



ILLINOIS GRANGER

In Essentials... Unity

In Non-Essentials... Liberty

In All Things... Charity

April 2025

Vol 5 No 4



Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

What a historic weekend (March 27-29, 2025) in National Grange History!! In Illinois State Grange History!! In Boone County Grange History!! Belvidere High School PAC provided a great setting, and the crew was very

knowledgeable and helpful. The videographers and crew were great to work with, very kind and experienced in their field. **The historical preservation of the Seventh Degree of the National Grange is "in the can,"** What an exciting and at times boring weekend. Anyone involved with theater, or any productions know that you work – you sit – you work – you sit. The making for taping the 7th degree training video was no different.

Grangers from across the country converged to participate in this event. This video will be debuted at the 2025 National Grange Session on the cruise ship. And later it will be used for training purposes. "Lynette and Karie, you and your Illinois Grangers are rock stars! Please let everyone know how much they are appreciated and what a huge role they played in the success of this project. Al-

so, please ensure that everyone that participated is on the Credits list" said President Christine Hamp. And I want to personally thank all those Illinois Grangers who assisted in anyway for the weekend. There were actors (candidates, court ladies, attendants, trumpet girl), cooks, (prep team, serving and cleanup), stage hands, and ironing crew, truck /trailer drivers, loaders, unloaders, unpackers, and packers of trunks, and the list goes on. If there was a need IL Grangers were there to assist.

THANK YOU, KARIE BLASINGAME, for all the coordination and planning, it was MUCH appreciated. You are a GREAT GRANGER! Thanks again to all for your time and commitment to making the Seventh-Degree video project a success!

I was saddened by the death of Jean Thornberry. "Well done good and faithful servant." Our condolences to Marion and family. As she leaves an opening in the deputy group. I have appointed Bryan O'Dell, from Beaver Valley Grange to fill that spot. I am sure that Adam Ellwanger and Bryan will work together to assist the Granges of Boone County. Thanks Bryan.

Continued on page 2

Calendar of Grange Events

2025

4th Tuesday Youth Game Night ZOOM

4/6 Turkey Hill Chicken Dinner

4/12 Prairie Grange Consignment Auction

4/19 Emerald Mound Big Breakfast 8-10 am

4/26 Boone County Pomona Open House

5/2-3 4Momz2Momz Prairie Consignment Sale

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

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

8/5-10 Boone County Fair

8/10 Turkey Hill Ham & Peach Dinner

9/5-6 4Momz2Momz Prairie Consignment Sale

9/19-21 State Session at Boone County Fairgrounds

11/8-16 National Grange Cruise

Please send important dates for the calendar to:

Ruth Blasingame 815-299-7884

illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com

8711 Deer Run Drive Belvidere, IL 61008





It is Grange Month. Make the face of your Grange known. Make your service projects known. Observe Grange spirit week. President Chris “Let’s use Grange Month as a platform to demonstrate the strength of our organization, the passion of our members, and the positive change we continue to bring. Together, we can amplify the voice of the Grange and inspire future generations to join our cause. Let’s use Grange Month as a platform to demonstrate the strength of our organization, the passion of our members, and the positive change we continue to bring. Together, we can amplify the voice of the Grange and inspire future generations to join our cause.” National Grange website has the information and files. Get the Good Grange Spirit.

I was sorry that we missed Spring Fling. I understand that the event was great.

The National Grange will be changing to a new membership platform for individual Grange information and activities. So we, Brian, Robin and I, will once again be asking for current membership lists. If you have everything current in the database you are good. If not please send membership lists to me, as soon as possible.

I am looking forward to the all Granger picnic in Boone County the end of May. Scholarships will be awarded and you never know what our Youth Directors (Karie and Marisa) will have planned. I have heard some of what they have planned for State Session so be ready for

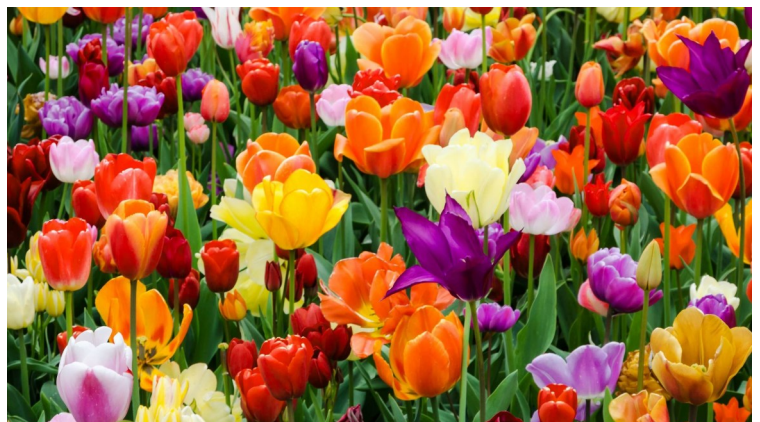
western fun! I am sure that the pertinent information is in this publication.

Hope to see some of you in Torrey, Utah for the Grange Revival.

Plans are well underway for the 1st ever combined States Session – IL and WI. I am excited to finish the schedule and plans to make all feel welcome. John Benedik, NG Vice President and NJ President will be our honored guest. We are planning to have a Quilts of Valor ceremony. And like I said earlier Karie and Marisa have plans for Saturday night. **Come to the 154th Annual Sessions of IL State Grange and WI State Grange. September 19 – 21, 2025 Boone County Fairgrounds.**

Keep your Grangers Inspired and active.

Lynette



Illinois State Grange Secretary Report

Spring is here, which means it's Quarterly Report time again for the secretaries. The first quarter of 2025 ended March 31, so please try to get the reports in the mail to me by April 15. By the time you see this, a newly revised Quarterly Report form should be available on the Illinois State Grange website. I've made changes based on some of the feedback I was getting about the old form. There was some confusion, for example, on how to account for exempt and non-exempt Golden Sheaf members since the lines for both weren't clear. I'll still accept the old forms, but please give the new one a try. I hope it will be easier to use, or at least clearer, if you follow it step by step. As always, I welcome any feedback. Even though it's due by tax day, I hope it's not as bad as a tax return!

With State Session coming up in September, it's also time to be thinking about resolutions. Need help writing one? Check out this helpful page on the National Grange website.

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/writing-grange-resolution/>

We don't have a resolution deadline set yet, but early birds can send them directly to me anytime. So, put your Grange thinking caps on and help give the delegates some good resolutions to consider in September!

Fraternally,

Brian Keller, Illinois State Grange Secretary

brianjkeller@gmail.com

Guilford Hope Grange #6

Guilford Hope Grange met at Bob and Nathalie Lyford's home on March 25, 2025 for a pizza buffet lunch with 7 members present.

The meeting was opened in the 4th degree, secretary and treasurer's reports were given and approved. No communications were received.

Quarterly dues to be paid April 15, we discussed the G bill collection and our charity garage sale May 15-16. We decided set our April meeting for April 29 at Wayne and Nancy Lyford's for prep @ 10 AM with lunch and meeting to follow. Bev Smith, our state historian, read an article she had found in the Rockford Morning Star dated Feb. 15, 1913 detailing the history of our Grange on the 41st Anniversary of our founding. Nancy Lyford gave a report on our ailing members - Lindakay Ebel is still in the hospital but hopes to be home by the weekend - Jerry & Karen Hart are holding their own - Carolyn Wheeler had successful surgery to implant a pacemaker but had fallen in the morning and they opted to miss the meeting.

Nathalie Lyford, secretary

/Broad Hollow Grange

Broad Hollow Grange met on March 7th for their monthly potluck. The hall was decorated for St. Patrick's Day with lots of green in the form of various shamrocks, green top hats, gold doubloons, and leprechauns scattered throughout the hall. After a delicious potluck, a fun program took place. Participants answered questions to see who was the most Irish. The winner received a green solar mushroom yard ornament. Irish jokes and Irish sayings were interspersed throughout the program. Everyone participated in singing "I'm Looking Over a Four-Leaf Clover." A matching game challenged everyone to match a phrase to a corresponding green object. A Leprechaun Left-Right game was played passing gold doubloons. The program ended with an Irish saying on friendship. Note: The Grange's next potluck and program for April only will take place on Saturday, April 12th, the second Saturday in April instead of the first Friday in April.

County Line Grange

Our regular meeting was March 12. Hosts for the meeting were Paul and Jane Zeien and Greg and Angie Umhoefer. They served delicious BBQ and 2 different salads.

Ag day is March 18th. It was established in 1973 by Agriculture Council of America, (ACA). It's a nice time for that because Spring is here. Barb Anderson and Amber Dimond are our Lecturers. They had quizzes and word search games about Agriculture for us to do.

We got some new ideas from our Grange Day Committee. One was to tour the Popular Grove Airport. That sounds like fun.

We received a letter from Boone County Veterans thanking us for all of the donations and support we give them. We voted to donate a roll of stamps to the Haven Network for our State and National Grange Community Service. We are also donating a year's subscription of the National Grange Quarterly magazine to the Ida Public Library in Belvidere.

Lots of prayers needed for Doug Loy who lost his brother, and for Mike and Kim Robin who lost Mike's mother, Martha. Prayers for Kaitlyn Roth who has been sick for some time now. We Wish her to get healthy and well.

Til next time, Happy Spring!

Cathy Zei

Gobbles from Turkey Hill

We had great fun at our Jigsaw Puzzle contest and discovered our Grangers are good puzzlers. Every table received the same puzzle and the first and second tables to finish received cash prizes. Our first place 4-person team was led by our THG member, Urban Baum. They finished the 500-piece puzzle in 35 minutes. John Rutledge, another THG member, lead the second place 4-person team finishing in 42 minutes. Our second place 3-person was led by Carol Young, another THG member. They finished in 67 minutes. Many of our attendees are ready for another puzzle night and some asked about Grange Membership.

We are planning and prepping for the Fried Chicken Dinner on April 6th. We will be serving fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, dessert and drinks. Adult price is \$18 and price for kids is \$9.

Our building and grounds team is at work sprucing up our food trailer.

Our Community Service and longevity awards will be given at our April 11th meeting. We will have a potluck before the presentations.

The Grange quilters are back at their machines and planning for the next Quilt of Valor ceremony in November.

The Jam and Jelly team are preparing for the Chicken Dinner and the spring Farmer's Market. They made over 100 jars this week.

We have a Family Activities trip planned for March 27th. Members will be meeting for lunch at Fletcher's at Clinton Hill and carpooling to the St. Louis Basilica for a tour.

Our sympathies are extended to the David and Mary Donley and to Jim and Marilyn Coe. Both couples lost a son this month. We also just received the news of the passing of Gloria "Sue" Vale, wife of Maurice "Bud" Vale. Gloria died in December.



UP-HONOR FLIGHT

**BOONE COUNTY POMONA GRANGE
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT
HELP US MAKE SOME LAP
ROBES FOR THIS ALL-WOMAN
FLIGHT.**



**LAP ROBES SHOULD BE RED/WHITE/BLUE AND ALL COTTON
45X60 CAN BE FLEECE, CROCHET, KNIT, OR QUILTED
AND DUE TO ME BY APRIL 17TH
ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL ME MARISA.ODELLE.EQ@GMAIL.COM**



**Saturday April
26th 2025**



Grange OpenHouse

10:00AM - 2:00 PM

Have you ever wondered what the Grange is? Now is your chance to find out.

**GET INVOLVED, VOLUNTEER, BECOME A
GRANGE MEMBER.**

Community Service,
Family-Oriented,
Personal Growth, A
Legislative Voice,
Fellowship & Friendship
Meet Different Granges from
around Boone County.

At the Boone County Community Grange Hall

More information : ☎ (815) 914-7411



Many Illinois Grangers participated in the filming of the 7th Degree on March 28-29.

Lynette Schaeffer—ISG Prs—Court Attendant

Lana Korte— Shiloh Valley—Court Attendant

Mary Innis—Prairie—Court Lady

Nan Barnes—Prairie—Court Lady

Heather Ellwanger—Prairie—Court Lady

Jennifer Tobin-Tinch—Prairie—Court Lady

Sara Ellwanger—Prairie—Court Lady

Scarlett Ellwanger—Prairie—Trumpet Girl

Sammantha Meyers—Prairie—Marching Candidate **

Manny Fabela—Prairie—Marching Candidate

Marisa O'Dell—Beaver Valley—Marching Candidate

Brian O'Dell—Beaver Valley—Marching Candidate

Emilie Ellwanger—Prairie—Make-up Assistant

Karie Blasingame—Prairie –Lead Local Liaison

Don Schaeffer—Shiloh Valley—Stage Hand

Adam Ellwanger—Prairie—Equipment Hauler**

Kevin Brubach—Prairie—Caterer and Food Staff**

Mary Brubach—Prairie—Caterer and Food Staff**

Ethan Edwards—Shiloh Valley—Pianist

**Not pictured

The excitement started Thursday evening and ended on Sunday with the last trip to O'Hare Airport.

What an honor that we were chosen as the location to film this great event.

Beaver Valley Grange #1791

In February we met via Zoom due to the very cold temperatures. Our February meeting count was 12, & 1 junior.

Reports were given and lots of helpful updates. Marisa O'Dell went to the B1 Pantry in Belvidere and they filled her trunk of items for The Haven. The Haven could still use stamps and the book, Invisible, along with memory boxes. Also, reminders to be prepared for the cold & unexpected by having safety items in your vehicles.

Chloe Broughton has girl scout cookies for sale please let Beth Olson know if you would like to buy any.

Presentation of the Quilt of Valor for Richard Anthony Curry. Richard was born on October 20, 1980 in Akron, Ohio. He joined the US Navy in January of 1999 in the delayed entry program. After his completion of his extra schooling, he was off to Yokosuka, Japan. There he was stationed onboard the USS Vincennes CG-49. He was onboard for 4 years and then soon was sent to NAVCOMTELSTAY in Yokosuka, Japan for his next duty station. Before he reported there he went to 2379-Transmission Control Technician school in San Diego, CA. He then flew back to Yokosuka, Japan to finish out his contract with the Military, he then was discharged under Honorable discharge. Awards are: Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy "E" Ribbonx3, Navy Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medalx2, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment x4, Navy-Marine Corps Overseas x4, Rifle Marksman Expert, Pistol Marksman Expert, Enlisted Special Warfare Specialist (USS Vincennes CG-49.) Rich gave a very humble thank you to all. Quilt was made by Mary Jean from Flora Quilters.

March meeting was held March 7th at the Boone County Community Hall. Count was 9 plus 1 youth.

Steve Paulson reported for Agriculture about the Farm Bill and a mighty tool to protect our national food supply. Beaver Valley donated 10 books to The Haven in memory of Benjamin O'Dell. Rich O'Dell reported a tip when shopping for hearing aids to go with one that offers a 30 day trial. Also, Steve Paulson reminded us about setting clocks forward this weekend. 70 countries currently use Daylight Savings Time and all to get people outdoors, exercising, and having fun.

Reminder for Spring Fling coming up and ending with a Murder Mystery Dinner. Morgan and Hattie Schlie to attend as our Youth representatives.

April is Grange month! There is a Grange Open House on April 26th 10-2.

Congrats to Chloe Broughton whose bowling team won the State Bowling!

Fraternally submitted,
Micah Schlie, Publicity





Illinois State Grange Youth Invites
you to the

STATE WIDE

GRANGE PICNIC



31 MAY, 2025

Starts at High Noon
Boone County Fair Grounds
In Boone County



Illinois State Grange Youth

Howdy Yall Welcome to April. We had an amazing time at Spring Fling. On Friday we enjoyed a movie and craft time while having some pizza. We didn't stay up too late. But we weathered the storms. On Saturday we woke up early for a great breakfast and got ready to head over to Midway Village in Rockford. We all got to see the Grant exhibit and learn a bit more about Rockford. We ended that trip with a bit of shopping.

We then went back to the Grange Hall for some lunch that was out and ready for us to eat. Thank you, Kim Robin, from County Line Grange, for having it ready. We were all starving. We then held our workshops on the Grange Emblem and talked about the Grange Hall of Fame.

We then worked on a few crafts and got ready for our Murder Mystery Dinner. What a great turnout. We even had some folks from outside in the community join us. We had about 60 in attendance. Everyone did great with their Characters. And the food was once again delicious. If you have never joined us for dinner, you missed out. But there's always next year.

We would like to send our Thanks to Beaver Valley Grange, County Line Grange, The Prairie Grange, Adam and Sara Ellwanger, and Kim Robin for your donations and time. Without all the support this would not be possible.

The next event for the Youth is the Statewide Grange Picnic. If you haven't RSVPed for the event, please do so on Facebook. We are having a haybale throwing contest, Pie in the face (Youth Director with the most money donated gets a pie in the face), a horse ride through the fairgrounds, and we will be handing out our scholarship checks. But BEWARE! there's a bandit on the loose you never know what or who we find along these parts.

As always please bring a side dish to pass and please bring something for the auction. Don't forget your Western attire.

Thank you to everyone who purchased flowers. This was an amazing fundraiser for us. Make sure to check the Facebook page for when pickup will be.

Fraternally submitted

Marisa and Karie

Co-Youth Directors



The Prairie Grange #1832

Prairie Grangers met on Mar 17. We are preparing for our annual consignment auction on April 12. Anyone who would like to come out and help is welcome. Youth Fairboard members and a 4-H club will be helping again this year also.

Mary Brubach brought us two resolutions. We voted for one to go to State and the other to be rewritten.

We are planning to start a hybrid meeting with people in person and on zoom.

Our 4Momz2Momz consignment sale is also coming up fast. It will be on May 2-3. Anyone can be a consigner, see our ads on Facebook or message Sara Ellwanger.

Boone County Pomona Grange

Our Pomona Grange met on March 5. We welcomed a speaker from Rock Valley College. Steve Renee talked to us about adult (senior) education and opportunities through the college. He was very informative.

We talked about the upcoming State Session and what we will need to do to get ready. We will be in the Chicken Barn this year, right across from the new Bathroom.

For community service we are helping with the lap robes for the all female veteran flight to Washington DC. When we have them collected, Karie and Marisa will meet Naomi Fletcher half way, somewhere in northern Wisconsin, and pass them on.

Hope to see you all in September.



National Grange Lecturer's Quilt Block Contest

Canning for Pattern

RULES AND GUIDELINES:

WWW.NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/LECTURER-CONTESTS

ADULT & JUNIOR DIVISIONS

Deadline: September 1, 2025





National Grange Lecturer's Virtual Photo Contest



2024 Winner: Susan Hankins, Rio Linda Grange (CA)

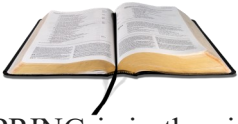
2024 Winner: Kennedy Hodgson, Jonesboro Grange (ME)

ADULT & JUNIOR DIVISIONS

<http://www.nationalgrange.org/lecturer-contests>

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

<https://grange.biz/grangephoto2025>



Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

SPRING is in the air one day and winter the next day. It seems that when Easter is late the weather doesn't settle down until after that. Please every one stay tuned to the weather around you, these storms can be so dangerous.

I recently read this article about the dandelion, that it's the only flower that represents the three celestial bodies of sun, moon and stars. The yellow flower resembles the sun, the puff ball resembles the moon and the dispersing seeds resemble the stars.

The dandelion flower opens to greet the morning and closes in the evening to go to sleep. Every part of the dandelion is useful for food, medicine and dye for coloring.

Up until the 1800s people would pull the grass out of their yard to make room for dandelions and other useful 'weeds' like chickweed, malva and chamomile. The name dandelion is taken from the French word "dent de lion" meaning lion's tooth referring to the coarsely toothed leaves. Seeds can often be carried as far as five miles from their origin. Honey from bee's pollinating dandelion is quite delicious. Dandelions are the masters of survival worldwide.

HAPPY EASTER TO EACH OF YOU FOR OUR JESUS HAS RISEN.

Enjoy this beautiful spring weather for April showers bring May flowers. Thank you God for your love.



Installing Officer, Installation of the Vice President

OF ALL THE SWEETENERS OF HUMAN TOIL, OF ALL THE MOTIVE POWERS THAT GIVE ALACRITY TO THE HAND OR FOOT, READINESS TO THE WILL, AND INTELLIGENCE TO THE MIND AND PURPOSE, THE QUICKEST AND MOST ENDURING IN RESULTS IS THE KIND WORD SPOKEN IN SEASON.



Jean Marie Thornberry

1951—2025

Flora Grange

ISG Deputy—Boone County

Jean always put others before herself. She was an avid volunteer and devoted supporter of many local organizations, Flora Grange, TOPS, Keen Age Center, Lifescape and her church. She worked for years at the

Boone County Fair and very much enjoyed her time with the girls in the ticket office. Jean stayed active swimming on Mondays, playing volleyball, softball and bowling, and attending the grandkids sporting events. She had a Wednesday lunch date with the girls. She loved her dogs, ceramics, quilting and diamond art, and her best friend Nan.

Most of all Jean lived for her family, devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. There will be a celebration of Jean's life on August 16. Missed and not forgotten.

