



ILLINOIS GRANGER

In Essentials... Unity

In Non-Essentials... Liberty

In All Things... Charity

December 2024

Vol 4 No 12



Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms



Since the last article I wrote, lots has happened. The GRIT conferences were well attended and I was glad that most Granges were represented to receive all the pertinent information. Thanks to Boone County Granges and Turkey Hill for being the hosts. Most of the packets were delivered those days or someone took them for those Granges not in attendances. We appreciate all the those who helped to deliver the information. I appreciate all those who made presentations to share the information. I was thankful to Karie and Marisa for copying the information to USB sticks, and to DJ for posting the information to the illinoisstategrange.org website, under the departments and contests tab.

Thanks to all IL Grangers who assisted with making the National Grange Session 158th in Bettendorf, Iowa an entertaining, positive session. Karie and all the transportation team, Emalee and the registration team, Lana and Ruth and the hospitality crew, Robin and the

flower team, the Deputies at the gate, those that helped other states with their duties. I am sure that they all appreciate the assistance. And a special thanks to Karie for all the extra duties she had. Karie said she had everyone's worksheets and would be getting them to Mary soon, and I know that when Mary gets them they will be paid as soon as she can. I hope there is enough money in that account to pay all those who have volunteered their time to the National Grange meeting. Congratulations to Turkey Hill Grange, Prairie Grange and County Line Grange for the Distinguished Grange Award. Congratulations to Nancy Lyford, for 3rd place in the quilt block. Thanks to those who brought all the display items for the showcase. Thanks to all who purchased items from "Oldies but Goodies", purchased items during Foundation auction, bid on GROW club auction items, those who purchased items from Grange Store. Thanks to Deb Crew, GROW club member, who owns Otto's Monuments, Chillicothe, IL, for the beautiful, engraved stone donated to GROW club silent auction. Thanks to Lyle Lee for being one of the auctioneers for the Foundation auction. Thanks to Robin, Renee, Lana, Mary, Marisa continued on Page 2

Calendar of Grange Events

2024

- 12/14 Ice Hogs Teddy Bear Toss Game 7 pm
Contact Karie Kindberg if you would like to join
The group going from Prairie
- 12/18 Bo Co Pomona 6:30 pm Special Election for
Fairboard Treasurer
- 12/20 Crafts, dinner & movie Prairie Juniors host
Everyone invited!

2025

- 4th Tuesday Youth Game Night ZOOM
- 3/15 Spring Fling day—theme Western

3/15 Murder Mystery Dinner BoCoCommGrangehall

5/31 **State Grange Picnic**—Boone County Fairgrounds

7/22-27 **Grange Revival**—Torrey Utah

8/5-10 Boone County Fair

9/19-21 **State Session at Boone County Fairgrounds**

Donations: Memorial Scholarship

Donations: Illinois Granger

Kevin & Mary Brubach Prairie Grange 2 rolls of stamps

NOTE: Please send me any important dates, members in nursing homes, rehabs, or senior living, obituaries, donations, births, weddings, any good news from your Grange so I can add them to the newsletter.

and Karie for assisting with the 6th degree. I had the pleasure to serve as the President for the conferral of the 6th degree. Thanks to Brian, Marisa, and Manny for being 7th degree marching candidates. Congratulations to all those who were candidates for the 7th degree. Thanks to Ethan for playing the piano for 7th degree. Thanks to all those who were presenting workshops. I heard good things about the presentations. Congratulations to Karie for winning an opportunity for Marisa to serve as the Executive Committee member for the closing on Wednesday evening! Sunday evening, I started National Grange Executive Committee work. And the work of the session had started at that point. Don served on the Conservation Committee, and I was Secretary of the Agriculture Committee. The resolutions that were sent to the National Grange from IL were marked as State Issues.

Much was discussed and decided. Election of two National Grange Executive Committee Officers was held, and there was a change: Joseph Stefenoni, CA, was elected and Susan Noah, OR, was re-elected. I was re-elected to the National Grange Executive Committee Chair. Thanks to Leroy Watson for his service as a member of the National Grange Executive Committee. I want to thank Christine Hamp and all the others who have served as officers, staff, directors/teams, your efforts were greatly appreciated. Seventh Degree was different again this year, and several people mentioned it was a great presentation. I however, was unable to attend as I was giving a workshop during that time.

Thanks to those Granges and Grangers who donated money for the hospitality room. Thank you all. I am sure I am missing IL Grangers who helped, please have this thank you for you. I am SO Proud of YOU ALL!! Prior to the session starting Don and I were part of the Hamp Tour '24. We visited the "American Pickers", National Farm Toy Museum, American Gothic Museum and more! Thanks to Chris and Duane for an adventurous day.

The IL State Grange Executive Committee had a meeting before Thanksgiving and part of what we discussed was the IL State Grange Scholarship essay. I believe that the information will be available on December 1, 2024 on the illinoisstategrange.org website, or shortly thereafter.

Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Blessings to all of you for the Christmas season.

Illinois State Grange Secretary Report

I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving holiday!

With 2025 just around the corner, it's time to think about Illinois State Grange Scholarships. The information packets are now available to anyone who wants to continue with higher education. Just email me your request, and I will send it to you. The deadline for receiving the applications and all supporting documentation is February 20, 2025. Applications received after that date will not be considered. Scholarship winners will be announced shortly after the March 3, 2025 Executive Committee meeting.

To Subordinate Secretaries: December 31 is the end of the quarter. Quarterly reports and dues should now be sent directly to me by January 15.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025!

Fraternally,

Brian Keller, Illinois State Grange Secretary

brianjkeller@gmail.com

618-410-9020



Installation Ceremony; Installing Officer

**PATRONS, CARRY WITH YOU A FEELING OF
COMPASSION FOR THOSE WHO STRIVE TO
MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.**

A Big Thank You to The Illinois Grange Community Service Committee

By Marisa Odell, Haven Family Services Volunteer



The Grange is a community-based national organization that provides members the opportunity to lead, the opportunity to learn, and the ability to make a difference through community service, grassroots legislative advocacy and educational programs. The National Grange was founded December 4, 1867, in Washington D.C. Throughout its history, the Grange has played pivotal roles in National agricultural and rural policy and is a leading voice for rural America. Every year, Grange members give thousands of hours to volunteer in their communities and raise millions of dollars for important causes. Grangers attend public meetings, inform themselves of local, state and national issues, and speak for the rights of all Americans, especially those who work in agriculture, producing our food, fuel and fiber.

Over the weekend of September 13th at the Illinois State Grange Session it was officially announced that The Haven Network is their Community Service project for the Year! There were approximately 80 members in attendance that day. It was held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Collinsville, IL.

So when I was told that the Illinois State Grange Community Service had chosen The Haven Network for this next year, I was humbled, excited, and emotional. More people across the State of Illinois will get to hear of what we do and what we are able to offer to families.

The collection for items and monies will be from now until the next State Session in September. Which will be held at the Boone County Fairgrounds where we will present everything collected to The Haven Network.

The Haven Network • 124 N. Water Street • Suite 201 • Rockford, IL 61107
thehavennetwork.org • 815-962-1512



BLAST FROM THE PAST

By Beverly Smith, Historian

I have been working on assembling a photo book of Grange Halls past and present. The 1971 Centennial Program of The Illinois State Grange (pink booklet) had 62 photos of all the Grange Halls. It was brought up to me at state session by Sara Ellwanger that she was curious of where past Grange halls were located. An interesting fact was brought up by Wayne Lyford that there was a Grange that only had a basement. Hmmm! I didn't realize that! Sure enough, a photo of Mayfield Grange #1851 located in DeKalb County showed only a basement. This project will require me to take some road trips to analyze what the former Grange halls have turned into!

A big Thank You to Darl Diehl for the many photos she gave me. They are about State Grange, Union Grange, Winnebago County Pomona Grange and lots of Grange activities. Also after GRIT, I emailed Kim of County Line Grange some info regarding their Junior/Juvenile Grange.

In my Google search, I discovered some additional history published about the Trask Bridge Picnic. I am hoping to visit the previous Burritt Grange hall and their museum. I think I may have some interesting history to share with them, too.

From time to time, I occasionally check E-bay for interesting Grange items for sale. I was quite excited to hear from many young adults at State Grange that they also check there for Grange items.

I watch a lot of U-Tube, but one day a décor expert gave me a good organizing idea for my Grange notebooks. I took a briefcase, opened it up, stood up many of my Grange notebooks making it good bookends for them. This fall I scrapped a filing cabinet but kept 2 drawers (you know I might need them for something). I set the drawer up with about a dozen of my notebooks. This keeps them very much in order!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Everybody!!



Guilford Hope Grange #6

November 19th, 2024.

Guilford Hope Grange met for a pot luck lunch at noon at the S. Lyford residence with 15 members present.

The meeting opened in the 4th degree with the Pledge of Allegiance. The secretaries minutes were read and approved with no corrections. The treasurers report was read with no corrections. A Thank You was read from the North Carolina Grange thanking us for the \$350.00 sent for hurricane relief. Wesley Willows will not be available for the Christmas gathering so it was voted to meet a Gerry's restaurant in Rockford at 11:30 am..There will be a gift exchange for anyone wishing to participate. Carolyn Wheeler asked to be replaced as Secretary after serving 25 years. Carolyn will continue to be the 'Sunshine coordinator'. Congratulations Carolyn! It was voted to have Nathalie Lyford as the new secretary as of 2025. A 40 year Seal will be mailed to Susan Lyford. A motion was approved as presented to offer Jenna Bulliner a small scholarship for continuing education of Dental Hygienist after she fills out the application form. It was voted for an additional December donation to the Veterans' Drop In Center. A \$200.00 donation will be made. Also a \$50.00 donation will be sent to Carpenters Place in Rockford, Il.. Carol Roush, one of our newest members has moved to Wisconsin; we voted to remember her at Christmas as she is still a member. Meeting was adjourned.

Martha Byrnes shared how the poppy became a symbol for veterans primarily due to the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by a Canadian soldier, who was inspired by the sight of red poppies growing amidst the battlefields of World War 1, where they flourished in the churned-up soil of the Western Front, symbolizing the blood of fallen soldiers.

Nancy Lyford

Gobbles from Turkey Hill

The THG secretary apologizes for missing the monthly report of September and October.

Our August event at the Renner Stock Farm was successful. We appreciated the help we had from Shiloh Valley, Floraville and Emerald Mound Granges. Our workers put in over 600 hours of work over 2 short days and 3 full days. Those numbers don't include the work of setting up, tearing down and moving necessary equipment.

In September, we held our fundraiser to help our members who suffered from losses due to our historic July flood. Over 100 people came to join us for dinner from Union United Methodist Church, the St. Clair County Pomona Granges, friends and neighbors of the family affected. They were very generous in their donations, and it was heartwarming to watch Grangers helping Grangers. There were also donations mailed to us or given to us at State Grange Session. Thank you for your support of this endeavor.

State session was a wonderful experience enjoying the time with the Grange family from across the state. We had four members make their obligations for Fifth and Sixth Degree.

We hosted GRIT in October and enjoyed all the State officers and local members who spent the day with us.



Left to right: Nikki Wilcoxon, Judy Brindley, Chris Bersett, Edith Robinson,
Absent: Mary Beth Lee

We then headed straight into the preparation for our annual Wurstmarkt. For this event we had 52 workers put in 256 hours preparing and serving our Pork sausage dinner. We had 357 people join us for the meal.

Our next big event of November was our Quilt of Valor ceremony. 93 people joined us for the evening to honor our nominated veterans. It is always a fun evening honoring our service members.



Turkey Hill Grange ~ Quilts of Valor ~ 2024

Front row- left to right Don Wiggins, Brent Moon, Jim Jacobs, Fred Dees

Back row- left to right John Harryman, Jim Jones, Steve Newell, Mike Engel



Greetings from Flora Grange

Flora Grange held their November meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 7 PM at the Flora Grange Hall with 28 Grange members and 4 guests in attendance. Master Casey Fidler called the meeting to order with the Grange Salutation and Pledge to the American Flag, followed by Draping of the Charter for Mike Chamberlain. Donna West said a prayer, followed by members reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Roll call was taken by Secretary Laurel Ratcliffe and a new member, Krista Cornn was introduced by Sharon Miller. Jack Ratcliffe said the obligations. Minutes of the October 8th, 2024, meeting was approved as written.

Committee Reports:

Community Service: Lindakay Ebel stated she has not decided on a community service project for Flora Grange yet, will be announced at the December meeting.

Agriculture: Bob Scherer stated most of the farmers in our area are almost finished with the crops, it is a weathered market, and Colorado had 10 inches of snow!

Fair Board: Todd Hegge reported the bathroom project is completed, pony barn, holes dug, we will be having oxen on exhibit at the 2025 fair, and the November fair board meeting the superintendent's will be attending with any changes for the 2025 fair.

Farmland Protection: Jack Ratcliffe announced there will be a meeting on Thursday evening, all are invited to attend, they will be talking about land in Boone County and how to preserve it.

Membership: Lindakay Ebel said she is so proud of Flora Grange and the membership since the year started in August, we have taken in 11 new members. Let's all get out and keep bringing them in. She welcomed our new member Krista into Flora Grange.

Family Activities: Deb Silvers stated there is a new list out since the GRIT conference a few weeks ago, and we have copies available this evening, some items were taken off, new things added.

Quilting: The group will be meeting on Saturday and will be working on items for the Christmas Tree for the Hometown Christmas and the needy family. Our theme this year is 'snowmen'.

Buildings & Grounds: Jack Ratcliffe reported they replaced the front door, and they had to install a 6-gallon hot water heater for hot water in the bathrooms. The fire

department was also there, and we passed with flying colors, all was up to date.

Lindakay Ebel had a written report of the financial report listing all the income and expenses for the month and balances of each account for all in attendance. Motion was made to approve.

Laurel Ratcliffe reported 176 Butter Braids were sold and they will be delivered on Wednesday to the Grange Hall for pickup. Jack and Laurel will again put a display at the Belvidere Park for Flora Grange and the Boone County Fair for the Belvidere Parks Christmas Displays.

Program Chairman Jack Ratcliffe thanked the Veterans for serving their country, Todd Hegge, Ron Eucker and a guest. Each told of their branch of service they served in. We listen to music celebrating Veterans Day. Jack also had a word search "At the Bank" and we had a quiz on Giraffes.

We collect \$25.00 in 'G' bills and sang Happy Birthday to Lindakay Ebel and Todd Hegge. The meeting was adjourned in full form and refreshments were served, and fellowship was enjoyed by fellow Grangers.

December 10 at 6:30 pm is our annual Christmas potluck and party. Grange members are asked to bring a hot and cold dish to pass, (meat furnished). Also bring fresh fruit or cookies for the trays we will be making for the shut-ins and elderly.



Beaver Valley Grange #1791

November 8, 2024 meeting was held at the Grange Hall. We celebrated in honor of Veteran's Day! Thank you Jerry Paulson for the Veterans Day Lecturer program.

We had lots of wonderful reports given at the meeting, thank you to our members for keeping us educated, safe, and in the know on what is happening in the Grange world! It was reported, Pomona is selling pies for Thanksgiving and to get your orders in by Sunday. There will be a Christmas tree upstairs of the Grange Hall to collect hats and gloves or mittens and you can do this for an adult and/or children for community service. Our next meeting, December 13, will be our Christmas Program with a potluck dinner at the Grange Hall. We plan to work on the treat bags for Heritage Woods Care Center. We also plan to do an Adopt a Family this year.

Manny & Teresa, along with 3 of their staff presented BVG with a thank you and check for working at 3 events. They would like to do this again! GRIT Recap was given. Activities and events info provided and Secretary, Renee O'Dell handed out a list of our upcoming membership milestones. We have 9 that will receive either a Seal or certificate. President, Brian O'Dell has by-laws, journal & new member's packet to share. Upcoming National Grange convention discussed. Boone County doing hospitality on Wed & Sat. Marisa O'Dell is doing children's night every night. Marisa & Brian will receive their 7th degree on Saturday. Congrats! 2026 National convention will be in Florida.

BVG won best decorated tractor at the PAMA Tractor Trunk or Treat. Thanks to Steve Paulson for letting us use his tractor & Brian O'Dell for driving it over and for all the decorations. Fun was had by all!

We will install new officers at our January meeting. Our count today was 16 members, 1 junior, & 1 guest.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!
Fraternally submitted,
Micah Schlie, Publicity



Theresa, Brian and Manny





Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

The signs of the Christmas season are all around us. From the beautiful colored lights decorating the homes around us to the festive music in the stores. From the holiday family specials on television.

To people overflowing from the stores. The smell of freshly baked cookies, to watching the happy smiles on children's faces. For many people, the spirit of Christmas is anticipation and excitement.

For some it with a spirit of anxiety and exhaustion, filled with hectic plans and preparation to get everything done right for Christmas gatherings. For others it is a spirit of sorrow and tears - the joys of the past have been replaced by pain of terrible losses of loved ones, health and even hope. The spirit of remembrance, gathering in churches to hear again the birth account of Christ birth and singing Christmas carols and songs.

All of these spirits of Christmas is the True Spirit of Christmas, which is Emmanuel.

Isaiah 7 : 14 says " Therefore the Lord Himself will gives you a sign. Behold, the virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel

May the Prince of Peace be with each of you always. God be with you.

Wishing each of you a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Boone County Pomona Community Service Project 2025:

The Youth Directors, Marisa O'Dell and Karie Blasingame, have set up a Christmas tree on the front of the stage at the Community Grangehall.

They would like everyone from all the Granges to bring hats, gloves, mittens or scarves to decorate the tree. In February all items donated will be distributed to needy. The items can be child and adult sizes.

Items will be taken to homeless shelter, veterans shelter, and childrens services.



Join us the 4th Tuesday

of each month for

Game Night

5-7 pm via Zoom

check out the Illinois

State Grange Youth

Facebook group

for more details.

