

ILLINOIS GRANGER GRANGES

In Essentials... Unity
In Non-Essentials... Liberty
In All Things... Charity

July 2025 Vol 5 No 7



Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

The weather in south central IL has been very HOT and dry lately, with a heat index over 100 for at least 6 days. The weather has caused many fruits to dry and drop rather mature. We have

recently had wild black raspberries; wild dewberries and the wild black berries have just started to ripen. The dewberries Don found by accident - he was spraying the corn field for weeds and one of the nozzles was not working he got off the sprayer to fix it and found some dewberries. We later went out and picked at least 2 pints of berries, and they were delicious. The peaches are nearly ready, but the hot dry weather has caused them to drop the peaches. Hope we get a few. The weather in Alaska was wonderful. Don and I took our family to Alaska to celebrate our 50th anniversary. The marine wildlife tour, dog sled tour, Denali Tundra wildlife tour, and train rides, were all great! We saw Denali (Mt McKinley) so all of us are part of the 30% club, only 30 % of the visitors see the mountain.

It was a clear day. I recommend a trip to Alaska anytime.

ROOTED • RESILIENT • UNITY

The Youth Department hosted the IL State Grange picnic on May 31, 2025, 12:00 pm, at Boone County Fairgrounds. They provided the meat dish and there were lots of food items to share. All of the IL State Grange Scholarships were awarded that day. The Western theme was started with Horse Drawn wagon riders, and a bale throwing contest. Guests enjoyed the day. Congratulations to all the scholarship awardees, IL State Grange is proud of you all. Don and I joined Marisa and Athena O'Dell, Robin and Karrie Kindberg, Mary Innis, Myron and Jean Peterson, and Karie Blasingame (both IL and WI) to be the IL group at the Midwest Grange Leaders conference. It was held in IN, June 27-29, 2025at Indian Trail Grange in Lowell, IN. Jason Smith and several other IN Grangers did a great job of planning and hosting. This year was the first time in a while we had Youth and Juniors attend. There were Grangers from IN, IL, IO, WI, MI, OH, the facilities were excellent. Grangers enjoyed

the workshops, fellowship, food, fellowship, fun, games, fellowship. We learned a lot of different things. Marisa mentioned that she and Karie have been working on plans for IL State Grange will host next year, watch for more information in the coming months on the new Midwest Grange Regional Leadership Facebook page. The Distinguished Grange Program is in its 16th year; this recognition program is for Granges (Community or State) who fulfill their service and advocacy missions and provide support for members and their community. A point-based application allows Granges to select which aspects of their Grange they would like to highlight. Applications are due by September 1. Check the National Grange website for many more programs and contests for all members.

The 154th annual IL and WI State Granges Session at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Belvidere, IL on September 19 – 21, 2025. Hope you are all planning to attend. I am so

Illinois Youth

Karie, Athena, and I are currently on the road headed home from the Midwest Grange Leadership Conference. That was being held in Lowell, Indiana at the Indian Trail Grange Hall. We arrived safely on Friday and had a light dinner and registration, which got us ready for the next day which was a jam-packed itinerary. On Saturday, we had a great breakfast and many workshops, which included an escape room, Junk/art journaling, a membership

excited to share the meeting with Wisconsin! Be making resolutions now so that when the date is set for turning them in, your Grange is ready. John Benedik, National Grange Vice President and President of New Jersey State Grange will be our National Representative. WI Alice in Dairyland will be the speaker on Friday evening. Bryan O'Dell has a speaker to start the day on Saturday: Chief Meteorologist Candice King (WTVO) will be the speaker at 7:00 AM on Saturday. The draft schedule will be printed this month in this paper. Brian Keller has sent information soon about the session to the Granges (President and Secretary). Meal reservations are due to Brian Keller. Room reservations will be made for the officers and committee directors/chairs. Delegates need to make their own reservations before August 15 at the Staybridge Hotel, 633 N Bell School Rd, Rockford, IL 61107. Always remember if you have 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 the information requested. All Grangers should be inspired by all Grange

members.





workshop, and our Community Service project. For the Community Service Project, we painted pictures on the glass and put crumpled foil behind and these are going to be sent off to multiple nursing homes. Hoping to give joy to those who might need it. Then we had a great dinner and headed off to the observatory. We were all able to look up close at the moon and Mars. We stayed up late playing card games in our room and enjoying Fellowship. On Sunday we had breakfast, Church service as well as held a Silent Auction and said our farewells. Thank you to Indiana for hosting. We as in Illinois are next on the list to host Midwest. We are looking at a retreat center in Frankfort, Illinois. More details to come. Please check out the * NEW * Facebook group of the Midwest Grange Region to get all the updates to the next conference. Hoping many of you will take advantage and join us. It will be a darn good time.

Make sure you're completing your entries for the contests. And hope to see you at

session.

Fraternally submitted

Karie and Marisa
Co-Youth Directors



















Illinois State Grange Secretary Report

The 154th Annual Illinois State Grange Session is being held jointly with the Wisconsin State Grange at the Boone County Fairgrounds, 8847 Illinois 76, Belvidere, Illinois. Room reservations will be at the Staybridge Suites by IHG in Rockford, Illinois. The Session starts on Friday, Sept. 19, 2025, at 1 p.m. (registration is 8:30 a.m. to noon) and should end at approximately noon on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025. IMPORTANT STATE SESSION INFORMATION: ROOM RESERVATIONS – For those who need to stay in a hotel, rooms are available at the Staybridge Suites by IHG at 633 N. Bell School Rd., Rockford, IL 61107. If you are a State Officer, Deputy, or Committee Chair, reservations will be made for you. You will be responsible for paying the bill, but ISG will reimburse you for the number of days you are qualified for. Please contact Lynette if you haven't already received an email from her about your reservations and what you should do. All others, including delegates, should call in their own reservations directly to the hotel at 1-877-238-8889, **NO LATER THAN** Sunday, Aug. 24. Mention that the room is for the Illinois State Grange to receive the ISG rate of \$125.40 (tax included) per night. Reservations made after the deadline may or may not be honored at that rate if they are even available. MEAL RESERVATIONS – All meal reservations should be sent to me by Sunday, Aug. 24. Make checks payable to Illinois State Grange. You will receive your

meal tickets at the registration table when

you arrive at the State Session. Please use

the meal/delegate book reservation form that can be found in this edition of the Granger. Note that the checks will not be cashed until after the State Session is over. You can mail the reservations or send them to me by email. However, if you use email, I must receive payment for the meals selected no later than noon on the first day (Friday) of State Session at the registration table.

3. CHOOSING DELEGATES - Granges

should send me the names of their delegates by Sunday, Aug. 24. Each Grange should strive to send two delegates, if possible. You can use the meal/delegate book reservation form to report the names of your delegates, or you can also just email them to me. DELEGATE BOOKLETS-All delegates are requested to purchase the booklets. The cost is \$5.00 each to defray the cost of printing. Any Granger may also order a booklet at the same cost. The booklets can be ordered on the meal/delegate book reservation form. All booklet orders must be received by Sunday, Aug. 24, and can be picked up at the beginning of the State Session at the registration table. Payment must be received no later than noon on the first day (Friday) of State Session at the registration table.

5. STATE SESSION REPORTS – These are due by Sunday, Aug. 24. Officers should report their Grange activities, Deputies should report the activities of their Granges, and Directors should send reports of their program and Grange activities.

6. STATE SESSION DRESS – Business casual is requested throughout the Session, including meals. The exception is the Saturday night dinner, when Western clothing is requested, although Grange T-shirts or polos are also acceptable. We prefer that jeans not be worn at any time during the Session (Saturday night dinner excepted) – as long as you look professional, you'll be fine. (For 6 th degree, Illinois State Flora Marilyn Hoffmann requests officers wear white dresses/outfits for women and white shirts with ties for men.)

7. RESOLUTIONS—Resolutions for the State Session should be sent to me no later than Thursday, July 31. This will allow time for them to be compiled and sent to the Granges for discussion, enabling the delegates to be aware of their members' concerns. All supporting documentation should be sent along with the resolutions. Resolutions received after the deadline will be accepted; however, they may not be in time for the Granges to review them before the State Session. 8. STATE SESSION CONTESTS—Bring your contest entries before the Session starts at 1 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19. Also, check the rules of the various contests in the Granger. QUARTERLY REPORTS. June 30 marked the end of another quarter. Granges should submit their quarterly reports, along with checks, to me by Tuesday, July 15. This is also annual report time for Pomona and Junior Granges. The annual reports are for the year ending June 30 and should be sent to me as soon as possible. If you need a copy of a blank report, let me know and I'll be glad to send you one.

With the quarterly reports, don't forget to send the new member sheets along with them if you need to report any new or lost members. If you have any questions or need anything, don't hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,
Brian Keller, Illinois State Grange
Secretary
brianjkeller@gmail.com
618-410-9020
703 E 2 nd St, O'Fallon, IL 62269

Meal/Delegate Book Reservation Form Joint 154th Illinois and Wisconsin State Session - September 19-21, 2025

Here is the list of planned meals at State Session at the Boone County Fairgrounds. Please indicate on the form below which meals you want and if you need a delegate book. Payment for Fri. dinner, Sat. lunch, Sat. dinner, and delegate books can be included with the form, if mailed. Otherwise, you must pay on Fri. morning, the first day of State Session, at the registration table. Reservations should be made by Sun. Aug. 24, 2025 so we have accurate counts.

Fri. Lunch - hot dogs and possibly hamburgers. Price - donation at time of meal.

Fri. Dinner – lasagna with meat sauce, chicken parmesan, alfredo & spaghetti noodles, classic salad, green beans almondine, garlic bread, choice of dessert (Pomona Grange). Price - \$25

Sat. Breakfast - continental (Pomona Grange). Price - TBD, payable at time of meal

Sat. Lunch - soup and ham/turkey sandwiches (subject to change). Price - \$15

Below each name, please circle your choices. Use additional forms, if needed.

Sat. Dinner – Western Theme – pulled pork, pot roast, mashed potatoes with gravy, baked beans, corn, dinner roll, choice of dessert (Pomona Grange). Price - \$25

(Tea, lemonade, water, coffee will be available. Please let us know of any dietary requirements.)

Makes checks payable to Illinois State Grange. Send form and checks to Illinois State Grange Secretary Brian Keller, 703 E 2nd St, O'Fallon IL 62269. Checks will not be cashed until after State Session is over. Pick up meal tickets and books at the registration table on Fri. Sept. 19.







DRAFT Schedule of Events of the 154th Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange and 154th Annual Session of Wisconsin State Grange Belvidere, IL, Boone County Fairgrounds September 19-21, 2025 Friday, September 19, 2025

8:30 AM-Noon

Registration & Contest entries are in place in the display room for IL contest items

10:00 State Officers Practice Sixth Degree Practice for IL State Officers.

Noon - Boone County Pomona - Donation

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

Open to all Delegates and Grangers attending from IL and WI

Roll Call of Officers Close in the Sixth Degree Open in the Fourth Degree, Presentation of John Benedik, National Grange, past IL and WI State Presidents & Spouses, and past National Directors

Presentation Mayor of Belvidere or representative

Response - Karie Blasingame, Vice President

Roll Call of Delegates Both states if there are WI delegates there

Adoption of Order of Business -Frank D Wurth, Chair Exec Comm

Meeting place for 2026 - Springfield, Illinois, Northfield Inn Sept 11 - 13,

Invitation of Meeting Place 2027 in St Clair.

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

2:15 Recess

2:30 Election of Officers

Appointment of Session Committees Assignment of Resolutions IL & WI delegates together to work on resolutions.

Committee Instruction by President and Vice President Resolutions to the committees

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

6:30 Main Banquet

7:00 Evening Program

Introduction of Special Invited Guests Alice in Dairyland

Summary of Address of IL State President – Lynette Schaeffer & WSG President Debbie Vine

Quilts of Valor - Marisa O'Dell

Community Service Awards - Heather Ellwanger, Director & WSG Community Service

Membership Awards - Robin Kindberg, Director & WSG membership

8:30 Committee Meetings

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Breakfast served earlier at fairgrounds - continental Boone Pomona Donation

7:00 Ag Chairman: Brian O'Dell Speaker: Chief Meteorologist Candice King (WTVO)

8:00 Opening in Fourth Degree Roll Call of State Officers IL & WI Roll Call of Delegates (IL & WI)

Reading and Adopting of Minutes of previous day

8:45 Junior Grange Report and Awards, Mindy Schiefer, Director

9:45 Recess and WSG Grangers move to their separate meeting.

10:00 Report - Committee on Finance & Accounts

10:15 Committee Reports

11:30 Family Homemaking Projects Luncheon and Raffle – Ann Johnson, Director

1:15 PM Obligation 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

3:45 National Grange Representative Report/Workshop -

Committee Reports

5:00 Grange Closed in Fourth Degree (Take possessions with you)

5:30 Youth/Young Adults Banquet - Karie Blasingame and Marisa O'Dell Directors, Western is the theme. Mystery Dinner

8:30 Auction

Sunday, September 21, 2025

8:00 AM Celebration of Life - Charlotte Mehrtens, Chaplain WSG Chaplain

8:45 Opening in the Fourth Degree Youth/Young Adults Officers

Roll Call of Youth Officers Roll Call of State Officers ISG and WSG

Roll Call of Delegates ISG & WSG

Reading of State Minutes

9:00 FAC/AG - Final Reports and Sash Transfers

Community Service Booklets, - Heather Ellwanger, Director WSG (possible

Lecturer Report - Ethan Edwards

Committee Reports

Completion of Remaining Business/Installation of officers ISG & WSG

Closing of the ISG 154th Annual Session

Gobbles from Turkey Hill

Our yard sale was a great success. Our Grangers donated enough items to fill the dining room. Our shoppers were generous in their cash donations. We held a bake sale and sold jams and jellies. It was a profitable day.

We are now in preparation for our Ham and Peach dinner. The spiced peaches have been processed, and some were canned for diners to purchase at the dinner.

We will host another jigsaw puzzle contest On July 26th. Doors will open at 6 and the contest starts at 6:30. The cost is \$10 per person with teams from 2-4 players. We had a great time at the last contest and are looking forward to this one.

Here's the photo from our Longevity Awards Ceremony.



Our Longevity Members in Attendance for Membership Awards from left to right: Frank J. Wurth (50), Keith Brauer (50), Angela Kurburski (45) Tami Hughes (10) Urban Baum (), Mary Lou Baum () Bob Dintelmann (65) Mathew Kurburski (10), Jim Coe (Granger of the year) Darrell Lucas (30) Harry Wurth (50) Ron Bersett(President THG)

18 members were unable to attend. This week, David Edwards will lead a team of members cleaning the carpet. Tami Hughes will lead the team cleaning our upholstered chairs and some general cleaning will be done in the hall. David Donley and Stacy Rutledge have been working at the Swansea Farmer's Market and The Vine Street Market in O'Fallon selling our jams and jellies. The quilters received a donation of fabric through the efforts of Lynne Edwards. It was a pleasant surprise with lots of useful fabric. The group is working on their Quilts of Valor for the November ceremony. Our May guest speaker was Gene McCloskey, a representative of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield. He brought original documents with signatures from President Lincoln for us to see. He had interesting stories to relate about the President and was an entertaining speaker.





Turkey Hill Grange

Rt. 15 & Green Mount Road

(Next to Eckert's Country Market)

Sunday, August 10, 2025 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

\$18.00 Adult – eat in or carry out Kids eat in 5-10 – \$9.00 Tots under 5 – Free

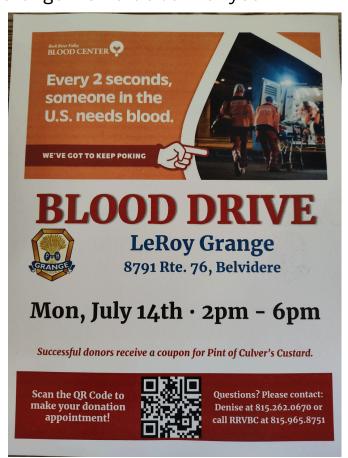
Carry Out Service Available

Dining Room Air Conditioned and Handicapped Accessible
OUR FAMOUS JAMS AND JELLIES FOR SALE

Blast From the Past

By Beverly Smith, Historian Well, have you been experiencing the hot sultry days of summer? Four Guilford Hope Grangers sure endured the heat of Saturday, June 21, 2025! Carrie Meyer, Dave and Martha Byrnes, and Bev manned a Grange display in the Ralston House at the "Field to Fork" agriculture event at the Midway Village Museum. The original Ralston House owners were Peter and Zaidee (Price) Ralston, with 3 sons Everett, Norman and Stanley. The house was built in the period of about 1890-1904 and is located near the museum's present site and moved there in 1982, and restored in 1987. While sitting there, we were wondering if this family ever belonged to Guilford Hope Grange. My first clue was a 1935 membership roll Wayne gave me, which included all of the family except Peter because he passed away before that. In fact, Peter was a past Master along with his son, Norman. Zaidee was a very good friend of my grandmother so I recognized her name. So, this day was very Grange special indeed! On June 24, I attended our special Guilford Hope Grange meeting at the Midway Village Museum. We presented them with a community service check for their Education program. We also got a tour of the new Camp Grant exhibit (U S Army base in Rockford started for WWI). There are many Grange ties to the museum: We will have bottled water and some snacks. Lyford Barn, Pepper House, Marsh House, and Ralston House because they were forme Grange members. If you have never visited Midway Village you really need to go for a visit. About a month ago I was very busy copying many Grange newspaper articles. A huge "Thank You" to

Vivian Johnson for letting me copy out of one of her binders. She has spent many hours researching anything Grange. To me these articles are priceless! I wrote a letter to the Burritt Township (formerly Burritt Grange Hall) inquiring if I could visit their museum. I have not heard back so far. I will be working on some items to bring to State Session. I look forward to sharing some Grange memorabilia with you!



It's a Puzzle Party!

Come enjoy a jigsaw puzzle contest at Turkey Hill Grange on Saturday, July 26th.

Plan to arrive after 6 pm for a start time of 6:30. Bring your own snacks, drinks and friends.

Up to four people at a table.

Teams will be using a full 8 ft. table to work your puzzle. Call or text Chris to reserve a table (618-444-3657)

Children can be at a table with an accompanying adult. No alcohol, smoking or vaping is permitted in the building or on the premises.

Cost: Ages 12 and up- \$10 per person Ages 5-11- \$5 per person

Contact Chris Bersett at 618-444-3657 for info or reservations.



Let Freedom Ring

As we celebrate the 4th of July, we also celebrate the birth of our great nation. We need to stand tall and share the good news that we live in such a beautiful nation. As I look out of my livingroom window at amber waves of grain, that will soon be combined. The changing colors from early spring shows us how God is in charge, there is no other beauty that compares to it. Just as God fills our heart with beauty and joy this time of the year. So many things happen in the summer, picnics, BBQ, and yes the great foods of summer. Who doesn't like fresh sweetcorn right out of the field, fresh tomatoes, and juice from the ice cold watermelon.

God provides all these things for us in it's time. Get out and enjoy God's gifts. We thank you oh Lord for your love and goodness.

Enjoy this is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it.



Calendar of Grange Events

7/2 Boone County Pomona Picnic
6:30pm
Election of Officers
Dish to pass Pomona provides Chicken
7/22-27 Grange Revival - Torre 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

NOTE: Please send me any important dates, members in nursing homes, rehabs, or senior living, obituaries, donations, births, weddings, any good news from your Grange so I can add them to the newsletter.
Ruth Blasingame 815-299-7884 illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com 8711 Deer Run Drive Belvidere, IL 61008

Sammantha Meyers, with her background in education and community coordination, will be stepping in this July to support the Granger publication with Ruth Blasingame.











Here are pictures from the Midwest Leadership Conference





