



ILLINOIS GRANGER

In Essentials... Unity

In Non-Essentials... Liberty

In All Things... Charity

January 2025

Vol 5 No 1



Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms



Blessings to all of you – hope you had a great Christmas and that the new year will be Joyful and Prosperous! Don and I spent time with family – it was great to be together for Christmas. Hope you are all making plans to make your Grange stronger than the past year. Hope the new year is filled with happiness and activities you enjoy at your Grange. You can make a difference – you can make your Grange Strong.

All IL Grange students planning on higher education are invited to submit a request for scholarship. If you have been a Granger for 1 or more years please check the website, illinoisstategrange.org, for the application. Get completed form to Brian Keller at the designated date. This is the second year that the form was updated to be fillable. So it is now easier to complete the application process. The scholarships awardees will be announced after the March ISG Executive Committee meeting. All those who receive a scholarship will need to attend a State Grange function in order to receive the scholarship

money. Qualifying functions Spring Fling, State Session, Grange Picnic and GRIT.

More information from National Session. I believe the checks have been sent to those who turned in hours for volunteering at National Grange Session. AGAIN THANKS to EVERYONE who helped in ANYWAY. The Delegates voted on 144 resolutions, every resolution was brought to the floor for discussion/action in a different way than in the past. The Committees worked all year long to talk about the Policy Statement and work on the Present Policy. This allowed the Committee to review and compress the Policy Statement to be more of a summary of the present policy for distribution to legislators. The Delegates voted to increase the dues allocated to National Grange, and according to IL State Grange Bylaws the ISG dues will be increased as well. This was the first vote and will be necessary to pass a second vote in 2025. All members were encouraged, a number of times, to read all the information that is being sent from National Grange, and to participate in all the video calls hosted by National Grange Staff. If you are not receiving

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Calendar of Grange Events

2025

4th Tuesday Youth Game Night ZOOM
2/20 Deadline for Grange Scholarship
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

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

Ruth Blasingame 815-299-7884

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emails from the NG please make sure that Brian or I know your email so that we can forward it to NG staff and/or enter into the database. *Good Day* magazine is a Great magazine and I encourage everyone to subscribe. Then monitor your address label to see when the subscription expires. The Delegates voted to create several more task force/action study groups, on NG delegate representation, Junior dues, dues payment.

Exciting plans are being made for videoing the 7th degree this spring in Boone County. When plans are finalized, we will share to see if volunteers are needed.

Now is the time to review the IL Grange Contests/Programs that were distributed at GRIT conferences. Make plans at your next Grange meeting to have a Strong Grange year.

Lynette

Illinois State Grange Secretary Report

Happy New Year 2025!

Another quarter has just ended, which means it's time to send in those Quarterly Reports and dues payments. Both should be sent directly to me by January 15.

Also, don't forget that the Illinois State Grange Scholarship packet for 2025 is now available. You can download it from the Illinois State Grange website by using this link. <https://illinoisstategrange.org/secretary/scholarship-application/>

The packet contains scholarship information as well as fillable application forms. This is a great way to get some extra money to help with higher education costs. But you can't get it if you don't apply! Pass the word! Applications and all supporting documentation must be received by February 20, 2025 - see the packet for details. Scholarship winners will be announced shortly after the March 3, 2025 Illinois State Grange Executive Committee meeting. We look forward to getting some good applications this year! Questions? Send them my way, and I'll do my best to help.

Fraternally,

Brian Keller, Illinois State Grange Secretary

brianjkeller@gmail.com

618-410-9020



Boone County Pomona Grange

Our Giving Tree is looking pretty good! Many people have brought in hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. We will be distributing the goods in February. Thank you to Marisa O'Dell for the idea and managing this. Great Job!!



Holiday Greeting from Flora Grange

Flora Grange held their annual Christmas Party/Potluck on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at the Flora Grange Hall, 6:30 pm with a delicious potluck supper including roast beef, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy and punch served by our hostesses Laurel and Jack Ratcliffe to the 47 plus Grange members and guests.

Chaplain Donna West led us with a dinner prayer and members and guests enjoyed a delicious potluck meal of great snacks, salads, vegetables and desserts.

Several members made up trays of various fruits, cookies and other goodies for our Grange shut-ins to be delivered by Grangers.

Following dinner, Grangers moved upstairs and our Junior Grangers, under the direction of Kathy Spears put on a Christmas skit for Grange members and sang several Christmas carols.

We had a short meeting which was opened by Vice President Marion Thornberry, prayer by Donna West and Pledge to American Flag. Roll was taken, and the minutes of November 12, 2024 meeting were approved.

Dan Burow gave the agriculture report, 'Who Owns the Most Land in the State of Illinois'?

Region 1, 6410 acres owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints; Region 2, 3,966 acres Ceres Partners, Region 3, 9,772 acres, Farmland Partners, Region 4, 1,572 acres, University of Illinois; Region 5, 8,853 acres Shahd Khan; Region 6, 28,480 acres Scully Farms; Region 7, 962 acres, Bill Gates; Region 8, 194 acres, University of Illinois; Region 9, 7,154 acres, Lawrence Family, Region 10, 619 acres Ceres Partners.

Jack discussed some work we had to have done in the bathrooms to run wiring and the purchase of new bathroom fixtures for both sinks in the bathrooms. The treasurer paid the bills this evening. Treasurer Lindakay Ebel read the bills and the deposits that were made since the November 12, 2024, meeting and gave the balances of each account. Motion was made to approve the treasurer's report.

Santa paid a visit to Flora Grangers and to the Juniors Grange members and Jack Ratcliffe read, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' to all in attendance. We sang some Christmas carols and Jack had a Christmas quiz for us and each Grange member told us about their favorite

past Christmas event. Mike Ratcliffe had some word searches for us to work on also.

\$44.00 was collected in 'G' bills, Donna West closed with a prayer and the meeting was closed in full form.

Debbie Silvers, Barbara Trevathan and Rhonda Settle rang the bell for four hours at the bank on the Saturday after Thanksgiving for the Salvation Army and reported they had an enjoyable time again this year.

Again, this year Flora Grange took part at Hometown Christmas in Belvidere, purchasing a Christmas tree from U of I, making a lot of the decorations at their sewing group at Flora Grange and trimming the tree, along with other things they purchased.

They then took down the tree and delivered the tree with all the decorations to a needy family with children and gave them many gifts along with gift certificates and gift cards from Santa.

Laurel and Jack Ratcliffe and helpers again purchased a Christmas tree and took it to the Belvidere Park and put up a Christmas display for Flora Grange along with a second display for the Boone County Fair promoting the seven Granges in Boone County.

Happy New Year from Flora Grange, we wish all Grangers a prosperous and fun-filled 2025.

Lindakay Ebel, Publicity.



Installation Ceremony; Installing Officer

BE CHEERFUL, BE UNITED. 'BEHOLD HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IT IS FOR BRETHREN TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY.'

Illinois State Grange Youth

YEE HAW!!!! Happy New Year!!! Welcome to 2025 and we hope that this year brings Health and Joy to you and your families.

We are getting ready for our next Game night which will be on the 28th of January. We hope you can join us at the Grange Hall. We will be starting at 6 pm till whenever.

We are also going to be setting up an Event on The Youth Facebook page for the Spring Fling Murder Mystery Dinner. Dinner will be provided by County Line Grange. A big Thank you to County Line for your continuous support of the State Grange Youth. Dinner will be at will Do-nation.

Please RSVP for the Event so we can have a count for dinner. It is open to everyone even Young at heart. We will be handing out parts for the Mystery as well.

If you are planning on joining us all day, there will be another Event on Facebook for Spring Fling as well. We are busy planning lunch and a Diamond Art craft time, workshops and a few other surprises. As always you can email me with any questions you may have at Marisa.odell.eq@gmail.com or Call me at (815)914-7411

Faternally Submitted,

Marisa Odell and Karie Blasingame

Co-Youth Directors

Broad Hollow Grange News

Grangers and friends at Broad Hollow Grange celebrated December with a Christmas potluck and program. The hall was all decked out for the season. The program consisted of all singing Christmas carols to celebrate the season. Everyone participated in sharing a funny Christmas quote; such as, "Christmas is the only time of year you can sit in front of a dead tree eating candy out of socks." A quiz on Christmas followed. Teams competed in Snowman Stack to see who could make the tallest stack of marshmallows before tipping over. A right-left game was played to the story, "the Night of the Nativity;" Program closed singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," and the closing thought, "The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: The presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other."

The program for the November first Friday potluck had information about Veteran's Day. Since Halloween was the day before the potluck, there was a Halloween

quiz. An inspirational reading was provided about Veteran's sacrifices while serving. Participants told several election jokes. Those attending told three things they were thankful for. A dice game was played to decorate each person's turkey feathers. The hall was decorated in fall colors and Thanksgiving turkeys.

UNION GRANGE

In October we met at Guissippie's Restaurant for pizza

Vivian Johnson attended G.R.I.T Conference October 27 and relayed information to the members. She also worked at the National Grange convention in Bettendorf, IA November 11-16. Vivian shared with the group highlights from her experience.

Our November meeting was held at the home of Vivian Johnson with 6 members present. Two thank you notes were received, one from Edneyville Grange in North Caroline for \$300 and one from the National Grange Hospitality Committee for a \$50 donation. Ron Erbe read about the last of our 7 Grange founders, Frances McDowell who wrote most of the ritual for the 7th degree. Sally Campbell asked 12 mind-blogging questions and we got some of them correct.

In December 6 members dined at Thunder Bay Grille, had our Christmas card exchange and Nancy Erbe handed each of us a gift bag that reminded us of what our Grange Christmas's used be. There was an apple, an orange, a popcorn ball, a candy cane, animal crackers and some chocolate candy. Thank you Nancy for the wonderful memories.

We voted to send \$100 each to the following charities: Haven Network, Rock House Kids, Vet's Walk-In Center and Marshmallow Network.

Our next meeting will be at Sally Campbell's.



Family Activities

Ann Johnson—chair

Happy New Year! As we begin 2025, why not start thinking about baking, or better yet, the lack there of! One of our categories this year is No Bake Cookies. In my experience, most families have a go to favorite of this kind. Below you will find the recipe for my family's favorite. I used to love helping my grandma make these, following the recipe from one of her many Grange cookbooks! My grandparents were at one time members of the Grange in Iowa. I hope to see your favorite No Bake Cookies in September, or make these!

Peanut Butter Cornflake Cookies

1 Cup Sugar

1 Cup Light Corn Syrup

2 Cups Peanut Butter

5 Cups Cornflakes

In a small saucepan, simmer sugar and corn syrup until mixture clears or smoothly runs off of a spoon. Place cornflakes and peanut butter in a large bowl. Pour sugar mixture into a large bowl, mix well. Using spoons, place small glob onto wax paper. Allow to set.

County Line Grange

Our regular meeting was held Dec. 11. Hosts were Mark and Deb Zellman, Sara Istad, Butch Peters, Lisa Loveridge, Amber Dimond and Judy Olson. Thanks for the delicious food.

Sara and Scarlett Ellwanger were our guests. We honored Scarlett with a plaque for being our pick for Jr. Granger for the year.

Committee reports: Agriculture- Paul Anderson said that China has backed off on corn purchases. Mexico is now our number one corn buyer. Community Service- Kim Robin said to remember to turn in your work sheets. Decorator- Kathy Loy said the Tree Decorating at Belvidere's Community Building went well. The Christmas decorations for our meeting were nice also. Legislative- Myron and Jean Peterson attended the National Grange session in Bettendorf Iowa. County Line was acknowledged again as a Distinguished Grange. They brought our book back, a gavel from there and Distinguished Grange buttons for us. They gave a very good report on the activities that they participated in. Fairboard- Jane Zeien re-

ported that work is continuing on the new pony barn. Entertainment for 2025 Fair is set, but not announced yet. Food- Lisa Loveridge said everything went well with Hometown Christmas. Membership- Myron Peterson told us how to explain Grange in 8 seconds, if asked what the Grange is. He talked about a Zoom Membership meeting. Raffles and Prizes- 50/50 raffle for the new building went well. Winner was drawn at Hometown Christmas. The winner donated a portion of their winnings back. Road Cleanup- Mark and Deb Zellman reported that the road side still looks good. Vet and Affairs Commission- Need help for Belvidere's Vets. Canned goods and toiletry items are being collected. Monetary donations are welcome also. Website- Ned Loy has been updating dates, photos and followers on instagram.

We voted to give a donation to one of our Jr. Grangers to help fund his trip to Washington DC next year. We also voted to give Belvidere's Salvation Army a donation to help with Christmas needs.

Lecturers program- Amber Dimond, Barb Anderson shared information on candy canes. They had us do a quiz on Christmas and a word seek puzzle. We also sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

Prayers needed- Heather Martens had surgery. Kim Robin had surgery on her fingers. Liam Schmeling continues to heal. Kaitlyn has returned to work, but still has healing to do. Alan Cosman has been dealing with his 4th bout of cancer. Jeremy Franseen had surgery.

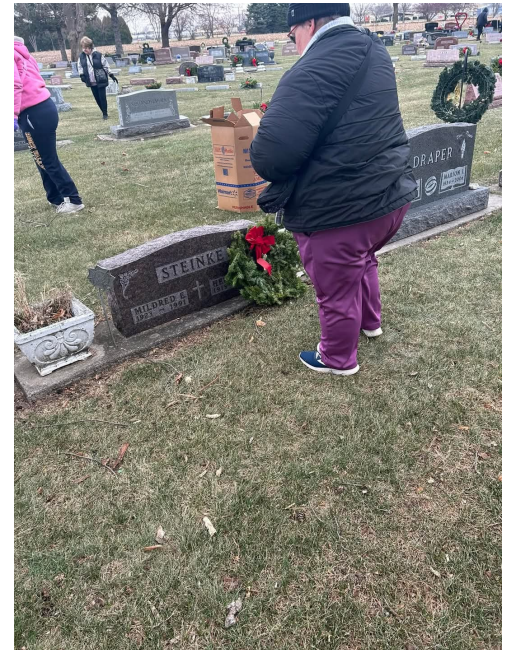
Good News and Congratulations- Ned Loy traveled to New York to experience Christmas there. Sara Istad is going to have a new Great Grandbaby in April. Barb and Tim Fitch are hibernating in Florida for the cold months. Noah and Linda Mullins are going to have a great Granddaughter, Kaisyn Paige, in May. Congratulations to their Grandson Jacob Cole and his wife Sierra.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. Stay safe and well.

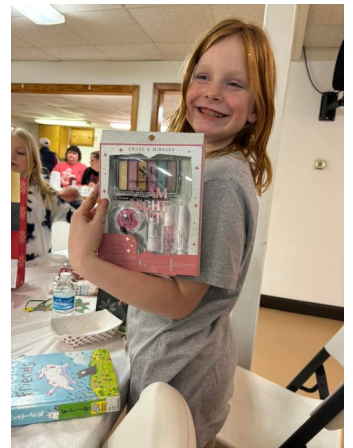




Wreaths Across America - Boone County Belvidere Cemetery and Lawrenceville Cemetery



Prairie Junior Grange hosted a Crafts, Dinner and a Movie Night on Dec 20, 2024 They had a great turnout of Juniors, Parents and Young at Heart. There was a special visit from Santa and Mrs Claus. A great time was had by all.





Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

Hope that each of you had a Very Merry Christmas and that Your New Year will be filled with the Blessing of good health, lots of happiness and love, with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

I know many of us have lost loved ones this past year, but we have also been given the gift of life with new ones born into the family.

What will the New Year hold for you and I? None of us know what is God's plan for us, but we go ahead and plan for something and pray that God is with us.

Praying is a very meaningful part of my life and the older I get it seems that I do it more. Do you say little prayers during the day or wait until bedtime. I say them many times during the day. (like maybe for the driver that just passed me going maybe 80 miles an hour get to his destination safely). Just those little prayers help someone.

Wishing each of you a Very Happy New Year continued good health, love and Peace. See you in 2025 Blessings, love and peace

Prairie Grange Report

Prairie Grangers have been very busy this past month doing lots of Community Service:

We helped the Kindberg Family decorate a Christmas tree that was donated to a needy family during our local Hometown Christmas event.

We collected diapers and wipes and donated them to a family that just had triplet girls. They were very appreciative of the gift.

We picked numbers off a tree and donated gifts to all those tags with numbers on them at the local Northwoods Nursing Home.

We rang the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle drive at one of our local businesses.

Several members helped lay wreaths on the graves of veterans in our local cemeteries for Wreaths Across America.

Several of our members also did a variety of jobs to help out at National Session in Bettendorf, Iowa.

We held our annual Christmas Party Potluck and had a white elephant exchange that was enjoyed by all .

Some members supported the Juniors at their Christmas Activity night where they made crafts, ate a meal and watched a Christmas movie. Was enjoyed by all who were able to attend.

Members also helped donate hats, scarves, mittens and gloves to the giving tree that the Boone County Pomona Grange is sponsoring.

Our next Prairie Meeting will be January 20, 2025 this will be our dues paying potluck.

We want to wish everyone a happy holidays and have a very healthy New Year

Robin Kindberg
Publicity Chairman

Boone County Pomona Grange report

Boone County Pomona Grange held their January meeting on Dec. 18, 2024 because of the holidays. We had a delicious soup meal that was enjoyed by all.

Boone County Fair Queen Ella Walberg gave the speech she will be presenting at the County Fair Convention in January.

Members have also been donating items to the ISG Community Service project – The Haven Network.

Several Pomona members also helped lay wreath at Wreaths Across America event.

We have several members on our pray list this month: Steve Paulson, Jean Thornberry, Jennifer Tobin-Tinch (recent surgeries)and the Konieczki Family (loss of loved ones).

We elected a new Treasurer for Boone County Fairboard. Gordon Butt will replace Russell Caldwell. Russ had sent us his resignation for personal reasons.

Our next Boone County Pomona Grange meeting will be March 5, 2025.

Everyone have a happy and healthy New Year.

Karrie Kindberg
Publicity Chairman

