



ILLINOIS GRANGER

In Essentials... Unity

In Non-Essentials... Liberty

In All Things... Charity

August 2024 Vol 4 No 8



Dottie McCoy of County Line Grange receiving her 75 year certificate from Joellen Coleman and Tim Fitch at their July meeting. They had cake to celebrate!!



Calendar of Grange Events

2024

8/1 Deadline for Community Service Reports

8/4 Turkey Hill Ham and Peach Dinner

8/6-11 Boone County Fair—Belvidere IL

8/13 Deadline for Meal Reservations, Room Reservations and Reports to Brian

9/13-15 Illinois State Grange Session-
Collinsville IL

9/19-21 4Momz2Momz Consignment Sale

10/26 GRIT South location TBD noon potluck
meeting to follow

10/27 GRIT North at Boone County Community
Grangehall noon potluck meeting to follow

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

\$25 Betty Hardt Broad Hollow Grange

20 Stamps Debbie Silvers Flora Grange

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 in south central IL has been very dry lately, but two weeks ago we had about 9 inches of rain in two storms in 4 days! The weather has caused many veggies to ripen in weird patterns. Tomatoes are starting to ripen now.

The 153rd annual IL State Grange Session is at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Collinsville, IL September 13 – 15, 2024. Hope you are all planning to attend. We have a few resolutions and the Bylaws committee is still working on resolutions for the proposed changes. Phil Vonda, National Grange Communications Director, and PA Junior Director, will be our National Representative. IL Representative Charlie Meier will be the speaker on Friday evening. Make sure you have sent your delegate information to Brian Keller so your Grange will be represented at the meeting. I hope you are working on contest items to compete and show all the Grangers your talents. National Grange will not be holding a "Talent Show" so IL Lecturer, Ethan Edwards, has decided to follow suit. He does have a brief program planned. I hope the Officers and Directors are working on their reports to get to Brian, ASAP. Get the meal orders to Brian as well, much information is presented at the meals so it is advisable for Grangers to attend the meals.

Recently, the National Grange launched the revamped bi-weekly e-newsletter, "Grange Today!" This newsletter is YOUR chance to share your Grange's success with Grange members from all over the country. Submit your stories, events, articles, and ideas at: <http://grange.biz/grangetodaysubmit>.

Meetings are being held for the next National Session in Bettendorf Iowa, Nov 11 -16, 2024. Lots of new things this year; 1. will be a Mississippi River Guided Cruise on Monday that will include lunch. 2. visit "Oldie and Goodie" table, items from the National Grange Headquarter building that will be for sale, or donation or display. Come check it out and purchase 'forgotten' items. There will also be a need for 'sitters' at the table 3. More workshops most days on variety of topics. 4. More tours, not just one day, more places. 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 and Workshops 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 ASAP, they could be part of the N G presentation. Registration is now open on the NationalGrange.org website. Register now. Now is the time to plan to be at National Grange Session, at Isle Casino, Bettendorf, IA. , Nov 11 -16. Register now to attend the National Grange Session and sign up to help with various tasks.

All Grangers should be confident in all they do as Grangers.

Membership/Secretary Assistant Report

Hope this finds everyone doing well. I only have a few things for this article.

Keep in mind you will be receiving a Roster Sheet for 2024 – 2025 that needs to be filled out and returned to Robin Kindberg 12971 Olson Road Caledonia, IL 61011 **by OCTOBER 1, 2024.**

If your Grange does not elect officers until after October 1, then fill in the current officers but be sure to send the list of new officers when your election is over.

Also I want ALL Secretaries to send me a completed and up-to-date list of all of your members. Include name, address, birthdate month/year, phone number and when they joined the Grange. This is a requirement from the National Grange Digest of Laws and is actually supposed to be done every quarter with your Quarterly report. I am just asking for one copy in September and one in March to update all of my records.

Be sure to send your Secretary and Membership Chairmans to the upcoming GRIT Conferences so some important information will be passed on.

Another Grange membership year is underway and if you need any seals or certificates please let me know. You will be receiving more information about membership at the GRIT Conferences after State Session.

Hope to see everyone in Collinsville, IL in September.

Fraternally,
Robin Kindberg
Membership Director/Secretary Assistant

Lecturer's Column

Greetings, fellow Grangers. It has been a long time since I have shared a column with you. The past sixth months have continued to present continuing health problems and several lengthy hospital stays. I hope that things are on the upswing as we move into Fall and I can return to being more engaged.

We are a month and a half away from State Session and I encourage you to start finalizing your ideas for your entries in the Lecturer's Department. Here are couple important notes regarding the contests.

First, the National Grange has discontinued the "Evening of Excellence" talent competition. Just as we have at our own sessions, the National Grange has struggled to assemble a satisfactory event. Following that lead, we will not be having a talent show on Saturday night at the Illinois State Session as we have for many years. Instead, we will have a short entertainment program for your enjoyment at the Youth Banquet. You are sure to have a good time!

As has been the case for the last few years, our state photography contest is independent of the national photography competition. We have flexible rules: you can submit your entries digitally (via email to ethanedwards2023@outlook.com or text to 6187958021) or present a printed photo. Digital entries should be sent by Thursday, September 12. Printed photographs should be at least 5"x7" and should be mounted on a firm backing. Categories are:

Animals,
"Guess what this is,"
Sky, and
People at Work.

As a reminder, the other contests are:

Painting/Drawings/Pastels (anything on a flat paper or canvas)

Dimensional Media (ceramics, woodwork, carving, macrame, etc.)

Personal Collections (12 related items with a short description of the collection)

3 Holiday Tree Ornaments (fabric, cloth, sewing, etc.)

3 Holiday Tree Ornaments (other materials or techniques)

Decorated Birdhouse (ornamental or functional)

Origami Animals (three animals from folded paper)

Scrapbooking (two related scrapbook pages)

If you feel stuck, seek inspiration from the Internet. There are loads of really creative ideas for paper

folding and origami around the Web. Also, this is the first year for Scrapbooking, so I hope we get a lot of beautiful entries.

Looking forward to seeing you all in September!

Faternally,

Ethan Edwards, Illinois State Lecturer

Broad Hollow News

At the July 5th potluck, the 4th of July was celebrated with red, white, and blue dishes plus other goodies. The hall was decorated in red, white, and blue for the holiday. The program consisted of participants opening the program with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag followed by singing "America the Beautiful." "What is July?" was shared then interesting information was provided about the month of July. Everyone sang "You're a Grand Old Flag." Participants then put on their thinking caps to guess the answer to some riddles. A 4th of July word game was played with the winner naming the most items and winning a red, white, and blue door decoration. This was followed by singing "My Country Tis of Thee." Several shared 4th of July memories, and the program closed with Erma Bombeck's take on the 4th of July.



2024
NATIONAL GRANGE LECTURER
DESIGN-A-PROGRAM CONTEST

LECTURER
NATIONAL GRANGE

THREE CATEGORIES:

- INTERNAL GRANGE PROGRAM FOR ADULTS
- EXTERNAL PROGRAM/EVENT FOR ADULTS
- EVENT/PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

Cash prizes for your Grange!

Submissions Due September 1, 2024

Submit entries at grange.biz/grangeprogram2024



ISG Secretary Report – July 2024

The year is half over, and there are less than 11 weeks until the State Session! So, here are some information and deadline reminders.

The 153rd Illinois State Session will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 1000 Eastport Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234. It starts on **Friday, September 13, and continues through Sunday, September 15**. The draft schedule is in the June 2024 Illinois Granger.

RESOLUTIONS—Please send them to me by **July 1**. As of June 25, I had none at all. So, if you have any, please send them to me as soon as you can, or at least let me know they're on their way. The deadline is to give enough time to compile them and send them out to the individual Granges so they can discuss and give their delegates some direction on how to vote.

DELEGATE NAMES – I need them before **Tuesday, August 13**.

ROOM RESERVATIONS—Delegates should make these before **Tuesday, August 13**. Call the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel directly at 618-345-2800. Mention Illinois State Grange to get the ISG rate of \$113 plus tax per night. (Reservations for State Officers, Deputies, and Committee Chairs have already been made for you.)

MEAL RESERVATIONS & DELEGATE BOOK ORDERS—I need these by **Tuesday, August 13**. The form is in the June 2024 Illinois Granger. Make checks payable to Illinois State Grange. Checks will be cashed after the State Session.

STATE SESSION REPORTS – State Officers, Deputies, Committee Chairs, and Directors should send these to me by **Tuesday, August 13** so they can be included in the Delegate Books.

QUARTERLY REPORTS—2nd Quarter reports are due before **Saturday, July 20**. They should be sent to Robin Kindberg along with the dues checks. Also, please include copies of the applications of any new members.

If you have any questions or need anything, don't hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

Brian Keller, Illinois State Grange Secretary

brianjkeller@gmail.com

618-410-9020

703 E 2nd St, O'Fallon, IL 62269

2024 Illinois State Grange Youth Contests

Photography: Follow National and State guidelines

Categories:

Selfie

Group

Pets

Creative Art & Handicrafts: Due at State Session Friday morning

Lego Item or Scene:

Category 1: Beginner Lego Set

Category 2: Vehicles Lego Set

Category 3: Nature Lego Set

Category 4: Miscellaneous Lego Set

Diamond Art: must be framed, ready to hang no sawtooth hangers

Category 1: Holidays

Category 2: Animated Characters

Category 3: Animals

Category 4: Nature/Landscapes

Category 5: Miscellaneous

Ceramics: any painted ceramics

Fabric and Food:

Decorated Clothing Item: ready to hang

Cookies: Three Decorated Cookies: 50's Theme

Table Centerpiece: 50's Theme: Will be judged then used for decoration on Saturday night. Can be returned to owner if desired.

Agriculture:

Pollinator Poster

Pollinator TikTok or YouTube Video

Food Waste Poster

Food Waste TikTok or YouTube Video

Mental Illness Poster

Mental Illness Tik-

Tok or YouTube Video

Public Speaking:

Spring Fling deadline/Midwest optional

Impromptu

Prepared

Grange Commercial

Sign A Song: Spring Fling deadline/Midwest optional
Individual

Group

Lip Sync Contest: Spring Fling deadline/ Grange Picnic showcase

Judging on Costume, Performance, Style and Swagger.

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

We are getting closer to celebrating our State Grange Conference. I hope everyone has or is getting close to having their projects completed and their resolutions in. You realize that as the Legislative Director I need to review them before they go to committee

On July 21, 22 and the 23rd I attended a UCCI Conference. It was held at Eagle Ridge Resort in Galena, IL. The Conference consisted of numerous Legal Firms. The conference was held for County Board Members Statewide. You ask what has a Conference for County Board Members have to do with the Grange, you gather information from all means available.

I believe the following pertains to all organizations. When Governor Pritzker was first elected, the first thing he did was raise the gas tax. Then he raised the cost of License plates. It seems that is all this man knows how to do, to prove that here is a report I received Friday.

Senate Week in Review: July 8-12, 2024 New Data Shows 87,000 Illinois Residents Flee the State

SPRINGFIELD – New data from the Internal Revenue Service shows that in 2022 alone, more than 87,000 Illinoisans – faced with some of the highest taxes in the nation – relocated to other states.

This exodus saw nearly \$10 billion in income leaving Illinois, significantly impacting the state's economic landscape. Meanwhile, the City of Chicago has earned the unfortunate distinction of having the third-highest rate of domestic population loss in the country, underscoring a broader pattern of outmigration.

Illinois' high tax burden has long been a critical factor driving residents to seek refuge in more tax-friendly states. This spring, Gov. JB Pritzker made it clear that working families are unlikely to see meaningful tax cuts any time soon, signing nearly \$1 billion in tax hikes into law to fund spending on the migrant crisis he invited. Senate Republicans argue that the continued high tax burden on working families and misplaced policy priorities are key contributors to the ongoing population decline. State Senator Dave Syverson (R-Cherry Valley) asserts that state leaders must recognize that current policies are driving residents away and focus on enacting genuine relief and reforms to help Illinoisans.

On a lighter note;

Republican-backed Legislation to Align Education with Workforce Needs Becomes Law

Legislation aimed at bridging the gap between college and Illinois' evolving workforce needs was signed into law earlier this month, marking a pivotal step toward aligning academic programs with the state's dynamic economic landscape.

Senate Bill 2862 requires the Illinois Board of Higher Education to release an annual comprehensive list of the most in-demand jobs in the state. This proactive measure will equip educators with information on job trends that will help better prepare students for successful careers in Illinois' rapidly changing job market. It's an initiative that not only benefits students but also strengthens the state's economy by fostering a workforce that is well-equipped to meet the needs of employers.

The comprehensive job list will be publicly accessible via the Board of Higher Education's official website. After passing the General Assembly unanimously earlier this year, the measure was signed into law on July 1 and took effect immediately.

With that I will sign off. May God Protect you,
Marion and Jean. Legislative Chair



Flora Grange #1762

Flora Grange held a work night at the Boone County Fairgrounds in place of a meeting on Tuesday, July 9th, 2024, with some 24 Grange members in attendance, including new Grange member Kevin Scott.

A short meeting was held to discuss who would be attending the Illinois State Grange Convention in September. Motion was made to send Master Ken (Casey) and wife Amber Fidler, and for some reason if they were unable to attend Todd and Dona Hegge, hotel room and meals paid for by Flora Grange.

A sign-up sheet was available for Grangers to sign up to work the Tuesday and Saturday morning breakfast and the Thursday noon pulled pork dinner. There was also a sign up sheet for members to work Gate 6, as they need extra help.

Some of the jobs members worked on included painting in building 3, painting doors, scraping benches and painting them, trimming bushes, raking leaves, getting picnic tables out and putting in place and painting trim boards on cashier's booth.

Following working at the fairgrounds members gathered at Culvers Restaurant for refreshments (Dutch Treat) and discussed further projects to be done at the fairgrounds, and watching it pour down rain!

Lindakay Ebel, Publicity

Guilford Hope Grange #6

Guilford Hope Grange met on June 25th, 2024 at the Home of Dave and Martha Byrnes. A noon pot luck lunch was enjoyed by 13 members present along with Vivian Johnson as guest. Lindakay Ebel led us in prayer prior to eating.

We gathered with the Pledge of Allegiance and opened in the 4th degree.

The secretaries report was approved as read.

Thank You's were read from the Rockford Rescue Mission and the Salvation Army, Rockford, for our monetary donations made.

The garage sale has been cleared out with remaining items donated to the Rockford Rescue Mission and Habitat for Humanity.

The 'G' bill collection will continue thru the end of the year.

Nancy mailed out an updated membership list as there are new members and one member has moved.

New business: We will be donating dictionaries for the Alpine Academy 3rd graders in Rockford.

Susan Lyford has been a Grange member for 40 years. A recognition certificate needs to be ordered.

Martha Byrnes will see if Laura Furman (head curator) from Midway Village is able to attend our next Grange meeting so we can present our donation to them from our Community Service garage sale.

July meeting will be at Gene and Caroline Wheeler's with a pot luck lunch.

Pictures are from the donation to Rock River Valley Pantry.

Nancy Lyford

entertainment together.

**Rock River Valley Pantry
Donation Form**

Name Guilford Hope Grange

Address 3464 N. Lyford Rd

Date Received 6/25/24 Check # 2288 Amt \$ 50.00

Pounds of Food 38 Value \$ _____ # of Items _____

Date donation acknowledged DP ML TY _____



County Line Grange

We held our meeting July 10th. Joellen Coleman and Myron and Jean Peterson were our hosts. Thanks for the good food.

Dotty McCoy was presented with a certificate for her 75 years in County Line Grange. We also had cake to honor her. Congratulations Dotty.

Committee reports were given. Fairboard: Butch Peters reported that the new bathroom has been completed. First day of ticket sales for the Fair was about \$23,000. The Dog Show is coming up in 10 days.

New Building: Jane Zeien reported that the insulation has been completed and has passed inspection.

Grange Day: Sara Istaad reported that our Grange Day outing will be August 17 at Oak Lane Winery on Blaine Road.

Youth: Kim Robin reported that the Junior Grange Party will be July 18 at Chamberlain, Genoa Park Pool.

Myron and Jean Peterson brought copies of resolutions to be taken to State Convention. They also were selected to be our Delegates. Myron brought our new Grange banner and magnets. They look very nice.

We participated with a float in Belvidere's Heritage Day Parade. Members who rode on the float had a good time throwing candy and squirting with water guns.



Events coming up: We will be cleaning up the Fair grounds after the Dog Show. Mopar Show will be July 19, 20, and 21 at which we will be serving breakfast and lunch. We will be serving food for the 55th BHS Class of 59, Reunion at the Barn July 13. We will be meeting at the Reed Schoolhouse July 27 to help Linda get it ready for the Fair. Clean-up day at the Fair is July 31.

Prayers for the family of Clay Murry. A Memorial service will be held July 13 at Blackhawk in Rockford.

Prayers are also needed for Mike Robin and Liam Schmeling that they have speedy recoveries from their injuries.

G Dollars were collected and Penny March was held. Stay safe everyone!

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

2024 NATIONAL GRANGE QUILT BLOCK CONTEST

Split-Back Star Block

RULES AND GUIDELINES:

WWW.NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/LECTURER-CONTESTS

ADULT & JUNIOR DIVISIONS

Deadline: September 1, 2024

Gobbles from Turkey Hill

Our July has been quiet. We have members who are active at local farmer's markets to sell out jams and jellies. We had 20 members go out for dinner together at Reifschneider's Grill and Grape in Freeburg. It was a fun evening of fellowship.

We are getting ready to peel a lot of peaches in advance of the Ham and Peach Dinner. Spiced Peaches and Peach Sauce are already prepared. Many hands will work to peel peaches for cobbler and sliced peaches with ice cream for dessert. German potato salad is a favorite dish of many of our diners and we serve cold potato salad as well.

The end of August will see us working at the Renner Stock Farm event, 100 Years of Horsepower. We will be serving food items and drinks. Two local Granges plan to join us to lessen the load of work. We will have breakfast items of pancakes and sausage or biscuits and gravy. Lunch and evening choices will be funnel cakes, corn dogs, pork tenderloins, French fries, pulled pork, brats, hot dogs. We look forward to working hard but having fun while we do. Lots of interaction with farmers from all over the country will make it enjoyable. And thousands of examples of farm machinery and equipment will be on view. The event is held from August 29-31 and free to the public. If you need a place to travel over Labor Day Weekend, check this event out! There are videos from 2022 event on YouTube. Look for 100 Years of Horsepower.

Our election of officers was held in July, and we will install these individuals as officers at our August meeting.

President	Ron Bersett
Vice-President	Marilyn Coe
Program Director	Lynne Edwards
Secretary	Chris Bersett
Treasurer	Jim Coe
Chaplain	Jill Connors
Greeter	Jane Bonaldi
Steward	John Rutledge
Assistant Steward	John Manfredi
Lady Assistant Steward	Bobbi Krieg
Pomona	Nikki Wilcoxon
Ceres	Judy Brindley
Flora	Carol Young
Executive board members for a three-year term;	
Mardy Eisloeffel and Charles Treser	

BEST TIME EVER!

QR Code

ROCKS
Best Fair/Festival
2011, 2012, 2013

BOONE COUNTY FAIR
BELVIDERE that's the ticket ILLINOIS

www.boonecountyfair.com
8847 Rt. 76 • Belvidere • IL

AUGUST 6TH - 11TH

SCOTTY MCCREERY
With Special Guest Greytan James
Sat., August 11th • 7 PM

LIVE IN CONCERT!

THE RHINESTONE ROPER
TUES.-FRI. 1 PM, 3 PM & 6 PM
SAT. 11 AM, 3 PM & 6 PM, SUN. 11 AM & 3 PM
Located North of Big Thunder Rd., East of Administration Building

Show Tickets
on sale all day at the Gate 1 Ticket Office or at the Grandstand Ticket Office before shows.

Midway open from Noon to 11 PM daily (Open at 11 AM Thursday)
RIDE SPECIALS on Wednesday, 12 - 5 PM Thursday, 11 AM - 5 PM

Breakfast is Served at the Grange Food Complex 6-10:30 AM Daily
DINNER SPECIALS Listed Below

Dinners at the Grange Food Complex
Thursday - BBQ Pulled Pork Dinner • Friday - Fish
Saturday - Charbroiled Chicken
Sunday - Charbroiled Pork Chops
(Serving begins at 11 AM until Gone)

Boone County Fair The Boone County Fair is Owned & Operated by The Granges of Boone County since 1957
YESTERDAY AT 1:50 PM

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

LECTURER
NATIONAL GRANGE

Ham and Peach Dinner



Turkey Hill Grange

Rt. 15 & Green Mount Road

(Next to Eckert's Country Market)

Sunday, August 4, 2024

10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Ham Green Beans Cole Slaw
Regular & German Potato Salad
Spiced Peaches Peach Sauce Peach Cobbler
Fresh Sliced Peaches Ice Cream
Coffee Ice Tea

\$18.00 Adult – eat in or carry out

Kids eat in 5-10 – \$9.00 Tots under 5 – Free

Carry Out Service Available

Dining Room Air Conditioned and Handicapped Accessible

OUR FAMOUS JAMS AND JELLIES FOR SALE



Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

Happy summer to everyone. I'm sitting on my front porch this evening and watching the birds at my bird feeders. I have so many different birds and thank God that I have my eye sight to see all of His creatures.

Those birds are just like humans, many of them love to fight each other, some can be down right mean at times. I have pairs of red birds, wood peckers, doves, plus dozens of other kinds of birds, and two big black snakes that have come to visit, not my favorite but then they are also God's creatures and here for a reason.

If we stop to think about the creatures God has made including humans we work and share with each other to make life easier. God has blessed all of us with His love and protection.

Brothers and Sisters we all need to be praying for our country during the next months ahead that peace can be found to make our world a better place.

Wishing Boone county a fantastic fair week. To those Granges who also have special projects going on the very best to you also.

Hope to see many of you at State Session. Until next time stay safe in all you do. Love, peace and blessings to you.

"Well Done Good and Faithful Servant"

Nancy Carolyn Westmoreland Erbe

1933-2024

Union Grange

Nancy will be missed for her great laugh and her sense of humor. She worked in retail until she retired at 80.



Archie R. Randolph Jr.

1931-2024

Perryville Grange

Archie "Red" loved to hand quilt. His quilts won three years in a row at the Boone County Fair.



WHEREVER YOU GO, WHATEVER YOUR CALLING,
AIM TO DO GOOD. GOOD DEEDS ARE EVER
FRUITFUL OF YET MORE GOOD.

Second Degree; Lecturer