

153rd Annual Session - 2024

ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE

JOURNAL



September 13 – 15, 2024
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
1000 Eastport Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234

Friday, September 13 – Sunday, September 15, 2024

Schedule of Events of the 153rd Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange

1000 Eastport Plaza Dr, Collinsville, IL 62234

Collinsville, IL, September 13-15, 2024

Friday, September 13, 2024

8:30 AM – Noon

Registration & Contest entries in place in display room

10:00 State Officers Practice Sixth Degree Practice

1:00 PM Open in the Sixth Degree – **Lynette Schaeffer**, President

Open to all Delegates and Grangers attending

Roll Call of Officers

Close in the Sixth Degree Open in the Fourth Degree

Presentation of **Philip Vonada**, National Grange Communications
Director, PA State Grange Junior Director.

Presentation of **Mayor of Collinsville or representative** (if
present)

Response –**Karie Blasingame**, Vice President

Roll Call of Delegates

Adoption of Order of Business –Frank D Wurth, Chair Exec Comm
Meeting place for 2025 – Boone County

Invitation of Meeting Place 2026 (Northfield Inn)

Reports –Treasurer [Mary Donley] (Budget), Secretary [Brian Keller]
(Credentials), Exec Committee [Debbie Wade]

2:15 Recess

2:30 Election of Officer [one Executive Committee

Appointment of Session Committees Assignment of Resolutions

Committee Instruction by President and Vice President

Resolutions to the committees

4:00 Grange Closed in the Fourth Degree

Committee Meetings

6:00 Main Banquet

7:00 Evening Program

Introduction of Special Invited Guests - **Charles Meier**, IL Rep

Summary of Address of State President – **Lynette Schaeffer**

Community Service Awards – **Heather Ellwanger**, Director

Membership Awards – **Robin Kindberg**, Director

8:30 Committee Meetings

Saturday, September 14, 2024

- 7:00 AM** Ag Chairman: **Steven Kinzinger**
8:00 Opening in Fourth Degree Roll Call of State Officers Roll Call of Delegates. Reading and Adopting of Minutes
8:45 Junior Grange Report and Awards, **Mindy Schiefer**, Director
9:45 Report – Committee on Finance & Accounts
10:00 Recess
10:15 Committee Reports
11:30 Family Homemaking Projects Luncheon – **Angie Dickerson**, Director
1:15 PM Conferring Fifth Degree by St Clair County Pomona Officers
Conferring of Sixth Degree – IL State Grange Officers
3:00 Recess
3:15 Grange Historian – **Beverly Smith** Legislative – **Marion Thornberry**
4:00 National Grange Representative Report/Workshop – **Philip Vonada**
Avoiding Social Media Scam
Committee Reports
5:00 Grange Closed in Fourth Degree (Take possessions with you
6:30 Youth/Young Adults Banquet–**Karie Blasingame and Marisa O'Dell**
Directors
The 50's is the theme.
7:30 Evening Program
Magician, Richard Thompson
Auction // Raffle Drawing

Sunday, September 15, 2024

- 8:00 AM** Celebration of Life – **Charlotte Mehrtens**, Chaplain
8:45 Opening in the Fourth Degree Youth/Young Adults Officers
Roll Call of Youth Officers Roll Call of State Officers
Roll Call of Delegates
Reading of State Minutes
9:00 FAC/AG – Final Reports and Sash Transfers
Community Service Booklets, – **Heather Ellwanger**, Director
Lecturer Report – **Ethan Edwards**
Committee Reports
Completion of Remaining Business/Installation of
Closing of the 153st Annual Session

Officers /Committee Chairs/Directors

153nd Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange Collinsville, Illinois September 13-15th 2024

Officers

President/Master – Lynette Schaeffer
Vice President/Overseer – Katherine (Karie) Blasingame
Lecturer – Ethan Edwards
Steward – Brad Wade
Assistant Steward – Rick O'Dell
Lady Assistant Steward – Carrie Fisher
Chaplain – Charlotte Mehrrens
Treasurer – Mary Donley
Secretary – Brian Keller
Gatekeeper – Don Ellwanger
Ceres – Sara Ellwanger
Flora – Marilyn Hoffmann
Pomona – Patti Lee
Executive Committee 2024 – Debra Wade
Executive Committee 2025 – Frank D. Wurth
Executive Committee 2026 – Todd Hegge

Committee Chairs / Directors

Agriculture 2024 – Steven Kinzinger
Agriculture 2025 – Brian O'Dell
Agriculture 2026 –
Communications Director / IL Granger Editor – Ruth Blasingame
Community Service Director – Heather Ellwanger
Family Activities Director 2024 – Angie Dickerson
Family Activities Director 2025 – Ann Johnson
Family Activities Director 2026 –
Grange Historian – Beverly Smith
Junior Director – Mindy Schiefer
Legislative Director – Marion Thornberry
Youth / Young Adult Co- Director – Katherine (Karie) Blasingame
Youth / Young Adult Co- Director – Marissa O'Dell
Membership Director – Robin Kindberg

Delegates for the 2024 State Grange Session

Grange Name

DELEGATES

Beaver Valley #1791
 Beaver Valley #1791
 Big Thunder #1940
 Bluff #1826
 Bluff #1826
 Broad Hollow #1806
 Capron #1901
 County Line #1751
 County Line #1751
 Emerald Mound #1813
 Emerald Mound #1813
 Enterprise #1929
 Enterprise #1929
 Flora #1762
 Flora #1762
 Floraville Community #1918
 Floraville Community #1918
 Galt #1853
 Guilford Hope #6
 Guilford Hope #6
 Harmony #957
 Hopewell #1747
 Hopewell #1747
 Leroy Community #1873
 Perryville #1805
 Prairie #1832
 Prairie #1832
 Progressive #1811
 Shiloh Valley #1807
 Shiloh Valley #1807
 Troy Grove #1852
 Turkey Hill #1370
 Turkey Hill #1370
 Union #811
 Boone County Pomona #78
 Boone County Pomona #78
 St Clair County Pomona #21
 St Clair County Pomona #21
 Winnebago County Pomona #73

Brian O'Dell
 Marisa O'Dell
 NO DELEGATES
 Angie Dickerson
 Rob Comstock
 Carol Neff
 NO DELEGATES
 Myron Peterson
 Jean Peterson
 Marc Henrichs
 Stephen Alltop
 Terry Reeves
 Karen Reeves
 Ken Fidler
 Amber Fidler
 Lana Korte
 Victor Klein
 NO DELEGATES
 Wayne Lyford
 Nancy Lyford
 NO DELEGATES
 Gary Hecathorn
 Katie Renken
 NO DELEGATES
 Beverly Smith
 Don Ellwanger
 Heather Ellwanger
 Douglas Kinzinger
 Ethan Edwards
 Justin Schaeffer
 NO DELEGATES
 James Coe
 Marilyn Coe
 Vivian Johnson
 Ruth Blasingame
 Katherine (Karie) Blasingame
 Charlotte Mehrtens
 Marilyn Hoffmann
 NO DELEGATES

Secretary Minutes
1st day of the 153rd Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange
September 13, 2024

Presession Activities

The display room was opened at 8:00AM to check in contest entries in the Agriculture, Family Activities, Lecturer, Junior, Community Service and Youth Department.

At 10:00AM the Illinois State Grange Officers practiced for the opening drill and the Sixth Degree.

At 1:00PM the first day of the 153rd annual session of the Illinois State Grange was called to order by President Lynette Schaeffer in the Sixth Degree at Doubletree Hotel in Collinsville, IL.

OPENING SONG: Good Thing to Be a Granger

Honored Guests were presented: National Grange Communications Director and Pennsylvania State Grange Junior Director Brother Philip Vonada; Past National Grange Secretary and Past Illinois State Grange Master Sister Henrietta Keller, Past National Grange Flora Past 1st Lady of the Illinois State Grange and current Illinois State Grange Pomona Sister Patti Lee, Past Illinois State Grange Master and Past Illinois State Grange Executive Committee Member Brother Lyle Lee, Past Illinois State Grange Master Brother David Donley, Past Illinois State Grange 1st Lady and current Illinois State Grange Treasurer Sister Mary Donley, Past National Grange Junior Director Sister Emalee Colver were our honored guests and were escorted to the President's station and were asked if they wanted to speak. Sister Henrietta Keller- "Great to see everyone here, I love the Illinois State Grange."

Brother David – "Happy to be here."

Sister Mary Donley – "Happy to be here. I'm much more active now than in years past."

Sister Patti Lee – "Great to see everyone including lots of new faces. I hope to meet everyone this weekend."

Brother Lyle Lee – "You are all my Grange Family, and I love being here."

Brother Philip Vonada – "Great to reach 153rd Anniversary Congratulations on being a pilot program for Rural Life Initiative. Invited everyone to Nationals 2024 in Iowa and 2025 on the Carnival Cruise. Thank you for inviting me to your session."

Roll Call of State Officers found 16 officers present. Brother Lyle Lee of Prairie Grange served as flagbearer and Brother Mardy Eisloeffel accompanied us on the accordion.

Since there was no further business in the Sixth Degree the Grange was lowered to the Fourth Degree.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer President of the Illinois State Grange welcomed everyone to the 153rd annual session of the Illinois State Grange.

Roll Call of Delegates found 28 Subordinate Delegates and 4 Pomona Delegates as well as several other Grangers in attendance.

Brother Frank D. Wurth Chairman of the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee presented the Order of Business for the 153rd annual session of the Illinois State Grange.

Sister Katie Renken suggested to have a Talent Exhibition added on Saturday night to the order of Business. Discussion followed stating that National decided to remove the talent portion at National Session this year so Illinois State Grange followed suit in removing this program. After further discussion, Katie Renken moved that we have a talent exhibition after the magic show on Saturday Night. Marc Henrichs seconded the motion, Motion carried.

Brother Justin Schaeffer moved to adopt the Order of Business for the 153rd annual session of the Illinois State Grange as amended, and Brother Don Ellwanger seconded the motion. Motion carried. The full Order of Business will appear in the journal.

Sister Ruth Blasingame President of the Boone County Pomona Grange invited everyone to come to the 154th annual session of the Illinois State Grange which will be September 19-21, 2025 at the Boone County fairgrounds Belvidere, IL with Boone County Granges serving as hosts.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer invited everyone to come to the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange at Northfield Inn and Suites in Springfield, IL, date to be determined.

Reports were given by the following:

Treasurer – Mary Donley - a copy of the proposed budget is in your Delegate books, She also gave a listing of all accounts. Discussion followed: The closed Grange accounts have been put into CD's; unclaimed funds have been recovered from the Illinois State Treasury. A discussion followed on the possibility of dues increase and mileage reimbursement decrease to balance out the income and expenses of the fiscal year.

Justin Schaeffer moved to approve the Treasurer's report as amended and Steven Alltop seconded the motion. Motion carried. The full Treasurer's report will appear in the journal.

A short recess followed.

Brother Brian Keller Illinois State Grange Secretary gave the Credential report. There are 830 members in our state. We need more members. The Number of Pomona Grangers should be 2 instead of 3. Lana Korte moved to amend the Credential Report and Katie Renken seconded the motion. Motion carried. The full Credential Report will appear in the journal.

Sister Debbie Wade Secretary of the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee gave their report. It was amended the date that they met after State Session was September 10, 2023, not 2024. Under scholarships Sherri Konieczki- Bockmann was misspelled changed to read Sheri Bochmann. Since the report was written we have lost Past State Grange Committee Chairs: Kenneth R Joseph, Joan Fidler, and Joyce Meyer. In the wording where it says Terminated Hall requests should read Hall Improvement Requests. Marilyn Coe moved to approve the Executive Committee summary report as amended and Carol Neff seconded the motion. Motion carried. The full report of the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee was approved and will appear in the journal.

The nominations for the 3-year term of the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee member took place and Deb Wade of Hopewell Grange was reelected for a 3-year term on the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee. Congratulations Deb!

Appointment of Session committees, assignment of resolutions and instructions were given by President Lynette Schaeffer and Vice President Karie Blasingame. Committees will meet after session closes. They were reminded when they get their committee action together to be sure and get it to Robin Kindberg tonight so it can be typed and ready for presentation in the morning.

Legislative Director Brother Marion Thornberry gave his suggestions on the resolutions.

1. Suggested to rewrite
2. No suggestions
3. No suggestions
4. Already a law – up to the counties to reinforce it - to be enforce it not reinforce it
5. No suggestions
6. This has been an ongoing battle since 1836

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 150th Anniversary cups are for sale \$10 each or 2 for \$17.50
- Receiving line for Main Banquet start at 5:30pm
- Sign up for 5th and 6th Degree with the Secretary
- Storage unit needed cleaning and found lots of interesting things: 5th degree brand new sashes from Ogle County and multitude of old song books
- Beaver Valley Grange has pens for sale \$1each or 5 for \$5
- Spaghetti Dinner Benefit for Sophie and Charles Treser is September 21,2024 at Turkey Hill Grange from 4 –7pm. Monetary donations are accepted
- Illinois State Grange Treasurer Sister Mary Donley noted that in the State Session proposal expense of 2025 was \$10,000 and should have been \$8,000

CLOSING SONG: Smile, Smile, Smile

The Grange was closed at 3:37PM in the Fourth Degree.

Evening Program

At 6:00 PM 62 adults and 5 children gathered for the Main Banquet. Sister Charlotte Mehrtens Illinois State Grange Chaplain gave the blessing, and a delicious meal was enjoyed by all.

Following the meeting Special Guest Charles Meier Illinois State Representative from the 109th District was our guest speaker. He gave a brief history of his life living on a farm and being involved in Agriculture. He stressed Farming is the backbone of America. He talked about the inheritance Bill that will affect the local farm family and he talked about Carbon emission project. Charlie is a very strong supporter of 4-H program and Agriculture classes in Illinois.

We need to keep our family farms going. Sister Lynette thanked Charlie for coming and speaking to us and she thanked Ken Hartman from the National Corn Growers Association for joining us as well.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer then turned the meeting over to Illinois State Grange Community Service Director Sister Heather Ellwanger for her part of the program. Sister Heather Ellwanger then introduced Christine Schultz a representative from the Hoyleton Children's Home. Christine talked about how it was an orphanage then they moved the children into farmhouses and now they have built 6 new homes that house 36 developmentally challenged individuals who have dealt with traumatic situations. All items donated tonight will help several children during these difficult times. They rely on Community Service donations and monetary donations that are used to purchase food and other items for their foster bags.

Sister Heather Ellwanger thanked everyone who donated items. 1103 items were collected. Floraville Community Grange donated the most items and the Kindberg's were the individuals who donated the most items as an individual. \$260 in monetary donations were also collected. Sister Heather Ellwanger went on and gave the rest of her community serve report. There were 7 Community Service books turned in this year and the winners are as follows:

4th Place – Turkey Hill Grange

3rd Place – Prairie Grange

2nd Place – Flora Grange

1st Place – County Line Grange

Congratulations to all the winners. You can get your books back on Sunday morning.

Teacher of the Year selected was Kathryn Young nominated by Turkey Hill Grange.

Firefighter of the Year selected was Mike Lowe nominated by Leroy Community Grange.

Law Enforcement Officers year was Joe Boving nominated by Turkey Hill Grange.

The Non-Granger of the Year was Tanya Hoemke nominated by Prairie Grange.

The Junior Granger of the Year nomination was Scarlett Ellwanger nominated by Prairie Grange and County Line Grange.

Granger of the Year nominations was Kelly Kindberg nominated by Prairie Grange.
Congratulations to all the winners.!!!

The full report of the Community Service Director and all the Community Service winners will appear in the journal.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Heather Ellwanger for a job well done. Sister Lynette Schaeffer then turned the program over to Illinois State Grange Membership/Recognition Director Sister Robin Kindberg to present the Membership and Recognition awards for 2024.

Our total membership as of June 30, 2024, was 830 members. The breakdown is on your Credential sheet in the delegate books.

This past year we had 56 members drop, 10 members died, and 11 Associate members dropped for a total loss of 87 members that we lost. This past year we had 9 Granges that took in 42 new members. Each Grange that took in new members will receive \$5.00 per new members.
Beaver Valley Grange # 1791 – 11 new members = \$55.00
Broad Hollow Grange # 1806 – 1 new member = \$5.00
County Line Grange # 1751 – 4 new members = \$20.00

Flora Grange # 1762 – 5 new members = \$ 25.00
Guilford Hope Grange #6 – 2 new members = \$10.00
Hopewell Grange # 1747 – 3 new members = \$15.00
LeRoy Community Grange # 1873 – 1 new member = \$5.00
Prairie Grange #1832 – 7 new members - \$35.00
Turkey Hill Grange #1370 – 8 new members = \$40.00

At this time, it gives me the pleasure to present membership award plaques to the following members:

Beaver Valley Grange
Brian and Marisa O'Dell – signed up 6 new members
Rick and Renee O'Dell – signed up 4 new members
Don Paulson Jr. – signed up 4 new members
Athena O'Dell – signed up 4 new members

Prairie Grange
Robin Kindberg – signed up 4 new members

Turkey Hill Grange
Bill and Tami Hughes – signed up 4 new members
Congratulations to all the recipients.

The list of Recognition Awards winners is listed on the Back of the Credential Sheet in your Books. Be sure to honor those Grangers who have diligently served the Grange. They need to be recognized.

My challenge to all Grangers is to go out and sign-up new members. We need our Granges to grow in order to keep this great organization thriving.

The full report of the Membership/Recognition Director and the winners will appear in the journal. Sister Robin Kindberg turned the program back over to Sister Lynette Schaeffer.

Illinois State Grange President Sister Lynette Schaeffer gave a summary of the President's Address and welcomed everyone to this year's State Session. Sister Lynette thanked Brother Brian Keller and Sister Mary Donley for being willing to step in and take the Treasurer and Secretary positions as well as all the Directors and Committee Chairs for all their hard work throughout the year. She highlighted her many Grange adventures since last state session including Nationals at Niagara Falls, Midwestern Leadership Conference in Bowling Green Ohio and Turkey Hill Granges 150th Anniversary. Sister Lynette invited everyone to National Session 2024 in the Quad Cities. Lynette spoke about the National Grange selling their building. She then spoke about some of the National programs that we are a pilot Grange for including "the Rural Life Initiative and Rural Surgical Services." The full report of the President's Address will appear in the journal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. There will be NO AG Breakfast in the morning. You are to eat at the hotel at 6:30AM and the Program will start at 7:15AM in the meeting room.
2. Be sure to get you committee actions for resolutions to Robin tonight if possible.
Location to be announced.

The program ended at 9:23 PM

Thus ended the 1st day of the 153rd annual session of the Illinois State Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,

Brian Keller

Illinois State Grange Secretary

2nd day of the 153rd Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange Saturday September 14, 2024

The morning started at 7:15AM with 2024 AG Chairman Brother Steven Kinzinger welcomed everyone to the AG Program. His speaker was ill this morning, so we watched a video entitled “Show Me Ag” a program at the St Louis Science Center. A place to come and learn about Ag and do lots of hands-on activities for city and farm people as well. It was a great place to learn where our food comes from and about agriculture in general.

Then Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Brother Steven Kinzinger for being Ag chairman this past year and she introduced Brother Brian O’Dell from Beaver Valley Grange who will be the 2025 Ag Committee chairman.

President Lynette Schaeffer opened the 2nd day of the 153rd annual session of the Illinois State Grange in the Fourth Degree at 8:13 AM. Brother Lyle Lee from Prairie Grange served as flagbearer and Brother Mardy Eisloeffel accompanied us on the accordion.

OPENING SONG: For the Beauty of the Earth

Roll Call of State Officers found 16 officers present. Roll Call of Subordinate Delegates found 27 delegates present, and 4 Pomona Grange delegates present as well as several other Grangers in attendance.

Minutes of the 1st day of the 153rd annual session of the Illinois State Grange were read and amended. Legislative Director Marion Thornberry suggested that resolution #4 should read “Its up to the county to enforce the law not reinforced. “On the evening program Under the community service report Scarlette Ellwanger was nominated by Prairie Grange and County Line Grange. Also, in the evening program Ken Hartman from the National Corn Growers Associations was our guest for the evening. A motion was made by Karie Blasingame to approve the minutes of the 1st day of the 153rd annual session of the Illinois State Grange as amended, and Justin Schaeffer seconded the motion. Motion carried and the minutes of the 1st day of the 153rd Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange will appear in the journal.

We were presented with words of wisdom from National Grange President Chris Hamp. Congratulating Turkey Hill Grange on their 150th anniversary along with Union and Harmony Granges who have achieved that status. The Grange Building has been sold but National Grange will remain at 1616 H St. NW Washington DC for the next 3 years. National President thanked Illinois Grangers for their leadership, excitement, and all the hard work we are doing to help host National Session 2024 in Iowa. Illinois is a pilot program for Rural Life Initiative for the

National Grange Advocacy Program. All Grangers are on the same team, and we are all striving to be Grange Strong.

Illinois State Grange Junior Grange Director Sister Mindy Schiefer was escorted to the President's station, and she gave her Junior report.

There were 0 entries in the Junior contests this year. She reported that she had 1 entry in the Juniors at Heart contests and that was Patty Bearth for her clay project. The Juniors will be going to the Museum of Illusion, having lunch and visiting the sculpture park for their activities today. She closed with a quote from Vincent Van Gogh., "Close friends are truly life's treasurers..." Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Mindy for a job well done considering the year she has had. The full report of the Junior Department will appear in the journal.

Sister Vivian Johnson chairman of the Finance and Accounts committee gave their report. The committee was assigned no resolutions but created a new resolution in reference to mileage reimbursement. The full report of the Finance and Accounts Committee was adopted as amended and will appear in the journal.

Brother Justin Schaeffer chairman of the Agriculture/ Conservation & Energy/ Health Committee gave their report. The Agriculture/ Conservation & Energy/ Health Committee were given Resolution #2024 – 01 this was rejected on the grounds of going against Grange Policy. The full report of the Agriculture/ Conservation & Energy/ Health Committee was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Brother Don Ellwanger chairman of the Grange Activities and President's Address Committee gave their report. This committee was given Resolution #2024 -02 which was adopted as amended.

The Grange Activities and President's Address Committee were also given Resolution #2024 – 03 which was adopted as written.

The committee then gave their report on the Master/President's Address which was approved as presented. The full report of the Grange Activities and Master/President's Address Committee was adopted and will appear in the journal.

We took a short recess at 9:40AM

Brother Frank D Wurth Chairman of the Good of the Order and By-Laws Committee gave their report. The committee was assigned By-laws 2024-01 through 2024-31 and the actions are as follow:

- 2024-01 Replace Master with Master/President – Adopted as written
- 2024-02 Replace Overseer with Overseer/Vice President –Adopted as written
- 2024-03 Article II Section 5 – Adopted as written
- 2024-04 Article III Section 2 – Adopted as amended
- 2024-05 Article VI Section 4 –Adopted as written
- 2024-06 Article VI Section 5 –Adopted as written
- 2024-07 Article X – Adopted as written
- 2024-08 Article XII Section 1 – Adopted as amended
- 2024-09 Article XII Section 4 – Adopted as written
- 2024-10 Article XIII Section 4 -Adopted as amended

2024-11 Article XIII Section 5 - Adopted as written
2024-12 Article XIII Section 11 – Adopted as written
2024-13 Article XIV Section 1 – Adopted as amended
2024-14 Article XIV Section 4 – Adopted as written
2024-15 Article XV Section 9 - Adopted as amended
2024-16 Article XV Section 10 Adopted as written
2024-17 Article XVII Section 2 – Adopted as written
2024-18 Article XVII Section 5 – Adopted as written
2024-19 Article XVII Section 7 – Adopted as amended
2024-20 Article XVII Section 9 - Adopted as written
2024-21 Article XVII Section 10 – Adopted as written

The remainder of the By-Law Proposals will be presented later today.

Brother Gary Hecathorn Chairman of the State & National Welfare/Legislation and Transportation Committee gave their report. They were assigned Resolution # 2024 – 04 that was rejected due to already being Grange Policy.

Brother Gary Hecathorn Chairman of the State & National Welfare/Legislation and Transportation Committee were also given Resolution # 2024 – 05 that was sent back to the Grange for clarification.

Brother Gary Hecathorn Chairman of the State & National Welfare/Legislation and Transportation Committee were also assigned Resolution # 2024 – 06 that was accepted as amended.

The full report of the State & National Welfare/Legislation and Transportation committee was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Announcements

- Lester Gibbs from Vermont is looking for a roommate at this year's National Session
- Beaver Valley Grange is selling ink pens \$1.00 each or 5 for \$5.00.
- Sister Ruth Blasingame Illinois State Grange Editor reminded all Granges about their mailing list that need to be returned to her by GRIT
- Notify Ethan Edwards Illinois State Grange Lecturer if you wish to participate in the Talent Exhibition tonight.
- Sister Lynette reminded everyone about the Rural Life Initiative Brochures that are available
- Brother Lyle Lee reminded everyone to come to the auction tonight and bid on a beautiful welcome stone made by Debbie (Buck) Crew a fellow Granger
- St. Clair County Pomona is selling Raffle tickets to raise money for National Session and the winner will be announced at the auction tonight.
- 150th Illinois State Grange Cups are available for sale.
- Illinois is very active this year at National Session and will need donations for Hospitality room so go back to your Granges and ask them to donate
- There will be a Spaghetti Supper to raise money for Sophie and Charles Treser on September 21, 2024, at Turkey Hill Grange from 4-7 PM.

At 11:15AM the meeting was called to recess for the Family Activities Committee Luncheon and raffle.

Sister Angie Dickerson 2024 Family Activities Committee Chairman welcomed 62 adults and 4 children to the FAC luncheon. She thanked everyone for coming and for donating items to the raffle. She then introduced the Past FAC chairman who were in attendance. Illinois State Grange Chaplain Sister Charlotte Mehrrens gave the blessing, and everyone enjoyed a delicious Deli Buffet.

Following the meal, Sister Angie Dickerson reported she had 65 winners in the Family Activities Contests. She then proceeded with the raffle. After the raffle Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Angie Dickerson and her committee for a job well done, and introduced Sister Ann Johnson from Prairie Grange who will be the 2025 Family Activities Committee Chairman and Sister Trisha Renken will be the 2026 FAC Chairman. The full report of the Family Activities Committee, the FAC contest winners and FAC auction results will appear in the journal.

A recess was called.

At 1:20PM the Grange meeting was called back to order with the officers of St. Clair County Pomona presenting the 5th Degree to a class of 4 candidates.

At 2:15PM the officers of the Illinois State Grange conducted the 6th Degree to a class of 4 candidates. The names of the 5th and 6th degree candidates along with the names of the St. Clair County Pomona officers who presented the 5th degree and the Illinois State Grange officers who presented the 6th degree will appear in the journal.

A short recess followed.

The Grange was called back to order at 3:15PM at which time Illinois State Grange Historian Sister Beverly Smith gave a show and tell program on different Grange items she has received. She has made 44 different Grange Scrapbooks. She has 15 different collections of Grange items including pamphlets, stickers, rosters and Grange jewelry.

She talked about items from Orange Grange #843 that was organized 1-10-1874 and when Orange Grange closed and it became Alta Grange.

Sister Beverly has lots of items in her home and she invited all Grangers to come and visit and browse around at all the Grange stuff she has.

The full report of the Illinois State Grange Historian will appear in the journal.

National Grange Representative Brother Philip Vonada gave a workshop entitled “Avoiding Social Media Scam”

Ways on how to keep ourselves safe online. Brother Phil reported there are over 300,000 social media attacks each week. There are many different types of scams, most scam are a foreign country. Crypto, Romance, spoofing and account takeover are all examples of scams. They will ask you for your phone number or email. Do Not ever give that out especially to someone you don't know. Missing People or Missing pets. If the comment on any email is turned off don't respond to it. They can steal your password, don't save your passwords on Google. Google is not secure. Don't buy gift card for businesses.

Red flags: are buy – sell – trade pages, commenting is turned off, Past tense used or odd grammar. Pictures that tug at your heart strings.

Brother Phil gave us ways to be safe. Always be skeptical, check URL address be sure you are being safe. Never send money to someone you don't know and never share passwords.

If you think you have been scammed here are things to do about it. Cut communications with that person. Document everything. Report the scammers to BBB, FBI and police. Monitor your accounts if affected stop them and change passwords. AARP Fraud Network will help seniors. The phone number is 877-908-3360.

Don't take surveys online, don't do Quizzes online and don't do surveys with 30 questions.

Be sure to keep yourself safe when online. Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked brother Phil for presenting his workshop.

Brother Frank D. Wurth chairman of the Bylaws committee came up to the President's station to continue with the rest of their report.

2024-22 Article XVIII Section 1-Adopted as written

2024-23 Article XVIII Section 2 - Adopted as written

2024-24 Article XVIII Section 3 - Adopted as written

2024-25 Article XIX Section 5 - Adopted as written

2024-26 Article XIX - Adopted as amended

2024-27 Article XXI - Adopted as written

2024-28 Article XXIII - Adopted as written

2024-29 Article XXIV - Adopted as written

2024-30 Appendix A - Adopted as amended

2024-31 Appendix B - Adopted as written

The full report of the Good of the Order and By-Laws committee was adopted and will appear in the journal. Sister Lynette thanked Brother Frank and all his committee members for all the hard work they did to get through these By-Laws.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Brother Lyle Lee for serving as flagbearer and to Brother Mardy Eisleffel for accompanying us on the accordion.

CLOSING SONG: Blessed be the Tides that Bind

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Reminder on the Fundraiser for Sophie and Charles Treser
- 150th Anniversary cups are available for sale
- Come support the Grange Auction tonight
- Get all reports to the Kindberg's this weekend
- Thank you to St. Clair County Pomona for doing the 5th Degree and the Illinois State Grange Officers for doing the 6th Degree and all the committee directors and chairs for a job well done.
- Robin Kindberg Membership/Recognition Director will be sending out a roster to all Granges to fill out and it must be returned to her by October 1st

Meeting was closed at 5:07PM in the Fourth Degree.

EVENING PROGRAM

At 6:30 PM 63 Grangers, 9 children attended the Youth/ Young Adults 1950's themed banquet. The Illinois State Grange Chaplain Sister Charlotte Mehrstens gave the blessing, and a delicious meal was enjoyed by all.

Sister Marisa O'Dell and Sister Karie Blasingame Co-Directors of the Illinois State Grange Youth/Young Adult Department welcomed everyone. They spoke on the various endeavors for the year including the Mystery Dinner at Spring Fling, attending Midwestern Leadership Conference in Bowling Green Ohio and the State Grange picnic.

This year the Youth department had 40 entries in 22 categories with 9 Grangers from 3 Granges and 4 - +1 Juniors and 5 Junior Grangers participating. Best of Show for the Youth Department went to Scarlett Ellwanger for her Pollinator Poster. A new project originated from the Youth Department this year and that was to give a special ribbon to the Graces and have them choose who their Best of Show Winner was and the results are as follows: Ceres Choice- Hattie Schlie on her Nature Lego set, Pomona Choice was Dawn Mundy on her Nature/Landscape Diamond art picture and Flora Choice went to Beckie Meyers on her Vehicle Lego set. Let them know of any ideas you want to see as contests. Keep in mind We need to partner with other local youth organizations, (4-H, FFA, Scouts) to get more youth involved.

The youth are doing another Butter-Braid Fundraiser and this year they are also selling cookie dough which can be picked up at the GRIT conferences. Place your orders online,

Next year's theme will be Western and at Spring Fling the youth department will be holding a Western themed Mystery Dinner. The full report of the Youth and Young Adult Committee and all the Youth contest winners will appear in the journal. Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Karie and Sister Marisa for a job well done.

Sister Lynette then turned the program over to Illinois State Grange Lecturer Brother Ethan Edwards who introduced his guest Richard Thompson who entertained the audience with his magic show.

Then had a Talent Exhibition with 4 entries.

- Katie Renken – sang a medley of songs
- Hilda Koluch sang “Tenderly” and was accompanied by Mardy Eisloeffel on the accordion
- Mardy Eisloeffel and Ethan Edwards performed ‘Ashokan Farewell,’ on the accordion and cello.
- Renee O'Dell presented a Comedy Act.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer then thanked Brother Ethan Edwards for the job he has done as Lecturer this past year.

A beautiful quilt that was donated by St. Clair County Pomona was raffled off and the money will go to help with expenses at National Session. The lucky winner was Anisa Bagsby from Floraville Community Grange.

National Grange has a Hall of Fame that honors deceased Grangers. This year Brother Brian Keller researched a Granger and Sister Dosia Eckert was nominated and he gave a brief history about her. She started the Juvenile Grange Handbook and many other Grange related programs. On August 28th Brother Brian Keller received word from the National Grange that Sister Dosia Eckert will be inducted into the Grange Hall of Fame at National Session in November 2024. Brother Brian also reported this will be the 4th Past Granger from Illinois to be inducted into the Grange Hall of Fame.

The evening ended with the annual Agriculture Auction with Brother Lyle Lee as auctioneer, Chairman Steven Kinzinger, Brother Don Schaeffer, Brother Brian O'Dell, Sister Marisa O'Dell, Sister Lana Korte, Sister Patti Lee and Sister Ruth Blasingame assisted with the Auction. Tonight's auction included items from the AG Department, Family Activities Department, and some very special items that were auctioned to raise money for the Illinois State Grange General Fund to help with expenses at National Session. All auction winners will appear in the journal.

The meeting ended at 9:45PM.
Thus ended the 2nd day of the 153rd annual session of the Illinois State Grange.

Fraternally submitted,
Brian Keller
Illinois State Grange Secretary

Secretary Minutes

3rd day of the 153rd Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange

Sunday, September 15, 2024

At 8:00AM, Illinois State Grange Chaplain Sister Charlotte Mehrtens presented a church service and immediately following, she gave a Celebration of Life program honoring our Grange Brothers and Sisters who have gone onto the great Grange above. Sister Charlotte's church service and Celebration of Life program will appear in the journal.

At 9:00 AM the Illinois State Grange Youth and Young Adults entered the room performing a very impressive marching drill to seat the officers and open the meeting. Brother Avery Wurth served as flagbearer.

OPENING SONG: HOKEY POKEY

Honored Guests were presented: National Grange Communications Director and Pennsylvania State Junior Director Brother Phillip Vonada, National Grange Executive Committee Member and current Illinois State Grange President Sister Lynette Schaeffer and 1st Man Brother Don Schaeffer, Past National Grange Secretary and Past Master of the Illinois State Grange Sister .Henrietta Keller, Past National Grange Flora, Past 1st lady and current Illinois State Grange Pomona Sister Patti Lee, Past Illinois State Grange Master Brother Lyle Lee, Past Illinois State Grange Master Brother David Donley and current Illinois State Grange Treasurer Sister Mary Donley, Illinois State Grange Co-Youth Directors Sister Marisa O'Dell and Sister Karie Blasingame were our honored guests and were escorted to the President's station and each were asked to share some words of wisdom.

Brother Philip Vonada –It was awesome to see people of all ages participating. Great work and it has been a wonderful session. I love seeing future leaders getting involved in the Grange.

Sister Henrietta Keller – The youth did a fantastic job as always

Brother Lyle Lee – The drill is the one thing I look forward to at state session. Hats off to the committee for a wonderful session and everyone have a safe trip home.

Sister Patti Lee – The youth did a great job, and it is wonderful to see families working together to participate in the drill.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer- Oh how we were reminded by Brother Stan Pagles do that pinky hook for it goes back many, many years.

Brother Don Schaeffer – Wonderful job as always – Thank you Karie and Marisa for doing such a great job with our Youth.

Sister Karie Blasingame – Hope everyone enjoyed the drill this year. Next year's theme will be western. And we made sure that Elvira was in the drill believe we have been doing it since the 1980's. Don't forget to order you butter braids and Cookie Dough.

Sister Marisa O'Dell –Great job to all the youth, and it only took about 3 hours to practice and thank you for all your hard work.

Roll Call of Illinois State Grange Youth and Young Adult Officers found 16 Officers present. Roll Call of State Officers found 15 officers and one pro tem officer present and Roll Call of Delegates found 24 Subordinate Delegates and 4 Pomona Delegates present and several Grangers in attendance.

Minutes from the 2nd day of the 153rd annual session of the Illinois State Grange were read and amended. Sister Renee O' Dell's comedy act needs to be added to the Talent Exhibition and money for special items at auction went to Illinois State Grange General Fund not to National. The minutes of the 2nd day of the 153rd annual session of the Illinois State Grange were adopted as amended and will appear in the journal.

Brother Steven Kinzinger 2024 AG Chairman and Brother Brian O'Dell 2025 AG Chairman were escorted to the President's station. Brother Steven Kinzinger gave the Ag Committee report. They had 54 total entries from 8 Granges and 2 Junior entries in the AG contests. The Best of Show in the AG Department went to Jerry Paulson from Beaver Valley Grange for his Zinna flowers. They raised \$475.50 at the Auction. After expenses were taken out \$131.00 was turned over to the Klotz Agriculture Scholarship Fund. Brother Steven Kinzinger thanked his committee and all that helped at the auction.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Brother Steven and his committee for a job well done and she then turned the AG Chairman sash over to Brother Brian O'Dell from Beaver Valley Grange who will be the 2025 AG Chairman and announced that Sisters Lana Korte and Sister Marilyn Hoffmann will be Co-AG Chairmen for the 2026 and in 2027. The full report of the AG Department with contest winners and Auction results will appear in the journal.

Sister Angie Dickerson and Sister Ann Johnson were escorted to the President's station. Sister Angie Dickerson gave the FAC Committee report. They had a total of 70 entries in the FAC contests this year and we had 10 Junior entries. Best of Show for the Family Activities Committee was Emalee Colver from Flora Grange for her Patriotic Quilt. They had \$ 897 in raffle ticket sales turned in and 46 items were donated to the raffle. They raised \$340.00 on the items sold at the AG Auction last evening. After expenses were taken out, they turned over \$ 947.00 to the Honor Memorial Scholarship fund. She then thanked her committee and all those who helped her throughout the year and this weekend.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Angie Dickerson and her committee for a job well done. The Family Activities Committee Chairman sash was then turned over to Sister Ann Johnson from Prairie Grange who will be the 2025 FAC Chairman and the 2026 FAC Chairman will be Trisha Renken from Hopewell Grange and 2027 FAC Chairman will be Marilyn Coe from Turkey Hill Grange. The full report of the Family Activities Committee and all the contest winners, Raffle winners and Auction results will appear in the journal.

Brother Ethan Edwards Illinois State Grange Lecturer was escorted to the President's station. And he gave the Lecturer's Department report. He reported that he had 28 total entries in the Lecturer's Department contests this year and 12 Junior entries. The Best of Show of the Lecturer's Department went to David Donley for his Glass blown birdhouse. Pomona's Choice was Marilyn Hoffmann's Hard Rock Cafe pin collection. Flora's choice was Charlotte McGowen painting and Cere's choice was David Donley's Christmas tree ornament. Thank you to all who participated in the Talent Exhibition, and he hoped everyone enjoyed the magician. Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Brother Ethan Edwards for all he has done and is looking forward to see what next year's contests will be. The full report of the Lecturer's Department and the contest winners will appear in the journal.

Sister Heather Ellwanger was escorted to the President's station to give the Community Service report. She reported that 1103 items were collected and \$235.00 were given to Hoyleton Children's home. She was asked by Hoyleton Children's Home if Granges wanted to help donate money to help with Christmas time if so contact her and she will give you the necessary information. Sister Charlotte Mehrtens reported that at the memorial service we raised \$404.00 and donated all that money back to the community service project this year. Sister Heather Ellwanger also reported that County Line Grange's Community Service book won 1st place and it will go onto National for judging. Next Years Project will be The Haven Network an organization that helps parents that have lost a child. They create memory boxes of those children. More information will be handed out at GRIT. Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Heather Ellwanger for all her hard work and reported that Sister Heather Ellwanger will continue as the Community Service Director for Illinois State Grange. The full report of the Community Service Director and all the winners will appear in the journal.

A motion was made by Gary Hecathorn to have the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee pay all unpaid bills and approve the minutes of the 3rd day of the 153rd annual session of the Illinois State Grange and Ruth Blasingame Seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Illinois State Grange President Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked National Grange Communications Director Brother Phillip Vonada for attending our state session. She presented him with a small token of appreciation and hoped he enjoyed his stay in Illinois. Brother Phillip Vonada responded "That it is interesting to see what the Granges of other parts of the country are doing. He has been getting some great ideas for contests for his area as well. Thank you everyone for your hospitality and I look forward to seeing everyone at National Session in Iowa in November.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Charlotte Mehrtens and the Grangers of St. Clair County Pomona and all that helped host this session. She thanked her State Officers, Committees, Directors and anyone else that helped make this state session a success. She reminded everyone that the 154th annual session of the Illinois State Grange will be Sept 19 - 21, 2025 at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Belvidere, IL and Boone County Granges will be hosting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Everyone is invited to attend the Grange Resource Information Training (GRIT Conferences) Saturday, October 25th at Turkey Hill Grange at 10AM with potluck at noon and meeting to follow and on Sunday October 26th at Boone County Community Grange hall with a potluck at 11:30AM and meeting at 12:30PM
- Beaver Valley has ink pens for sale
- Carol Neff invited everyone to their Branson Trips on November 19-21,2024 she still has available seating.
- Remember to get your information on the Rural Life Initiative
- National Session is coming up everyone should attend and get involved in some way shape or form. It is November 11-17 at Isle of Capri in Bettendorf, Iowa. Volunteers are needed in many areas so sign up to help. Sign up sheet will be online soon. If you have not had the 7th degree now is the time to take it. In the Showcase area there will be items from National Grange Building some for sale and other will be free for the taking. If you want a Host Shirt contact Karie Blasingame. Hope to everyone there!
- State Officers and Committee people who get part of your hotel room reimbursed see Robin afterward to get you checks.
- Robin Kindberg thanked everyone for all the help and assistance to make the secretary position run smoothly as we transition over to a new Secretary.

CLOSING SONG- God Be With You

The meeting was closed at 10:55 AM

Thus ended the 3rd day of the 153rd annual session of the Illinois State Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,
Brian Keller
Illinois State Grange Secretary

Family Activities Report, Contest and Raffle Winners

This Year the Family Activities Department had 70 entries with 10 entries in the Junior Contests.

The Best in show went to Emalee Colver from Flora Grange for her patriotic quilt.

The Graces choices are as Follows:

Ceres – Scarlett Ellwanger – Baby clothing

Pomona –

Flora – Marilyn Hoffmann – Fabric Wreath

We also collected \$897 in Raffle Ticket Sales and 46 items were donated to the raffle.

We raised \$340 from the Auction sale Saturday Night of State Session.

After expenses were taken out, we were able to donate \$ 947 to the Honor Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Fraternally Submitted

Angie Dickerson

2024 Illinois State Grange Family Activities Chairman

Knitting

- A. Afghan
No Entries
- B. Baby Afghan
1st Place - Ann Johnson
2nd Place – Mrs. Robert Lyford
- C. Baby Item
No Entries
- D. Dish Cloths
1st Place – Deb Silvers
- E. Winter Wear
1st Place – Ann Johnson
- F. Any other item not listed
1st Place – Ann Johnson
2nd Place – Patty Bearth

Crocheting

- A. Afghan
1st Place – Ruth Blasingame
2nd Place – Angie Dickerson
- B. Baby Afghan
1st Place – Patti Lee
2nd Place – Ruth Blasingame
- C. Baby Item
1st Place – Ruth Blasingame
- D. Dish Cloth
1st Place – Deb Silvers
2nd Place – Ruth Blasingame

Miscellaneous

- A. Embroidered Item
1st Place – Mary Ann Joseph
2nd Place -Angie Dickerson
- B. Plastic Canvas
1st Place – Karrie Kindberg
2nd - Angie Dickerson
- C. Any other item not listed
1st Place – Ethan Edwards

Quilting

- A. Unfinished Square
1st Place – Emalee Colver
2nd Place – Sharon Fidler
- B. Table Runner
1st Place – Sharon Fidler
2nd Place – Mrs. Robert Lyford
- C. Quilt Any Size
1st Place – Emalee Colver
2nd Place – Sharon Fidler
- D. Baby Quilt
No Entries
- E. Rag Quilt
1st Place – Rebbeca Meyers
2nd Place – Ruth Blasingame

- E. Any Other item not listed
 - 1st Place – Karie Blasingame
 - 2nd Place – Ruth Blasingame

Miscellaneous

- A. Jewelry - Bracelet
 - 1st Place – Scarlett Ellwanger
- B. Jewelry – Necklace
 - 1st Place - Deb Silvers
 - 2nd Place – Mary Donley
 - 3rd Place – Will Schile
 - HM – Hattie Schile
- C. Jewelry – 2 pieces
 - 1st Place – Deb Silvers
 - 2nd Place – Morgan Schile
 - 3rd Place – Mary Donley
 - HM – Beth Olson
- D. Holiday Cards – mounted
 - 1st Place – Eva Foley
 - 2nd Place – Savannah Anderson
 - HM – Brandon O'Dell
 - HM – Emsley Foley
- E. Fabric Wreath
 - 1st Place – Marilyn Hoffmann

Sewing

- A. Clothing – 1 item
 - No Entries
- B. Clothing – Set
 - No Entries
- C. Baby Clothing
 - 1st Place - Scarlett Ellwanger
- D. Pillow
 - 1st Place – Emalee Colver
 - 2nd Place – Nancy Lyford
- E. Tied Fleece Blankets
 - No Entries

Bakery

- A. Quick Break – Cranberry Sauce
 - No Entries
- B. Toffee Candy
 - No Entries
- C. Cookies - Crinkles
 - 1st Place – Mrs. Robert Lyford
 - 2nd Place – Mary Ann Joseph

Junior Winners

Bakery

Bar Cookies

- 5-7 Years
 - No Entries
- 8-10 Years
 - No Entries
- 11-14 Years
 - No Entries

Trail Mix

- 5-7 years
 - No Entries
- 8-10 Years
 - 1st Place – Scarlett Ellwanger
- 11-14 Years
 - No Entries

Tied Fleece Blankets

- 5-7 Years
 - 1st Place – Cruz Fisher
- 8-10 Years
 - 1st Place – Scarlett Ellwanger
 - 2nd Place – Patrick Anderson
 - 3rd Place – Russell Gilbert
 - HM – Jaxon Fisher
- 11-14 Years
 - No Entries

Family Activities Raffle winners

Back the Blue wall Leaner – Vic Klein
Fall Wall Leaner – Ruth Blasingame
Christmas Wall Leaner – Tracy Jones
Crystal Solders & Divider Tray – Brandon O'Dell
Easter Basket – Nancy Lyford
Christmas Cocoa Basket – Carol Neff
Scarecrow Wreath – Robin Kindberg
Purse Cookie Jar – Charlotte Mehrtens
Pamper Yourself Basket – Patti Lee
Christmas Light up Tree & Santa – Sheri Cosman
Milkshake Fun – Karie Blasingame
Omelet Maker – Carrie Meyer
Sonic Toothbrush – Steve Paulson
Myra Bag – Marc Henrichs
Spice Rack & Towel Set – Nancy Lyford
Parini Skillet – Karrie Kindberg
Lia Sophia Necklace – Jodi Johnson
Scarecrow & Fall Basket – Phillip Vonada
10" Salad Bowl -Marisa O'Dell
12" Platter & Charger – Gary Hecathorn
Candle & 2 Pictures – Mary Burbach
Fall Floral Centerpiece – Ruth Blasingame
Fall Floral Centerpiece – Don Schaeffer
2 Picture Frames – Leon Lange

2 Willow Tree – KC Fidler
Picnic Basket with Wine – Karen Reeves
Pumpkin Metal Basket – Carol Neff
Sunflower/Pumpkin Basket – Hilda Koluch
Yellow Carriage – Kelly Kindberg
Fall Basket – Debra Wade
Dairy Basket – Renee O'Dell
Snowman Hanger – Jean Thornberry
Purple Storage - Karrie Kindberg
Scarecrow& Vase/Plant – Lana Korte
Soup Mug Set – Karrie Kindberg
Watermelon Basket – Mary Donley
Tea Light Lamp – Ethan Edwards
Fall Door Hanger – David Donley
1000-piece puzzle – Henrietta Keller
Ceramic Jack-O-Lantern – Debbie Wade
Cutting Board & Towel Set – Henrietta Keller
Pumpkin Fall Basket – Henrietta Keller
Sips Drink Ingredients – Rick O'Dell
Sips Drink Ingredients – Jim Coe
Fall Floral Centerpiece – Terry Reeves
Fall Floral Centerpiece – Carrie Meyer
2 Picture Frames – Marilyn Hoffmann
2 Picture Frames – Ruth Blasingame

Family Activities Ag Auction Results

Diamond Art / Wreath / Dolls - \$10 to Renee O'Dell
Baby Afghan / Hat - \$10 to Jean Peterson
Slippers / Afghan - \$10 to Renee O'Dell
Flower Arrangement / Hand Towels / Blanket - \$17.50 to Marilyn Hoffmann
Flamingo Kleenex Box / Dish Rag / Cookies - \$20 to Lynette Schaeffer
Wreath - \$15 to Patti Lee
Hat / Cookies / Picture - \$7.50 to Karie Blasingame
Christmas Basket - \$20 to Karrie Kindberg
Holiday Wreath - \$27.50 to Amber Fidler
Wine Basket - \$27.50 to Frank D. Wurth
Christmas Basket - \$27.50 to Karrie Kindberg
Granny Square Afghan - \$150 to KC Fidler

Illinois State Grange Scholarship Recipients

Delphine Calabrese (Flora) \$550.00 – Psychology/Sociology
 Fabienne Calabrese (Flora) \$550.00 – Education (Masters)
 Phoebe Calabrese (Flora) \$650.00 – Electrical Engineering
 Chloe Konieczki (Prairie) \$550.00 – Theater
 Sherri Konieczki-Bockmann (Prairie) \$550.00 – Special Education
 Sammantha Meyers (Prairie) \$750.00 – Education
 Athena O'Dell \$650.00 (Beaver Valley) – Forensics
 Kathryn (Katie) Renken (Hopewell) \$500.00 – Mass Communication \$500.00
 Emily Smith (Turkey Hill) \$650.00 – English Education

Illinois State Grange Scholarship Money Available

Klotz Memorial Scholarship (Agriculture) - \$14,415.00
 Memorial Honor Scholarship (All) - \$19,805.00
 Niffenegger Scholarship (Education) - \$10,000.00
 Munson Memorial Scholarship (Nursing/Medical) - \$57,676.00

ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE PROPOSED BUDGET

1/1/25 TO 12/31/25

INCOME:

	PROPOSED 23-24	ESTIMATED ACTUAL 23-24	PROPOSED 2025
SUBORDINATE DUES	40,000	36,167	23,000
POMONA DUES	150	150	150
JUNIOR DUES	50	50	50
STATE SESSION	10,000	8,000	8,000
5 TH DEGREE	0	0	0
6 TH DEGREE	0	0	0
GRANGER DONATION	925	475	500
TRANSFER FROM RESERVE FUNDS			10,627
TOTAL INCOME ESTIMATED FOR 2025		\$42,327	

- FY 9/1/23 TO 12/31/24 IS FOR 16 MONTHS

ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE PROPOSED BUDGET

1/1/25 TO 12/31/25

EXPENSES:

	PROPOSED 23-24	ESTIMATED ACTUAL 23-24	PROPOSED 2025
NATIONAL DUES	17,400	14,290	9,562
HONORARIUM	10,000	10,795	8,495
RENT FOR SEC/PRES	750	750	750
ACCOUNTING	1,000	1,000	1,000
LIABILITY INSURANCE	500	360	400
BONDING	500	104	120
STATE SESSION	10,000	10,000	10,000
LEGISLATIVE	200		200
GRANGER NEWSLETTER	3,177	2,000	2,000
EXECUTIVE MEETING	800		400
MILEAGE	3,000	10,000	5,000
SUPPLIES	1,800	1,800	1,800
DONATIONS	1,200	0	500
JUNIOR COMM	500	287	350
YOUTH COMM	500	450	350
COMMUNITY SERVICE	500	250	350
LECTURER	500	250	350
FAMILY ACTIVITIES	500	250	350
AGRICULTURE	500	250	350

TOTAL EXPENSES ESTIMATED FOR 2025

\$42,327

- FY 9/1/23 TO 12/31/24 IS FOR 16 MONTHS

Credentials Report 2023 - 2024

When the quarter ended June 30, 2024, the membership of the Subordinate Granges of Illinois was **703** members. This breaks down to **558** individuals with **36** family plans that included **132** family members, and **15** associate members. Illinois has **95** Golden Sheaf members in which **13** received the Golden Sheaf Award prior to January 1, 2001. **8** Subordinate Granges have a total of **29** affiliate members. There are **3** Pomona Granges in Illinois with a total of **206** members.

Illinois has **7** Granges with Junior Grange Charters (Emerald Mound, Enterprise, Flora, Hopewell, Prairie, Turkey Hill, and Shiloh Valley) and about **20** Junior Grange members and 11 Junior +1 members.

During the past membership year (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024) there were **6** members who reached 50- years of membership, and **2** members received the 75-year Diamond Award.

Additional milestones: **9**-25-year Silver Star Certificates, **11**-30-year seals, **2**- 35-year seals, **5** - 40-year seals, **4**- 45 year seals, **1**-55 year seals, **0**- 60 year seals, **1**-65 year seals, and **1**-70 year seals were presented. That's a total of **1645** years of service recognized this year by the Granges of Illinois. All names are listed below. Congratulations to all the recipients and keep up the good work! There are **32** Delegates registered for the 153rd annual session, which represents **16** Subordinate Granges and **4** members representing **2** Pomona Granges.

Alphabetical List of Subordinate Granges

Grange Name #	County	Origin Date	Membership
Beaver Valley #1791	Boone	12-1-1916	43
Big Thunder #1940	Boone	3-9-1993	26
Bluff #1826	St. Clair	12-1-1922	16
Broad Hollow #1806	St. Clair	1-20-1921	16
Capron #1901	Boone	5-10-1939	7
County Line #1751	Boone	9-9-1908	53
Emerald Mound #1813	St. Clair	11-29-1921	17
Enterprise #1929	St. Clair	3-10-1910	37
Flora #1762	Boone	9-30-1910	148
Floraville Community #1918	St. Clair	3-8-1948	41
Galt # 1853	Whiteside	3-17-1931	6
Guilford Hope # 6	Winnebago	7-3-1871	21
Harmony #957	Winnebago	2-4-1874	4
Hopewell #1747	Tazewell	3-2-1907	33
Leaf River #1812	Ogle	9-30-1921	0
LeRoy Community #1873	Boone	3-31-1933	29
Perryville #1805	Winnebago	1-18-1921	7
Prairie #1832	Boone	6-13-1923	117
Progressive #1811	St. Clair	3-16-1921	16
Shiloh Valley #1807	St. Clair	1-27-1921	29
Troy Grove #1852	LaSalle	2-28-1931	13
Turkey Hill #1370	St. Clair	4-9-1874	138
Union #811	Winnebago	12-18-1873	<u>13</u>
TOTAL			830

Pomona Granges are Boone County #78, St. Clair County #21, and Winnebago County #73.

Membership/ Recognition Awards Report

Our total membership as of June 30, 2024, was 830 members. The breakdown is on your credential sheet in the delegate books.

This past year we had 56 members drop, 10 members died, and 11 Associate members dropped for a total loss of 87 members. This past year we had 9 Granges that took in a total of 42 new members.

Each Grange that took in new members will receive \$5.00 per new member

Beaver Valley Grange #1791 – 11 new members (\$5.00x11= \$55.00)

Broad Hollow Grange #1806 – 1 new member (\$5.00x1=\$5.00)

County Line Grange #1751 – 4 new members (\$5.00x4=\$20.00)

Flora Grange #1762 – 5 new members (\$5.00x5=\$25.00)

Guilford Hope #6 – 2 new members (\$5.00x2=\$10.00)

Hopewell Grange #1747 – 3 new members (\$5.00x3=\$15.00)

Leroy Community Grange #1873 – 1 new member (\$5.00x1=\$5.00)

Prairie Grange #1832 – 7 new members (\$5.00x7=\$35.00)

Turkey Hill Grange #1370 – 8 new members (\$5.00x8=\$40.00)

At this time, it gives me the pleasure to present membership award plaques to the following members:

Beaver Valley Grange

Brian & Marisa O'Dell – signed up 6 new members

Rick & Renee O'Dell – signed up 4 new members

Don Paulson – signed up 4 new members

Athena O'Dell – signed up 4 new members

Prairie Grange

Robin Kindberg – signed up 4 new members

Turkey Hill

Bill & Tami Hughes – signed up 4 new members

Congratulations to all of the recipients

The list of the recognition awards is listed on the back of the Credential Sheet in the Delegate Book. Congratulations to all those recipients as well. Be sure to honor those Grangers who have diligently served the Grange. They need to be recognized.

In Closing, my challenge to all Grangers is to go out and sign up a new member. We need our Granges to Grow in order to keep this great organization we call “The Grange” thriving.

Fraternal Submitted

Robin Kindberg

Illinois State Grange Membership Director

**Recognition Awards for 2023 – 2024
For the State of ILLINOIS**

25 YEARS

Kenneth C. Fidler – Flora Grange
Julie Scherer-Randel – Flora Grange
Jennifer Witz – Flora Grange
Kris Bryan – Prairie Grange
Carol Hale – Prairie Grange
Virgil Hale – Prairie Grange
Jim Olstadt – Prairie Grange
Ethel Bauer – Troy Grove Grange
Thelma Sue Ladson – Troy Grove Grange

30 YEARS

Brian O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange
Don Paulson Jr. – Beaver Valley Grange
Micah Schlie – Beaver Valley Grange
Aaron Fidler – Flora Grange
Barb Noll – Flora Grange
First Place Promotions – Flora Grange
Adam Ellwanger – Prairie Grange
Ron Haynes – Turkey Hill Grange
Scarlett Haynes – Turkey Hill Grange
Todd Siegel – Turkey Hill Grange
Heidi Dettman – Union Grange

35 YEARS

Jackie Hill – Flora Grange
Matt Helms – Turkey Hill Grange

40 YEARS

Nicholas Ratcliffe – Flora Grange
Richard Ratcliffe – Flora Grange
Clint Henninger – Prairie Grange
Ron Fruit – Prairie Grange
Nancy Erbe – Union Grange
Ron Erbe – Union Grange

45 YEARS

Sharonne Laws – Flora Grange
Tom Range – Turkey Hill Grange
Pat Range – Turkey Hill Grange
Rita Wurth – Turkey Hill Grange

50 YEARS

Leslie Wundrow – Leroy Community
LaVonne Wundrow – Leroy Community
Fay Ellwanger – Prairie Grange
Donna Ellwanger – Prairie Grange
James Weber – Troy Grove Grange
Amy Bouvet – Turkey Hill Grange
Kathy Lickenbrock – Turkey Hill Grange

55 YEARS

Marsden Eisloeffel – Turkey Hill Grange

65 YEARS

Barb Joseph – Turkey Hill Grange

70 YEARS

Jane Helms – Turkey Hill Grange

75 YEARS

David Donley – Turkey Hill Grange
Floyd Schluter -Turkey Hill Grange

President - Master Annual Report September 1, 2023- August 31, 2024

President and First Man Activities

I'll start this report where the last year's report ended. State Grange 152nd State Session September 8 - 10, 2023 in Springfield, IL, at the Northfield Inn, was held at a hotel we had not been at before. The facilities were good, everything under one roof, but it was quite a walk from meeting rooms to sleeping rooms. There were resolutions that the session committees reviewed, and delegates acted on, several were sent to National Grange for action. Lena and Bill Shufeldt were our guests. Lena is the National Grange Flora and first Lady of OSG and Billy is State Master-President of Oklahoma. IL State Representative Charles Meier was our speaker for the Ag program, on Saturday morning. This was an election year and many of the officers stayed the same. We did have difficulty with the election for Treasurer and Secretary. Robin Kindberg decided to stay as Secretary until someone could be appointed. Later, after Session, Mary Donley, Turkey Hill Grange was appointed as Treasurer and Brian Keller, Enterprise Grange as Secretary. Both were installed and started the work soon after the session. Thanks to both for stepping forward to serve the IL State Grange until the next regular election. Community Service book from County Line was awarded 1st place and forwarded to National Session. The display rooms were superb, and it was great to have all the contests in one room. The room was filled with contest entries. Thanks to all who participated in the contests.

The Grange Resources Information and Training (GRIT) was held October 22, 2023 at Hopewell Grange Hall, 474 Grange Road, Washington, IL. The meeting started at 11:30 with potluck lunch and presentations at 12:30pm. All Grangers were invited to attend to learn about the contests and programs for the upcoming year, about 60 Grangers attended the event. The Presenters for the programs, Agriculture, Community Service, Communications/Editor, Family Activities, President, Youth and Young Adults, Lecturer and Junior did a great job. Thanks to all of them.

November 14- 18, 2023 were the dates for the 157th Annual National Grange Session, Niagara Falls, NY. Congratulations to Karie Blasingame for being a Communication Fellow at this National Grange Session. Don was chair of the Conservation Committee and I was secretary of the Agriculture Committee. Emalee Colver, Sharon and Joan Fidler, Jean & Myron Peterson also attended the meeting. Thanks to Karie for serving as a Communications Fellow. County Line did not place for the Community Service Book, but there were lots of books to judge. The Prairie Grange, Turkey Hill Grange and County Line Grange were Distinguished Granges. Turkey Hill Grange received a check for the efforts for the ACP Grant, Affordable Connectivity Program. Thanks to all the Granges in IL for your efforts. [Several Granges received grant money from Grange Advocacy for promoting this program.]

National Grange Headquarters Building has been sold, we are still residing on the second floor. Don and I went to Washington, DC before the Grange Leaders Conference to assist with moving everything from the 11th floor, basement and sub-basement. There were loads of recycled paper and trash, and items going to New Market Grange, MD for storage. The days were long and we slept well each night.

President's Day weekend, Don and I were in Myrtle Beach for a great Grange Leaders Conference. Christine Hamp, National Grange President, and her team planned an excellent diversified training event, it was well received by those who attended. We gathered much information to put in our toolbox of "How to's" be Grange Strong. There were many outside presenters and workshops by National Grange Staff /Officers. It was great seeing most of the State Granges represented, it was the largest groups that has been a Leaders Conference in a while.

Troy Grove Grange has sold their Grange Hall and will be meeting in homes. Leaf River Grange has closed, and their hall has been sold.

The Midwest Grange Leaders conference was held at Bowling Green University, June 21-23, 2024. State Lecturer Diana Nordquest, and her Ohio team did an excellent job organizing the conference. Grangers from Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin presented workshops, had fun times and times of fellowship. National Grange Junior Ambassador Gayle Reyburn (PA) – presented a worship and assisted with the worship service Sunday morning. She and her parents had an enjoyable time with the Midwest Grangers. Midwest Grange Leaders conference next year will be in Indiana.

May 4, 2024, eating started at 1:00 pm, at the ISG State Grange picnic at Boone County Fairgrounds – burgers and dogs were provided by the Youth, other potluck items were shared by attendees. All IL State Grange Scholarships were awarded that day. A car show was near our picnic while we were there. Congratulations to all the scholarship awardees. IL State Grange is proud of you all.

Don and I attended the 150th Anniversary celebrations at Turkey Hill and at BelAir Bowl for the dinner on April 20. National Grange President and First Dude, Chris & Duane Hamp, National Grange Membership Director Amanda Brozana-Rios, Past Rhode Island State Grange President and past National Grange Ceres, Steve and Clare Logan, Past Connecticut State Grange President, and National Grange Session Coordinators Jody and JodiAnn Cameron attend the events. It was great seeing and chatting with some Grangers I have not seen in a long while. Chris was glad to spend time with Mary Beth (Heberer) Lee, past National Grange Junior Director. Mary Beth shared photos she had of Chris and her parents, when Chris was a Junior member. Fun times were had by all. Congratulations to Turkey Hill for 150 years of service to the Belleville area. IL now has several 150+ year old Granges; Guilford Hope, Union, Harmony, and Turkey Hill congratulations to all.

St Clair County Pomona held a fundraiser for breakfast on April 27th, to help with hosting the of the upcoming State Session. Thanks to Turkey Hill for being the host Grange building. Thanks to all the Grangers who worked and attended.

Welcome to the 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. Phil Vonada, National Grange Communications Director, an PA Junior Director, will be our National Representative. IL Representative Charlie Meier will be the speaker on Friday evening. St Clair County has invited several other agricultural groups, I hope that they will enjoy the evening with us.

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 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, they could be part of the N G 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.

Don and I have attended many different meals, picnics, and regular meetings of several Granges this past year. I plan on continuing this and hope to increase the number of Granges we visit.

Department Recognition

Agriculture committee - Thanks to Steven Kinzinger, and his committee Brian O'Dell and Lana Korte / Marilyn Hoffmann for all their hard work. Brian will be taking over as chair right after State Session, I hope to announce who will be added to the comm

Communications / Publicity / Editor – thanks to Ruth Blasingame for her tireless work in this position. The *Illinois Granger* is filled with valuable information for the Grangers of IL. Thanks, Ruth, for helping with the Leadership meetings.

Community Service Director – Heather Ellwanger has worked hard to keep IL Granges active

Family Activities Committee - Thanks to Angie Dickerson and her committee Ann Johnson and I am looking for someone to join the committee for a two-year term. I have someone who will be announced on Saturday at luncheon for 2027.

Historian - Bev Smith has keep us all informed of the history of the Illinois State Grange. Thanks, Bev, for your efforts and articles.

Junior Director – Melinda Schiefer worked hard to have the Juniors be active. Thanks for helping with the Leadership meetings. We are sorry for the loss of your husband, Rusty. Thanks, Mindy, for your efforts.

Lecturer – Thanks to Ethan for your efforts. Thanks, Ethan, for helping with Leadership meetings.

Legislative Director – Thanks to Marion Thornberry for his efforts to keep the Illinois Grangers informed and involved in all legislative concerns.

Membership Director – Thanks to Robin Kindberg for all of her efforts to increase the membership of IL State Grange. Thanks for assisting with leadership meetings.

Youth Director – Karie Blasingame and Marisa O'Dell, thank you for all your efforts, many events were planned. Thanks for helping with the Leadership meeting.

Webmaster – Thanks to DJ Joseph for her efforts to keep the IllinoisStateGrange.org website current and appealing.

Good of the Order

Several resolutions from IL were acted on by the delegate body. The Resolutions from IL – two were sent back as state issues. Saving Prime Farmland from Solar Invasion, and Rodeos, US Farmland was combined with several others on the topic and passed the delegate body, Farm Equipment Repair is already current National Grange policy.

There was several scholarships awarded this year to: Sammantha Meyers, Prairie Grange, Phoebe Calabrese, Flora Grange, Athena O'Dell, Beaver Valley, Emily Smith, Turkey Hill Grange, Delphine Calabrese, Flora Grange, Chloe Konieczki, Prairie Grange, Sherri Konieczki-Bockman, Prairie Grange, Fabienne Calabrese, Flora Grange, Kathryn (Katie) Renken, Hopewell Grange.

I appointed a Bylaws Committee several years ago to update the current Bylaws that were revised in 2015. This year a committee member decided to pick up the bylaws and start reviewing. Frank Wurth, Henrietta Keller, Sara Ellwanger, Brian Keller and I have worked on the 2015 Bylaws. The proposed

revised bylaws have been sent to each Grange and the resolutions to make the changes have also been sent to all Granges.

Always remember if your Grange has 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. It is important when applying for a Hall Improvement Fund please provide **ALL** information requested.

A FAC chair for 2026 for the IL State Grange is still needed. The session will be in Springfield, for this person's chairship. ANYONE interested in this position please let me know. There are people around you that would be willing to assist you with the service.

Several of our Granges have participated in the National Grange programs, like ACP [Affordable Connectivity Program], RRSS [Reach Rural Surgical Seniors], and IL State Grange is a pilot state for Rural Life Initiative, sponsored by Grange Advocacy. The RLI is working with other community groups for the betterment of the community.

Working on email addresses for all members or at least one per family, National can compete for more grants. If you get an email from me please just send a "Got it" or something like that so I know that this is a good email address for you. The IL State Grange and the National Grange would like to start sending you emails about upcoming information. Thanks for keeping the membership listing for your Grange current in the National Grange database. It is helpful to the National and State Grange to have this information. Subordinate Secretaries can keep their own membership lists correct.

Some of IL Granges have signed up for participating in the grants the National Grange has going right now. Please check the [Grange Today](#) and any other information from National Grange about 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." Find information at National Grange or contact me, I have limited information to share. And the Rural Life Initiative that IL is a pilot state. National Grange has much health care information to share that can be printed and shared by our Granges. National Grange is in partnership with Rural Minds [ruralminds.org]. Jeff Winton, is the founder whose mission "is to serve as the informed voice for mental health in rural America, and to provide mental health information and resources."

I hope that many of you have been receiving the View from the Hill that National Grange Legislative Director, Burton Eiler, sends out. And the new [Grange Today](#), should be coming to our inbox monthly.

Grange Revival July 21-27, 2025 in Torrey, Utah – check out the <http://grangerevival.com/> website for more information. Several Grangers from Illinois are planning on going, there is still time for reservations.

Watch Facebook, the Illinois State Grange and the National Grange pages, for updates to all National Grange and State Grange activities. Attend the various Zoom calls in real time or on YouTube at a later time.

Hope you all get the Good Day Magazine. Remember to keep your subscription current. Be the Grange. Consider getting a subscription and renewing subscriptions. I will be sending out information to remember your renewals.

Think about donating to Grange Foundation in the 1n1000 club. Donate \$1000 to the foundation, and you will be one of a thousand people in the club. Grange Foundation has special meetings and information for the 1n1000 club members.

In Memoriam

We remember Committee Chairs Gene West, Joan Fidler, Ag Committee Chairs, Joyce Meyer FAC Committee Chair, and Kenneth R Joseph, Legislative Chair, that have passed to the Great Grange Above. They will be missed by many Grangers across IL. "Well Done Good and Faithful Servant." Each Grange has lost members who served the Grange in many ways and have passed from this life. Don and I were greatly saddened by the death Sister Mindy Schiefer's husband, Rusty Schiefer. Condolences to Mindy and her family. We have known Rusty for years and were distressed at his sudden passing. Rusty had been a Granger in his youth.

In Conclusion

I usually like to end my reports with something from a journal that is either a past session in the same location as now or something from a special year. Well, 1984 we were in Belleville, Russ Stauffer was the State Master, and there were 48 resolutions. Many of you received your 6th degree during that session. I wrote a report for that Journal of Proceedings as Don and I were Young Couple that year. Later representing IL at the National Grange Convention in Portland, Maine. The report had a listing of the Young Couples for previous years compiled by Secretary Kay DeWerth. At that time, we were the 24th couple. The listing has grown since then. All of these couples are GROW club members for IL. I am hoping to get a complete listing of GROW club members, Prince, Princess, Ambassadors, National Youth Committee members, National Youth Officers and IL Directors. I have the listing and would you all look at the names to see if can help with making the list complete. Forty years ago, I did not plan or even thought of holding this position in IL State Grange or in the National Grange, serving as Executive Committee Chair. So you never know where your life will take you if you do your best at anything and everything you do!!

Fraternally

Lynette L Schaeffer

Sunday Morning Worship
Illinois State Grange Session – September 15, 2024

Opening Prayer : Thank you oh Lord for this beautiful week sharing the beauty of your world around us. Thank you for keeping us in your care. Lord may each of us be your shepherds of your flock and ever mindful of each other's needs. Amen.

Walking in Grace

How many times in our lives do we do something that we don't even think we can do something like that and then out of the blue it is done. Shortly after Don and I were married, now I was a River Rat that means I was raised in the bottoms (flat land no hills) next to the Mississippi River and I married a so called hillbilly meaning Don came with land that had hills on it. That fall was a rainy one and since I came from the farm I was put to work to help since I didn't have an off the farm job yet. We were busy picking corn (a pull along picker with the tractor) with those hills coming up now I know that the at the bottom of that hill the ground was going to be wet. So I was told to go to the top of the hill and wait to make sure he could make it up the hill without getting stuck. Well, that was not going to happen, like many other farm wife's do we listen to our husbands so to the top of the hill I go. I wait for him to start coming up the hill now and sure enough he gets stuck (tractor, picker, and half a wagon full of corn are not going to make it up the hill by its self so I back half way down the hill set the brakes on my tractor get the log chains off my tractor and hook them on to the tractor Don is on. I get back on to the tractor I'm on release the brakes and slow but surely start up the hill I'm not going fast enough to get up the hill so I give it more gas only to have the front end comes up off the ground, hands crossed. Feet crossed and anything else I could have found to cross at that time and remember God raised me to be a river rat not a hillbilly. We finally make it to the top of the hill front of tractor back on the ground and I can unhook the chains and turn around so I can be on the other side of the hill to do the same job over again.

Now I know that you are all sitting here wondering why I bore you this morning but there is a reason for you see once I got used to those little hills they weren't that big anymore because I learned to put my trust in the Lord like so many of us do, but coming to a different kind of farm land. We all think of the worst things in our minds which is the way to be. Do you ever think just the greatest things will happen right away and not worry about. We do not trust enough in the Lord that we worry long before it even happens. Over the years those big hills are small compared to some of the hills and mountains I've been on, we call it faith and preserves for the Lord is with us always.

Offering : Our offering this morning goes to help Hoylton Children Homes in this area. Heavenly Father, we thank you for your gift of love to these children in need, for those who are their helping hands in times of need and wants. Bless these gifts that they may help to heal the hearts of those who are in need. Amen

Song
Closing prayer:

Heavenly Father as we place our needs and wants before you, we ask for your love and care. That you will put your hands of blessing up on us and show us your way. Make us shepherds to lead us to those in need. In your holy name. Amen

Illinois State Grange Chaplain Sister Charlotte Mehrtens gave a Celebration of Life Report. That honored the Grangers that have passed to the great Grange above this past year.

Kenneth R. Joseph

1940-2024 Turkey Hill Grange

Kenneth was a 70-year member of Turkey Hill Grange.

Kenneth was a U S Navy Veteran. He was a Police Officer and a Deputy Sheriff for over 22 years. He was a long-time baseball coach. He loved the St Louis Cardinals, watching baseball and listening to music. He especially loved watching his granddaughter Olivia play sports. His granddaughter Jennifer also has joined the United States Navy.

Psalm 139:14

I praise you, for I'm fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Rest in eternal Peace

Joyce Inez Meyer

Joyce, passed away on Monday April 15, 2024, at Memorial Hospital East, Shiloh, Illinois at the age of 78.

Joyce was born to Edwin and Inez (nee Seibert) Meyer on September 6, 1945.

Joyce was a lifelong resident of Highland, Illinois and a member of the St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Lebanon, Illinois. She dedicated her life to serving others, having worked as a caregiver for Help At Home in Wood river, Illinois for many years. When Joyce was not at work, she enjoyed spending time with her dogs, attending Church functions, completing home improvements projects and sampling local cuisine. She was proceeded in death by her parents.

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Rest in Peace dear Friend

Joan Ruth Fidler

November 1, 1941 – August 15, 2024 Flora Grange

Joan was a 70-year member of Flora Grange. She was dedicated to her family. She prioritized community service, love for nature, and creativity. She was a past Illinois State Grange FAC Chair and AG Department Chair and a long time State Junior Director. She managed the Boone County Fair ticket office for 15 plus years. She was a true artist, her passions were sewing, painting, quilting, and ceramics to name a few. She tended her gardens and spent a lot of time canning. She enjoyed trying her luck at the Casino. She loved reading and sharing her knowledge with others.

She wrote many skits for State Sessions and convinced many of us to participate in them with her. She was funny and she loved to make people laugh. She was not afraid to try anything, and she encouraged others to be like her.

John 1:4-5 In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.
Rest in peace good and faithful servant.

William Buck

William Buck, 88, of Washburn Illinois, passed away on September 9, 2024 at his home. He was born to the late William Wayne and Marian (Hayden) Buck on January 11, 1936, in Richland Township on the farm. He married Carol Crocker on May 15, 1955. Carol passed on June 9, 2018. Surviving Bill are his children Debbie (Dave) crew, Diane (Dave) Kingsland, Donna (Jen) Bell, Dan Buck: sister Ruth Turner, and five grandchildren. He was proceeded in death by his sister Margaret Wenz and daughter Deloris DeeDee. Bill farmed the family farm and held several jobs over the years, with a few of them being: Althaus Brother's in LaRose, Jolliff's in Lincoln, AO Smith in Eureka, and Bernardi Foods in Toluca. He traveled around the area doing custom corn shelling and square baling. Bill also the Sexton for Old Salem Cemetery for many years. Bill was Richland Grange member for 70+ years and on the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee. Bill and carol were even once the young married couple of the year for Illinois State Grange. He also belonged to the Marshall County Historical Society and Lacon Area Community Center. Funeral services for Bill will be held on September 21, 2024.

From John 3:15

Whoever believes in Him may have Eternal Life.
Peace, comfort and love be with you in eternal life.

Eugene (Gene) West

November 7, 1933 - January 30, 2024

Gene was a 30-year member of Flora Grange and a member of Boone County Pomona Grange. He also served as a Boone County Fair Board Director. He married Donna Nemec on October 6, 1994 in Branson Missouri. He graduated from Belvidere High School then went on to serve his country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. He was a truck driver for Deans Foods for 29 years. He was a member of the American Legion, VFW and Belvidere Moose Lodge. Gene enjoyed woodworking, word searches, telling stories, farming and coffee times at Pearl Place where he lived. Highlights of his last few years were as a guest on the Vets Roll trip to Washington DC and sitting on a donated bench watching people at the Boone County Fair. Gene will be remembered by many as a gentle soul with a great sense of humor and a willingness to help anyone with anything. Well done good and faithful servant.

In closing

Time is like a river

You cannot touch the same water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again.
Enjoy every moment of your life.

Agriculture Department Report - 2024

There were 54 total entries in the Ag Department contests from 8 Granges this year and there were 2 Junior entries.

Best of Show winner of the Ag Department went to Jerry Paulson from Beaver Valley Grange for their entry of Bouquet of Zinnias.

We had 42 items in the AG Auction. We took in \$475 from the auction. We gave out \$189.00 in prize money. After the expenses, we were able to turn over \$131.00 to the Klotz Memorial Scholarship for Agriculture.

The Contest winners and the AG Auction results are as follows:

Agriculture Department Contest Winners

I. Vegetables

A. GREEN BEANS

1st Place – Marilyn Hoffmann

B. Cucumbers

1st Place – Lana Korte

C. Gourds

1st Place – Marilyn Hoffmann

2nd place – Lana Korte

3rd Place – Steve Alltop

D. Yellow Onions

No Entries

E. Red Onions

No Entries

F. Bell Peppers

1st Place – Patti Lee

2nd Place – Marilyn Hoffmann

3rd Place -

G. Sweet Peppers

1st Place – Lyle Lee

2nd Place – Patti Lee

H. Hot Peppers

1st Place – Marilyn Hoffmann

2nd Place – Lyle Lee

3rd Place – Tom Paulson

I. Red Potatoes

1st Place – Doug Kinzinger

J. White Potatoes

1st Place Sarah Kinzinger

K. Carrots

No Entries

L. Cherry Tomatoes

1st Place – Marilyn Hoffman

M. Red Tomatoes

1st place – Marilyn Hoffmann

2nd place – Patti Lee

3rd Place – Lyle Lee

N. Yellow Tomatoes

1st Place – Marilyn Hoffmann

O. Winter Squash

No Entries

P. Yellow Summer Squash

1st Place – Marilyn Hoffmann

2nd Place – Patti Lee

3rd Place – Lyle Lee

Q. Zucchini

No entries

R. Largest Zucchini

1st Place – Scarlett Ellwanger

2nd Place – Patti Lee

3rd Place – Steve Alltop

S. Most Unusual Vegetable

1st Place – Lana Korte

2nd Place – Steve Alltop

T. Watermelon

1st Place – Christine Schaeffer

U. Eggplant

1st Place – Christine Schaeffer

Fruits

- A. Red Apples
No Entries
- B. Yellow Apples
No Entries
- C. Granny Smith Apples
No Entries
- D. Pears
No Entries
- E. Grapes
No Entries

Pumpkins

- 1st Place – Marilyn Hoffmann
- 2nd Place – Steve Alltop
- 3rd Place – Lana Korte

Herbs/House Plants

- A. Houseplants
No Entries
- B. Potted Herbs
1st Place – Dave Donley

Field Crops

- A. Indian Corn
1st Place – Marilyn Hoffmann
- B. Corn – 1 quart bag
1st Place – Karrie Kindberg
2nd Place – Doug Kinzinger
Schaeffer
- C. Soybeans – 1 quart bag
1st Place – Karrie Kindberg
- D. Oats – 1 quart bag
No Entries
- E. Sunflower Head
No Entries
- F. 3 ears Field Corn
1st – Ralph Wildy

Diamond Art

- A. Animals
No Entries
- B. Farm Related Scene
1st Place - Mary Innis
2nd Place – Patti Lee

Flowers

- A. Roadside Bouquet
1st Place – Sara Ellwanger
- B. Zinnias
1st Place – Jerry Paulson
- C. Marigolds
No Entries

Market Basket

- A. Individuals
1st Place- -Marilyn Hoffmann
- B. Groups
1st Place – Floraville Grange

Antiques

- A. Household
No Entries
- B. Farm Related
No Entries

Value Added Products

- A. Jam, Jelly, Fruit Butter
1st Place – Mary Donley
2nd Place – Christine Schaeffer
- B. Jar of Pickles
No Entries
- C. Honey
1st Place – Christine Schaeffer

Junior Contest Winners

- A. Junior Diamond Art
No Entries
- B. Decorated Pumpkin
No Entries
- C. Junior Vegetables
No Entries
- D. Junior Flowers
Roadside Bouquet
1st Place – Scarlett Ellwanger

Agriculture Auction Results – 2024

ITEM	AMOUNT	Purchaser
Indian & Squirrel Corn	\$3.00	Karie Blasingame
Glazed Apple Bunt Cake/ Friendship Plate	\$25.00	Ruth Blasingame
Squash, peppers, Gourds, Cookies	\$7.00	Sara Ellwanger
Christmas Juice/ Honey	\$25.00	Lana Korte
Veggie Box	\$4.00	Myron Peterson
Tomatoes, Potatoes, Melon	\$30.00	Marilyn Hoffmann
Gourds/ Cookies	\$12.50	Robin Kindberg
Gift Bag	\$10.00	Jean Peterson
Fall Flowers	\$7.50	Ethan Edwards
Diamond Art	\$12.50	Renee O'Dell
Tupperware	\$55.00	Hilda Koluch
Veggies/Christmas Juice	\$17.50	Marilyn Hoffmann
Blackberry Jam/Fall Flowers	\$10.00	Patti Lee
Music Box/Russell Stover Candy	\$32.50	Marilyn Coe
Scarecrow/Maple Syrup	\$7.50	Philip Vonada
Circuit Bottle	\$22.50	Katie Renken
Flowers/Candy	\$12.50	Lynette Schaeffer
Choice of Youth Table displays	\$5x7=\$35.00	Renee O'Dell
“	\$5.00	Emalee Colver
“	\$5.00	Vivian Johnson
All for one price	\$5.00	Patti Lee
Cookies/Sage/Flowers	no sale	
Santa Scency	\$2.50	Karie Blasingame
Picnic Basket	\$15.00	Charlotte Mehrtens
Veggie/Flowers	\$5.00	Jean Peterson
FryPan	\$20.00	Philip Vonada
Watermelon basket	\$35.00	Frank D. Wurth
Gourds	\$7.50	Marilyn Coe
Choice of Mums	\$22.50 x 2=\$45.00	Henrietta Keller
“	\$22.50	Debbie Wade
“	\$22.50	Wayne Lyford
Stock Pot	\$20.00	Ruth Blasingame
Popcorn Basket	\$40.00	Justin Schaeffer
Flowers/Cookies/Herbs	\$2.50	Robin Kindberg
Margarita Basket	\$45.00	Angie Dickerson

Illinois State Grange Special Items sold at AG Auction

ITEM	Amount	Purchaser
Choice of Mums	\$22.50	Debbie Wade
Choice of Mums	\$22.50	Lynette Schaeffer
Choice of Mums	\$22.50	Adam Ellwanger
Choice of Mums	\$22.50	Wayne Lyford
Choice of Pumpkins	\$12.50x2=\$25.00	Gary Hecathorn
Welcome Grange Stone	\$775.00	Adam Ellwanger in Memory of Fay Ellwanger

Total Raised \$890.00 – profit goes in ISG General Fund to help with Illinois expenses at National Session in November in Iowa.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS - 2024

Sister Heather Ellwanger reported a total of 1103 items were collected for Hoyleton Children's Home along with a monetary donation of \$ 235.

The Grange that donated the most items was Floraville Community Grange with a total of 386 items.

The individual that collected the most items was the Kindberg's from Prairie Grange with a total of 208 items.

Thank you to everyone who donated in any way for this project.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS presented:

TOTAL HOURS 147,531 hours

TOTAL HOURS per Grange

County Line – 100,531 hours

Flora – 31,104 hours

Prairie – 6,705 hours

Turkey Hill – 6,640 hours

Beaver Valley – 1,547 hours

Enterprise – 1,274 hours

Most Hours per member

4th Place – Turkey Hill Grange

3rd Place – Prairie Grange

2nd Place – Flora Grange

1st Place – County Line Grange

COMMUNITY SERVICE BOOKS

4th Place – Turkey Hill Grange

3rd Place – Prairie Grange

2nd Place – Flora Grange
1st Place – County Line Grange

Congratulations to County Line Grange. Your Community Service book will go onto National for Judging.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

TEACHER of the Year – Katherine Young nominated by Turkey Hill Grange
FIREFIGHTER of the Year- Micheal Lowe nominated by Leroy Community Grange
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS of the Year -Joel Boeving nominated by Turkey Hill Grange
NONGRANGER of the Year – Tanya Hoemke nominated by Prairie Grange
JUNIOR GRANGER of the Year – Scarlett Ellwanger nominated by County Line Grange and Prairie Grange
GRANGER of the Year – Kelly Kindberg nominated by Prairie Grange

Fraternally Submitted
Heather Ellwanger
Illinois State Grange Community Service Director

Youth Department Report

We had a total of 40 entries in 22 categories with 9 Grangers from 3 Granges and 4 entries from +1 Juniors and 5 entries from Junior Granges.

Best of Show went to Scarlett Ellwanger from Prairie Junior Grange for her Pollinator Poster.

The Youth Department initiated a new program this year. They had special ribbons made for the Graces of the State Grange to go to each department and choose their favorite Best of Show project.

The Graces choices for the Youth Department are as follows:

Ceres Choice – Hattie Schlie for her Nature Lego Set

Pomona Choice - Dawn Mundy for her Nature/Landscape Diamond Art picture

Flora Choice – Beckie Meyers for her Vehicle Lego Set.

2024 Illinois State Grange Youth Contest Winners

Photography

Selfie – 1st place- no entries

Group - 1st place- no entries

Pets – 1st place- no entries

Creative Art & Handicrafts

Lego Sets

Category1: Beginners Lego Set

1st place- Karrie Kindberg

Category 2: Vehicles Lego Set

1st place-Will Schlie

2nd place- Beckie Meyers ***

3rd place- Avery Wurth

Category 3: Nature Lego Set

1st place- Marisa Odell

2nd place- Hattie Schlie *

3rd place- Morgan Schlie

Category 4: Miscellaneous Lego Set

1st place- Scarlett Ellwanger

2nd place- Karie Blasingame

Diamond Art

Category 1: Holidays

1st place- Marisa Odell

Category 2: Animated Characters

1st place-Dawn Mundy

2nd place- Karie Blasingame

Category 3: Animals

1st place- Marisa Odell

2nd place- Karie Blasingame

3rd place- Dawn Mundy

Category 4: Nature/Landscapes

1st place- Marisa Odell

2nd place- Dawn Mundy **

3rd place- Karie Blasingame

Category 5: Miscellaneous

1st place-Heather Ellwanger

2nd place- Karie Blasingame

3rd place-Dawn Mundy

Ceramics

1st place- Charlotte McGowan

2nd place- Chelsea McGowan

3rd place- Hattie Schlie

Fabric and Food

Decorated Clothing Item:

1st place – no entries

Decorated Cookies

1st place -Ruth Blasingame

2nd place -Marisa Odell

3rd place -Karie Blasingame

Honorable Mention- Scarlett Ellwanger

Table Centerpieces – 50s Theme

1st place – Marilyn Hoffman

2nd place -Kelly Kindberg

3rd place – Karrie Kindberg

Agriculture

Pollinator Poster

1st place – Scarlett Ellwanger ****

2nd place -Eva

3rd place -Russell

Food Waste Poster

1st place – no entries

Mental Health Poster

1st place – no entries

Pollinator TikTok or YouTube Video

1st place – no entries

Food Waste TikTok or YouTube Video

1st place – no entries

Mental Health TikTok or YouTube Video

1st place – no entries

Public Speaking

Impromptu

1st place –no entries

Prepared

1st place – no entries

Grange Commercial

1st place – no entries

Sign a Song

Individual

1st place –no entries

Group

1st place –no entries

Lip Sync Contest

1st place -no entries

*-Ceres Ribbon **-Pomona Ribbon ***- Flora Ribbon

****-Best of Show

Illinois State Grange Lecturer Report - 2024

Worthy National Communications Director Phil Vonada, National Grange executive Committee member and current Illinois State Grange Master/President Sister Lynette Schaeffer and First Man Brother Don Schaeffer, worthy Past National Grange Secretary and Past Master of Illinois State Grange Sister Henrietta Keller, worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master Brother David Donley, worthy Past National Grange Flora and current Illinois State Grange Pomona Sister Patti Lee and Past Master and Past Executive Committee Member of Illinois State Grange Brother Lyle Lee, State Grange Officers, Delegates, Patrons and Guests:

This year has passed very quickly. Unfortunately, I was overtaken by unexpected health problems and was out of commission for much of the last six months, which has gotten in the way of some of my official duties, missing the Midwest Leadership Conference and discontinuing activity on the Hall of Fame Committee. I've recently been involved with the National Shipmates program and will be helping out with that program at National Session.

We had a successful Lecturer's Contest display at the State Session with 28 entries representing 9 Granges across the state: Beaver Valley, Bluff, Emerald Mound, Enterprise, Floraville, Perryville, The Prairie, Shiloh Valley, and Turkey Hill. I still hold out the goal of having an entry from every subordinate Grange.

Again, my judge was very impressed by the overall quality of all the entries from Juniors to Adults. Best of Show was awarded to Dave Donley for his glass birdhouse. The winning selections from the Graces were Marilyn Hoffman of Floraville for her Hard Rock Café pin collection for Pomona, Charlotte McGowan of Enterprise for her painting from Flora, and Dave Donley for tree ornaments from Ceres.

There was no talent contest this year because the program has been discontinued at the National level. It turned out that there was considerable interest any way, so we had an entertaining magic show from magician Richard Thompson for entertainment at the youth banquet. After the magic show, we had talent performances from Katie Renken, Hilda Koluch and Mardy Eisloeffel, Renee O'Dell, and Ethan Edwards and Mardy Eisloeffel.

I look forward to putting together another set of interesting contests for next year, which will be announced at GRIT.

Fraternally submitted,
Ethan Edwards
Illinois State Grange Lecturer

Lecturer's Department Report and Contest Winners - 2024

There were 28 total entries in the Lecturer's Department contests this year and

There were 13 entries in the Junior contest for the Lecturer's department this year.

There were 0 Quilt of Valor Blocks this year.

There were 0 new Grange Banners this year.

Best of Show winner of the Lecturer's department was Dave Donley
From Turkey Hill Grange for his/her Birdhouse.

Graces Choice

Ceres – David Donley – Christmas Ornament

Pomona – Marilyn Hoffmann – Hard Rock Café pin collection

Flora – Charlotte McGowan – painting

This year we had a talent exhibition after Richard Thompson performed a variety of magic acts.

1st was Katie Renken singing a medley of songs

2nd was Hilda Koluch singing 'Tenderly' while being accompanied on the accordion by Mardy Eisloeffel

3rd was Ethan Edwards on the cello and Mardy Eisloeffel on the accordion performing "Ashokan Farewell"

Finally, Renee O'Dell did a comedy act to round out the exhibition.

Fraternally Submitted

Ethan Edwards

Illinois State Grange Lecturer

Lecturer's Department Contest Winners

I. Photography

A. Animals

1st Place - Angie Dickerson

B. Guess What This Is

1st Place – Melinda Schiefer

2nd Place –Hilda Koluch

C. Skies

1st Place –Hilda Koluch

D. People Working

No Entries

II. Handcrafted Holiday Tree Ornaments

A. Fabric – Sewing -Needlecrafts

1st place – Ruth Blasingame

B. Other Materials and Techniques

1st Place – Dave Donley

2nd Place – Marilyn Hoffman

3rd Place –Ruth Blasingame

III. Media Art & Crafts

A. Painting/Drawing/Pastels

No Entries

B. Dimensional Media

1st Place – Patty Bearth

C. Personal Collection

1st Place – Beverly Smith

2nd Place – Marilyn Hoffmann

Origami Animals

No Entries

Scrapbooking

III. Birdhouses
1st Place – Dave Donley

1st Place – Angie Dickerson

JUNIOR Winners

I. Photography

A. Animals

No Entries

B. Guess What This Is

No Entries

C. Skies

No Entries

D. People Working

No Entries

II. Media Arts & Crafts

Paintings/Drawings/Pastels 5-7

1st Place –Hattie Schlie

2nd Place –Will Schlie

III. Media Arts & Crafts

Paintings/Drawings/Pastels 8-10

1st Place –Morgan Schlie

2nd Place –Scarlette Ellwanger

IV. Media Arts & Crafts

Paintings/Drawings/Pastels 11-14

1st Place – Charlotte McGowan

Dimensional Media

No Entries

V. Origami Animals 8-10

1st Place – Scarlette Ellwanger

Personal Collection

No Entries

Handcrafted Tree ornaments

A. Fabric Sewing – Needlecraft

No Entries

B. Other Materials and Techniques 5-7

1st Place – Brandon O'Dell

C. Other Materials and Techniques 8-10

1st Place – Scarlette Ellwanger

2nd Place - Emsley Foley

3rd Place – Savannah Anderson

D. Other Materials and Techniques 11-14

No Entries

Birdhouses

A. 5-7

1st Place - Brandon O'Dell

B. 8-10

1st Place – Eva Foley

2nd Place – Scarlette Ellwanger

3rd Place – Morgan Schlie

C. 11-14

No Entries

Scrapbook – 2 pages

No Entries

HISTORIAN “SHOW AND TELL” PRESENTATION AT STATE GRANGE SESSION SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

Hello Patrons! You can read my annual report on pages 26 and 27 of your booklets. I hope you got an opportunity to look at my display in the display room. The South Granges book will show many of the St. Clair County Granges of the past. The State Grange book shows many state sessions of the past. The newest book I have made is Rock River Grange#1921. Dorothy Newcomer (who passed away this year) donated many items to me so that I could highlight their active years in a separate book.

Just to let you all know, I have about 44 notebooks, 15 collections and at least 10 tubs of Grange memorabilia. Some of the collections include: Grange booklets, pamphlets, bumper stickers, membership forms, By-laws, songbooks, cookbooks, Declaration of Purpose, Rosters, Journals of State Sessions, jewelry, Grange books, Granger newspapers, the 1967 Grange stamp, and lots of other Grange miscellaneous items.

I visited the Boone County Fair this August and spoke with Kim. The Grange Museum is not set up yet but offered my help when they start setting it up.

I was glad to hear from some of the other Grangers that they also check on E-bay for Grange items. I narrowed the search for Illinois Grange items. Did you know the Illinois State Grange held State Session in another state? Yes, here is the program booklet from the 75th session held in Hotel Statler in St. Louis, Missouri from October 16-19, 1946. In past years State sessions could be held in December, October, September and more recently August. This session we worked on updating the By-Laws. I found this By-Laws booklet from December 10-12, 1929 session held in Oregon, Illinois. Then I found these two National Grange booklets (about 1949) titled “The Farmer’s Best Friend”—useful information on the farm, and why you need the Grange.

The oldest item I found was an officer badge ribbon in its original envelope from Orange Grange #843. I believe it to be the Flag Bearer because of the American flags on the top. The seller also sent me a small book of their handwritten By-laws when organizing on January 10, 1874. Gary Hecathorn also has some of their record books and stores them in Hopewell Grange archives.

Another item I purchased was the 69th Illinois State Grange session Journal of Proceedings held in Rockford, Illinois December 10-12, 1940. Back then each Grange made an annual report to be published in the journal. There were 85 Subordinate Granges represented by 145 delegates and 11 Pomona Granges represented by 22 delegates. So, I thumbed through the booklet but was really surprised on the very last page. It was the report by Guilford Hope Juvenile Grange#22. The Master was Harold McLarty (my uncle) and Secretary Alice McLarty (my mother). It certainly touched my heart!

I truly love being the Illinois State Grange Historian and I thank you for the opportunity.

Beverly Smith
Illinois State Grange Historian

Officer, Committee, and Deputy Reports

President/Master – see page 30.

Vice President/Overseer

Worthy National Grange Executive Committee Chair and Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaeffer and husband, Don Schaeffer, Worthy National Grange Communications Director, Phillip Vonada, Illinois State Grange Offices, Delegates and friends, I write this following one of the largest weeks in attendance the Boone County Fair in Belvidere, Illinois has had to date. Pride is an understatement in describing my feelings about this. I know how hard the seven Granges of Boone County worked to put on one of the largest fairs in the state of Illinois and definitely the best in our area. As hard as we work to put on the fair we need to work equally as hard throughout the year on our Granges. They are the reason why our fair exists. As I see other counties throughout the state give up on their county fair because of politics and money, our “little” fair trudges on, because over 60 years ago the Members of Boone County Pomona Grange made the courageous decision to take over the running of the local fair, and created a Fair board made up of Grangers from every Grange. Then seeing that the area where the fair was being held would not accommodate much growth chose to mortgage their farms, houses, businesses to give money to the Pomona Grange to purchase the first plot of land and began adding buildings, barns, a grandstand, harness racing track, and so much more. This did not happen overnight, and improvements are still being made every year. Our fair shows how much influence the Grange should have in our community, yet if you ask someone who owns our fair, they are more than likely going to tell you the County Board. We have signs and billboards up throughout the Fairgrounds showing who owns the Fairgrounds, yet people do not believe that it is privately owned. Throughout the year our Granges are seen working hard on Community Service through their actions supporting 4-H with dinners, doing the food at major community events, sponsoring meals for the holiday dinners the food bank give out, and so much more, yet if you ask members of our community who we are they don’t know until one of us says, the Granges of Boone County own and operate the Boone County Fair. Then a glimmer of knowledge sparkles in their eyes and they comment “isn’t that where they have those big craft shows, I love going to those.” What are we doing wrong that they remember someone who rents our grounds and not us?

I feel that this problem is happening throughout the state, with a few exceptions. Hopewell Grange did an excellent job at helping their community after the tornado a few years ago. But then Covid happened, and we are all still trying to recover. Covid did, in some instances, show people that they want to be involved in something, they want a place to belong. How do we make our meeting the one everyone attends each month? How do we make our Granges name, the name on everyone's tongue? We need to become the people our founders over 150 years ago were. We need to get our name out there and make people want to be part of our organization. How do we accomplish this? We need to work together to figure it out. We need to stop being our own worst enemy and invite people in.

I have spent the year attending most of my Prairie Grange meetings where I serve as Secretary. Luckily the couple of times I have missed I have a great support system in place to help me out. I am on the Grange Revival planning team and the National Grange Session Work Advisory Group. The work advisory group presented our proposals for change to the National Grange members last year focusing on remembering that National Session is for those wearing blue sashes not those wearing gold sashes. I was just asked to be on Community Grange Focused Forward Group searching for the best ways to get information from National to the local level. I am also in charge of Tours and Transportation on the planning committee for the 158th National Grange Session in the Quad Cities.

These 4 groups, my Grange and work take up the bulk of my time, however Youth Co-chair Marisa Odell and I have hosted Spring Fling with many Youth and Juniors in attendance and various adults coming throughout the weekend. On Friday night we had a movie night and played games. We had a

great time getting into a game of Clue, another mystery game and other board games we brought. We started working on different craft projects for State Session, especially table centerpieces. We toured a number of the murals around town, then visited the Boone County Museum in town then walked to Julie's Diamond Art Store checking out more murals on the way. We had a small group of Youth, Juniors and Adults at the store, with their registration they got to pick out an \$8 diamond art painting or put the \$8 toward something larger, we also ate lunch at the store before heading back to our vehicles and picking up garbage on the sidewalk between the store and the museum as a community service project to clean up our town. We had a presentation on teen and adult internet safety that Brian Odell will be presenting at the National Grange Session two times in November. We watched the Lesson of the 1st Degree on the National Grange YouTube Channel to share that information with more people. It was originally on Zoom. Zoom has been a tool that makes it so easy to get someone from far away to help you share information with your members. We should try to make sure that our Grange Halls have internet access to make this easier for Granges to do. Our 50s theme was put to the test when we held a 50s Murder Mystery with County Line Grange providing the dinner and over 25 people in attendance to find out that Finchy killed Sandra D. A great time was had by all.

Marisa and I both attended the GRIT conference in October of last year where we had modified our list of projects after having a great first year with projects. We are excited to see what shows up at the State Session for display. We also gave each Grange a jump drive with the current information that was sent to us on it for each Grange. We asked that those drives be brought to State Session and we will return them at the GRIT conference with the new projects on them. We also hosted the Illinois State Grange Picnic at the Boone County Fairgrounds to limited attendance. We send these dates out at the GRIT conference which gives you ample time to plan to support the Youth members of our organization. The picnic is where we hand out everyone's Illinois State Grange Scholarship, please support these members by showing up and congratulating them on doing well. This year we handed out 7 scholarships to only family members and a few others. We had a vintage car show before the picnic began and those drivers also attended the picnic. Marisa and I have started planning for the coming year, I have every confidence in Marisa, but this is not easy to do alone so we will continue to work together to hopefully create a youth program that is fun, educational and meaningful for our members who will continue to be in our organization for years to come. We are also excited about our theme for next year.

I enjoyed my 4th time of being a Communications Fellow at last year's National Grange Session, we worked hard to produce content for Good Day! Magazine as well as the Patrons Chain Newsletter. Last year one of our team filmed and interviewed members of our organization mostly for TikTok but also to be put into different social media forums. We will be utilizing the National Grange YouTube channel, Facebook page, Twitter account, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok and more to share our organization with the world. Join us on our journey of self-exploration and see how far we can take Grange and how much we can grow. How many of you get the Good Day! Magazine, the old Patrons Chain and the new Grange Today! newsletter in your email? Did you know that these items existed? I know that Lynette and I have shared them numerous times over the years, but after the first-year people didn't renew their subscription to the magazine or even though the newsletter hits their inbox they don't open the email. Do you know how much information is shared in those publications? We constantly ask what the National Grange can do for us, but never open the email, never get on the Zoom, or ignore the Facebook Live event happening now. How much better informed would your Grange be if you opened an email? We need to do better to share that information with our Granges and members. So many of our members are holding a minicomputer in their hand right now, you can share with the few members who are not as technologically advanced as you. I challenge each of you when you return home to share three things that you learned this weekend with members of your Grange who have been in your Grange for less than a year and see how interested they are in finding out more and where they can find it. Did Oliver Hudson Kelley ever dream that over 150 years later our organization would still be working hard to better our communities for everyone including farmers, ranchers, teachers, firefighters, and so many more.

Fraternally Submitted,
Katherine (Karie) Blasingame
Illinois State Grange Overseer/Vice President
Illinois State Grange Co-Youth Director

Lecturer – see page 44.

Illinois State Grange Steward

My year as Illinois state Steward was a very busy and good year. I helped park cars at Hopewell Grange's annual pancake and sausage supper in October. I was elected to master of my subordinate grange. i unfortunately i had to step down due to me starting to volunteer at my local fire station and was unable to make all of my meeting. my fiancé Jessica and I along with more members and family and friends went to the Barn 3 dinner theater in February. The show was very funny as always and amazing food and fellowship. I also mowed my Granges lawn for the first few months for my family's turn. I am also on the building and repair committee for my grange Hopewell Grange #1747. I have helped at the vendor fairs my grange puts on twice a year by either putting up signs or helping with tables. This past year i have also started a new career as i am now HVAC certified. It is a new and exciting career and I am excited to see what it brings. I have also started playing softball again when i can. My fiancé and I also love taking rides on our motorcycle and really enjoy the time on it and the great people we meet along the way. I also spend as much time as I can with my son Liam when I get the chance as well as my two soon to be step daughters Claire and laurel. The next few months are going to be very busy and exciting as we are going to Florida for a vacation then our family reunion in Tennessee in September. Then the biggest even will be October 5th. Jessica and I will be getting married that day. Cant wait to see you all in September for state Session. Have a great Day and God bless.

Respectfully submitted, Bradly A. Wade, Illinois State Steward

Illinois State Grange Assistant Steward

To worthy master Lynette Schaeffer ,National Communications Director Phil Vonada, and Fellow Grangers. I want to report that I attended all my Grange meeting and most of Boone County's Poma meetings. In January I attended IAAF fair conversation in Springfield, Illinois. representing the Boone county fair. 3 days Of work shops and meeting with other fairs in Illinois. In March I attended the ISGY Spring fling weekend visiting the Boone county museum with the youth and attended The youth dinner Saturday night. In April I attended the Flora Roast Beef dinner. I never miss that. As a fundraiser your Grange was hired to pick up garbage at a couple of events In the Rockford area 1st one was cinco de mayo festival and 2nd was food chow down.

In August is the Boone county fair where I am a dictator on the fair board, and I am in charge of the non-livestock building (home-Ec) we had over 4,000 entries. A week of fellow Grangers working together to put on the best county fair in Illinois.

Thank you, Rick O'Dell, Asst. steward

Illinois State Grange Lady Assistant Steward

Worthy National Grange Communications Director, PA State Grange Junior Director Philip Vonada, Worthy National Grange Executive Committee member and Illinois State Grange Master Sister Lynette Schaeffer and brother Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and former Master of the Illinois State Grange Henrietta Keller, Past Worthy National Flora and Past First Lady and current Pomona of the Illinois State Grange sister Patty Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Master and Executive

Committee Lyle Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master David Donley and Past First Lady and current Treasurer of the Illinois State Grange Mary Donley and State Officers, delegates and members.

My 2023-2024 year started out with attending 152nd annual Illinois State Grange Session at Fairfield Inn Suites in Springfield Illinois where I was Lady Assistant for the IL State Grange and walked in on Sunday Morning with the State Youth Department. On Oct 22nd I attended the Grange Resource Information Training at Hopewell Grange with fellow Grange members and family. On Oct 26th I helped at the Hopewell Grange Pancake and Sausage Supper, Ending the week, Hopewell had their annual Fall Vendor Fair on Oct 28th. Sprinkle in there a birthday get together, Halloween, and driving many miles and we have a VERY eventful week in the Fisher household. On Dec 16th Hopewell had their annual Breakfast with the Grinch. The event was a success and everyone enjoyed the day. The event will continue this December as well. In February my husband and myself went with around 23 Hopewell members and friends to the Barn III Dinner theater in Goodfield. It was a very cute Valentine's date night with a show. They always do such a wonderful show. On April 20th, Hopewell had the chance to hold their annual Spring Vendor Fair. On July 27th Jaxon, Cruz and myself had a fun time at the Hopewell JR day event where we did projects for the Junior department for state session. That evening we went to Hopewell Summer outdoor movie night and enjoyed the Movie MegaMind. On August 10th Jaxon, Cruz, Katie Renken and myself had a fun time at the Hopewell JR day event where we made tie blanket for the state session projects. That evening we went to the Hopewell end of Summer outdoor movie night and enjoyed the Movie Shark Tale. I have attended all of my Subordinate Meetings where I am Secretary of Hopewell Grange. I have been helping with the Juniors activities and getting the word out in the community about Hopewell and all that we do for the community.

This Year has had many firsts and lasts. Clayton Graduated from 8th Grade, was Confirmed in church, and starting High School where he has added on playing football. Jaydon had his many lasts of High School, Prom, sports and Graduation. Jaydon decided that he wanted to dip his toes into College where he is going to in Iowa. Cruz is starting his first year in school at Kindergarten. I can not believe how fast these boys are growing up.

Fraternally Submitted, Carrie Fisher- Lady Assistant of the Illinois State Grange

Illinois State Grange Chaplain

Worthy National Grange Communications Director and Pennsylvania junior director brother Phil Vonoda, Illinois State Grange Master/President sister Lynette Schaeffer and First Man Brother Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and Past Master Illinois State Grange sister Henrietta Keller, Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master David Donley and Sister Mary Donley Illinois State Grange Treasurer, Worthy Past National Grange Flora and current Illinois State Grange Pomona Sister Patti Lee and Past Master and Executive Committee member of Illinois State Grange Brother Lyle Lee, State Grange Officers, Delegate, Patrons and Guests.

I attended State Grange Session in Springfield at Northfield Inn in 2023 where I was reelected Chaplain for another two years, thank you for putting your trust in me.

I attended Grit Conferences at Hopewell Grange in Washington, IL in October. I worked over meat shoots in January had a very good day. In April we held Earth Day as part of our Grange Month and gave away five different trees to those attending. We also held Pumpkin Day and all the children received pumpkins to paint and take home.

I attended Turkey Hill Grange 150th Anniversary, enjoying their day program and the evening banquet. I was able to attend other Grange dinners and functions.

I serve as Master/President for Bluff Grange and St. Clair County Pomona Grange. I'm looking forward to going to National Session in November in Iowa.

May God Bless each of you and keep you wrapped in his arms.
Fraternally Submitted, Charlotte Mehrtens, Illinois State Grange Chaplain

**Illinois State Grange Treasurer
August 1, 2024**

At the State Session last September, the Treasurer's position was opened after Paul Zeien elected not to retain the position. No one would step forward to take this position during the Session, which could have forced the State Grange to hire an accounting firm to manage the daily financial obligations. This was not an ideal solution, so I volunteered to take over the job and was appointed by the Executive Committee in October 2023.

Paul had worked diligently to put the finances in order and to resolve some issues that needed attention. He did a fantastic job in organizing all the accounts and establishing a thorough accounting system. This was a tremendous help to me going forward in managing the multitude of accounts that have been established over the years.

Since familiarizing myself with the many accounts handled by the Treasurer, I have been able to fine tune them a little more. Several accounts have been combined into a money market account paying better interest than checking, some have been changed to increase the interest income for the State Grange and for individual Granges whose closed Hall accounts are managed by the State Grange. Some CD's earning as little as .04% interest were renewed at much higher interest rates of 3.75% or more. This significantly increases the amount of interest being received.

Following is a summary of income and expenses for the current fiscal year, which is from September 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 (16 months). The fiscal year was amended at the last State Session to follow the calendar year going forward so the current year included 16 months to accomplish that goal. The figures are estimates and projected through December 31, 2024.

ASSETS

*GENERAL FUND	\$ 7017
*ISG RESERVE MONEY MARKET	11,140
*ISG RESERVE CD'S	323,133
**NATIONAL SESSION	8594
**HEARING IMPAIRED	4749
**KLOTZ SCHOLARSHIP	14,415
**MEMORIAL HONOR SCHOLARSHIP	19,805
**MUNSON SCHOLARSHIP	57,676
**NIFFENEGGER SCHOLARSHIP	10,000
**TERMINATED HALL/INTEREST ESCROW	18,450
**CLOSED HALL CD'S (10 HALLS)	386,525

* TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS \$341,290
Funds that can be used for general expenses and are not
Designated for a particular use only.

** TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS \$520,214
Funds that are designated for a particular use and not general
Expenditures

INCOME:	
DUES	\$36,167
POMONA DUES	150
JUNIOR DUES	50
STATE SESSION	8000
GRANGER NEWSLETTER DONATION	<u>475</u>

TOTAL INCOME	44,842
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EXPENSES:	
NATIONAL DUES	\$14,290
HONORARIUMS	10,795
STORAGE RENT FOR PRES/SEC.	750
ACCOUNTING	1,000
LIABILITY INSURANCE	350
BONDING	104
STATE SESSION	10,000
GRANGER NEWSLETTER	2,000
MILEAGE	10,000
SUPPLIES	1,800
DONATIONS	0
JUNIOR COMMITTEE	287
YOUTH COMMITTEE	450
COMMUNITY SERVICE	250
LECTURER	250
FAMILY ACTIVITIES	250
AGRICULTURE	<u>250</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES	52,826
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DEFICIT OF \$7,984

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Donley, Treasurer

Illinois State Grange Secretary

It was a daunting honor to be asked by State Master/President Lynette to take over the duties of State Secretary from Robin Kindberg, who so ably served in that capacity. I was installed on March 8 in a brief ceremony at my home Grange, Enterprise in O'Fallon. I've been trying my best to fill Robin's shoes ever since. She's been a great help and has continued to do the Quarterly Reports as well some other functions for the time being as Secretary Assistant. Especially with regard to the duties leading up to the State Session, I'm grateful for everyone's kindness and cooperation.

I've been a Granger since 2008. I often helped my cousin Arline Keller Magee with technical issues when she was editor of the Illinois Granger. With impeccable logic, she pointed out that I might as well join since I was already helping the Grange. And so I did. I'm a member and current Lecturer of Enterprise Grange in O'Fallon and an affiliate member and current Treasurer of Emerald Mound Grange in Lebanon. I'm also a member of the Illinois State Grange Historical Committee, primarily working on nominations for the National Grange Hall of Fame. I help as much as I can at both Granges I belong to – helping with apple butter cooking and coordinating the dictionary project with Enterprise and being the cashier for various Emerald Mound fundraisers, especially their signature Big Breakfasts and Dinners. Outside of Grange activities, I keep busy as office manager for my sister and brother-in-law's construction company, as well as writing for two local newspapers and a magazine. I'm also president of the O'Fallon Historical Society, can often be seen taking photos at local events, and am active with my church. Occasionally, I sleep.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as your State Secretary!

Fraternally,
Brian Keller, Illinois State Grange Secretary

Illinois State Grange Membership Director/Secretary Assistant

I have continued to due Secretary Duties. I have been busy trying to keep up with the Quarterly reports and doing membership duties as well.

I attended all of my Subordinate Grange meetings where I am Publicity Chairman and Co-Community Service Chairman. I also attended all of my Pomona Grange meetings where I hold the position of Chaplain which has kept me very busy this year with so many members being sick and we even lost a few members.

I had the honor of attending the Midwest regional Leadership Conference held at Bowling Green University in Ohio. We had a lot of fun and learned a lot of interesting things.

I attended the State Grange Picnic at the Boone County Fairgrounds where we enjoyed a delicious picnic potluck and several Scholarships were presented.

I am also on the National Grange Host Committee planning National Grange Session in November 2024 in Bettendorf Iowa. I am in charge of flowers, presenting a workshop, being a member of the 6th degree and also working in the Showcase Display area. Can't wait for it to come. Be sure to join us!

My days are never boring I have the privilege of babysitting my 1 year old Granddaughter five days a week.

Being Assistant Secretary has been a challenge and it is time for a change. I will continue to be the membership director for the Illinois State Grange.

Fraternally submitted,
Robin Kindberg
Illinois State Grange Membership Director/Secretary Assistant

Illinois State Grange Ceres – No Report

Illinois State Grange Flora

Worthy National Grange Communications Director, PA State Grange Junior Director Philip Vonada, State Grange President and National Executive Committee President Sister Lynette Schaeffer, First Man Brother Don Schaeffer, Past National Grange Secretary and Past State Master Sister Henrietta Keller, Past National Grange Junior Director Sister Emalee Colver, Past National Grange Young Patrons Sister Tracey and Brother Phillip Jones, Past National Grange Flora, Past First Lady and current State Grange Pamona Sister Patti Lee, Past State Executive Committee Member and Past State Master Brother Lyle Lee, Past State Master Brother David Donley, State Officers, Delegates, Patrons and Guests:

Another year has gone by seems like they go faster each year. This past year has been up and down for me. I currently am the Secretary for my home Grange and Lecturer for Pamona Grange. I have attended as many of the meetings as possible. I attended GRIT in October, helped at our Wurstmart in November, headed a fund raiser in the Spring, helped at our chicken dinner in April and organized our stand at the Millstadt Homecoming. Due to personal issues was not able to attend other State functions

Personally I welcomed my 2nd great grand child in October. Eloiza Reign came into this world a whopping 4 lbs 5 oz. She joins brother Phoenix age 3. My husband is currently in the process of getting a different prosthetic leg. Hopefully this one will work out which will take some of the current burden off me. I have returned to work at one of our Elementary schools in the cafeteria. I really enjoy the job and children. My granddaughter who is a Senior at UMSL has started her last year of soccer. One of my greatest pleasures is watching her play. I plan on going to as many games as possible. Actually went to one right before coming here. I was recently diagnosed with a form of cancer. As of this writing I have not had further testing done or seen the Oncologist Surgeon, I am trying to be optimistic.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at State Session. Let's make this one the best ever!

Fraternally Submitted,
Marilyn Hoffmann
Illinois State Flora

Illinois State Grange Pomona

Well, another year has gone whizzing by! Seems like I just did this report not too long ago and already it was last year. Our activities have not changed much since then. We still bowl on a bi-weekly couples league, golf as time allows (today with our granddaughter before she leaves for college), we continue to hold several auctions a year (our business) and attend church on Thursday evenings and join in fellowship with our Pioneer Group at Zion. I also attend Silver Sneakers on Tuesday & Thursday mornings and Bible Study on Wednesday mornings. Lyle and I help to deliver Meals on Wheels as needed and help with food distribution for the No. 11 Food Bank as we are able. I also help with our Baby Bank & Community Meals at church. Add to that, we attended our granddaughter's basketball games, our grandson's Quiz Bowl events and our great granddaughter's basketball games (any that we could make).

Another fun trip we got to make was last December our son and daughter in law invited us to go to the Army-Navy game in Boston. That was a thrill for Lyle and he had some very touching moments as he was treated with honor as a Veteran.

I believe we attended all of our Prairie Grange meetings and our Pomona meetings. I also attended a class put on by Brian O'Dell in regards to internet safety & security. We attended the Grit conference at Hopewell Grange last October and a Jr night at Boone County. Also we helped for 5-6 days with our annual Prairie Grange auction. We try to make all the events that we can. We did take a week off and travel to Canada for a fishing trip for a little R & R and to celebrate another year of marriage.

We continue to have our garden in the back yard. We did cut it down by half in size for this year. Still gets to be too much so smaller it is- next year! We love the fresh produce and even managed to put up some of my hubby's favorite bread & butter pickles. Hoping to can some stewed tomatoes yet today. Too much work to do a lot of canning for just the two of us.

I helped at the Boone County Fair a few times this year. I do not have the energy or the stamina to do all I would like to be able to do. I had a few little health issues this past year and am learning to deal with some of them. Nothing too major. I truly enjoy being involved at our church and have continued to organize our monthly Pioneer Lunch and program. Thankfully I get a lot of help from my hubby and others at church. And we get three months off during the summer.

I currently still serve as secretary at Boone County Pomona. Advance notice that I will not seek the position nor accept it when my term is up. Same goes for State Pomona position. Time for younger people to get in there and believe me, I am not getting any younger!

Faternally submitted,

Patti Lee, State Pomona

Illinois State Grange Executive Committee

Worthy National Grange Communications Director, PA State Grange Junior Director Philip Vonada, Worthy National Grange Executive Committee member and Illinois State Grange Master Sister Lynette Schaeffer and brother Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and former Master of the Illinois State Grange Henrietta Keller, Past Worthy National Flora and Past First Lady of the Illinois State Grange and current Illinois State Grange Pomona sister Patty Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Master and Executive Committee member Lyle Lee Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master David Donley and Past First Lady and current Illinois State Grange Treasurer Mary Donley and State Officers, delegates and members.

We the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee Frank D. Wurth, Todd Hegge, Debra Wade wish to submit the following report.

We met before the 152nd Session of the Illinois State Grange at Northfield Inn and Suites on September 7, 2023, at 6:40 pm. After a wonderful meal from the hotel the meeting was called to order by Worthy Master Lynette Schaeffer those present were President Lynette Schaeffer, Vice President Karie Blasingame, Executive Committee Secretary Debra Wade, Treasurer Paul Zeien Jr. ISG Secretary Robin Kindberg, National Grange Reps Lena and Billy Scufeldt. Frank D. Wurth and Todd Hegge Executive Committee Members were on their phones traveling to Session.

Paul gave a Treasurers report.
Robin gave Secretary report.

Lynette brought up some issues we had been talking about, they were discussed further. They have been taken care of.

Budget was discussed.

We met again after Session on September 10, 2024 at Northfield Inn and Suites. The meeting was opened at 11:13 am. Those present were President Lynette Schaeffer, Vice President Karie Blasingame, Executive Committee Frank D. Wurth, Todd Hegge, & Debra Wade, State Secretary Elaine Hecathorn, Trisha Renken, Jenn Tobin-Tinch, Robin Kindberg and Karrie Kindberg.

Election of Executive Committee was held Frank D. Wurth was elected Chairman, Debra Wade was elected as Secretary of the EX. Comm. And Todd Hegge was elected as Parliamentarian.

Lynette made motion to pay the Session Typist \$ 50.00 each to Karrie and Kelly Kindberg, Todd seconded the motion and motion passed.

Lynette made motion to pay the hotel, Todd seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Todd made motion to approve the minutes from the last day of State Session, Debra seconded the motion and the motion passed.

LeRoy Grange and Capron Grange issue were discussed.
Meeting adjourned.

On December 14, 2023 the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee met by zoom at 7:00 pm. Those in attendance were President Lynette Schaeffer, Vice President Karie Blasingame, Executive Committee Chairman Frank D. Wurth, Parliamentarian Todd Hegge, Secretary of Ex. Comm. Debra Wade, Treasurer Mary Donley and Newly appointed Secretary Robin Kindberg.

National Session is now in the books Don and Lynette were happy to have other Illinois Grangers there, they were Karie Blasingame, Lana Korte, Emalee Colver, Joan and Sharon Fidler, Jean, and Myron Peterson. Karie served as a Communication Fellow. Lana served as a Connector Crew volunteering to assist the host group. The resolutions from Illinois-two were sent back as state issues. Saving Prime Farmland from Solar Invasion, and Rodeos. US . Farmland was combined with several others on the topic and passed. Farm Equipment Repair is already current policy. Awards received at National were County Line and Turkey Hill for Distinguished Grange. Christine Hamp was elected as the new National President, there were several other new officers. Lynette was re-elected to the Executive Committee then elected as chairman of the Executive Committee.

Leaf River Grange has sold their hall and has closed as of 2023. Troy Grove Grange has sold their Grange Hall.

Grit was held at Hopewell Grange in October.

Mary has been to several banks to help us get better rates on our accounts.

It was suggested that we take Interest Escrow, Terminated Hall Escrow and Terminated Hall and put in one account. It will be called Terminated Hall Fund.

The Scholarship topic will be:

What Keeps You Rooted in The Grange

We met on March 7, 2024 by zoom

Treasurer Report was given

Secretary Report Robin and the rest of the group welcomed Brian Keller to the position of Secretary, The National Grange Leaders Conference in Myrtle Beach was held in February, President's Day weekend. Don and Lynette attended Friday— Sunday.

National Grange building at 1616 H St NW, Washington, DC has been sold. A very bittersweet feeling, sad that we no longer own the building, glad that we no longer own the building. Don and Lynette 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] That pickup came to the Schaeffer home, and it

will be taken to Gene Edlen (Iowa) to sort out and bring to National Grange Session in Bettendorf, IA in November.

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 are willing to have, to who in your community might be able to help you with certain activities post-surgery.

Lynette has started working on IL State Treasurer unclaimed funds

Spring Fling will be at Boone County Fairground March 15-17 2024

Scholarships

Nine scholarships were presented.

Sammantha Meyers	Prairie Grange	Education	Memorial	\$750.00
Phoebe Calabrese	Flora Grange	Electric		
		Engineering	Munson	\$650.00
Athena O'Dell	Beaver Valley	Forensic	Munson	\$650.00
Emily Smith	Turkey Hill Grange	English		
		Education	Memorial	\$650.00
Delphine Calabrese	Flora Grange	Psychology	Munson	\$550.00
Chloe Konieczki	Prairie Grange	Acting	Memorial	\$550.00
Sherri				
Konieczki-Bockman	Prairie Grange	Special		
		Education	Memorial	\$ 550.00
Fabienne Calabrese	Flora Grange	Education	Memorial	\$ 550.00
		Masters		
Kathryn (Katie) Renken	Hopewell Grange	Mass	Memorial	\$ 500.00

State Session Menu was discussed.

Next meeting will be about budget and letters will be sent to Chairmans. If no letter comes back you will not be getting any money till State Session.

A motion was made that if any prize money that is handed out at State Session and is \$20.00 or less it will be in cash no check.

We met by zoom on JUNE 6, 2024

Treasurers report was given by Mary.

Mary gave a report on recent Funds.

Secretary Brian gave report. He has sent out State Session agenda and deadlines to Secretary's and State Officers.

All Secretary's will be receiving new Quarterly Reports to make them easier to report.

Lynette, Mary, and Frank D. have been working on budget thank you to Mary for giving them a place to start. Thank you to Robin for the income information.

Frank D., Henrietta, Brian, Sara E., and Lynette met by zoom for the bylaws much was discussed and there is a lot to go.

Meetings are being held for the Next National Grange Session in Bettendorf Iowa November 12-16 2024. Illinois is part of the host group

Lynette has collected money for County Line from the Il State Treasurer Unclaimed Funds she believes it was interest funds for their hall fund.

Karie and Marisa went to Midwest Grange Leaders Conference. Grange picnic was May 4, 2024 all scholarship were given out, also nice car show.
State Session for 2025-September 19-21 2025 rooms will be at Staybridge Hotel in Rockford IL.
Grit will be October 26-27, 2024 noon lunch place to be named later.
Memorial we have donated \$ 25.00 to the Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of Lucille Lang, and Gene West.
Terminated Hall requests were from Flora Grange and Emerald Mound
It was suggested that we put Executive Committee Meeting Minutes in the Journal

Fraternally Submitted, Illinois State Grange Executive Committee
Frank D. Wurth, Chairman, Todd Hegge, Parliamentarian, Debra Wade, Secretary

Illinois State Grange Executive Committee Secretary

Worthy National Grange Communications Director, PA State Grange Junior Director Philip Vonada, Worthy National Grange Executive Committee member and Illinois State Grange Master Sister Lynette Schaeffer and brother Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and former Master of the Illinois State Grange Henrietta Keller, Past Worthy National Flora and Past First Lady and current Pomona of the Illinois State Grange sister Patty Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Master and Executive Committee Lyle Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master David Donley and Past First Lady and current Treasurer of the Illinois State Grange Mary Donley and State Officers, delegates and members. .

My year started off with State Grange Session at Northfield Inn in Springfield where I got the judges for the departments.

I attended Grit at Hopewell Grange.

I helped with Hopewell Granges annual Pancake and Sausage Dinner where I cooked the meat for sauerkraut then made sauerkraut and on night of meal sold the tickets.

In February, 21 people attended our outing to Barn III Dinner Theater this included several members and guests.

I helped mow the yard at Hopewell Grange.

In October and April I helped with our Spring Vender Fair.

I have attended all my Hopewell Meetings where I am Chaplain. I have attended Jaydon and Claytons Fishers wrestling meets. I attended Clay, Jaxon and Cruz Fisher baseball games.

Debra Wade, Executive Committee Secretary

Illinois Granger Editor and Communications Director

National Grange Representative Phil Vonada, Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaeffer and First man Don Schaeffer, Past National and State Officers, Illinois State Grange Officers and Delegates, Brothers and Sisters, I serve as editor of the Illinois Granger and Communications Director for the Illinois State Grange.

I have attended most of my Prairie Grange #1832 meetings where I am a member of the Executive Committee. I have attended all of the Boone County Pomona Grange Meetings where I serve as President. I have attended most of the Boone County Fairboard meetings where I am a 24 plus year director and serve on the ticket committee and the review committee. I am the lead advisor for the Boone County Youth Fairboard and have attended all the meetings.

During the Fair I work mainly in the concession trailer selling shirts for the Youth Fairboard. I organize a schedule of the Youth members working around the fairgrounds. I also help in the Ticket office as needed.

I attended the 2023 Illinois State Grange Session as a delegate, the Fair Appreciation dinner, the GRIT Conference and the IAFE Convention where I was honored as a Friend of Illinois County Fairs. I made and donated 20 lap size afghans to Symphony Maplecrest nursing home. I participated in shopping for and purchasing gifts for patients at Symphony Northwoods for their Christmas celebration. I donated tiny baby afghans and hearts to the Haven Network. I am always willing to donate a rag quilt to any local organization to help them raise money. I have published the Illinois Granger every month. I am constantly working on the mailing list to keep it up to date.

Fraternally, Ruth Blasingame

Illinois State Grange Historian

National Grange Communications Director and PA State Grange Junior Director Phil Vonada, Illinois State Grange President and National Grange Executive Committee member Lynette Schaeffer, First Gentleman Don Schaeffer, State Officers, Delegates, Patrons and Guests:

As I expressed at the GRIT Conference on October 22, 2023, our Granges plan for the future but as Historian I look backward to highlight our Grange history. I really want to give a big Thanks to Emalee Colver, who brought me many Grange items that day for the collection. The National Grange postcards showcasing many rooms in the National Grange building back in the day are a priceless addition to our collection that I could never have imagined to have.

This year at State Session I will bring some Grange items to display and do a “show and tell” on Saturday afternoon. This year we will be celebrating 153 years!

My husband and I usually spend the winters in Florida, but this year we were Illinois bound because of my husband’s health issues. I placed news articles in January, March and May issues of The Illinois Granger. Sometimes I get on a roll to think of what to write. This happens mostly when I declutter and find lots more Grange items I didn’t know I had!

In November, Steve Koluch of Turkey Hill Grange sent me an e-mail requesting some information about Bob White Grange #1809 of St. Clair County. I sent him an article from April 1946 Granger when that Grange celebrated their silver anniversary. They were organized February 1921 with 44 charter members. It also had a picture of Miss Lydie M. White, oldest member at that time. She was also their first Chaplain. The article also stated that they held meetings in Union Church, which was later bought, torn down, and some of the material used in construction of the present building located southwest of Belleville on Route 158.

A few years back I visited Dorothy Newcomer of Rock River Grange #1921 (Lee County). Her Grange was organized on June 19, 1951 (the year I was born!). They had 50 charter members which Dorothy was one of. This year I worked on making a notebook of over 50 pages highlighting their active years. They sold popcorn, had chicken dinners, bake sales, ice cream socials, fall festivals, booster nights, to name a few. Dorothy passed away this year but I am so fortunate that she gave me this history to share.

In my decluttering, I found some interesting Grange items tucked away in a briefcase. One was a business card of former National Master Kermit W. Richardson. He was elected on November 15, 1995. Then some photos of the Winnebago County Pomona Grange Degree Team in 1950 or 1952. Sometimes I have to get the magnifying glass out to make out who the people are! You know, because there are no names on the back of the photos!!

One of my best recollections of the Grange Women’s Activities is the Grange Sewing Contest! All the chairmen had goals to meet. Illinois always took this very seriously! In an October 1977 Granger article Phyllis Pagles, chairman, her quota was 900 and it was surpassed with 937 entries. Many of our very talented sewers went on to win National Grange honors.

In May I attended visitation and Grange service for Boone County Granger Fay Ellwanger. At another funeral I shared some Grange Youth stories with former Grange King Bruce Cummings (1962) and his sister Virginia (Ginny). Their mother Vivian Cummings was State Ceres back in the 1960’s.

I am currently President and Secretary of Perryville Grange. I am an affiliate member of Guilford Hope Grange, attending many meetings, and helping at their annual rummage sale. I am also Treasurer of Winnebago County Pomona Grange.

Fraternally Submitted, Beverly Smith, Historian

Illinois State Grange Youth Co-Director

Well this Summer went by it feels like in a blink of an eye. Athena graduated this year, which means she will be off to college. She will be attending RVC here in Rockford for 2 years and is on the bowling team. She just got done competing with her High School in Pennsylvania for the High School National Championships and won! Brandon is now 5 and will be starting Kindergarten this year. Bryson was in Florida in the Disney College Program but he is home now and glad it's over. The heat was a bit too much for him.

As I finish my second year as CO- Youth State Director I have learned so much. Many thanks to Karie. I also attended my first Midwest Leadership Conference, as well as Spring Fling. If you didn't get to attend, it was so much fun. Can't wait to start planning next year's. The Statewide Grange Picnic was amazing this year. We were able to partner up with MOPAR and they brought in about 15 Classic cars for a parade and car show. Grit is always my favorite to attend as we get a few sneak peeks as to what is coming this next year.

I have attended my local Grange meetings and Pomona meetings as well, where I hold the office of Gatekeeper. During State sessions you can always find me volunteering for the drill. We just got done with the Boone County Fair and it was another record breaking attendance as well as great weather. There you can find me in the Home EC building as a Superintendent in the Culinary department.

I also helped my local Grange start a Plus 1 Junior Grange, which Beaver Valley hasn't had in a very long time.

Hoping for a great next year for you and all of your families and can't wait for all of the Grange activities and adventures for next year.

Fraternity Submitted, Marisa L O'Dell, Co-Youth State Director

Junior – see page 13.

Legislative Director

Worthy National Grange Communications Director and Pennsylvania Junior Director Brother Phil Vonada, Illinois State Grange Master/President Sister Lynette Schaeffer and First Man Brother Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and Past Master/President of Illinois State Grange Sister Henrietta Keller, Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master/President David Donley and Sister Mary Donley Illinois State Grange Treasurer, Worthy Past National Grange Flora and current Illinois State Grange Pomona Sister Patti Lee and Past Master/President and Executive Committee Member of Illinois State Grange Brother Lyle Lee,

State Grange Officers, Delegates, Patrons and Guests. I would like to submit the following Legislative report.

I attended GRIT Conference at Hopewell Grange in Washington, IL in October for the Grange year 2023. On April 10th and 11th I attended the Legislative Briefing in Springfield as part of the 2024 AG Legislative Day. At this briefing we received reports from Senate President Don Harmon, Senate Republican Leader John F. Curran, House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch, and House Republican Leader Tony M. McCombie. I also attended a committee meeting where Charlie Meier gave a very moving report.

As your Legislative Director and a Boone County Board Representative I go to Springfield learning and meeting State Senators and State Representatives on a regular basis. I have attended two of Governor Pritzker’s visits to Rockford, IL. I worked the Boone County Fair Meeting Candidates and as a Candidate. I am also Legislative Director and Vice President of Flora Grange #1762 and a member of the Boone County Pomona Grange. I also worked Prairie Grange’s Community Consignment auction.

Fraternally Submitted,
Marion L. Thornberry
Illinois State Grange Legislative Director

Agriculture Director – see page 38.

Family Activities Committee (FAC) – see page 22.

Community Service Director – see page 41.

Boone County Deputy – No Report

Illinois State Grange St. Clair County Deputy

I am writing this to welcome our National representative and all Grangers from Central and Northern Illinois to St. Clair County. We hope you have a good time and return to your home Granges with positive and productive thoughts. All Granges in our county have survived another year. It is sad to see empty chairs that were once filled by good and faithful servants of the Granges and our communities. The Grange members have done an excellent job of keeping our Grange Halls in St. Clair County in good condition. Mary Ann and I have participated in State and local Grange activities whenever we were needed. Thanks to all the Grangers who give extra time and effort to do a job well done.

Fraternally, Kenneth A. Joseph, Deputy

Illinois State Grange Winnebago County Deputy

Worthy National Grange Communications Director and Pennsylvania State Grange Junior Director Phil Vonada, National Grange Executive Committee member and current Illinois State Grange Master Lynette Schaeffer and First Man Brother Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National

Grange Secretary and Past Master of Illinois State Grange Sister Henrietta Keller, Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master Brother David Donley, Past National Grange Flora and current Illinois State Grange Pomona and Past First Lady of Illinois State Grange Sister Patti Lee and Past Illinois State Grange Master and Past Illinois State Grange Executive Committee member Brother Lyle Lee, Past National Grange Junior Director Sister Emalee Colver, State Grange Officers, Delegates, Patrons and Guests.

I attended the GRIT conference, all my subordinate meetings and most of the Winnebago County Pomona meetings. My home Grange (Union) had 18 members and family members attend Flora's April roast beef dinner, then returned to Erbe's for pies and desserts. I attended meetings at Guilford Hope and Perryville Granges and purchased items at Guilford Hope's rummage sale in May which benefited Midway Village Museum. I attended the Illinois State Grange picnic in May at the Boone County Fairgrounds and donated two vintage T-shirts for the youth auction. I attended the funeral visitation of Fay Ellwanger.

Fraternally Submitted, Vivian Johnson, Deputy

RESOLUTIONS – 2024

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Agriculture/Conservation & Energy/Health – Chair Justin Schaeffer, Heather Ellwanger, Ken Fidler, Marc Henrichs, Todd Hegge, Lana Korte, Charlotte Mehrrens, Marisa O’Dell.

Financial – Chair Vivian Johnson, Jim Coe, Mary Donley, Ruth Blasingame, Marilyn Hoffman, Wayne Lyford, Brian O’Dell, Terry Reeves.

Good of the Order and By-Laws – Chair Frank D. Wurth, Karie Blasingame, Sara Ellwanger, Amber Fidler, Carol Neff, Karen Reeves, Katie Renken, Beverly Smith, Brad Wade

Grange Activities/ President’s Address – Chair Don Ellwanger, Stephen Alltop, Carrie Fisher, Angie Dickerson, Ethan Edwards, Nancy Lyford, Rick O’Dell, Jean Peterson

State & National Welfare/Transportation – Chair Gary Hecathorn, Marilyn Coe, Rob Comstock, Doug Kinzinger, Vic Klein, Patti Lee, Myron Peterson, Deb Wade

RESOLUTION ACTIONS

RESOLUTION #	COMMITTEE	ACTION
Resolution #01	Agriculture/Conservation & Energy/Health	Rejected - LOST
Resolution #02	Grange Activities/President’s Address	Adopted as Amended
Resolution #03	Grange Activities/President’s Address	Adopted as written
Resolution #04	State & National Welfare/ Transportation	Rejected - LOST
Resolution #05	State & National Welfare/ Transportation	Sent Back to Grange
Resolution #06	State & National Welfare/ Transportation	Adopted as Amended
Resolution #07	Finance	Adopted as Amended

(See page 69 for By-Laws revision resolutions assigned to the Good of the Order and By-Laws Committee and action taken on each.)

**ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE
RESOLUTIONS for 2024 State Session**

**2024 – 01
Tobacco Farming
County Line Grange # 1751**

WHEREAS, National Grange Policy currently generally favors the cultivation and use of tobacco for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Surgeon General has determined that the use of tobacco is harmful to human health, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange adopt a policy that strongly discourages the cultivation of tobacco for human consumption and more strongly encourage programs at the federal level to help tobacco farmers diversify their farming operation by raising and marketing of alternative crops and will support new research programs to discover new uses for tobacco, such as a new source of protein.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Unfavorable -Reject this resolution.

We wish to reject this resolution on the grounds that it is setting a precedent and believe that it goes against Grange policy.

DELEGATE ACTION: Reject resolution. Resolution was LOST.

**2024 – 02
Search Features for On-Line National Grange Policy Book
County Line Grange # 1751**

WHEREAS, the National Grange publishes an online National Grange Policy Book; and

WHEREAS, the National Grange encourages Grange members to use the online book to become familiar with the National Grange Policies; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange add an electronic search feature to the online policy book.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as amended

WHEREAS, the National Grange publishes an online National Grange Policy Book; and

WHEREAS, the National Grange encourages Grange members to use the online book to become familiar with the National Grange Policies; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange add instructions on how to use the ‘search function’ already there.

2024 – 03
Electronic Links for Online National Grange Policy Book
County Line Grange # 1751

WHEREAS, the National Grange publishes an online National Grange Policy Book; and
WHEREAS, the National Grange encourages Grange members to use the online book to become familiar with the National Grange Policies, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the National Grange add electronic links to the Table of Contents and elsewhere as appropriate to let the user select words to take them directly to the policy of referral.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accept the Resolution as Written

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

2024 – 04
Identification for Voting
Floraville Grange # 1918

WHEREAS, the right to vote is a privilege; and
WHEREAS, identification is not always requested at the polling place; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Grange go on record as requiring proper identification (i.e. Illinois State Driver's License or Illinois State ID) when entering a polling place with the intent to vote.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Wish to Reject this resolution because it is already a Grange Policy

DELEGATE ACTION: Reject the resolution – Resolution was LOST

2024 – 05
Loss of Federal Benefits for Unlawful Act Convictions
Turkey Hill Grange # 1370

WHEREAS, a number of students, faculty and others have been demonstrating against the Israeli – Hamas War in Gaza; and
WHEREAS, peaceful protests are lawful but committing unlawful act are being performed; and
WHEREAS, a number of the protestors who have participated in unlawful acts have been arrested; and
WHEREAS, a number of those committing a criminal act receive federal funds such as grant money for education, food stamps, etc.; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that anyone who commits an unlawful act and is convicted of that unlawful act immediately upon conviction loses federal benefits and become ineligible for future federal financial support in whatever form for a period of 5 years from date of conviction.

COMMITTEE ACTION: As the Committee we wish to send this resolution back to the Grange. The information is too vague and needs more clarification.

DELEGATE ACTION: Reject for now - Approved to send back to Original Grange

2024 – 06
United States Postal Service
Bluff Grange # 1826

WHEREAS, the United Postal Service is no longer providing the needed services in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, some patrons are getting their mail and packages three and four months later; and

WHEREAS, some patrons have found their mail still in the post office two and three months after they took it there; and

WHEREAS, many patrons in the rural area have lost their post offices and must travel up to twenty miles each day to get their mail; and

WHEREAS, the post office is raising the rates on postage on a continuous basis; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Grange and the National Grange encourage the United Postal Service to improve and reformat their services.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accept this resolution with a few minor changes on wording to read:

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service is no longer providing the needed services in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, some Patrons are getting their mail and packages three and four months later; and

WHEREAS, some Patrons have found their mail still in the post office two and three months after they took it there; and

WHEREAS, many Patrons in the rural area have lost their post offices and must travel up to twenty miles each day to get their mail; and

WHEREAS, the post office is raising the rates on postage on a continuous basis; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Grange and National Grange urge the United States Postal Service to improve and reformat their services.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as rewritten

2024 – 07
Mileage Reimbursement
Financial Committee

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Grange currently pays a mileage rate of 75% or what the IRS allows according to IRS.gov per mile round trip for all State Officers, Directors, Committee Chairmans and Committee members who attend meetings (such as State Session, GRIT, and Midwestern Leadership) request a reimbursement from the Illinois State Grange Secretary, and WHEREAS, the mileage reimbursement be paid to drive/owner of the vehicle and not to each member that carools together, and

WHEREAS, the IRS.gov current rate is \$0.69, so at a 75% rate would be approximately \$.50 and at 100 miles, the reimbursement would be \$50 one way and \$100 roundtrip, a substantial amount more than what it is actually costing in gas and wear and tear on the vehicle. Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Grange pay a mileage rate to drivers only at a rate of 75% of what the IRS allows according to IRS.gov per mile one way for all State Officers, Directors, Committee Chairman, and Committee members (such as State Session, GRIT, and Midwestern Leadership) who request reimbursement from the Illinois State Grange Secretary.

DELEGATE ACTION: Approved as amended to read

That the Illinois State Grange pay a mileage rate to drivers only at a rate of 75% of the highest rate the IRS allows according to IRS.gov per mile one way for all State Officers, Directors, Committee Chairman, and Committee members (such as State Session, GRIT, and Midwestern Leadership Conference) who request a reimbursement from the Illinois State Grange Secretary, and this will take effect on January 1, 2025.

(Note: This resolution originated from the Finance Committee and, therefore, was not published in the Delegate Book.)

BY -LAWS REVISIONS for 2024

BY – 2024 -01

Revision: Replace Master with Master/President

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accept as written

WHEREAS, The National Grange has approved that the Master may be addressed as either Master or President; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that throughout the Illinois State Grange By-Laws, the title of Master shall be replaced with “Master/President”

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

BY – 2024 – 02

Revision: Replace Overseer with Vice President

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accept as written

WHEREAS , The National Grange has approved that the Overseer may be addressed as either Overseer or Vice President: therefore be it

RESOLVED, that throughout the Illinois State Grange By-Laws, the Overseer shall be replaced with “Overseer/Vice President”.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written.

BY – 2024 – 03

By-Laws Revision: Article II, Section 5

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accept as written

WHEREAS, The National Grange and the Illinois State Grange no longer have a Male or Female Ambassador or Young Couple program; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article II, Section 5 be changed to read, “The State Grange shall be represented by the current Youth and Young Adult Ambassadors at State Session as voting delegates.”

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written.

BY – 2024 – 04

Revision Article III, Section 2

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accept as written

WHEREAS, in Article III, Section 2, the seventh item under Order of Business does not identify who makes the reports; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the seventh item under Article III, Section 2 be changed to read, “Reports from the Officers and Standing Committee Chairs/Directors”

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as amended

Article III, Section 2 shall read “Reports from Officers and Committee Chairs/Directors.

BY – 2024 – 05
Revision: Article VI, Section 4

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, in Article VI, Section 4, the Treasurer is required to attend the Executive Committee meetings but does not have a vote, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the sentence “The Treasurer also serves as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee” be added to the end of Article VI, Section 4.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

BY – 2024 – 06
Revision: Article VI, Section 5

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, in Article VI. Section 5, the Secretary is required to attend the Executive Committee meetings, but does not have a vote, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the sentence “The Secretary also serves as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee” be added to the end of Article VI, Section 5.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

By – 2024 – 07
Revision: Article X

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, the Annual Dues of the Illinois State Grange members are approved by the Illinois State Grange Delegates: therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article X be changed to read “Section1. The Illinois State Grange member dues are set by resolution approved by the Illinois State Grange Delegates at any State Grange Meeting. Section 2. Each time the National Grange increases their dues, the Illinois State Grange annual dues will automatically increase member dues by the same amount.”

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written.

BY – 2024 – 08
Revision: Article XII, Section 1

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, it is difficult for the Master/President to get representation for each Region when appointing standing committee members, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XII, Section to be changed to read, “The following standing committees shall be appointed by the Master/President which consists of three members, one representing each Region, when available for a three-year term, becoming Director the third year of his/her term.

1. Agriculture Chairman
2. Family Activities Committee

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as amended –

RESOLVED, that Article XII, Section 1 be changed to read. The following standing committees shall be appointed by the Master/President which consists of three members, one representing each Region, when available for a three-year term, becoming Director the third year of his/her term.

1. Agriculture Chairman
2. Family Activities Committee Chairman

BY 2024 – 09
Revision: Article XII, Section 4

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as amended

WHEREAS, not all special committees at the annual State Session are needed; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the first sentence of Article X, Section 4, be changed to read. “The following special committees shall be appointed by the Master/president at each Annual Session of the State Grange, as necessary, to act on resolutions or reports on current issues concerning committee topics”.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

BY 2024 – 10
Revision: Article XIII, Section 4

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, in Article XIII. Section 4, the word “Grange” was omitted between “State” and “Treasurer to be held in trust for 7 years,” and

WHEREAS, in Article XIII, Section 4.2, it states, “If they do not reactivate, the money will be transferred to the State Grange Terminated Hall account”, which wording is too restrictive; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XIII, Section 4 be changed to read. “Any money of the Grange shall be remitted to the State Grange Treasurer, to be held in trust for seven (7) years.

1. If they have been reactivated during those seven (7) years, they will receive money from that account.
2. If they do not reactivate, the money will be transferred to the State Grange.”

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as amended – added their in two places

In RESOLVE that Article XIII, Section 4, be changed to read. “Any money of the Grange shall be remitted to the State Treasurer, to be held in trust for seven (7) years.

1. If they have been reactivated during those seven (7) years, they will receive their money from that account.
2. If they do not reactivate their money will be transferred to the Illinois State Grange.

BY – 2024 – 11

Revision: Article XIII, Section 5

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, in Article XIII, Section 5, a demit should be issues to members in good standings before the Grange becomes inactive without having to request it, therefore be it

RESOLVED, Article XIII, Section5, be changed to read, “Members in good standing shall be issued demits by the Secretary of the Grange before becoming inactive”.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

BY – 2024 – 12

Revision: Article XIII, Section 11

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, the term “IL” should be clarified to Mean “Illinois State Grange,” therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XIII, Section 11 be changed to read, “The Illinois State Grange will follow the guidelines set forth in the National Digest of Laws for disbanding of Granges surrender of charter, and/or sale of Grange Hall. “

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

BY – 2024 – 13

Revision: Article XIV, Section 1

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as amended

WHEREAS, A deputy does not have to be a resident of a region to serve as Deputy, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the first sentence of Article XIV, Section 1, be changed to read. “When there are one or more subordinate Granges in any region, the Master/President of the State Grange shall appoint a competent Deputy.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as Amended

WHEREAS, A deputy does not have to be of a region to serve as Deputy, therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the first sentence in Article XIV, Section 1, be changed to read, “ When there are one or more subordinate Granges in any region, the Master/President of the State Grange shall appoint a competent Deputy.

BY – 2024 – 14

Revision: Article XIV, Section 4

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as amended

WHEREAS, in Article XIV, Section 4, it states, “The Master/President may appoint such Special Deputies as in their judgement, are necessary; and

WHEREAS, these Deputies could be considered additional Deputies instead of special Deputies, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XIV, Section 4, be changed to read, “The Master/President may appoint such additional Deputies as in his/her judgement are necessary.”

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

BY – 2024 – 15

Revision: Article XV, Section 9

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, the punctuation and grammar of Article XV, Section 9, can be improved for clarity; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XV Section, be changed to read, “ no member or visitor shall improperly divulge the rejection of a candidate or any other transaction of the Grange, If a member does so, he/she shall be liable to suspension. If a visitor does so, he/she shall be viable of not again being allowed to visit the Grange and of being reported to the Grange to which he/she may belong. It shall be the duty of the Master/President, immediately after the rejection of a candidate, to cause this section to be read for the information of all members and visitors present.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as Amended

RESOLVED, that Article XV, Section 9 be changed to read, “no member or visitor shall improperly divulge the rejection of a candidate or any other transaction of the Grange. If a member does so, he/she shall be liable to suspension. If a visitor does so, he/she shall be viable of not again being allowed to visit the Grange and of being reported to the Grange to which he/she may belong. It shall be the duty of the Master/President, immediately after the rejection of a candidate, to cause this section to be read for the information of all members and visitors present.

BY – 2024 – 16
Revision: Article XV, Section 10

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as amended

WHEREAS, Article XV, Section 10, states that each Subordinate Grange should designate the day and hour of all regular meetings,

WHEREAS, sometimes circumstances may cause the need to either cancel or reschedule a meeting; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the sentence “Circumstances may cause the need to cancel or reschedule a regular meeting be added to the end of Article XV, Section 10.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written.

BY – 2024 – 17
Revision: Article XVII, Section 2

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as amended

WHEREAS, Article XVII, Section 2 does not say how vacancies should be dealt with; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the sentence “Vacancies shall be dealt with according to the National Digest of Laws,” be added at the end of Article XVII, Section 2.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

BY – 2024 – 18
Revisions: Article XVII, Section 5

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, Article XVII, Section 5 states that “All Officers must be fourth degree members prior to installation; and

WHEREAS, the National Grange Digest of Laws states “All officers must be fourth degree members in good standing; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XVII, Section 5 be changed to read “All Officers must be fourth degree members in good standing prior to installation as described in the National Grange Digest of Laws.

DELEGATE ACTION; Adopted as written

BY – 2024 – 19
Revision: Article XVII, Section 7

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, Article XVII, Section 7 states “ At the close of his/her term of office the Master/President shall make an annual report, to their Grange membership to recapitulate the work of the past year, and

WHEREAS, this should be done yearly and not only at the close of the Master/President term of office; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the last sentence in Article XVII, Section 7 be changed to read “the Master/President should make an annual report each year, recapitulating the work of the past year, and recommending measures for the year to come.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as amended

RESOLVE, that the last sentence in Article XVII, Section 7 be changed to read, “the Master/President Shall make a report each year, recapitulating the work of the past year, and recommending measures for the year to come.

BY – 2024 – 20

Revision: Article XVII, Section 9

COMMITTEE ACTIONS; Accepted as amended

WHEREAS, When the Subordinate Secretary makes his/her report to the Secretary of the State Grange, it is important to ensure the quarterly dues payment for each member is sent to the State Grange, and

WHEREAS, the wording regarding address changes in Article XVII, Section 9 should more properly be moved to Article XVII, Section 10’ therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XVII, Section 9 be changed to read, “The Secretary of each Subordinate Grange shall report to the Secretary of the State Grange promptly at the end of each quarter the number of persons initiated, reinstated, suspended, expelled, or deceased during the quarter. At that time, the Subordinate Secretary shall ensure that the quarterly dues payment estimated for each member, family membership, affiliate, and associate member is sent to the State Grange.”

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

BY 2024 – 21

Revision: Article XVII, Section 10

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, the National Grange requests the contact information for all members for their database, making it essential that the Subordinate Secretary send this information to the State Grange Secretary, and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to clarify the wording regarding contact information in Article XVII, Section 10, and

WHEREAS, wording regarding address changes should more properly appear in Article XVII, Section 10, instead of Article XVII, Section 9, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XVII, Section 10 be changed to read, “Each Secretary shall promptly report to the Secretary of the State Grange, the name and address of the Master/President, Lecturer, and Secretary elected at the annual meeting or at elections to fill the vacancies in those offices, plus designated committee chairs appointed by the Master/President. The Secretary shall

also report to the Secretary of the State Grange the addresses and any changes in addresses of all members. The Secretary is the custodian of the Seal of the Grange, and responsible for its use and safe keeping. It should never be used for private or individual purposes.”

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written.

BY – 2024 – 22
Revision: Article XVIII, Section 1

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accept as written

WHEREAS, it is desirable that the Master/President consult with the overseer/Vice President when appointing committees, and

WHEREAS, Subordinate Grange Committees are not limited to standing committees, and

WHEREAS, Subordinate Grange Committees may need to be appointed at times other than the installation of the Master/President, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XVIII, Section 1 be changed to read, “The Committees of a Subordinate Grange shall be any appropriate committees as the Subordinate Grange shall deem necessary. All committees shall be appointed by the Master/President in conjunction with the Overseer/Vice President at the time of their installation or when necessary and be it further RESOLVED, that the title of Article XVIII, Section 1 be changed to “Subordinate Committees,”

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

BY – 2024 – 23
Revision: Article XVIII, Section 2

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, the members of the Executive Committee are elected and not appointed, and

WHEREAS, Keeping wording about the Executive Committee in Article XVIII, could be misleading; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XVIII, Section 11 be renumbered to become Article XVIII, Section 13; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Article XVIII, Section 2 be renumbered to become Article XVIII, Section 11 and read, “ The Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers, the Master/President, the Overseer/Vice President, and the three elected Executive Committee members. The Executive Committee shall have general oversight of the Grange.:

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

BY – 2024 – 24
Revision: Article XVIII, Section 3

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Accept as written

WHEREAS, the members of the Executive Committee are elected and not appointed, and
WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to audit the financial records,
and

WHEREAS, Keeping wording about the Executive Committee in Article XVIII could be
misleading; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XVIII, Section 12 be renumbered to become Article XVIII, Section 14;
and be it further

RESOLVED, that Article XVIII, Section 3 be renumbered to become Article XVIII, Section 12
and changed to read "it shall be the duty of the Executive Committee or any other committee or
entity authorized by the Executive Committee, to inspect and report on all bills and accounts
presented to the Grange; to examine the Treasurer's and Secretary's books, accounts, and
vouchers; and to report on the financial condition of the Grange. These reports can be quarterly,
semi-annually or annually.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

BY 2024 – 25
Revision: Article XIX Section 5

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, Pomona Granges pay dues to the State Grange on an annual basis, unlike the
Subordinate Granges, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XIX Section 5 be changed to read, "The minimum yearly dues for each
member shall be established by the State Grange. The annual dues shall be paid to the Secretary
of the State Grange at the close of the second quarter. Otherwise, each Pomona Grange may
regulate its own dues.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

BY 2024 – 26
Revision: Article XIX Section 8

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, Pomona Grange Committees are not addressed in the current By-Laws; and
WHEREAS, the rules governing Pomona Grange Committees should mirror those for
Subordinate Grange Committees, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a new section 10 be added to Article XIX, which shall read, "The committee
of a Pomona Grange shall be an appropriate committee as the Pomona Grange shall deem

necessary. All committees shall be appointed by the Master/President in conjunction with the Overseer/Vice President at the time of their installation or when necessary.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as Amended
Section 8 was dropped from the title.

BY 2024 – 27
Revision : Article XXI

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written
WHEREAS, Article XXI only references alcohol usage policies; and
WHEREAS, the National Grange also has a policy covering Illegal Drug use, therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the title of Article XXI be changed to read, “Alcohol and Illegal Drug Usage.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

BY – 2024 – 28
Revision: Article XXIII

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written just given a #
WHEREAS, “Rules of the Order” are included in the By-Laws, but are not assigned an Article number, therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the “ Rules of Order” in the By-Laws be designated as Article XXIII

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written

BY – 2024 – 29
Revision: Article XXIV

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Accepted as written – given a Article #
WHEREAS, “Rules and Regulations for Trial” are included in the By-Laws but are not assigned an Article number; therefore be it
RESOLVED, that “Rules and Regulations for Trial” be designated as Article XXIV.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written.

BY – 2024 – 30
Revision: Appendix A

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written
WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 10 refers to the Appendix with regards to Sale of Hall, and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to clarify the wording in Section 10 with regards to that; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XIII Section 10 be changed to read. “Sale of Hall, Refer to Appendix A in back of the Illinois State Grange By-Laws,” and be it further

RESOLVED, that the “ Checklist for selling Hall in the book of the Illinois State Grange By-Laws be designated as “Appendix A”.

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as amended

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 10 refers to the Appendix regarding Sale of Hall, and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to clarify the wording in Section 10 regarding to that; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XIII Section 10 be changed to read, “Sale of Hall. Refer to Appendix A in back of the Illinois State Grange By-Laws,” and be it further

RESOLVED, that the “Checklist for selling Hall in the back of the Illinois State Grange By-Laws be designated as “Appendix A’.

BY 2024 -31 **Revision: Appendix B**

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as written

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Grange has a Youth Protection Policy, and

WHEREAS, it is desirable that this policy be included with the By-Laws; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Youth Protection Policy of the Illinois State Grange be included with the Illinois State Grange By-Laws and be designated as “Appendix B.”

DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written.

***NOTE:** There was a discrepancy in Article V between the printed version of the 2015 By-Laws and the digital version. The order of election of officers was omitted in the digital version but was clearly part of the printed version of the By-Laws approved in 2015. This oversight was corrected when the By-Laws were retyped to include the revisions from the 2024 State Session.*

Acknowledgments

Thank you to Sisters Robin Kindberg, Karrie Kindberg, and Kelly Kindberg, who served as assistants to Secretary Brian Keller during the State Session. Their help in taking and typing minutes and recording the various activities and contest/raffle results (and much more) was invaluable in compiling this Journal.