also organized and oversees the Boone County Fair Youth Fair Board. Congratulations Ruth! Well deserved!



Boone County Pomona Grange Report

Boone County Pomona meeting on January 3, 2024 opened with everyone enjoying a delicious soup supper.

Meeting was opened at 7:15PM by President Ruth Blasingame. Roll Call found all 16 officers present and 49 other Grangers in attendance. Minutes from the previous meeting and the Treasurer's reports were approved as presented. We welcomed 4 new members to Boone County Pomona Grange.

We each received a copy of the Boone County Pomona Grange By-Laws to be reviewed and we will vote on them at the March meeting.

COMMUNITY SERVICE – Members of Boone County Pomona Grange are collecting stuffed animals for the local Fire and Police Departments.

Marissa O'Dell reported Spring Fling will be March 15-17th at the Community Grange Hall in Belvidere, IL. The theme is 1950's and there will be a Mystery Dinner served on Saturday Night. She is asking Granges and Grangers to donate food and snack items for this event.

Sara Ellwanger and Prairie Junior Grangers invited everyone to come to the May Pomona meeting and support the Potato Bar that will be available for a slight fee to help the Juniors raise funds for an event they will be doing this summer.

Beaver Valley Grange held their annual Christmas party. They made gift bags for the residents at Heritage Woods Assisted Living Home.

Big Thunder sponsored a tree for Hometown Christmas for a needy family.

County Line Grange has been busy doing several projects – Served food at Hometown Christmas – Sponsored a tree for a needy family at Hometown Christmas event -They served food at a Barn Party – They rang the bell for Salvation Army and they sent two members to National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls, New York.

Flora Grange Rang the bell for Salvation Army – Sponsored a tree for Hometown Christmas and the quilting ladies hand quilted the ornaments for their tree – They put up a display of Lights for Christmas in the park for everyone to drive by and enjoy – They made fruit and cookie trays for local shut-ins – they held their annual Christmas potluck and program.

Prairie Grange held their annual Christmas potluck – took stuffed toys to the Rockford Ice Hogs Teddy Bear toss game – Helped make, decorate and deliver a

tree to a needy family for the Hometown Christmas event – They donated money to the local food pantry and they sponsored eleven nursing Home residents for Christmas to make their holiday a little brighter.

Everyone was reminded Scholarship Applications are available online or contact ISG Secretary and ALL COMPLETED Scholarships are due back to the ISG Secretary by 9PM on February 29, 2024.

Karrie Kindberg
Publicity Chairman

Guilford Hope #6

Guilford Hope Grange met November 28th with Carol Roush hosting a pot luck lunch. It was followed by our regular meeting.

It was opened in the 4th degree and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the October meeting were approved with no corrections. Correspondence was a 'thank you' received from the Shriner's Children's Hospital in Chicago. The treasurers report was read with no corrections. Miss Carly's will receive our 'G' bill donations of \$350.00. We will continue to collect them but have not determined the end distribution.

A motion was made and passed to remove Goldie Floberg from our budgeted list and add Lifescape in its place. Nathalie Lyford made a motion and 2nd by Linda-kay Ebel to send a plant to Don and Pat Sanford as they are unable to attend our Christmas lunch.

Nancy Lyford emailed a new membership list to everyone that includes our new member Carrie Meyer.

January meeting will be hosted by Wayne and Nancy Lyford. Bob and Nathalie Lyford will host the March meeting.

The December gathering will be at the Illinois Machine Shed restaurant in Rockford at 11:30 on December 19th. A Christmas exchange will take place for anyone wishing to do so.

Nancy Lyford



Scholarships were presented to Jenna Roush and Jessica Roush. Jenna is working for a Science degree at Rock Valley College and will graduate in May. She intends to continue her education

for a Registered Dental Hygienist. Jessica Roush has completed her under graduate degree with high honors and will continue to earn a Doctor of Physical Therapy at UW LaCrosse.

Beaver Valley Grange #1791

December 8th, 2023 meeting was held at the Boone County Community Grange Hall and it was our Christmas Potluck Grange/Meeting.

After dinner, members all wrapped presents to give to a family we adopted from the Salvation Army. They were a family of 5 children and their parents. Mari-sa O'Dell was going to deliver the presents. Also, members of Beaver Valley Grange put together bags of goodies for the residents of Heritage Woods of Belvidere.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 9th at the Grangehall starting at 7 pm.

Fraternally submitted,
Dayle Paulson, Publicity



Beaver Valley
Members
Having fun.



Steve Paulson



Brian O'Dell

January Gobbles from Turkey Hill

We had quite a lot of activity at the building in 2023. We received financial gifts and memorials dedicated to updating our kitchen. A team assembled and went to work. Accomplishments were new cabinets installed, and the kitchen and dining hall painted. Next job was the new flooring for the dining hall. The pass-through counter area from the dining room to kitchen was resurfaced. A China cabinet now displays our Turkey Hill Grange China. Then, we corrected one more problem area! We fixed the kitchen ceiling damage that has plagued us for years.

Our work was not limited to the downstairs. The auditorium got a new sound system that will also project to the dining room. President Charles Treser managed fundraising with his funnel cake truck. Members helped making and serving food over three weeks. Grangers made donations and we achieved our goal. Two hard-working volunteers installed the system, and it works great.

January 2024 started as a quiet and cold month, but we will finish it with hosting two catered dinners at the end of the Month. We will serve The Soil and Water Conservation District and The Corn Growers Association.

We held our dues paying potluck on the 19th after having to postpone due to bitter cold and high winds. We welcomed 4 new members that night and State Master Lynette Schaeffer joined us with updates on state activities. The scholarship and contest information were distributed and will be posted in the building.

Our Trivia Contest is coming up on February 17th. Doors open at 6pm and the contest begins at 7. The cost is \$20 per person with drinks and extra games between rounds included in the price. We will have door prizes and hold a Silent Auction.

April will be busy as we will start off with our Annual Chicken Dinner on April 7th. We are serving from 10:30 until 2:00. I will have menu items and prices for the next Gobbler.

Our big excitement for 2024 will be our 150th Anniversary celebration! On April 20, 2024, we will hold an open house with National Master, Chris Hamp, and State master, Lynette Schaeffer, in attendance for a "Meet and Greet" section of the open house. We are planning displays about our history and are inviting other granges to set up a display and join us with exhibits about what the Grange is and what it does in the community. Refreshments will be served. A program entitled "A Trip

Through Time" will follow the open house. We will end the evening with a dinner at St. Clair Country Club. Social time begins at 6pm, dinner at 7pm. Please contact Chris Bersett (rckkbersett@gmail.com) or Charles Treser (cgtreser@aol.com) if you want to make a reservation.

Email recipients will see a poster for the Trivia Night on page 11. Mail recipients will not receive this page.

Calendar of Grange Events

2024

- 2/17 Turkey Hill Trivia Night
- 2/29 Deadline for Scholarship applications
- 3/15-17 Spring Fling – Boone County
- 3/18 National Grange Virtual Fly-In
- 4/7 Turkey Hill Chicken Dinner
- 4/13 Prairie Grange Consignment Auction
- 4/20 Turkey Hill Grange 150th Anniversary
- 5/4 State wide Grange Picnic –Boone County Fair grounds
- 8/6-11 Boone County Fair
- 9/13-15 Illinois State Grange Session– Double Tree by Hilton, Colinsville IL St. Clair county

11/10-17 National Session Quad Cities

Sign up to work

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.

Ruth Blasingame 815-299-7884

illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com

8711 Deer Run Drive Belvidere, IL 61008

County Line Grange News

Our meeting was on Dec.13. We had three guests, Amber Diamond, Sarah Meyers, and Donna Brinkmeyer, Kim Robin's Mom. Mark and Deb Zellman were hosts. Thanks for the good food.

Tamra collected money and food for the Veteran's Drop off Center. This was to provide a Christmas dinner for them. Sarah Meyers gave us a class in cookie decorating. All of the cookies were sent to the Veterans. Thanks Sarah. That was so much fun.

December was a busy month for us. We decorated a Christmas tree and bought gifts for a family of 11 people. We sold food at the Community Building during Belvidere's Hometown Christmas celebration Dec. 1st. On Dec.11 we rang bell for the Salvation Army. Dec. 16th we had a party at the Barn. This is a party which the owners have for us as thanks for helping with their annual BBQ in September.

We had our Christmas party January 6th instead of our regular meeting. We enjoyed a delicious dinner of pork roast, fried chicken, corn, scalloped potatoes and salad. Thanks to Joellen and her helpers for cooking for us. Our members brought lots of desserts. Everyone brought a small wrapped gift. We played a gift-take-away game. The Moose gift box was a big hit as everyone wanted to end up with it. Butch was the winner on that one. Kathy, Doug and Ned Loy did a wonderful job on decorating the Grange Hall for us. Thank you.

Tamra collected paper products for the Veteran's Center. We also collected Valentines for the Veteran's and the three Nursing Homes in Belvidere.

Everyone had lots of fun and lots of laughs. Stay safe and healthy everyone.



Kathy Loy with Christmas decorations.

The tree we donated



County Line members at our Christmas Party

JoEllen Coleman and the Peterson's ringing the bell for the Salvation Army.



Ned Loy our photographer with some members



A visit with the Grinch at Hometown Christmas

Prairie Grange #1832

Ice Hogs Teddy Bear Toss 2023

Over 5148 stuffed animals were collected. Prairie Grange members donated over 150 of them.



Hometown Christmas Prairie Grangers had a Christmas tree at the Community Bldg. They made ornaments for the tree, provided lights, tree skirt and gifts for a needy family. Members delivered the tree and gifts to the family.

Members making ornaments after a meeting.



Karrie K. and Kayla K.



Decorating crew



Karl Kindberg at the game



Illinois State Grange Youth Department

Karie Blasingame Co-Directors

We are so excited to announce that during Spring Fling this year we will be participating in a 50's Murder Mystery Dinner. On Saturday night, after an amazing day of walking through downtown Belvidere looking at the local murals and seeing the Boone County Museum, we will lunch at Julie's Diamond Art Store where everyone can pick out 1 \$8 diamond art painting to do for State Session, we will entertain everyone with a great meal and a murder to solve. If you are with us all day, we will watch Grease to get us in the mood for dinner as we decorate and get dressed for our parts. We will either be Tuscadero football players, Ryder High School Cheerleaders, Pink Chicks, Black Widows, Pit Vipers or D-Birds. Check out the Illinois State Grange Youth Facebook Group for details on who to be and what to wear before packing. If you would like the option to be a main character, please email Karie or Marisa, we will hopefully be partnering with local high school drama departments to help with the main characters to give them impromptu practice and practice with groups. (and to see if they like what the Grange is doing and would like to join)

We are looking for 3 different Grange members to share a hobby, craft or lesson with us at Spring Fling. We have different times available on Sunday and one on Saturday. Let Karie and Marisa know if you would like to share something with the Youth.

We did not have anyone apply to be a youth ambassador or young patron to the National Grange Session this year. I hope that those of you who are in this age category will try and attend the National Grange Session and see if you would like to apply next year.

The Illinois Statewide Grange Picnic will be held at the Boone County Fairgrounds on May 4th at 1 pm. The youth department will provide the chicken, water and table service, we ask each family to bring a hot and cold dish to pass. We will hand out the Illinois State Grange Scholarships at the picnic to those who are in attendance and applied.



Part 2

For the month of February the Youth are challenging all the Granges. We are looking for all Youth and Young at Heart to send or make Valentines and send them to a local Senior Living Housing of your choosing. Sometimes after Christmas Holidays these Elderly folks get forgotten about and we want to help remind them that we are thinking of them all year long. So help us get this going in your local area. Dont forget to send Pictures and post it in the Youth Facebook Page. There will be a challenge every month. So keep an eye out on the Granger for Next month.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER ALERT!!!!!!

Do you have someone in your Grange that ROCKS????? Send them a ShamROCK from the Youth. Cost will be \$5.00 per ShamROCK. (Shipping is Included) So everyone can join. If you are interested please reach out to Marisa 815-914-7411 or email mari-sa.odell.eq@gmail.com

Please include Name of Granger being shouted out, name of Home Grange, and occasion for the shoutout. If you would like to be anonymous please note that as well. All ShamROCKS will be shipped to President of Granges and requests are due no later than March 1st.

Marisa O'Dell Co-Youth Director





Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

The days are getting longer and the spring rains will soon be here. We still have snow on the ground in Northern Illinois but the biting cold has left us for awhile. I think that every once in a while God uses the weather to wake us up and make us look around at what is going on around us. At first the snow is beautiful and you can see His glory shining everywhere. Then as it melts and gets plowed and shoveled aside it becomes dirty and nasty. It makes you realize that you have to work to keep His glory and messages alive.

Soon the spring flowers will burst up from the ground and all will be glorious again. God comes to us in many different ways to show His Glory we just need to take the time to look around us and appreciate His great works.

I hope that this finds Charlotte in good health. I didn't hear from her this month. I hope you were okay with my ponderings. Ruth



**IN OLD AGE WE ENJOY THE FRUITS OF A WELL-
SPENT LIFE, SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS, AND IN
A HAPPY HOME, NOTED FOR FIDELITY.**

Fourth Degree; Steward

Turkey Hill Grange presents...



SATURDAY, February 17

Doors open at 6 p.m. Trivia starts at 7 p.m.

\$20 per person—no more than 8 to a table

Includes soda and water as well as participation in

- **heads/tails**
- **alive/dead**
- **door raffles**

Proceeds go to area scholarships and charities.

Contribute more by participating in the 50/50

and silent auction too!

Located at the corner of Green Mount Road and Route 15 near Eckert's.

Contact Tami Hughes for more information or to reserve a table at 618-301-6721.