



ILLINOIS GRANGER

In Essentials... Unity

In Non-Essentials... Liberty

In All Things... Charity

March 2024

Vol 4 No 3



Flora Grangers gathered for their February meeting to share good food, good fellowship, and good Grange plans for the future. GRANGE STRONG!

Calendar of Grange Events

2024

- 3/15-17 Spring Fling – Boone County
- 3/23 Emerald Mound—Spaghetti Dinner to benefit EM
Grange member with cancer
- 4/7 Flora Roast Beef Dinner
- 4/7 Turkey Hill Chicken Dinner
- 4/20 Turkey Hill Grange 150th Anniversary
- 9/13-15 Illinois State Grange Session-
St. Clair county
- 11/10-17 National Session Quad Cities
Sign up to work

2025

- 7/22-27 Grange Revival—Torrey Utah

9/19-21 State Session at Boone County Fairgrounds

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

Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

The weather here in central south Illinois is very changeable recently, it was warm, windy, chilly, raining, snowy and set near record temps all in a few days. But we are not complaining about the rain – we need the moisture in the soil. Schaeffer Family Farm has several baby calves right now and some baby chicks, Spring is in the air!

National Grange building at 1616 H st NW, Washington, DC has been sold. I am sure that most of you have seen the news in Patrons Chain email. A very bitter-sweet feeling, sad that we no longer own the building, glad that we no longer own the building. Don and I went to assist President and First Dude, Chris and Duane Hamp, and NG Staff [Amanda, Loretta, Burton and Stephanie while we were there, others were there after us] with packing up the National Grange Building from 3 floors. We assisted in moving important papers to a Grange Hall in Maryland [New Market], taking approximately 4000 lbs of paper to recycling center, a pickup load of items to Goodwill, a pickup load of “oldie but goodie” items. That pickup came to the Schaeffer home, and it will be taken to Gene Edlen (Iowa) to sort to bring to National Grange Session in Bettendorf, IO, in November. The hope is that some of the items will be for sale and others will be available for a donation, and more decisions will be made. Thanks Gene for your efforts.

Leaders Conference was held in Myrtle Beach in February, President's Day weekend. Don and I attended Friday – Sunday. Friday morning I had National Grange Executive Committee meeting. There were great workshops on leaders intent, team building, vision and mission setting, mental health, and strategic planning. I hope to share with you some of these concepts at a IL Leadership meeting on April 6 via a Zoom conference open to any Granger. It will be 9:30 – noon. Also I will be contacting some of the officers and committee leaders to see if they have information to share.

Brian Keller, member of Enterprise and Emerald Mound Granges has been appointed as the new state Grange Secretary. Plans are being made to get him installed and working with the bank for the secretary account transfer. Information will be forthcoming when all is ready. Continue working with Robin until we have everything ready for Brian. Thanks to Robin for her service to ISG during this transition and Brian for accepting the position.

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. If you do not receive information, contact me. Please consider signing up to participate in this grant.

The Grangers of St Clair County will be hosting 153rd annual IL State Grange Session at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Collinsville, IL September 13 – 15, 2024. Hope you are all planning to attend. Be making resolutions now so that when the date is set for turning them in, your Grange is ready. More information will be coming after the March 7, executive committee meeting. Meetings are being held for the next National Session in Bettendorf Iowa, Nov 12 -16, 2024. IL State Grange is part of the host group. If any Granger is wanting 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. If you would like to receive the 7th degree, Bettendorf will be the place on November 16. If you would like to be part of 7th degree as a candidate, let me know. We are asking if there are veterans that have not received a Quilt of Valor and will be at the National Grange Convention, please let me know, they could be part of the NG presentation. There is also a need from each state to provide two quilts, please let me know if you are interested in providing a quilt.

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

Lynette Continued from page 2

the IL Ex Committee if you have any questions. The next

meeting is March 7, please make sure we have completed forms before then.

Karie and Marisa are planning the Spring Fling, March 15-16. 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 on 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.

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

Some of IL Granges have signed up for participating in the Affordable Connectivity Program grants sponsored by the National Grange The federal government has not renewed the ACP program so there will no longer be any sign-up. While at Leader's conference I was given several grant checks for Granges that have participated in this program. Thanks for all the IL Granges that joined in this program.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

By Beverly Smith, Historian

I am happy that our February weather has been quite mild. It is still my goal to declutter some things around my house. Can you believe I am still finding "Grange" items tucked in places! Yes, I think you can determine that I am a "Grange Hoarder"!!

I found a business card of Kermit W. Richardson, 20th National Grange Master in a briefcase I had. He was elected on November 15, 1995. He and his wife Margaret were selected Vermont State Grange Young Couple of the Year in 1957. He also served as National Chaplain, Lecturer and Overseer.

Then there was an envelope with two photos from Ruth Temple. It was the Winnebago County Pomona Grange Degree Team in 1950 or 1952. I got the magnifying glass to see if I could attempt to come up

with names. The second pic was of the Graces and their Court. Luckily, I already had a similar photo which my mother had written out all the names. Easy, but the other photo was very small but I did make out two escorts—from Perryville Grange-my mother Alice Peacock and former Grange member Evelyn Gustafson. Ironically a few days later I received a text from Evelyn's daughter that Evelyn passed away at the age of 103.

Then there was a whole page of the October 1977 Illinois Granger announcing all the winners from the Director of Women's Activities, Phyllis Pagles. That year the theme was "Say it With Music". Phyllis reports that the biggest project of the year was the Sewing Contest. Their quota was 900, which they surpassed with 937 entries. Two went on to win at the National level. Also, the Stuffed Toy Contest was well received, 45 Granges participated sending 442 at the State level. I recognized many of the winners' names of the various contests that year. There were so many very talented sewers, bakers, and crafters.

I love finding these Grange hidden treasures. Now, I must get busy adding them to my notebooks.

County Line Grange

County Line Grange members Mike and Kim Robin celebrated their 30th Anniversary on February 18, 2024.

Congratulations!!!



Schedule for Spring Fling March 15-17th 2024

All are welcome to attend any part or portion of the weekend - \$30 per person for the weekend.

Friday night March 15th – times may change due to attendance.

5 pm – 6 pm – arrive and register at Grange Hall

5 pm – 10:30 pm crafts table available for any who wish to make something to enter at State Session.

6 pm - dinner (hamburgers, hot dogs, fruit and veggies, movie and game snacks)

7 pm – Movie or Games

11 pm – Lights out

Saturday March 16th

8 am – Breakfast

9 am – Walking tour of Belvidere Murals to the Boone County Museum

10 am – Lesson about ???? at the Boone County Museum

11:30 am – Walking tour of Belvidere Murals to Julie's Diamond Art Store – bag lunch @ Julie's

1:30 pm – Walking tour of Belvidere Murals back to vehicles

3 pm – Help decorate for dinner, rest, watch Grease, crafts table available.

5 pm – Grange Ritual workshop

5:30 pm – 1950s Greaser Murder Mystery Dinner – please let us know you are coming to dinner; everyone will receive a nametag of their character and instructions as we prepare for dinner. Main characters may receive theirs ahead of time to practice first round. Donation for dinner if you are not spending the whole weekend with us.

7 pm – Public Speaking, Sign-a-Song, Lip Sync Contest

8 pm – Movie or Games

12 am – Lights out

Sunday March 17th

9 am Breakfast

10 am workshop by Granger

11 am paint/finish bag boards

12 pm lunch (leftovers from weekend)

1 pm Cleanup and Goodbye



**Illinois
State
Grange
Youth**

Are you ready to ROCK 'N ROLL because we are!!! We are busy planning and gearing up for a week-end of adventure and learning and most importantly to PARTY!!! We have a busy weekend planned. So, it is VERY IMPORTANT to RSVP to this event. Not only for dinner on Saturday (there is an event set up on the Facebook Group) but for the weekend as well.

The cost for the weekend will be \$30, but if you bring a non-granger friend it will be \$25 for the youth members. Don't forget to bring a sleeping bag or tent and pillows and blankets. All food is included in the price as well as any projects we do. So, take the weekend off and bring the kids and their friends over to The Grange Hall.

Adults are always welcome at any of the workshops. There is a workshop on Sunday at 10 am on INTERNET SAFETY: Are you Savey? Being taught by Brian O'Dell. I recommend every Granger attend that one.

The Murder Mystery Dinner will be on Saturday night. Please RSVP as you might be asked to take part in the action. We will be asking for a freewill donation at dinner to help with the youth program. You will then be asked to come dressed in certain colors and of course enjoy a fabulous dinner being prepared by County Line Grange. THANK YOU!!!

The different colors or groups we would like you to dress up as for dinner are: Ryder High Cheerleaders in Blue and Yellow, Tuscadero Football Players in Green and Yellow, Pink Chicks girl gang in Pink and Black, D-Birds motorcycle gang in Black and White, Black Widows girl gang in Black and Red and Pit Vipers motorcycle gang in Black and Green. Dig through your closet to pick an outfit worthy of your chosen group so we can have a great dinner!

Don't forget this is for YOUR YOUTH the future of The Grange. Without everyone's help with our fundraisers and donations none of this would have been possible.

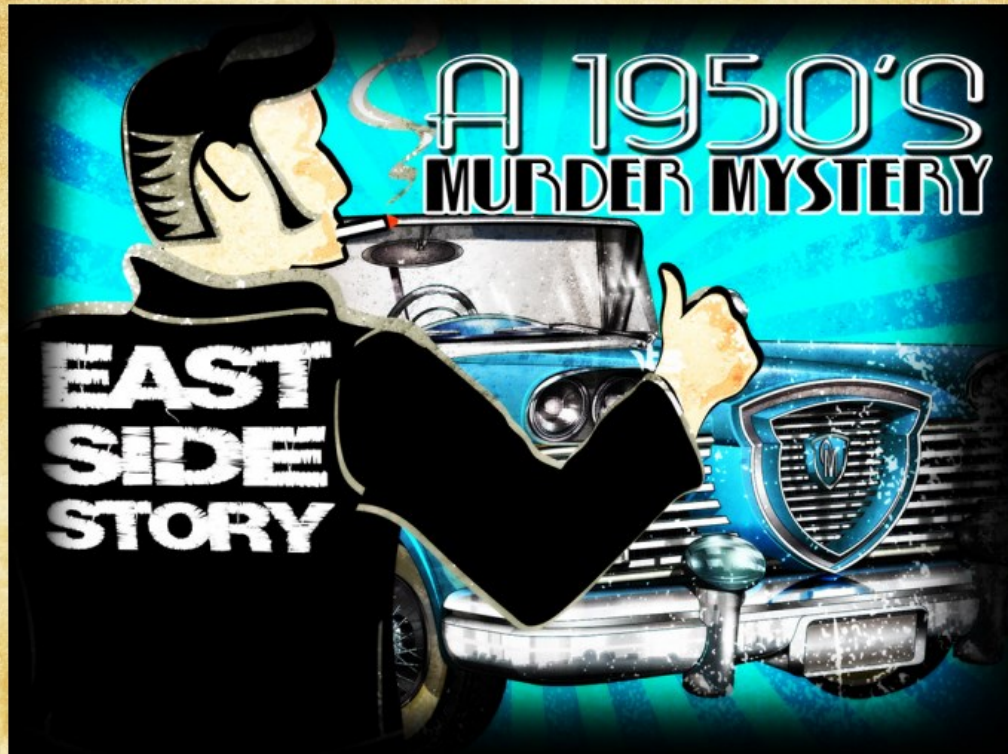
We would like to thank County Line Grange and Fay Ellwanger for food donations for Spring Fling.

We hope to see y'all March 15- 17th

Marisa and Karie
CO-Youth Directors



You are cordially invited to a murder mystery party...



Saturday March 16 Mystery Dinner. Participate in a murder mystery and enjoy dinner!

Guilford Hope Grange #6

Guilford Hope Grange met January 30th, 2024 at the home of Wayne and Nancy Lyford. A noon pot luck was enjoyed. Thirteen members were present with an additional guest.. Secretary Carolyn Wheeler read the minutes of the November, 2023 meeting as no official meeting was held after the December lunch at the Machine Shed Restaurant. No corrections were made to the minutes. Correspondence was read; thank you from Goldie Floberg Center and Carpenters Place in Rockford, Il.. A note was also read from Jenna Roush, thanking the Grange for the scholarship given.

Dave and Martha Byrnes presented an application of membership for Ernie Carlson. The application was approved. He is the husband of Carrie Meyer who joined the Grange the end of 2023. They currently do not live in the area but are planning on relocating their residence to where Carrie's parents lived sometime in the summer.

Carolyn asked to be replaced as Treasurer of Guilford Hope Grange. Nancy Lyford was nominated and approved. With that Martha Byrnes was nominated to be

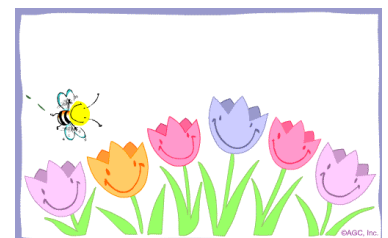
Lecturer and from that change Lindakay Ebel was nominated to be Chaplin. All positions were approved as nominated.

Carolyn passed around information sent from the National Grange about 'Reaching Surgical Seniors', A Guide to Prepare for Surgery', and 'Planning for my Future'.

'G' bills will continue to be collected. A decision will be made later in the year as to where the money will be donated.

The next meeting will be at the Gene Wheeler residence with Beverly Smith as the hostess. March meeting will be at the Bob and Nathalie Lyford residence.

No program was given.
Nancy Lyford



Flora Grange #1762 News

Flora Grange dues-paying potluck was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at the Flora Grange Hall with 48 Grange members in attendance enjoying the wonderful roast beef dinner prepared by Laurel and Jack Ratcliffe and Grange members brought other dishes to fill in.

Following the dinner members moved upstairs and President opened the meeting with the Grange Salutation and Pledge to American Flag. The Chaplain opened the Bible and said a prayer. The Charter was Draper in honor of Gene West who passed on January 30, 2024, and members said the Lords Prayer.

Minutes of the November 14th and the December 12, 2023, were approved as written, January 2024 meeting canceled, due to ice storm. New Member Kevin E Scott was approved, recommended by Tammy Taylor and Laurel Ratcliffe, motion carried.

Reports of Committees:

Community Service: Lindakay Ebel thanked all who continue to work on the various community service projects in their towns and who take the elderly to doctor appointments and other errands. Lindakay mentioned that the National Grange building in Washington DC was sold on February 6, 2024, for 10.3 million and after paying off all bills ended up with 8.12 million dollars. Now the big thing will be to start packing and sorting out everything.

Agriculture: Dan Burow stated there is no frost in the ground, good time to remove trees, no snow on ground. When traveling, found the same weather.

Fair Board: Todd Hegge reported on the bathroom project; the new gates and all the bad posts that must be replaced and the fair convention. Jack Ratcliffe stated the **Farmland Protection** annual meeting will be held on March 14, 7 pm at the Administration Building, all are encouraged to attend, they need two directors to serve on their board. Motion was made that Flora Grange paid their \$50.00 dues; motion carried.

Membership, Lindakay Ebel welcomed our new member into Flora Grange, she also mentioned that in The Patron's Chain she read that recently a Grange spotlighted a member with a picture and writeup of a person who celebrated their 80th year of membership. What a great celebration. We need to do this when someone in our Grange reaches a number like this. She also mentioned if you would like to receive a birthday card from National Grange, send your name, address and birthday to <http://grange.biz/birthdayclub> and they will send you an electronic birthday card on your special day.

Legislative, Marion Thornberry stated it is time for primary voting and asked everyone to get out and vote.

Youth: JT Ryan reported at their monthly meeting they discussed their T-shirts for this year's fair and decided on this year's shirt to say, 'All Roads Lead to the Boone County Fair'.

Quilting: Emalee Colver reported the two quilting groups will be meeting this weekend at Flora Grange Hall, one on Friday and the other on Saturday and Sunday, all are invited to come and bring your projects.

Buildings & Grounds: Jack Ratcliffe reported the roof projects have been completed, bills were all paid and were sent in for a grant. Ordered propane and delivered.

Treasurer's Report – Lindakay Ebel gave the treasurer's report for January and to date through this evening and had written copies for those attending. She also went through 2023 expenses and income and compared 2023 with 2022, Motion was made to accept report.

Under new business, motion was made to hold our annual Roast Beef dinner on Sunday, April 7th, 2024, at the Flora Grange Hall with a Bake Sale. Reservations can be made to Laurel Ratcliffe @815-222-6173. Price \$12.00 per person. Walk-ins are welcome, also carry-outs.

Program Chairman Jack Ratcliffe had everyone bring a Valentine to the meeting and each member read there's aloud. He and JT Ryan also read some funny readings together.

\$94.00 in 'G' Bills was collected from members and we sang Happy Birthday to Dan Burow. The Bible was closed, prayer by Chaplain and the meeting was closed in full form.

Lindakay Ebel, Publicity



WE PROCLAIM IT AMONG OUR PURPOSES TO
CONTINUE OUR HISTORICAL APPRECIATION OF THE
ABILITIES AND EQUALITY OF WOMEN.

Grange Declaration of Purposes

February Gobbles from Turkey Hill

Our Trivia contest was held on February 17th. A great time was had by all. Chairperson Tami Hughes and her team did a wonderful job organizing the questions and preparing the hall. Many door prizes and silent auction items were donated by members and friends.

As we head into March, preparations and planning is in progress for our Chicken Dinner on April 7th. The chicken dinner will be serving Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Seasoned Green Beans, Stuffing, Coleslaw, Applesauce and Pie. Tea, lemonade, and water will be available in the dining hall. The trailer outside will be serving carry-out meals. Meals will be served from 10:30-2:00. Prices are \$17 adults, \$8 kids, 5 & under free.

CHICKEN DINNER

Turkey Hill Grange

Corner of South Greenmount Rd
and Highway 15
(Next to Eckert's)

Sunday, April 7, 2024
10:30 am - 2 pm
Dine-In Buffet Style or Carryout



Adults: \$17
Children 6-12: \$8
Tots 5 and under eat free
Major Credit Cards Accepted

MENU

Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
Stuffing
Green Beans
Coleslaw
Apple Sauce
Rolls & Bread
Dessert
Drinks (Dining Room Only)

April 20, 2024 will be party time as we will hold our 150th Anniversary Celebration. We start with an open house with National Master, Chris Hamp, and State master, Lynette Schaeffer, in attendance for a “Meet and Greet”. 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. The meal will cost \$52.00 per person. Please contact Chris Bersett (rckkbersett@gmail.com) or Charles Treser (cgtreser@aol.com) if you want to make a reservation. Seating is limited.

Our Jam and Jelly team will be working soon to have products ready for the Dinner and Anniversary. Also, our quilters are back at work designing and making quilts for our November Quilt of Valor Presentation.

Illinois State Grange Secretary Notes

Just a reminder completed scholarships are due to me by 9:00pm on February 29,2024.

Quarterly reports are due between March 30 and April 15th.

Watch the Granger closely for important secretary information to be announced. See Lynette’s article.

Be sure when you take in new Grange members that you send a photocopy of the application form to me.

I am going to continue to be membership director until September and I will also be doing recognition

Robin Kindberg

Illinois State Grange Secretary





A small sampling of the generous donations to the Haven Network from Beaver Valley Grange, The Prairie Grange and the Boone County Pomona Grange.

Thank You !!!!!

BOWLING GRANGERS!!!

Three Illinois Grangers are excelling in Bowling! Two at the High School level and one at the College Level.

Athena O'Dell and Miranda Klenz from Beaver Valley Grange are members of the Harlem "Huskies" High School Bowling team. They did great this year!

Sammantha Meyers from The Prairie Grange has been bowling since she was a toddler. She excelled in High School and won two NJCAA Championships at Rock Valley College. She is a Dean's list junior at William Penn University in Oskaloosa Iowa. The Statesmen just won the Heart of America Championship and Sam was named First Team All Conference. She will be competing in Dallas TX at Nationals.

Good job girls. Keep up the good work.



Legislative Report

Hello Brothers and Sisters

March is here with more bad news from our Governor.

February 23, 2024

Governor proposes \$1 billion in new taxes to cover free healthcare and housing for non-citizens



SPRINGFIELD – Gov. JB Pritzker delivered his annual Budget Address Feb. 21, proposing a billion dollars in tax increases to fund the growing costs of the migrant crisis that he created in Illinois.

Even as grocery prices hit a 30-year high, the Governor's new tax increases would hit families yet again by cutting their standard tax deduction. His plan would also go after small and large jobs creators, leaving Illinoisans earning less, paying more for goods and services.

Senator Dave Syverson (R-Cherry Valley) says since taking office, Pritzker has increased spending on non-citizen programs from just a few million dollars per year to now over a billion dollars, by offering free healthcare and housing to non-citizens. Also, the cost for education, social services, and crime-related expenses for this population adds another \$1 billion hit to Illinois taxpayers.

Senator Syverson says increasing taxes on working families already hit hard just to fund free healthcare and housing for non-citizens is wrong and clearly shows the Governor's misplaced priorities.

"This does not end well for Illinois if not stopped! Overall, the Governor's spending would set a new record as the largest budget in the state's history – \$53 billion," Syverson said. "Pritzker's budget calls for \$2 billion in new spending. That is on top of the \$14 billion he has already increased in spending over the last six years."

Senator Syverson said he is committed to fighting this proposed billion-dollar tax increase stating, "These dollars belong to the taxpayers who earned it and can spend it more wisely than this Administration can."

Senator Syverson is asking for help from the public to tell Pritzker "NO" to these new tax hikes by signing his petition at <https://senatordavesyverson.com/say-no-to-tax-hikes-petition/>.

On a happier note;

The Belvidere Chamber of Commerce sponsored a Chili Cookoff on February 22 from 5:PM till 7:30 PM. There was a number of Business and Groups in Attendance. A great time was had by all.





Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

What is better than the last Sunday in February sitting on my porch in 70 degree weather with the sun shining bright. Wow! I guess we call these bonus days for winter. But March is just around the corner, will it come in as a lion or lamb. It's kind of hard to tell the way the weather has been this winter. As many of us know March can be a pretty wicked month.

The warm weather has turned the wheat fields green how beautiful I love how beautiful God can make the earth for each season. Some times it just turns different colors overnight. Plus daylight saving time starts with more light in the evenings. That just makes you want to do more outside and renew our time with family and friends.

So what do you plan to do with your time that God gives you. Will you share your love with others and help them improve their selves or will you keep it for you.

May each of you grow in Christ this Easter season and know what He has done for us. Blessings to each and every one. Remember those in need of prayers.



Eugene West 90
Nov 7, 1933
Jan 30, 2024
Flora Grange



Gene loved wood-
working and volun-
teering behind the
scenes at the Boone
County Fair.

He made the wooden display blocks for the Agriculture displays at State Session. He helped with the Fair Queen Pageant when his wife Donna was Director. Gene was a proud Army Veteran. He served during the Korean conflict. He was a graduate of Belvidere High School. He was a long time member of Flora Grange



Spencer Morris 87
Oct 19, 1936
Feb 16, 2024
Prairie Grange



Spence was a long time member of Prairie Grange. He loved driving the golf carts in the parking lot during the Boone County Fair. Spence was a proud Navy Veteran.



John Kennedy 84
January 28, 2024



Sandy Kennedy 81
October 26, 2023

Leroy Community Grange has lost two long time members. John and Sandy Kennedy were well know in the Boy Scout community. They did a lot of community service work linked to the Scouts. John was a lifetime member of the Blackhawk Area Council. They were also involved at Leroy Grange. John was a teacher in the Chicago Public School system for 37 years.

"Well done good and faithful Servants"

