



# ILLINOIS GRANGER

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

**August 2025 Vol 5 No 8**



## **Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms**

Grange Revival 4.0, July 21 – 27 in Torrey, Utah. Lana, Don, and I arrived home last night (July 28, 25). Oh my, has the last week been AWESOME!! Four IL Grangers went to the Grange Revival 4.0 in

Torrey, Utah. Karie Blasingame, Lana Korte, Don, and I had a great time. The view from our camper was wonderful. We toured the Torrey area, Bryce Canyon, and Capitol Reef National Park, Anasazi State Park, Goblin Valley State Park, hiked Hickman Bridge trail, had great food, marvelous times with friends, met new people, enjoyed great OVERWHELMING sites everywhere you looked. We drove on several scenic highways several times, and during one of those days, we were Utah Pioneer Days, and we got free root beer with our purchase of warm, home-baked pies at the Griffin Homestead. They were delicious. It was a great Grange Revival 4. Karie, Don, and I were part of the 16 people at this event who have been to all the Grange Revivals so far. And we plan to go to the next one in the Smoky Mountains, Deep Creek Tube Center & Campground, in Bryson City, North Carolina. While there, the Grange Revival group donated to the local food pantry for Project Substance. The Food pantry has a band, and they played for us. It was great music and a fun time. There were dutch oven desserts that evening, a great variety; we made fresh blackberry cobbler.

One night, we made homemade vanilla ice cream, and there were many different kinds – and there was a little left for each one! The weather in Torrey was arid, and some of us were having trouble with altitude sickness. We were at 6834 feet, and we are at 463 feet in Lebanon, so it was quite a difference. The weather in south central IL has been HOT while we were gone to Grange Revival, corn pollinating, and the grass needs to be mowed. It is time to mow the hay field, and we need to fix the fence for the cattle. Life on the farm continues even while we are on vacation. I attended the Midwest Grange Leaders Conference, hosted by the Indiana State Grange, from June 27 to 29, 2025. Indian Grange Hall. It was a great day. Sorry, I could not stay longer. Dang, I promised pictures from Alaska – I promise next month will have those pictures. I will be sending pictures from Revival this month. The 154th annual IL State Grange Session will be at the Boone County Fairgrounds. September 19 – 21, 2025. This will be a joint session for Wisconsin and Illinois State Granges. Hope you are all planning to attend. Be making resolutions now so that when the date is set for turning them in, your Grange is ready. John Benedik, National The Grange Vice President and New Jersey State President will be our National Representative. Watch your email or USPS box for more information. The draft schedule will be coming soon. Deb Vine and I are making final arrangements. Brian Keller will be sending out



information soon about the session. Room reservations will be made for the officers and committee directors/chairs. Delegates need to make their reservations. Hope you are all working on your contest items so that we have a great display. There are many contests that allow everyone to showcase their talents. The contests are on the website, [illinoisstategrange.org](http://illinoisstategrange.org), under the Departments tab. Secretary Brian has information in this IL GRANGER regarding dates and items necessary. Have a safe and happy summer. All Grangers should be inspired and active.



## Gobbles from Turkey Hill

Our speaker for our July meeting was Mr. Tom Renner, a wonderful friend of Turkey Hill. He spoke on the history of farming in this specific area, comparing equipment, crop, and soil management, along with the costs and prices throughout the years. We hold our third puzzle contest, and our contestants are ready to come back and enjoy another one. We served a catered dinner to the local DAV chapter. July tends to be a quiet month for us. We are resting up for our Ham and Peach dinner on August 10th. We are saddened by the loss of a member, Terry Schuchmann. About 30 members from THG participated in the memorial service conducted by President Ron Bersett and Chaplain Jill Connors.



## Prairie Grange Report

45 Prairie Grangers enjoyed a delicious Potluck dinner for our July meeting, and a short meeting followed. President Don Ellwanger presented a Scholarship check to Sheri Bochmann, Kayla Konieczki, and Sammantha Meyers to help further their education. He also presented Years of Service Awards to the following:  
5-year Certificate to Odessa Dinges  
Coleton Miley

Steve Petros

15 years to: Deb Langran

20 years to: Kent Williams

Marlene Williams

Jeanette Morris

25-year Certificates to: Kris Bryan

Carol Hale

Virgil Hale

Jim Olstadt

30-year Seal to: Adam Ellwanger

40-year seal to: Clint Henninger

Ron Fruit

We were all asked to sign up to help at the Boone County Fair by helping serve Pork Chops on Sunday, run the Golf Carts, or work the Mobility Carts, or any place else that help might be needed during the Boone County Fair, August 5th through the 10th, 2025. State FAC Director Ann Johnson said she has raffle tickets for sale for the FAC raffle, and we are to bring the tickets to State Session, and the raffle will be done by dropping your ticket in the little bag, and a winner will be chosen by drawing a ticket from each bag. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Robin Kindberg

Prairie Grange Publicity Chairman

### Notice!!!

If you have any nominations for the Quilt of Valor presentation. Please make sure to reach out to Marisa Odell with information ASAP.



## ISG Secretary Report

After my long list of information in last month's Illinois Granger, I'll be briefer this month.

**State Session Resolutions:** While the deadline to submit them so they can be sent to the Granges was July 31, you can still submit them. If I receive them by August 24, they will be in the Delegate Book. I can't make any promises after that. I've received two so far – thank you, Flora Grange!

**State Session Deadlines:** The deadline for everything is Sunday, August 24. This includes room reservations, meal reservations, Delegate Book orders, delegate name submissions, and reports (for the Delegate Book) submitted by state officers, directors/committee chairs, and deputies. See last month's Illinois Granger for details. I know the meal reservation form was a bit small last month. If you'd like a larger copy, please send me an email or call/text, and I'll be happy to send you one.

**Degrees:** Would you like to receive the 5th and 6th Degree? They will be conferred at the State Session on Saturday, September 20, in the afternoon, tentatively starting at 1:15 pm. If you are interested, let me know and I will put you on our list.

**State Session Secretary Helpers:** Would you like to help the State Secretary (me) with registration, taking minutes and notes, and other behind-the-scenes goings-on at State Session? I'd be grateful for the help! Just send me a note with what you're willing to help with. You can be one of the ISG Secretary's Super Stars!

**Quarterly and Year-End Reports:** If you haven't sent in your Grange's Quarterly Report and dues payment yet, please do so as soon as possible. That also includes the year-end reports (year ending June 30) for the Pomona and Junior Granges.

**Roster Sheets.** The deadline to send the State Secretary the annual roster of officers and committee chairs for each Grange is October 1. If you need a new form, please let me know and I will send you one.

As always, if you have any questions or need anything, don't hesitate to contact me.



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

## **Membership/Recognition Report**

Believe it or not, but another Grange membership year has come to an end. We need to be thinking about the 2025 – 2026 Grange membership year. In reference to MEMBERSHIP, our numbers have declined, so we need to encourage all Grangers to ask someone to join our organization. We need members drastically if we want to be Grange Strong. So please ask a neighbor, friend, or someone to join the Grange. Each Grange will be receiving a Grange Roster sheet within the mail that needs to be completed and returned to me BEFORE October 1, 2025. I am also requesting an updated Membership List from each Grange before October 1, 2025. This list MUST INCLUDE the Grangers name, address, phone number, date of birth, or at least Birth Year, and when the members joined the Grange. If you can provide information as to what years of service awards and what other degrees they have had, that would be greatly appreciated as well. I need this list before October 1, 2025.

Any questions, contact me: Robin Kindberg  
12971 Olson Road  
Caledonia, IL 61011  
815-978-0452

Or you can email me at: [robinkindberg5@aol.com](mailto:robinkindberg5@aol.com)  
Let's all try to go out and sign up new members, and also, I encourage all Granges to recognize the members we have for their years of service to the Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Robin Kindberg

ISG Membership/Recognition Director

## **Flora Grange Report**

Twenty-one Flora Grange members met at the Boone County fair grounds and worked on various jobs to get ready for the 2025 Boone County Fair. Some trimmed trees, others trimmed hedges, while

others scraped picnic tables and painted them, still others removed the white picnic tables from storage and placed them and cleaned them for the fairgoers. Still others were cleaning in the kitchen, and the cashier's booth was cleaned and scrubbed, ready for business. Following the work, a short meeting was held. They discussed two resolutions to be sent for the Illinois State Grange Convention; they were read and discussed. Members also set the date to Sunday, March 29, 2026 (Palm Sunday) for a drive-through Roast Beef dinner. We also discussed changing our meeting date for our August meeting to be held one week later, so our August meeting will be held on the 3rd Tuesday, August 19th, instead of August 12th at 7 pm at the Grange Hall. Jack and Laurel stated that if anyone has any time, there are a lot of little jobs that need to be done before fair time. Come out to the fairgrounds and see them, and they will put you to work. Help is always needed. Lindakay Ebel also stated that if you have community service hours you have not given her, please do so before July 26th, as she needs to total all our hours up for the year. She thanked everyone who turned hours into her during the year and thanked everyone for their hard work. Be sure to call Laurel and let her know what job you would like to work at during the fair, so she knows what your plans are for this year. Everyone went to Culvers for treats and enjoyed conversation with each other. The August meeting will be held at the Flora Grange Hall on August 19th, 2025, at 7 pm.

Lindakay Ebel, Publicity



## Beaver Valley Report

Summer is here! We hope everyone has a fun and safe summer!

Our June meeting was held on June 9th at the Boone County Community Hall. Our meeting was called to order in the 4th degree by President Brian O'Dell. Many informative reports were given and communications read. Steve Paulson reported for Safety, there are 5 Safety Steps: 1 Stop & Think; 2 Look & Identify; 3 Assess the Risk; 4 Control All Hazards; 5 Monitor All Hazards. So what can I do to reduce the risks of being hurt or injured? It is essential to ask this question first before speculating what needs to be done. Since the 5 Safety steps are geared towards immediate hazard control, acting on the best solution available to you at the moment is better than not doing anything to reduce a hazard's risk. Marisa O'Dell reported that the Youth & Young Adult picnic turned out really well. The horses giving rides were a hit! Midwest Leadership Conference is coming, and Athena O'Dell plans to attend.

Ag Day in Argyle at the Willow Creek Presbyterian Church on June 27th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend! They plan to have tractors and maybe other farm equipment for kids to see and touch, some animals, etc., in the church parking lot. This will end their Vacation Bible School. BVG has said they would help with hot dogs and chips. We plan to pass out Grange information to visitors. Memorial program given by Renee O'Dell and Jerry Paulson with songs and prayers.

Remembering 1st – Jean Shower, who used to belong to Beaver Valley Grange, 2nd – All Grangers who have gone before us, 3rd – Military & First Responders. Brian and Marisa gave us a presentation on Folding the American Flag (photo included).

Fraternally submitted,  
Micah Schlie  
Publicity



## Flora Grange Report

Flora Grange held their June Grange meeting on Tuesday, June 10, at 7 pm at their Grange Hall, 2015 Stone Quarry Road, Belvidere. Prior to the meeting, Loren and Patricia Due came and said goodbyes to members as they are moving to Orange Beach, AL this week. Loren and Pat have been active members of Flora Grange for 15 years, Boone County Pomona Grange members, and have been working at the Boone County Fair each year. They will be greatly missed by all, and we wish them the best. Meeting was called to order by President Fidler, Chaplain Donna West opened the Bible and said a Prayer, we said the Grange Salutation and the Pledge to the American Flag. The roll call was taken by Secretary Laurel Ratcliffe with nine officers present, one absent. The minutes of the May 13, 2025, meeting were approved.

REPORTS: Community Service: Lindakay Ebel reported she is working on the book for this year, and will need all your hours before the middle of July. Pomona Grange's community service project is collecting black socks for men and women (higher socks) in conjunction with the American Legion. Bring to the next Pomona Grange meeting on July 2nd.

**Agriculture:** Bob Scherer stated all crops are in and looking good. Crop prices are down.

**Fair Board:** Todd Hegge reported spraying is going on at the fairgrounds, new doors on some buildings, the fair books are now available, new items this year, horse pulls, and 10 head of oxen, and Justin Moore will be the headline for Saturday night's concert. Jack Ratcliffe stated that we need a lot of help doing different things that have to be done before fair time, stop out, and we will find a job for you.

**Farmland Protection:** Jack stated they will be meeting on Thursday evening, and all are welcome.

**Legislative:** Marion Thornberry gave a very detailed and long report on various bills for the House and Senate, as well as some for the local township. See Marion for details.

**Membership:** Lindakay Ebel stated we are down on membership due to death and several moving away. We need to start recruiting new members.

**Family Activities:** Deb Silvers stated she made copies for Illinois State Grange to enter in the agricultural (vegetables & fruits), the family activities, and youth; be sure to pick up and plan what you plan to enter for ISG in September.

**Quilting:** Emalee Colver reported her sewing group will be meeting on Friday this week, and another group meets one week later (21st & 22nd). All are invited to join either group and bring the project you are working on.

**Building Grounds:** Jack and Laurel have been busy cutting the tall weeds around the building, and the lawn has been mowed, and propane was delivered.

**Treasurer's report:** Lindakay Ebel, treasurer, had written reports for all in attendance on all bills paid this past month and all income, with balances on each account listed. Motion made to approve.

**Old Business:** Laurel Ratcliffe recognized Wayne and Nancy Lyford for their attendance in Flora Grange, and they were given a certificate for 15 years, as they were not in attendance at the last meeting when other members received their certificates. Also, Roger

and Sharon Miller received stickers for 30 years. **New Business:** Laurel Ratcliffe had sign-up sheets for members to sign up to work at the Boone County Fair at the Grange Food Stand and at the Gate.

**Program:** Jack Ratcliffe, program chairman, asked what important dates are in the month of June; answers were: Father's Day, Flag Day, and June Dairy Month. Jack had two word searches for us this evening, one on Father's Day and the other on Summer Solstice. He then drilled us on 'Dairy month' and milk and the importance of it. We collect \$47.00 in 'G' bills this evening. Please keep Rhonda Settle in our prayers; she will be having surgery on July 3rd, also Gene Lane and family, Bob Berg, and Al Henninger.

**NOTE:** We WILL NOT have a meeting in the month of JULY. We will have a WORK NIGHT at the FAIRGROUNDS starting at 5 PM. Following work night, we go to Culvers, Dutch Treat!!!. Plan now to come out and help. There will be plenty to do. You do NOT have to wait until 5 PM, you can go earlier. Jack & Laurel will find something for you to do!!!

Lindakay Ebel, Publicity

## **County Line News**

First, I would like to say Noah is home from the hospital. Good news there. County line has lots of stuff going on right now, and it's great doing all this with our Grange members. We did Paint on State Deb, Mark, and 2 of their grandchildren, along with myself. It was a lot of fun then others met to decorate the float.

Thanks to Lowell Fitch for the trailer, Tim Fitch for the water tank, and the people loved getting squirted. Another thanks to Mike Robin for driving the float. It was a perfect summer day for the parade. Congratulations to Amber Diamond, she's now a Ceres for Pomona. Way to go, Amber! This weekend we're serving food at Mopar. Tell you next month how it went. I'm looking forward to it, so for now, enjoy the summer. See you at the Boone County fair  
Cathy Zei



## Meal/Delegate Book Reservation Form

**Joint 154 th 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 almonidine, 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**

**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.)**

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grange \_\_\_\_\_**

**Fri Lunch Fri Dinner (\$25) Sat Breakfast Sat Lunch (\$15) Sat Dinner (\$25) Book (\$5)**

**2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grange \_\_\_\_\_**

**Fri Lunch Fri Dinner (\$25) Sat Breakfast Sat Lunch (\$15) Sat Dinner (\$25) Book (\$5)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Delegate Information – For Grange \_\_\_\_\_, our delegates are:**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**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.**



## Chaplains Corner

By: Charlotte Mehrtens

Hello fellow Grange Family members, so how are you dealing with the hot weather? Many have outside work that must be done every day, many are contractors and workers, farmers, many enjoy being busy in the outdoors regardless of the weather. If you are one of these people remember to take extra care in the heat. With the summer time comes county fairs, picnics, pool parties and many other activities. God gives us the changing seasons so that we remember the beauty of each season. Someone on the news said how many sundays are left before Christmas , I thought to myself we can't even enjoy each present day. Enjoy each day that God shares with us and all the beauty He gives us. God's blessings to each of you stay safe in what ever the weather is around you.

*Well Done Good and Faithful Servant*



### **Terry Lynn Schuchman**

April 1947-July 2025

Terry was a long time member of Turkey Hill Grange and will be deeply missed.



## Calendar of Grange Events

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

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

