

154th Annual Session - 2025
ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE
in conjunction with
WISCONSIN STATE GRANGE
JOURNAL



Boone County Fairgrounds
8847 Illinois 76
Belvidere, Illinois 61008
September 19-21, 2025

**Schedule of Events of the 154th Annual Session
of the Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange**

**Belvidere, IL, Boone County Fairgrounds
September 19-21, 2025**

Friday, September 19, 2025

8:30 AM – Noon

Registration & Contest entries in place in display room

10:00 State Officers Practice Sixth Degree Practice

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 Boone County Fairboard Chairman, Jack Ratcliff

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 2026 – Springfield, Illinois, Northfield Inn Sept 11-13,

Invitation of Meeting Place 2027 in St Clair County.

Reports –Treasurer [Frank Wurth] (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 (Blue Ticket)

7:00 Evening Program

Introduction of Special Invited Guests Alice in Dairyland **Debbie Vine**

Summary of Address of State President – **Lynette Schaeffer** & WSG

President **Debbie Vine**

Community Service Awards – **Heather Ellwanger**, Director & Haven

Network state project WSG Community **Jean Peterson**

Membership Awards – **Robin Kindberg**, Director & WSG membership

Quilt of Valor – **Marisa O'Dell**

8:30 Committee Meetings

Saturday, September 20, 2025

- 7:00** Ag Chairman: **Brian O'Dell** Speaker: Chief Meteorologist Candice King (WTVU) (Breakfast earlier)
- 8:00** Opening in Fourth Degree **Debbie Vine**, WI President Roll Call of State Officers IL & WI
- Roll Call of Delegates (IL & WI) - Reading and Adopting of Minutes
- 8:45** Junior Grange Report and Awards, **Mindy Schiefer**, Director
- 9:45** Recess WI will leave to complete their work during this time.
- 10:00** Report – Committee on Finance & Accounts
- 10:15** Committee Reports
- 11:30** Family Homemaking Projects Luncheon (orange ticket) – **Ann Johnson**, Director & Raffle **Ronna Ballmer WI Lecturer**
- 1:15 PM** Obligation Fifth Degree Obligation – **Karie Blasingame**
Conferring of Sixth Degree – IL State Grange Officers
- 2:45** Recess
- 3:00** National Grange President Chris Hamp Presentation via Zoom
- 3:15** Grange Historian – **Beverly Smith**
- 3:40** National Grange Representative Report/Workshop – Committee Reports
- 5:00** Grange Closed in Fourth Degree (Take possessions with you)
- 5:30** Youth/Young Adults Banquet (green ticket) – **Karie Blasingame and Marisa O'Dell** Directors, WSG Youth **Western is the theme.**
Mystery Dinner
- 8:30** Auction

Sunday, September 21, 2025

- 8:00 AM** Celebration of Life and Worship – **Charlotte Mehrtens**, Chaplain WSG Chaplain
- 8:45** Opening in the Fourth Degree - Youth/Young Adult Officers, WSG also Roll Call of Youth Officers - Roll Call of State Officers ISG and WSG Roll Call of Delegates WSG Reading of State Minutes
- 9:00** FAC/AG – Final Reports and Sash Transfers
Community Service Booklets, – **Heather Ellwanger**, Director WSG
Lecturer Report – **Ethan Edwards** WSG Lecturer
Committee Reports
Completion of Remaining Business/Installation of officers ISG & WSG
Closing of the ISG 154th Annual Session

Officers /Committee Chairs/Directors

154th Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange Boone County Fairgrounds, Belvidere, Illinois September 19-21st, 2025

Officers

President/Master – Lynette Schaeffer
Vice President/Overseer – Katherine (Karie) Blasingame
Lecturer – Ethan Edwards
Steward – Brad Wade
Assistant Steward – Rick O’Dell
Lady Assistant Steward – Carrie Fisher
Chaplain – Charlotte Mehrrens
Treasurer – Mary Donley
Secretary – Brian Keller
Gatekeeper – Don Ellwanger
Ceres – Sara Ellwanger
Pomona – Patti Lee
Flora – Marilyn Hoffmann
Executive Committee 2025 – Frank D. Wurth
Executive Committee 2026 – Todd Hegge
Executive Committee 2027 – Debra Wade

Committee Chairs / Directors

Agriculture 2025 – Brian O’Dell
Agriculture 2026 & 2027 – Lana Korte/Marilyn Hoffmann
Communications Director / IL Granger Editor – Ruth Blasingame
Community Service Director – Heather Ellwanger
Family Activities Director 2025 – Ann Johnson
Family Activities Director 2026 – Trisha Renken
Family Activities Director 2027 – Marilyn Coe
Grange Historian – Beverly Smith
Junior Director – Mindy Schiefer
Youth / Young Adult Co- Director – Katherine (Karie) Blasingame
Youth / Young Adult Co- Director – Marissa O’Dell
Membership Director – Robin Kindberg
Webmaster – DJ Joseph

Delegates for the 2025 State Grange Session

Grange Name

DELEGATES

Beaver Valley #1791	Steve Paulson
Beaver Valley #1791	Dayle Paulson
Big Thunder #1940	NO DELEGATES
Bluff #1826	Angie Dickerson
Broad Hollow #1806	Carol Neff
Capron #1901	NO DELEGATES
County Line #1751	Kim Robin
County Line #1751	Cathy Zei
Emerald Mound #1813	Marc Henrichs
Emerald Mound #1813	Stephen Silvey-Alltop
Enterprise #1929	Kenneth Joseph
Enterprise #1929	Mary Ann Joseph
Flora #1762	Ken Fidler
Flora #1762	Amber Fidler
Floraville Community #1918	Marilyn Hoffmann
Floraville Community #1918	Lana Korte
Galt #1853	NO DELEGATES
Guilford Hope #6	Wayne Lyford
Guilford Hope #6	Nancy Lyford
Harmony #957	NO DELEGATES
Hopewell #1747	Katie Renken
Hopewell #1747	Carrie Fisher
Leroy Community #1873	NO DELEGATES
Perryville #1805	Beverly Smith
Prairie #1832	Don Ellwanger
Prairie #1832	Heather Ellwanger
Progressive #1811	NO DELEGATES
Shiloh Valley #1807	Ethan Edwards
Shiloh Valley #1807	Patty Bearth
Troy Grove #1852	NO DELEGATES
Turkey Hill #1370	James Coe
Turkey Hill #1370	Steve Koluch
Union #811	Vivian Johnson
Boone County Pomona #78	Ruth Blasingame
Boone County Pomona #78	Katherine (Karie) Blasingame
St Clair County Pomona #21	Charlotte Mehrtens
St Clair County Pomona #21	Henrietta Keller
Winnebago County Pomona #73	NO DELEGATES

Secretary Minutes
1st day of the 154th Illinois State Grange and
Wisconsin State Grange Combined State Session
Friday September 19th, 2025

Pre-session Activities

The display room was opened at 8:30AM to check in contest entries in Agriculture, Family Activities, Lecturer, Junior, Community Service and Youth Departments

At 10AM the State Grange Officers practiced for the opening drill and for the sixth degree.

At Noon everyone enjoyed a free will offering hot dog meal.

At 1:00PM the Illinois State Grange Officers marched in to begin the combined session of the Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange. The 1st day of the 154th annual session of the Illinois State Grange and the 154th annual session of the Wisconsin State Grange was called to order by President Lynette Schaeffer and President Debbie Vine in the Sixth Degree at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Belvidere IL. Sister Lynette Schaeffer and Sister Debbie Vine welcomed everyone to this year's historic session.

Roll call of Illinois State Grange officers found 13 officers present with 3 pro-temp officers. Brother Kevin Wade from Hopewell Grange served as flagbearer.

Roll call of Wisconsin State Grange officers found 4 officers present.

Since there was no further business to conduct, the meeting was closed in the sixth degree and lowered to the 4th degree.

Honored guests were presented: National Grange Vice- President and President of New Jersey State Grange Brother John Benedik, Past National Grange Secretary and Past Master of the Illinois State Grange Sister Henrietta Keller, Past National Grange Flora, Past 1st Lady and current Pomona of the Illinois State Grange Sister Patti Lee, Past Master and Past Executive Committee Member of the Illinois State Grange Brother Lyle Lee, were our honored guests. They were escorted to the Presidents station and were asked if they wanted to say anything.

John Benedik – Overdue for a change, be original and collaborate to make fond memories as well as make plans to help change the future and make a difference.

Henrietta Keller – Great to be here and that Wisconsin State Grange is Here with us

Patti Lee – Welcome everyone and have a great session

Lyle Lee – Great to see the whole Grange Family

Boone County Fairgrounds President Brother Jack Ratcliffe was escorted to the President's station. He welcomed us to the fairgrounds and hoped we all have a great time while here in Belvidere. Thank you to everyone who is attending, including Wisconsin State Grange and John Benedick. He then gave a brief history of the Boone County Fair.

Sister Karie Blasingame gave her response. Thank you for inviting us to the fairgrounds. We are one of the biggest fairs in the entire state. Great to have changes that make everyone want to attend this fairground for such great future events.

Sister Karie Blasingame also reported that \$167 was collected from the free will offering lunch and all of this money is going to the Haven Network.

Roll call of Illinois State Grange Delegates found 26 Subordinate Delegates and 4 Pomona Delegates in attendance. No Wisconsin Delegates were present.

Brother Frank D Wurth Chairman of the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee presented the Order of Business for the 154th Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange combined session. The changes to the schedule are as follows:

- On Saturday the 3:00PM recess is moving to 2:45PM
- 3:00PM - there will be a zoom meeting with National Grange President Sister Chris Hamp on membership

Sister Karie Blasingame moved to adopt the Order of Business of the 154th Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange combined session as amended, and Brother Steve Alltop seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The full Order of Business of the 154th Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange combined session was adopted and will appear in the journal.

The 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange will be on September 11-13th, 2026 at the Northfield Inn and Suites in Springfield IL.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer of St. Clair County Pomona Grange invited everyone to the 156th annual session of the Illinois State Grange in St. Clair County. Place and date to be determined.

Reports were given from the following:

Treasurer – Frank D Wurth (Budget)

A copy of the budget is in your Delegate Book

- There was a question on interest income which is a large CD coming due and the CD will be moved to a money market, and the interest from this account will go into the ISG General Fund.
- This year Ag is a little higher in requesting money because of paying for a speaker, prize money as well as a judge

Marc Henrichs moved to adopt the Budget report as amended and Marilyn Hoffmann seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Full report of the Treasurer was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Secretary – Brian Keller (Credentials)

Brother Brian Keller Illinois State Grange Secretary gave the Credentials report. The Credential Report is in the delegate book. There are **816** members in our State Grange. Everyone needs to go out and sign-up new members to increase our membership. Steve Alltop moved to approve the Credentials Report and Cathy Zei seconded it. Motion carried. The Full Credentials Report was adopted and will appear in the Journal.

Executive Committee Report – Debbie Wade - Secretary

Sister Debbie Wade, Secretary of the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee, gave a summary of their report. The Only change to the report is as follows:

- In the fraternally submitted section of the report the following names must be included in the Executive Committee: Frank D Wurth, Debbie Wade, Todd Hegge, Lynette Schaeffer, Karie Blasingame, Brian Keller and Mary Donley.

Ruth Blasingame moved to adopt the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee Report as amended, and Marc Henrichs seconded the motion. Motion Carried. The full report of the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee was adopted and will appear in the Journal.

A short recess followed.

Don Ellwanger moved that the Assistants and Steward do not have to carry their staves during ballot collecting Seconded by Karie Blasingame. Motion carried

Election of Officers for a 2-year term followed

- President – Lynette Shaeffer
- Vice President – Karie Blasingame
- Ex Comm 3 year (2028) – Frank D Wurth
- Ex Comm 2 year (2027)– Debra Wade (continuing, 2nd year of 3-year term)
- Ex Comm 1 year (2026)– Todd Hegge (continuing, 3rd year of 3-year term)
- Lecturer – Ethan Edwards
- Steward – Don Ellwanger
- Assistant Steward – Rick O’Dell
- Lady Assistant Steward – Carrie Fisher
- Chaplain – Charlotte Mehrrens
- Treasurer – Mary Donley
- Secretary – Brian Keller

Election to continue Saturday morning.

Appointments of Session Committees, assignment of resolutions and instructions were given by President Lynette Schaeffer and Vice President Karie Blasingame. Committees will meet after session closes. Committee chairs were reminded that if you can get your committee action done tonight get them to the Kindberg’s so they can be typed up and ready for presentation in the morning.

Announcements:

- There is a basket at the Presidents station that is to help raise funds for the health of our Community Service Director Sister Heather Ellwanger as she is experiencing health issues
- Dress code for tomorrow during the day is Red White and Blue
- Angie Dickerson made Christmas Ornaments for sale. They are \$10 for angels and \$5 for the other ornaments. All proceeds are going to the Honor Memorial Scholarship Fund
- 150th Annual cups are available for 2 for \$15
- Receiving line for dinner starts at 5:30PM

- There is a brick monument below the Graces station that is donated by Debbie Buck Crew. This will be auctioned off and the proceeds will go to the General Fund
- Anyone wanting 5th and 6th Degree please see Brian Keller to sign up
- Breakfast tomorrow is 6:30AM and it is Grab and Go

The Grange was closed at 4:15PM in the fourth degree.

FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAM

At 6:30PM, 97 adults gathered for the Main Banquet. Sister Charlotte Mehrstens Illinois State Grange Chaplain gave the blessing, and a delicious pasta meal was enjoyed by all.

President Lynette Schaeffer and President Debbie Vine welcomed everyone to tonight's program. Sister Lynette Schaeffer then introduced the head table. Brother John Benedik shared banquet jokes.

Following the meal, Special guest Sarah Hagenow Alice in Dairyland was introduced by Sister Debbie Vine Wisconsin State Grange President. She talked about her process in becoming Alice as well as all her advocacy for agriculture in Wisconsin and internationally. By promoting, uplifting and sharing Agriculture in Wisconsin and in the world.

Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaeffer gave a summary of her President's Address. Sister Lynette also thanked Brother Brian Keller and Sister Mary Donley for a job well done. She also thanked all the Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs and Deputies for all their hard work throughout the year. She highlighted her many Grange adventures since last state session including National Session 2024 in Bettendorf Iowa, looking forward to attending National Grange 2025 on the Cruise Ship. Midwestern Leadership Conference in Indiana, Grange Revival in Torry Utah. She thanked Adam Ellwanger for his assistance with Mary Donley's medical issue last year at State Session. She also thanked everyone who helped with National Session in Iowa. She attended a Leaders Conference in California. A huge thank you to all the Boone County Grangers for making National Grange history with the production of the 7th degree video at Belvidere High School PAC on March 27-29th 2025. Watch for a 7th degree day in the future with this produced video. She enjoyed the statewide picnic and giving out 5 scholarships. She gave a summary of some of the National Grange involvement she had done this year. Lynette introduced Brother Lyle Lee from Prairie Grange as the 2028 Ag Chairman and introduced Marc Henrichs as the new ISG Legislative Director. She also introduced Sammantha Meyers as the New Communications Director.

Good of the Order: The National Grange Website has now changed with lots of new information available and coming soon a membership platform will be shared with Grange members nationwide. Granges will have access to their own video/zoom conferences capabilities. GRIT is set for October 11th, 2025, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Washington IL. Bonding will be emailed next week. In Memorial of Noah Mullins Past Ag Chairman and Jean Thornberry Past FAC Chairman and Deputy. In closing she gave words of wisdom from Past Illinois State Grange Master Al Henninger reminded everyone to participate, be in step with today's interests and need. We must take the lead, work towards goals and be responsible for our Granges. Be proud to be Grangers and be an inspiration to the Community.

The full report of the Illinois State Grange President's Address was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Sister Debbie Vine President of Wisconsin State Grange gave a summary of her President's Address. She stated that this is also their 154th annual session. They highlighted why the 2 sessions were coming together this year. She is proud to see all the Grangers in attendance and introduced the Officers of the Wisconsin State Grange that were present. The Summary of the Wisconsin State Grange President's Address will appear in the journal.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer then turned the program over to Sister Heather Ellwanger and Sister Marisa O'Dell for the Community Service program.

The winners of the Community Service Books are as follows:

- 4th Place – Prairie Grange
- 3rd Place – Turkey Hill Grange
- 2nd Place – Flora Grange
- 1st Place – County Line Grange

Congratulations to all. Everyone will get their books back Sunday Morning.

Teacher of the Year – Stephanie Ketchum nominated by Turkey Hill Grange.

Firefighter of the Year – Matthew Louderbeck nominated by LeRoy Community Grange.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year – Michelle Schwarts nominated by Prairie Grange.

Non- Granger of the Year -Lisa Rodgers nominated by Flora Grange.

Junior Granger of the Year – Katlyn Scherer nominated by County Line Grange.

Granger of the Year – Marisa O'Dell nominated by Beaver Valley Grange.

The Busy Bee Grangers that brought in the most items for Haven Network was the Kindberg Family. The Busy Bee Grange that brought in the most items was Prairie Grange.

Members of the Haven Network were in attendance to take the collection of items back with them which included several items (blankets, picture frames, toiletry, stamps and clothing) as well as \$1371.25 monetary donation and 2 gift cards. Haven Networks Stephanie Grimm and Kathy Pittman thanked all who donated. Just FYI Kathy Pittman was a Past Junior Princess of Flora Grange.

Sister Heather and Sister Marisa both thanked the Haven Network for what they do. This organization means a lot to both of them.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Heather Ellwanger and Sister Marisa O'Dell for a job well done.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer then turned the program over to Illinois State Grange Membership/ Recognition Director Sister Robin Kindberg to present the membership and recognition awards for 2025. Our total membership as of June 30, 2025, was 816 total members. The breakdown is on the Credential sheet in your delegate book. This past year we lost 58 members in total. 20 members died and 38 members dropped. We had 7 Granges that took in 44 new members. Each Grange that took in new members will receive a check, and they are as follows:

County Line – 7 new members	- \$35	LeRoy Community – 2 new members	-\$10
Flora – 15 new members	-\$75	Prairie – 16 new members	-\$80
Enterprise – 1 new member	-\$5	Turkey Hill – 2 new members	- 10

Hopewell – 1 new member - \$5

Unfortunately, we had a net LOSS in Illinois State Grange membership this year, so I challenge all of you to go out and sign-up new members to get our membership to grow.

Now to switch hats – it gives me the pleasure to present 4 membership plaques and 4 Membership bars. Plaques went to the following:

Kim and Mike Robin- County Line Grange for signing up 6 new members

Adam and Sara Ellwanger - Prairie Grange for signing up 4 new members

Kayla Konieczki and Sheri Bochman -Prairie Grange for signing up 4 new members

Bars went to the following:

Jack and Laurel Ratcliffe from Flora Grange for 10 new members

Ruth and Karie Blasingame of Prairie Grange each get a bar for signing up 4 new members.

Congratulations to all the recipients. The complete list of Recognition awards is on the back of the

Credentials sheet in your delegate book.

This year we honored members for 1245 years of service to our great organization. Be sure to honor those who have diligently served your Grange.

The full report of the Membership/Recognition Director and all the recipients and winning Granges will appear in the journal. Sister Lynette thanked Sister Robin Kindberg for a job well done.

Quilt of Valor- Sister Marisa O'Dell gave a history on the Quilts of Valor Program. She then presented quilts to the following with the assistance of Emalee Colver, and Sharon Fidder:

1. Bradley Goebel- Navy
2. Richard Nicholls Jr – Marines
3. Cameron k Paulson – Army National Guard
4. Richard Behnke- Army
5. Brady Johnson – US Air Force
6. Pamela Ashens – US Marine Corp
7. Scott Kleba - Army

Announcements:

-Resolutions need to get to the Kindberg's ASAP for session tomorrow

- Breakfast is Grab and Go at 6:30AM with Ag Speaker at 7:00AM

Thus, ending the first day of the 154th Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange combined State session.

Fraternally Submitted,

Brian Keller, Illinois State Grange Secretary

Jennifer North Herden, Wisconsin State Grange Secretary

**2nd Day of the 154th Illinois State Grange and
Wisconsin State Grange Combined State Session
Saturday September 20, 2025**

The morning began at 7:00AM with the 2025 Ag Committee Chairman Brother Brian O'Dell welcoming everyone to the program. He then introduced Meteorologist Candice King WTVO weather person. She spoke on her life here in Illinois as well as meteorologist career with some of her most historic storms she has encountered. Candice also gave an AG Climate Digital Resource that farmers could follow to determine weather patterns.

At 8:40AM Sister Lynette Schaeffer Illinois State Grange President opened the 2nd day of the Combined Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange session. Brother Kevin Wade from Hopewell Grange served as Flag Bearer.

OPENING SONG: For the Beauty of the Earth

Roll call of Illinois State Grange Officers found 14 officers present and 2 pro-temp officers present. Roll call of Illinois State Grange Delegates found 26 Subordinate Delegates present and 4 Pomona Delegate present as well as several other Grangers in attendance. The roll call of Wisconsin State

Grange Officers found 8 officers present.

Minutes of the 1st day of the 154th Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange combined session was read. The minutes were amended as follows:

- Amount collected from the free will lunch was \$167 not \$168
- Proceeds from the Monument go to the Illinois State Grange General Fund not the Klotz Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Emalee Colver and Sharon Fiddler were to be added to the presenters of the quilts of valor ceremony
- Jennifer North Harden needs to be added to the fraternally submitted at the end of the Secretary Report

A motion was made by Steve Alltop to approve the minutes of the 1st day of the 154th Illinois State Grange and the Wisconsin State Grange combined session as amended and Don Ellwanger seconded the motion. Motion carried. Minutes of the 1st day of the (154th) Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange combined session was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Sister Mindy Schiefer Illinois State Grange Junior Director was escorted to the President's station where she gave her Junior report. Sister Mindy Schiefer reported there were 21 entries in the Junior contest this year. 14 entries in the Junior contests from 3 Junior Granges as well as 5 entries in the Junior at Heart contests. The Best in Show for Junior Department went to Hattie Schile from Beaver Valley Grange for their Vincent Van Gogh Art project. The full report of the Junior Director and all Junior contest winners will appear in the journal.

The Election of Officers continued as follows

Gatekeeper – Brian O’Dell
Ceres – Sara Ellwanger

At 9:45 a recess was called to allow Wisconsin State Grange to leave to complete their Order of Business.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer reported that she was given some items from Richland Grange and have them on display in the back of the room.

Brother James Coe Chairman of the Financial Committee gave their report. The committee was not assigned any resolutions but discussed problems with insurance premiums. They thanked Mary Donley for all her hard work. The Finance Committee report was accepted as presented. The full report of the Financial Committee was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Elections concluded with the following:

Flora- Marisa O’Dell
Pomona – Angie Dickerson

Congratulations to all the New Illinois State Grange Officers

Sister Carol Neff Chairman of the Good of the Order and By-Laws Committee gave their report. They were assigned Resolutions 1, 2, and 6.

Resolution 2025-01 “Illinois State Grange Website” was accepted as written.

Resolution 2025-02 “Publication of Key Illinois State Grange Personal Contact Information” the committee action was unfavorable, and the delegate action was to accept the committee’s action. The Resolution was LOST.

Resolution 2025-06 “Adopt a Lifetime membership program for community granges” the committee’s action was unfavorable, and the delegate action was to accept the committee’s action. The Resolution was LOST.

The full report of the Good of the Order and By-Laws Committee was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Sister Carrie Fisher Chairman of the Grange Activities/ Presidents Address gave their report. They were assigned Resolutions 3, 4, 5.

Resolution 2025-03 “Community Service Book Guidelines” was sent back to committee for further discussion

Resolution 2025-04 “Outstanding Farmer/Rancher/Agriculture Advocate the resolution was amended by the committee and delegate action was to sustain the committee’s action.

Resolution 2025-05 “Adopt a Legislator” the committee action was favorable, the delegates action was to sustain the committee’s action.

Sister Carrie Fisher Chairman of The Grange Activities/President’s Address Committee was also assigned the President’s Address which was approved as presented.

The full report of the Grange Activities/ Presidents Address Committee was not adopted at this time.

Sister Ruth Blasingame gave the report on the Health, Education and Welfare Committee. They were not assigned any resolutions but discussed the high cost of prescriptions and encourage

National Grange and Congress to put caps on high cost of prescriptions. The report was accepted as presented. The full report of the Health Education and Welfare Committee was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Brother Wayne Lyford Chairman of the Agriculture/ Conservation and Energy Committee gave their report. They were not assigned any resolutions but wrote Resolution 2025-07 “Supporting the Rights and Welfare of Migrant Workers.” The committee accepted this resolution, and the delegates made two amendments, they are as follows

- To add the word legal before all migrant workers throughout the resolution.
- To remove the third where as completely from the resolution

This resolution was accepted as amended and the full report of the Agriculture/ Conservation and Energy Committee was adopted will appear in the journal.

At 11:45 AM the meeting was called to recess for the Family Activities Committee Luncheon and raffle. Sister Ann Johnson 2025 Family Activities Committee Chairman welcomed 73 adults to the FAC Luncheon. She thanked everyone for coming and for donating items to the raffle. She then introduced the Past FAC Chairs who were in attendance. Illinois State Grange Chaplain Sister Charlotte Mehrrens gave the blessing, and everyone enjoyed a delicious soup, sandwiches, and salad luncheon. Following the meal, Sister Ann Johnson summarized her report and encouraged everyone to stop by and check out the displays.

Sister Lynette then introduced Sister Ronna Ballmer Wisconsin State Grange Lecturer who reported they had about 80 entries in their contest of Photography, Food, Food Preservation just to name a few categories. She is looking into updating categories depending on what everyone’s interests are.

They are planning Grange Activity days, and everyone is welcome to join them. Be sure to look at their displays. She also said it was an honor to be here and wanted to thank Illinois for inviting them to be a part of this historic combined session.

Sister Ann Johnson and her committee proceeded with the raffle and congratulated all the winners. Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Ann Johnson and her committee for a job well done. She then introduced Sister Trisha Renken from Hopewell Grange who will be the 2026 FAC Chairman and Sister Marilyn Coe who will be the 2027 FAC Chair and she is currently looking for someone from the North to be 2028 FAC Chairman.

The full report of the Family Activities Committee, all the FAC contest winners and raffle winners will appear in the journal.

At 1:27 PM the meeting was called back to order and Brother Duane Scott Vice President of the Wisconsin State Grange gave the Fifth Degree Obligation to a class of 5 candidates from Illinois. At 2 PM the Officers of the Illinois State Grange conducted the Sixth Degree to a class of 8 candidates. 6th Degree Certificates were presented to all of the candidates. Sister Lynette Schaeffer congratulated and welcomed the new 6th Degree members. The names of the 5th and 6th Degree candidates, rose drill participants and the Court of Flora along with the name of the Illinois State Grange Officers who participated in the 6th Degree will appear in the journal.

A short recess followed.

The Grange was called back to order at 3PM for a zoom meeting with the National Grange President Sister Chris Hamp. She talked about how our Granges need to make a change and try to build our membership in the future. Illinois And Wisconsin are part of the pilot program for the new membership initiative. We also watched her video welcome message to both the Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange on the 1st ever combined state session.

Sister Chris Hamp also Congratulated the following Granges who received the Distinguished Grange Award: the winners are as follows:

- Prairie Grange for the 13th time
- Turkey Hill Grange for the 13th time
- County Line Grange for the 3rd time

Sister Beverly Smith Illinois State Grange Historian gave her report. Sister Beverly has created a book that has photos of the Illinois Grange Halls from the Past. She has received multiple new items for her collection about the History of the Granges in Illinois. The full report of the Illinois State Grange Historian will appear in the journal.

National Grange Vice President John Benedik presented a workshop on “Cultivating Partnerships.” Brother John thanked Sisters Lynnette Schaeffer and Debbie Vine for their invitation to this historic session. John is a 4th Generation Granger. He is a bank manager at the largest Credit Union in New Jersey. Partnerships come in all shapes and sizes. Look for the organizations that deal with our same beliefs and understandings as the Grange. Work with groups like 4-H, FFA and the Lions Club. FFA focuses on agriculture. 386 FFA chapters are in the state of Illinois, so try to create and cultivate partnerships with them. Not everything is successful, but we need to present a way to get other organizations involved to gain success and gain membership. Use your resources such as the Grange Engage Website that has ideas for a literary program as well as other virtual meeting options. Partner a new member with a senior member to work on various projects. Also make involvement fun. There are multiple resources and websites on how to get involved. Each Grange is unique, and you all make a difference in the community and in the world. Let’s build this organization together. And he thanked everyone for allowing him to attend this historic session.

At 4:28pm the Grange was called back to order to conduct the remainder of the Business.

Sister Carrie Fisher the Chairman of the Grange Activities and Masters Address gave their follow up report. The committee rejected resolution 03 because there are changes coming in 2025 to the Community Service Guidelines. The committee rejected the resolution, and the delegates sustained the committee’s action. Resolution was LOST.

The full report on the Grange Activities and Masters Address was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Sister Sara Ellwanger, Secretary of the State and National Welfare and Transportation Committee, gave their report. They were not assigned any resolution but gave some recommendations on what the Granges can do to get involved in the community and promote public awareness on topics like bus safety, and safety in school zones. They also recommend reaching out to pharmacists for questions on prescriptions.

The State/ National Welfare and Transportation Committee's report was accepted as presented. The full report of the State/National Welfare and Transportation Committee was adopted and will appear in the journal.

CLOSING SONG: Blessed be the ties that binds

Announcements:

- A Basket for Heather's health is still at the President's station feel free to donate
- Cups are available for 2 for \$15
- Church Service is at 8am
- If you have a part in tonight's show, sit near the front please
- Scarlett Ellwanger is Illinois 1st National Grange Junior Ambassador applicant

Meeting was closed at 4:50 PM in the Fourth Degree

SATURDAY EVENING PROGRAM

At 5:30PM 90 grangers gathered for the Youth Banquet. Sister Marisa O'Dell and Sister Karie Blasingame welcomed everyone to tonight's murder mystery dinner entitled "High Noon at Dead Man's Saloon." They gave a summary of the Youth and Young Adult Committee report as well as introduced Beth Olson as the new Youth and Young Adults Director. Sister Karie and Sister Marisa reported that 34 items were entered this year by 5 Granges. Ceres Choice was Beth Olson; Flora choice was Marisa O'Dell and Pomona's choice was Scarlett Ellwanger. Sister Charlotte Mehrrens Illinois State Grange Chaplin gave the blessing, and a delicious western style meal was enjoyed by all.

The Murder Mystery Dinner "High Noon at Dead Man's Saloon," continued with the murder of the deputy by Maverick Bullock portrayed by Brian O'Dell. They then thanked all of the cast, including members of the Boone County Main Street Players, for a great performance.

The Youth will be selling Butter Braids online starting September 21 through October 10 with pick up at the GRIT conference.

The full report of the Youth and Young Adult Directors and contest winners will appear in the journal.

The evening ended with the annual Agriculture Auction with Brother Lyle Lee as auctioneer, AG chairman Brother Brian O'Dell, Sister Lana Korte, Sister Marilyn Hoffmann, Sister Mary Brubach Sister Patti Lee and Sister Ruth Blasingame assisted with the auction. Tonight's auction included some special donated items by Debbie Buck Crew from Richland Grange that were auctioned off to raise funds for Illinois State Grange General Fund. All Auction winners will appear in the journal.

The evening concluded at 9:45PM

Thus, ending the 2nd day of the combined session of the Illinois State Grange and the Wisconsin State Grange.

Fraternally submitted

Brian Keller Illinois State Grange Secretary
Jennifer North Herden Wisconsin State Grange Secretary

**3rd Day of the 154th Illinois State Grange and
Wisconsin State Grange Combined State Session
Saturday September 21, 2025**

At 8:10AM Sister Charlotte Mehrstens, Illinois State Grange Chaplain presented a Worship Service and immediately following presented a Celebration of Life to honor the brothers and sisters who have gone to the Great Grange above. Sister Ronna Ballmer Chaplain of the Wisconsin State Grange presented a Celebration of Life for the Wisconsin members who have passed away this past year. The Worship Service and Celebration of Life from Illinois State Grange Chaplain Sister Charlotte Mehrstens and the Celebration of Life that Sister Ronna Ballmer of Wisconsin State Grange presented will appear in the journal.

At 8:45AM the meeting was opened in the Fourth Degree by the Youth and Young Adults from Illinois and Wisconsin Granges. They did an amazing western marching drill and introduced the theme to next year's Youth/Young Adults Program which will be "Out of This World". Brother Kevin Wade from Hopewell Grange served as Flag Bearer.

OPENING SONG: Brown Squirrel

Roll Call of Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange Youth Officers found 16 officers present. Roll Call of Illinois State Grange Officers found 14 officers and 2 pro-temp officers present. Roll Call of Illinois State Grange Subordinate Delegates found 25 Subordinate delegates present with 1 pro-temp and 4 Pomona Grange delegates present. Roll call of Wisconsin State Grange officers found 5 officers present as well as several other Grangers in attendance.

Honored Guests were Presented: National Grange Vice-President and current President of the New Jersey State Grange Brother John Benedik, current National Grange Executive Committee Member and current President of the Illinois State Grange Sister Lynette Schaeffer and 1st Dude Brother Don Schaeffer, Past National Grange Secretary and Past Master of the Illinois State Grange Sister Henrietta Keller, Past National Grange Flora, Past First Lady and current Pomona of the Illinois State Grange Sister Patti Lee, Past Master and Past Executive Committee Member of the Illinois State Grange Brother Lyle Lee, current President of the Wisconsin State Grange Sister Debbie Vine and 1st Dude Brother Royal Vine, Sister Karie Blasingame Vice-President and Co-Youth Director of Illinois State Grange, Sister Marisa O'Dell Co-Youth Director of Illinois State Grange and newly elected Illinois State Grange Youth Director Sister Beth Olson were our Honored Guest in waiting. They were then escorted to the President's station. And each was asked to share some words of wisdom.

Lyle Lee – The Youth opening is always my favorite part of the session and today you are right up my ally with your music

Henrietta Keller – Everyone did a fantastic job.

Debbie Vine – Thank you for letting us attend this session, it has been a great session and hope to see you again in 3 years.

Brother Don Schaeffer – Great job everyone and what a wonderful wakeup call.

Lynette – So Proud of all of you and she recognized all of the Grangers who have previously participated in the drill. Sister Mary, Mary is looking down on us saying get that whip tighter. She is very proud of Colton for this being his first time in the drill and for being President. Great job!

John Benedik – Great job and you all need to get your friends involved to make it twice this size. Always find ways to make it FUN!

Marisa O’Dell – Thank you to all those who stepped up to help

Beth Olson – Thanks everyone!

Karie Blasingame – Great job to all and introduced next year’s theme as “Out of This World”

Emalee Colver – These young people are always awesome. My first conference when I was National Junior Director and had to travel to other Granges was in New Jersey State Grange where my husband and I were pulled around the room in a laundry cart. Grangers are Grangers so join in the fun.

The meeting was turned back over to the Illinois State Grange Officers.

Minutes of the 2nd day of the 154th Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange combined session were presented as read. The following amendments were made to the minutes: ---The items donated by Debbie Buck Crew are from Richland Grange not Richmond Grange

Brother Steven Alltop moved to approve the minutes of the 2nd day of the Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange combined session. Motion was seconded by Marc Henrichs. Motion carried, Minutes of the 2nd day of the 154th Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange combined session were approved as amended and will appear in the journal.

Sister Ann Johnson and Sister Trisha Renken were escorted to the President’s station. Sister Ann Johnson gave the final Family Activities Committee report. We had a total of 96 entries from 35 Grangers in the FAC contests with 10 Junior entries. Best of Show for the Family Activities Department went to Sister Henrietta Keller from Enterprise Grange for her any other crochet wall hanging. 31 items were donated to the raffle. After expenses were taken out, we turned over \$866.00 to the Honor Memorial Scholarship fund. Sister Ann thanked her committee and all those who helped her throughout the past year and this weekend.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Ann Johnson and her committee for a job well done. The Family Activities sash was turned over to Sister Trisha Renken from Hopewell Grange who will be the 2026 FAC Chairman and the 2027 Chairman will be Sister Marilyn Coe from Turkey Hill Grange. Sister Trisha asked for feedback on the way the raffle was done this year (Brown Bag Style) Did you like it?

The full report of the Family Activities Committee, FAC contest winners and raffle winners will appear in the journal.

Brother Brian O’Dell 2025 AG chairman, Sister Lana Korte and Sister Marilyn Hoffmann were escorted to the President’s station. Brother Brian O’Dell gave his final AG Committee report. They had 65 total entries from 33 Grangers and 12 Junior entries this year. There were approximately 75 items for the AG Auction. After expenses were taken out the AG

Committee turned over \$700.00 to the Klotz Memorial Scholarship fund. He passed out the prize money to the Granges. Brother Brian O'Dell thanked his committee and all that helped him this past year and at the auction last night. He also thanked Sister Emalee Colver for all her help with registration. (For the auction, \$194.00 was from items donated by the Wisconsin State Grange.)

Sister Lynette thanked Brother Brian O'Dell and his committee for a job well done and turned the sash over to Sister Lana Korte who will be 2026 AG Co-Chairman along with Sister Marilyn Hoffmann who will be 2027 Co-chair and she announced that the new 2028 AG Chairman will be Brother Lyle Lee of Prairie Grange. Sister Lana said all contest rules and categories will be handed out at GRIT Conference in October.

The full report of the AG Committee, AG Contest winners and Auction winners will appear in the journal.

Sister Charlotte Mehrrens Illinois State Grange Chaplain reported that \$355.00 was collected during the worship service this morning and it will be given to Don and Heather Ellwanger to help with her medical issues.

Sister Marisa O'Dell Community Service acting Chairman was escorted to the President's station. Sister Marisa O'Dell congratulated the Community Service winners and returned their Community Service books back.

Next year's Community Service project will be THE LINUS PROJECT and more details will be given out at GRIT Conference. Brother Don Ellwanger encouraged everyone on Heather's behalf to turn in a report of what your Grange does for Community Service we need a certain number of reports in order to get the prize money from National Grange. Also, to let everyone know the Community Service guidelines and rules will be revised and will be handed out at the GRIT Conference.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Heather Ellwanger for all of her hard work this past year and she also thanked Sister Marisa O'Dell for stepping up to help. The full report of the Community Service Director and Community Service winners will appear in the journal.

Brother Ethan Edwards was escorted to the President's station, and he gave his final Lecturer's report. The Lecturer's Department had 69 entries from 28 Granges this year as well as 24 Junior entries. 42 Quilt Blocks were sent onto the National Quilt Block Contest. He thanked everyone who participated this year. Next year there will be at least one Patriotic category.

Sister Lynette thanked Brother Ethan Edwards for all his hard work this past year. The full report of the Lecturer's Department and contest winners will appear in the journal.

Sister Ruth Blasingame reported that she received \$345.00 in monetary donations for supplies for the Illinois Granger as well as paper, envelopes and stamps. She also reported that Samantha Meyers will be stepping up to help her with the Illinois Granger production. She encouraged ALL Granges to write at least one article for the Illinois Granger this coming year.

A recess was called at 10:30 AM.

The meeting was called back to order at 10:45AM where the Installation of the new Illinois

State Grange officers was carried out by the installing team of Brother John Benedik the Installing Officer, Lynette Schaeffer, Don Schaeffer, Charlotte Mehrrens, and Debbie Vine. Brother John asked all Officers of Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange to come to the alter and he administered the Obligation to all Officers then he proceeded to Install the newly elected officer of the Illinois State Grange: Steward – Don Ellwanger, Gatekeeper – Brian O’Dell, Pomona – Angie Dickerson and Flora – Marisa O’Dell and he concluded by Congratulating all the new Illinois State Grange Officers

A motion was made by Sister Henrietta Keller to have the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee pay all the unpaid bills and to approve the minutes of the 3rd day of the combined session of the Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange. The motion was seconded by Kim Robin. Motion carried. The minutes of the 3rd day of the 154th Illinois State Grange and Wisconsin State Grange combined State session will appear in the journal.

Illinois State Grange President Sister Lynette thanked National Grange Vice President Brother John Benedik for attending this historic combined State Grange Session and she presented him with a pair of Grange Bookends as a token of appreciation and hoped he enjoyed his stay here in Illinois. Brother John said that he had a great deal of fun and he never knew what to expect. “We are all family and you all made me feel at home and welcomed.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer and Sister Debbie Vine thanked the Granges of Boone County for hosting this session and special thanks to Beaver Valley Grange for manning the Hospitality room. They also thanked all the State Officers, Committee Directors and anyone else who helped make this historic state session a success.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer reminded everyone that the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange will be September 11-13, 2026 at Northfield Inn and Suites in Springfield, IL. Wisconsin State Grange is welcome to join us if they want to and they are invited to join us in 3 years when we will be returning here to northern Illinois for another combined State Grange session.

Announcements:

- State officers and Committee Chairs need to turn a copy of your hotel bill into Brian Keller if you want half of your room paid for
- There are still cups available for sale 2/\$15.00
- Everyone is invited to come over to see the new County Line Grange Hall and Museum immediately following the close of this meeting.

CLOSING SONG – God Be With You

The meeting was closed at 11:15AM.

Thus ended the 3rd day of the 154th Illinois State Grange and the Wisconsin State Grange combined State Session.

Fraternal Submitted,
Brian Keller – Illinois State Grange Secretary

Jennifer North Herden – Wisconsin State Grange Secretary

State Grange Sunday Morning Service 2025

Led by Illinois State Grange Chaplain Charlotte Mehrtens

Opened with Prayer

The Strength of My Heart

Psalms 28:7 – “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him.”

Life can feel overwhelming at times. We face battles we never asked for, storms we didn't see coming and burden that feel too heavy to carry. In those moments, the question becomes: Where do we find our strength? He shields us when the arrows of life come flying.

David, the psalmist gives us the answers. He declares with confidence: “The Lord is my strength and shield.” This verse is not just a statement of faith – it's a declaration of dependence on God, a testimony of his protection and an initiation for us to trust him.

The Lord is Our Strength

David does not say “I am strong enough” He says “The Lord is my strength.”

Human strength has limits our wisdom, money, connection and even health eventually fails. But God's strength is limitless.

Isaiah 40:29 says, “He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.”

When we are weak, his strength is made perfect. When we are drained, he is the one who empowers us to stand, to endure and to keep going

Instead of saying “I can't do this,” begin saying “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4-13.

The Lord is Our Shield

David also calls God His Shield. In battle a shield protects us from arrows and attacks. Spiritually God shields us from dangers we see and those we don't

He shields us from the enemy's lies.

He shields us from the plans meant to harm us.

He shields us from destruction when we abide in Him.

Ephesians 6:16 talks about “the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one”

Who worry comes, lift up the shield of faith. Remind yourself: God is my protector; nothing can touch me without passing through his hand first.”

Trust that Leads to Joy

David says, “my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me.” Trust is the key that unlocks God’s help. Faith activities His strength and protection in our lives.

When we trust him, peace replaces panic.

When we trust Him, help comes right on time.

When we trust Him, our hearts are filled with joy.

Notice the progressions: trust – help – joy – and praise.

Don’t wait for everything to be perfect to rejoice. Joy flows when we place trust in God, even in the storm.

David concludes, “My heart leaps for joy and with my song I praise him. Praise is the natural response of a grateful heart. When God strengthens you, shields you and shows himself faithful – don’t stay silent. PRAISE HIM!

Praise shifts our focus from problems to God’s power.

Praise reminds us that the battle belongs to the Lord.

Praise is a weapon against discouragement.

Psalms 28:7 reminds us of three truths: God is our strength when we are weak.

God is our shield when we are under attack

God is our joy when we put our trust in him.

So today, whatever you are facing declare like David:

“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy and with my song I praise him.”

Closing Prayer

“Lord, thank you that you are always at work in our lives. Help us to trust you in every season – when we understand and when we don’t conform us to the image of your son and remind us that all things truly work together for good when we love you. In Jesus name we pray AMEN.

Illinois State Grange Celebration of Life

Noah Mullins

Noah Mullins was a long-time member of County Line Grange. He served on the Boone County Fair board and was a great volunteer at the fair. Noah loved to work on cars. If he wasn't busy, he would fix cars for just the cost of the parts. He enjoyed it so much he wouldn't charge for his labor. He planted a huge garden every year and provided all the neighbors with tomatoes. He was a Past Illinois State Grange Ag Chairman.

But God promises to walk with us each day and give us peace. So today and all days we must rest in those promises and the precious gift of life we are given each and every day. May you rest in peace Brother Noah.

Jean Thornberry

Jean was a longtime member of Flora Grange. She volunteered for many years in the ticket office during the summer and at the fair. She also volunteered for her Grange at gate 6 during the fair. Ruth Blasingame said Jean would always call and say "Hi it just Jean." I have that voicemail saved on her phone. She was Past Family Activities Director and Illinois State Grange Deputy.

From Matthew 11:28-29 Come unto me, all ye that are heavy laden, and I will give rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Rest in peace Sister Jean you are missed here on earth.

Wisconsin State Grange Celebration of Life

Elizabeth "Betty" Wallace June 25, 1927- October 12, 2024, Turtle Grange #655

She was born at home on June 25, 1927, in Mount Hope, Wisconsin, the third child of Leonard and Ada (Horsfall) Beadle.

Betty was born with beautiful auburn-red hair and a spirited personality to match. Betty graduated from Beloit Memorial High School class of 1945, she attended nursing school at Madison General Hospital, which later merged with Methodist Hospital and changed its name to Meriter Hospital. After completing a six-month internship at the Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Betty graduated in 1948 as a registered nurse.

Betty married Lester D. Wallace on May 21, 1949, at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Beloit. They farmed in Turtle Township for 20 years. After selling the dairy, they purchased the Blodgett Farm on the east side of Beloit. At about this time, Betty decided to return to work part-time at Beloit Memorial Hospital as a nurse on the surgical floor. The farm was eventually sold to the City of Beloit for Gateway Development.

Betty was very involved in the community and was member of the Turtle Grange, Wisconsin State Grange, Turtle Homemakers Club, the First United Methodist Church, and a 4-H sewing leader. She loved finding old furniture for a bargain and refinishing it. Her home was filled with beautiful, refinished furniture such as an upright player piano, a roll-top desk, and

an old pump organ. She was a wonderful cook and baker. Betty was also an excellent seamstress and made most of the girls' clothes. She also loved knitting and made beautiful blankets for all the newborn babies in the family.

Betty and Lester served as Delegates to the National Grange from 1977-1987. Betty was National Grange Lady Assistant Steward from 1979-1985. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 62 year, Lester Wallace; Daughter Susan Wallace MacLeish, her parents, brother William (Bill) Beadle, sisters Ann Squires and Virginia Johnston, and grandson Sergeant Andrew Wallace who died in Iraq.

Robert "Bob" James Woodman July 12,1941- February 12, 2025
Robert "Bob" James Woodman was a member of La Prairie Grange #79

Sharon A. Roberts August 25, 1943 – April 26, 2025
Sharon Ann Roberts was a member of La Prairie Grange #79 where she was President

Scott M. Roberts February 11, 1970 – June 17, 2025
Scott Minot Roberts was a member of La Prairie Grange #79
Scott was killed while helping a friend out of a domestic situation

Mary Davis October 9, 1946 – August 28, 2025
Mary Davis is survived by her husband of 60 years, Thomas Lamar Davis, The Wisconsin State Grange Assistant Steward. Mary was a Past member of the Wisconsin State Grange Executive Committee.

5th Degree Candidates – 2025

Maria Bobadilla – Prairie Grange	Beth Olson – Beaver Valley Grange
Amber Dimond – County Line Grange	Cathy Zei – County Line Grange
Valerie Hancock – Enterprise Grange	

6th Degree Candidates – 2025

Mary Barnes – Prairie Grange	Valerie Hancock – Enterprise Grange
Nan Barnes – Prairie Grange	Mary Innis – Prairie Grange
Maria Bobadilla – Prairie Grange	Beth Olson – Beaver Valley Grange
Amber Dimond – County Line Grange	Cathy Zei – County Line Grange

Rose Drill Participants

Mary Barnes – Prairie Grange	Amber Fidder – Flora Grange
Marisa O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange	Nancy Lyford – Guilford Hope Grange
Sheri Bochman – Prairie Grange	Beth Olson – Beaver Valley Grange
Tamera Brauer – Flora Grange	Cathy Zei – County Line Grange

Court of Flora

Angie Dickerson – Bluff Grange
Henrietta Keller – Enterprise Grange
Lana Korte – Floraville Community Grange

Karrie Kindberg – Prairie Grange
Kelly Kindberg – Prairie Grange
Lisa Loveridge – County Line Grange

Illinois State Grange Officers

President/Master – Lynette Schaeffer
Vice-President/Overseer – Karie Blasingame
Lecturer – Ethan Edwards
Steward – Don Schaeffer (pro tem)
Assistant Steward – Rick O’Dell
Lady Assistant Steward – Carrie Fisher
Chaplain- Charlotte Mehrrens
Treasurer – James Coe (pro tem)

Secretary – Brian Keller
Gatekeeper – Don Ellwanger
Ceres – Sara Ellwanger
Flora – Marilyn Hoffmann
Pomona – Patti Lee
Executive Comm – 2025 – Frank D. Wurth
Executive Comm – 2026 – Todd Hegge
Executive Comm – 2027 – Debbie Wade

Youth Drill Participants

President- Colten Kellen
Vice President- Karie Blasingame
Lecturer- Katie Renken
Steward- Marisa O'Dell
Assistant Steward- Ken Fidder
Lady Assistant Steward- Carrie Fisher
Chaplin- Trisha Renken
Treasurer- Amber Fidder
Secretary- Cassidy Renken
Gatekeeper- Scarlette Ellwanger

Fabulous Cast of Grangers and NON-Grangers from the Murder Mystery Dinner

Annie Croakley- Kim Robin
Belle Bandit- Karie Blasingame
Bunk N. Bronco- Mary Innis
Buffalo Bob- Steve Paulson
Calamity Jill- Mindy Shaffer
Casey Coalburner- Brian Keller
Dewdrop Pinn- Carolyn Boettcher (non-Granger)
Doctor Quackery- Sara Ellwanger
Maverick Bullock- Brian O’Dell
Nugget Mcrush- Manny Fabela
One-Eyed Pete- Vince Melillo

Patty Petticoat- Amber Fidler
Roe D. Oh- Don Ellwanger
Shot O' Whiskey- Dayle Paulson
Shuffle N. Cutt- Karrie Kindberg
Songbird Lil- Harmony Thornton (non-Granger)
Tinny Musick- Robin Kindberg
Waulin Straum- Kelly Kindberg
Wellesley Fargo- Scarlett Ellwanger
Yella Rose- Tamra Brauer
Sherrif- Marisa O'Dell
Deputy Drinkwater- Cassidy Renken

Community Service Award Winners (Marisa O'Dell)

Non-member goes to Lisa Rodgers nominated by Flora Grange #1762
Granger of the Year goes to Marisa O'Dell nominated by Beaver Valley Grange #1791
Police Officer of the Year goes to Michelle Schwartz nominated by The Prairie Grange #1832
Teacher of the Year goes to Stephanie Ketchum nominated by Turkey Hill Grange #1370
Junior Of the Year goes to Kaitlyn Shere nominated by County Line Grange #1751
Firefighter of the Year goes to Matthew Loudenbeck nominated by Leroy Grange #1873
The Busy Bee "Most Donated" goes to The Kindberg Family from The Prairie Grange #1832
Busy Bee Granger's "Most Donated Grange" goes to The Prairie Grange #1832

New Haven Network Donations

Total Monetary Donation given to The Haven Network was \$1,346.25
With we gave them One \$25.00 Gift Card to a local restaurant, a \$25.00 Giftcard to Hobby Lobby, and a bucket full of supplies like Picture frames, The invisible String books, and many more supplies that are urgently needed

Quilt of Valor Recipients

Staff Sergeant Richard Nicholls JR. US Marine
Second Lieutenant Cameron Paulson US Army
ET (SW) 3rd Class Bradley Goebel US Navy
Sp4 Richard Behnke US Army
Sargeant Brady Johnson US Air Force
Corporal Pamela Ashens US Marine Corps
Sergeant Scott Kleba US Army

Illinois State Grange Scholarship Recipients - 2025

Kayla Konieczki (Prairie) – Early Childhood Education Leadership
 Sammantha Meyers (Prairie) – Elementary Education
 Emma Rutledge (Turkey Hill) – Veterinary Medicine
 Emily Smith (Turkey Hill) – English Education
 Jennifer Smith (Turkey Hill) – Nursing Education

ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE PROPOSED BUDGET

1/1/26 TO 12/31/26

INCOME:

	PROPOSED 2025	ESTIMATED ACTUAL 2025	PROPOSED 2026
SUBORDINATE DUES	\$23,000	\$25,000	\$25,314
POMONA DUES	150	150	150
JUNIOR GRANGE	50	50	50
STATE SESSION	8,000	8,000	8,000
5 TH DEGREE	0	3	3
6 TH DEGREE	0	10	10
GRANGER DONATION	500	500	500
INTEREST INCOME	0	0	5,573
TOTAL ESTIMATED INCOME FOR 2026	\$39,600		

ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE PROPOSED BUDGET

1/1/26 TO 12/31/26

EXPENSES:	PROPOSED 2025	ESTIMATED ACTUAL 2025	PROPOSED 2026
NATIONAL DUES	\$ 9,562	\$10,500	\$10,560
HONORARIUMS	8,495	8,495	8,495
RENT STORAGE	750	750	750
ACCOUNTING	1,000	0	0
LIABILITY INSURANCE	400	375	375
BONDING	120	120	120
STATE SESSION	10,000	6,950	10,000
LEGISLATIVE	200	358	0
GRANGER NEWSLETTER	2,000	733	2,000
EXECUTIVE MEETING	400	0	500
MILEAGE	5,000	3,000	3,000
SUPPLIES	1,800	500	1,000
DONATIONS/MEMORIALS	500	175	500
JUNIOR COMMITTEE	350	250	250
YOUTH COMMITTEE	350	250	250
COMMUNITY SERVICE	350	250	250
LECTURER	350	250	250
FAMILY ACTIVITIES	350	500	500
AGRICULTURE	350	800	800
TOTAL EXPENSES ESTIMATED FOR 2026		\$39600	

Credentials Report for Illinois State Grange 2024 – 2025

When the quarter ended June 30, 2025, there were 22 Subordinate/Community Granges in Illinois with a total membership of 816, as reported by the individual Granges. This breaks down to 678 Individuals with 35 Family Plans, which included 125 Family members and 13 Associate members. Illinois has 81 Golden Sheaf members, of which 10 members received their Golden Sheaf Awards prior to January 1, 2001. 8 Subordinate/Community Granges have a total of 28 Affiliate members. There are 3 Pomona Granges in the state with a total of 196 members.

Illinois has 7 Granges with Junior Grange Charters (Emerald Mound, Enterprise, Flora, Hopewell, Prairie, Shiloh Valley, and Turkey Hill) with 22 total members and +1 Junior members totaling 18 from 3 other Subordinate Granges.

During the past membership year (July 1, 2024 thru June 30, 2025) there were 5 members who reached 50 years of membership, and no one received the 75-year Diamond award this year.

Additional Milestones: 7-25 yr Silver Star Certificates, 5 – 30-yr seals, 4-45 yr seals, 2-55 yr seals, 2 – 60 yr seals, 4- 65 yr seals, and 0-70 yr seals were presented this year. That’s a total of 1245 years of service recognized this year by the Granges of Illinois. All names are listed below. Congratulations to all the recipients, and keep up the good work!

There were 26 Delegates registered for the 154th State Session representing 15 Community Granges. There were also 2 Pomona Granges represented with 4 delegates registered.

Alphabetical Listing of Subordinate Granges of Illinois

Grange Name#	County	Origin Date	Membership
Beaver Valley #1791	Boone	12-1-1916	41
Big Thunder #1940	Boone	3-9-1993	24
Bluff #1826	St. Clair	12-1-1922	16
Broad Hollow #1806	St. Clair	1-18-1921	17
Capron #1901	Boone	5-10-1939	7
County Line #1751	Boone	9-9-1908	57
Emerald Mound #1813	St. Clair	11-29-1921	16
Enterprise #1929	St. Clair	3-10-1956	35
Flora #1762	Boone	9-30-1910	150
Floraville Comm #1918	St. Clair	3-8-1948	37
Galt #1853	Whiteside	3-17-1931	5
Guilford Hope #6	Winnebago	7-3-1871	20

Alphabetical Listing of Subordinate Granges of Illinois -cont.

Harmony #957	Winnebago	1-23-1874	4
Hopewell #1747	Tazewell	3-2-1907	30
LeRoy Comm #1873	Boone	3-31-1933	26
Perryville#1805	Winnebago	1-18-1921	6
Prairie #1832	Boone	6-13-1923	128
Progressive #1811	St. Clair	3-16-1923	15
Shiloh Valley#1807	St. Clair	1-27-1921	29
Troy Grove #1852	LaSalle	2-28-1931	13
Turkey Hill #1370	St. Clair	4-9-1874	128
Union #811	Winnebago	12-18-1873	12
TOTAL			816

Pomona Granges of Illinois

- Boone County Pomona #78
- St. Clair County Pomona #21
- Winnebago County Pomona #73

**Recognition Awards 2024 – 2025
For the State of Illinois**

25 Years

- Terry Reeves – Enterprise
- Nathan Williamson – Enterprise
- Debbie Klinefelter – Flora
- Gary Klinefelter – Flora
- Urban Baum – Turkey Hill
- Mary Lou Baum – Turkey Hill
- Steven Erbe – Union

30 Years

- Roger Miller – Flora
- Sharon Miller – Flora
- Robert Scherer – Flora
- Bob Hardcastle – Turkey Hill
- Patti Ratcliffe - Flora

45 Years

- Mike Ratcliffe – Flora
- Don Biesiegel – Turkey Hill
- Judy Biesiegel – Turkey Hill
- Cara Johnston – Enterprise

50 Years

- Karen Harter – Beaver Valley
- Keith Brauer – Turkey Hill
- Frank J. Wurth – Turkey Hill
- Harry Wurth – Turkey Hill
- Keith Dintelmann – Turkey Hill

55 Years

- Loretta Parrish – Turkey Hill
- Carole Eckert – Turkey Hill

60 Years

- Mary Ann Joseph - Enterprise
- Mike Stewart - Enterprise

65 Years

- Brad Blake – Beaver Valley
- Keith Dintelmann – Turkey Hill
- Robert Dintelmann – Turkey Hill
- Allen Grommet – Turkey Hill

President - Master Annual Report

September 1, 2024- August 31, 2025

President and First Man Activities

The Grangers of St Clair County hosted the 153rd annual IL State Grange Session at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Collinsville, IL September 13 – 15, 2024. Guests from Hoyleton Family Services, National Corn Growers, attended Friday night's dinner. The speaker for Friday night was Charlie Meier, IL Representative for District 109. National Grange Communications Director Philip Vonada was the NG representative. Phil did a great job keeping everyone involved. Thanks to all the committee chairs/directors for all their hard work. It was a great session. The last day was a little interesting when Treasurer Mary Donley, left in an ambulance and had a pacemaker before the end of the day. Gladly she has recovered well. Thanks, Adam Ellwanger, for his assistance before the ambulance arrived.

The Grange Resources Information and Training (GRIT) was on October 26, 2024 at Turkey Hill Grange Hall. The meeting started at 10:00 with potluck lunch at noon. On October 27 at Boone Community Grange Hall at Noon with potluck. Thanks to Turkey Hill members and Prairie Grange members for being host of the meetings. Many Grangers attended to learn about the contests and programs for the upcoming year. About a total of 100 Grangers attended the two meetings. Thanks to the Committee Chair and Directors for all their hard work on setting up the new contest and programs for the upcoming year. I am 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 the Illinois Grangers for their assistance at the 158th National Session in Bettendorf Iowa, Nov 12 -16, 2024. Emalee Colver was appointed as Registration host. Ruth Blasingame and Lana Korte have been appointed as IL Hospitality hosts for Wed, 13th and IL will assist WI on Saturday. Karie Blasingame is working on Transportation for the convention. Robin Kindberg worked on flowers and IL had officers for 6th degree and we provided the Rose drill, Thanks to Robin, Renee, Lana, Mary, Marisa and Karie. Two IL Grangers received Quilts of Valor. Thanks to those Grangers who provided quilts for the Q of V presentation. Congratulations to the Granges and Grangers who participated in various National Grange contests. A special thanks to Karie for all the extra duties she had. 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. 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 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. 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. 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!!

I have attended the first ever 3 Board Retreat for National Grange Executive Committee, Grange Advocacy Board, and Grange Foundation Board. No joint meetings have been held before this one. The Boards worked on strategic planning, mission alignment, leadership training, and more for the support of National Grange. We were grateful to our hosts at the **United States Patent and Trademark Office** for their warm welcome and assistance in bringing this retreat to life. There were great speakers and much discussion between the participants on making us Grange Strong. Look for new things coming from this meeting.

The National Grange Leader's Conference was held at Rohnert Park, CA., in mid-February. Lana Korte attended with me. Thanks to California State Grange, Idaho State Grange and Washington State Grange for their hospitality. There were great workshops to add to the Toolbox Series from last year. It was made clear that we need to make sure that our Grange events and fundraisers are advertised and some ideas of how to make that happen. We learned ways to be prepared for a disaster. We learned the reason to make sure the IRS tax forms are completed in a timely manner. President Chris led a

discussion on her goals and ideas for the Granges and Grangers. Chairman Watson discussed Grange Advocacy Committee and what we all need to know about advocacy in the Grange. We discussed Project Sustenance., what Granges need to work on to spread the word. Some of the information was a grim fact of the membership of many state Granges and National Grange

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 taping of 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 appreciate and what a huge role they played in the success of this project.” said President Christine Hamp. And I want to personally thank all those Illinois Grangers who assisted in any way for the weekend. There were actors (candidates, court ladies, attendants, trumpet girl), cooks, (prep team, serving and cleanup), stagehands, 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 sorry that we missed Spring Fling. I understand that the event was great.

I enjoyed the All - Granger picnic in Boone County on May 31,2025. IL State Grange Scholarships were awarded to Emma Rutledge, (Turkey Hill), Jennifer Smith (Turkey Hill) , Emily Smith (Turkey Hill), Kayla Konieczki (Prairie), and Sammantha Meyers (Prairie). If scholarship recipients were not able to attend, they will need to attend the State Session in September. Our Youth Directors (Karie and Marisa) planned horse-drawn wagon rides, a bale tossing contest, great food, and great fellowship.

Don and I attended the Midwest Leaders Conference in June in Indiana. Several other IL Grangers also attended the event all weekend. IL will be the host next year.

Karie, Lana, Don and I attended Grange Revival 4.0 in Torrey Utah. It was a great event, great camping, great scenery, great food, great Grangers. And we look forward to many of you joining us in Bryson City, NC, at the edge of the Great Smokey Mountains for Grange Revival 5.0 in 2027. 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.

I have appointed Bryan O'Dell, from Beaver Valley Grange, to fill that spot. I am sure that Adam Ellwanger (Prairie) and Bryan will work together to assist the Granges of Boone County.

I am Chairman of the National Grange Executive Committee, which meets monthly via Zoom. As Vice President of the Grange Foundation Board, I attend bi-monthly meetings and serve on special committees. I am also a delegate to National Grange on the Agriculture Committee, meeting monthly to review and update policy. Additionally, I am part of a monthly Task Force studying the National Grange Building location. My schedule is quite full.

Don and I have attended many different meals, picnics, and regular meetings of several Granges this past year. I plan on continuing this and hope to increase the number of Granges we visit. Please let me know of any and all meetings or special events your Grange is having.

Departments

Agriculture committee - Thanks to Brian O'Dell, and his committee Lana Korte and Marilyn Hoffmann for all their hard work. Lana/Marilyn will be taking over as chair right after State Session, for 2026 – 27, the next time we are in Boone County ('28) the director will be announced on Friday evening.

Communications / Publicity / Editor – thanks to Ruth Blasingame for her tireless work in this position. The *Illinois Granger* is filled with valuable information for the Grangers of IL. Thanks, Ruth, for helping with the publications. She has asked that she be retired. Anyone interested in serving in this capacity please let me know ASAP. If you are interested, I don't read minds, let me know.

Community Service Director – Heather Ellwanger has worked hard to keep IL Granges active, I am excited to see what everyone brings for Haven Network. Prayers for Heather's health.

Family Activities Committee - Thanks to Ann Johnson and her committee Trisha Renken and Marilyn Coe. As of writing this I do not have anyone fill the chair in 2028. I hope to announce on Friday night

Historian - Bev Smith has kept us all informed of the history of the Illinois State Grange. Thanks, Bev, for your efforts and articles. Great display in display room.

Junior Director – Melinda Schiefer worked hard to have the Juniors be active. Thanks for helping with the Leadership meetings. Thanks, Mindy, for your efforts.

Lecturer – Thanks to Ethan for your efforts. Thanks, Ethan, for helping with Leadership meetings.

Legislative Director – Thanks to Marion Thornberry for his efforts while he was

director. Anyone interested in taking over this position to keep the Illinois Grangers informed and involved in all legislative concerns in a non- partisan way - just let me know.

Membership Director – Thanks to Robin Kindberg for all of her efforts to for the membership of IL State Grange. Anyone interested in serving as Membership Director please let me know.

Youth Director – Karie Blasingame and Marisa O’Dell, thank you for all your efforts, many events were planned.

Webmaster – Thanks to DJ Joseph for her efforts to keep the IllinoisStateGrange.org website current and appealing. If you want information on the website, please contact DJ.

Good of the Order

Please check the National Grange website for information on Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors, Project Sustenance, Rural Life Initiative, Communications Programs, Lecturer Programs, Youth Programs, Junior Programs and more. Information is updated often. Some of IL Granges have signed up to participate in the grants the National Grange has going right now. Be sure to check out all the information on the nationalgrange.org website, or Facebook. ILLINOISSTATEGRANGE.org is updated often as well – when looking for information please check there. Please check the *Grange Today*. Project Sustenance is a sharing program, Granges sharing food, food ideas, with community, other Granges and National Grange. National Grange is in partnership with Rural Minds [ruralminds.org]. There is also vaccination program that National Grange is supporting.

The new *Grange Today*, should be coming to your inbox monthly. Send information to Phil Vonada if your Grange is doing something exciting and different.

Three resolutions from IL were acted on by the National Grange delegate body. They were all sent back as state issues: Search Features for On-Line National Grange Policy Book, Electronic Links for Online National Grange Policy Book, and United States Postal Service.

The National Grange will be changing to a new membership platform for individual Grange information and activities. So, we, Brian Keller 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 possible.

If your Grange has a hall in need of upgrades, you can apply for the State Grange Hall Improvement Fund at 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** information requested.

The Bonding information has hit my email box but has not been sent to the Subordinate Secretaries or President yet. I will get to it soon.

Hope you all get the Good Day Magazine. Remember to keep your subscription current. Consider getting a subscription and renewing subscriptions. I will be sending out information to remember your renewals.

Think about donating to Grange Foundation in the 1 in 1000 Club. Donate \$1000 to the foundation, and you will be one of a thousand people in the club. Grange Foundation has special meetings and information for the 1 in 1000 Club members. And if you would like to be a member of the Grange Foundation Board, look for information on the Nationalgrange.org website. We are currently looking for members, do a bio and then send to Chistine Hamp, National Grange President and/ or John Benedik NGB chair.

In Memorium

We remember Noah Mullins, Ag Committee Chair, Jean Thornberry, FAC Committee Chair, and Boone County Deputy. that have passed to the Great Grange Above. They will be missed by many Grangers across IL. "Well Done Good and Faithful Servant." Each Grange has lost members who served the Grange in many ways and have passed from this life. Don and I were greatly saddened by the death Brother Kurt Joseph, Kenny and Mary Ann Joseph's son.

In Conclusion

I usually like to end my reports with something from a journal that is either a past session in the same location as now or something from a special year. Well, in 1996 we were in Rockford, Al Henninger was the State Master, there were 77 delegates and there were 34 resolutions. Winnebago and Ogle Pomona Granges were the hosts. Worthy Master Kermit Richardson and first Lady Margaret Richardson were our National Grange Representatives. It was the celebration of the 125th annual session of the IL State Grange. Many delegates and visitors dressed in period costumes. It was a glorious event. I have recently found many pictures of that event. IL State Representative Ron Wait was a speaker at the Agriculture Luncheon speaker. Norma Jean Davis was the first female Agriculture Committee Chairman. Juniors from Leaf River, Flora, Prairie and Big Thunder opened the meeting on Saturday morning. Al wrote in conclusion of his Master's Address "Participation has always been a challenge for all service organizations. Does your Grange meet the needs of society and your community? Does it take the lead in making good, sound legislative decisions? To make the Grange meaningful, you have to change and be in step with today's interests and needs. Will our Grange be looked upon as an organization that should be respected for our activities and accomplishments? Most importantly, can we ask prospective members to become a member of the Grange and they in turn, be proud of their membership. We, as Grange leaders, must take the lead and work toward goals, be positive about the Grange and its programs, and as a Grange leader, we must be responsible for the welfare of the Grange.

To stay relevant, the Grange must adapt to current interests, so members feel proud of their involvement. Leaders should set goals, support Grange programs, and take responsibility for the organization's welfare.

I could not have said that better. We as GRANGERS need to be proud of our organization, always and only speak respectfully, positively and accurately about the Grange, Grangers and our activities. To stay relevant, the Grange must adapt to current interests, so members feel proud of their involvement. Leaders should set goals, support Grange programs, and take responsibility for the organization's welfare.

Be Proud of your Grange. Be Proud to be a Granger. Support your Grange in contributing positively to the community.

I recommend all Grangers be Inspired and be inspiring in all we do down life's pathway in our communities.

Fraternally

Lynette L Schaeffer

Vice-President Report Illinois State Grange: Yearly Overview

[A Year of Progress](#)

This year has been a time of new energy and advancement for the Illinois State Grange. Members have shown unwavering dedication, inspiring those within and beyond our organization. With the National Grange President's active outreach, our visibility in volunteerism and rural advocacy has grown, proving that even with a smaller membership, our influence at the national level is substantial and the National Grange remains a key asset.

[Revival Events and National Planning](#)

Looking back over the past 28 years, my journey in the Grange has taken me from a new member to serving on various National committees. Recently the planning team for Grange Revival organized a successful week at Thousand Lakes RV Park in Torrey, Utah, which welcomed about 68 attendees. We enjoyed pleasant weather and explored local parks together. As we plan for the 2027 event in Bryson City, North Carolina, at Deep Creek Tube Center and Campground near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, I am excited to see what new experiences await and how many will join us.

Our region hosted one of the first National Grange sessions to offer activities for everyone, not just National Delegates. Illinois members contributed over 300 volunteer hours to make the event possible, providing play areas for kids, daily tours, and a range of workshops.

I have been asked to join the National Grange Convention Management Team. Our objective is to make every National Session just as inviting and engaging as the recent one in the Quad Cities. My role will be organizing volunteers and ensuring attendees have all the support they

need. I look forward to collaborating to create conventions that members eagerly anticipate and attend.

Launching Grange Engage

Anticipation is building as the National Grange prepares to launch Grange Engage, a platform designed to connect members nationwide. While some members may not have computer access yet, I hope each Grange encourages at least one person to join, so everyone can see how valuable this new tool will be. It will enable members to share local projects, adapt ideas from other states, and organize fundraisers. Secretaries will also be able to maintain member databases and request membership details from National as needed. The platform will give everyone access to not only National Grange benefits at their fingertips, but to share with Grangers from across the country. We will also be able to utilize a built-in video conferencing tool and not have to worry about another Grange needing the same time slot.

State and Local Participation

I remain actively involved in the Prairie Grange #1832, attending all subordinate and Pomona Grange meetings, serving as secretary at Prairie and substituting when necessary at Pomona, and joining Executive Committee meetings via Zoom to stay engaged with fellow members.

As State Grange Youth Co-Director, Marisa and I distributed handouts at the October GRIT Conference with key deadlines for the coming year. We regularly contribute reminders and updates for events in the Illinois Granger. Planning has grown more challenging, as many members are hesitant to commit. I encourage timely responses to invitations and urge everyone to help launch new or revived events to enrich our experience.

Youth Department Highlights

March's Youth Department Spring Fling was well attended. We visited the Midway Village Museum's new Camp Grant exhibit and hosted a popular Western-themed Murder Mystery, which attracted local community members. We finished several State Grange projects for other departments and demonstrated to youth what can be accomplished before the State Session.

The Statewide Grange Picnic featured horse-drawn wagon rides (with a few playful "bandit" surprises), delicious food, five scholarship presentations, and a hay bale toss contest. Our thanks to Greenlee's Green Oaks Farm for providing horses—who enjoyed their time on the fairgrounds.

Regional Conferences and Member Engagement

June brought the Midwest Grange Leadership Conference in Indiana, where Illinois was well represented. Indiana was a welcoming host, and the camp's stargazing was a highlight. The workshops proved excellent, and I was proud to see Jean Peterson lead a hands-on session on memory books.

Personal Reflections and the Road Ahead

From my 25 years in the Grange, I've gained lifelong friends and invaluable experiences. The youth program helped me find my voice and develop leadership skills, and now I watch new members grow. Volunteer participation is key to our continued success.

Looking forward, I urge each Grange to consider its average age, youth involvement, and how best to share its story. Lynette and I are committed to supporting Granges as we address these questions and strive to grow membership. By embracing change and new ideas, we prepare for all that the future brings.

Fraternally submitted,

Karie Blasingame
Illinois State Grange Vice-President
Illinois State Grange Youth Co-Director

Lecturer Department Final Report (Ethan Edwards, Illinois State Grange Lecturer)

There were 69 total entries in the Lecturer's Department Contests submitted by 28 Grangers from 8 different Granges with 24 categories. We had 24 Junior entries in the Lecturer's Department this year.

We did not do a best of show for the Lecturer's Department but
CERES CHOICE was Hilda Koluch from Turkey Hill Grange on her Christmas ornaments
POMONA CHOICE was Angie Dickerson from Bluff Grange with her 3D Collage
FLORA CHOICE was also Angie Dickerson from Bluff Grange with her 3D Collage

There were 42 Quilt Blocks sent to National Grange
1 from Guilford Hope Grange
2 from Union Grange
2 from Non-members of Union Grange
37 from Flora Grange

Lady Assistant Steward Report

Worthy National Grange Vice President/Overseer and New Jersey President/ Master John Benedik. Illinois State Grange Master Sister Lynette Schaeffer and brother Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and former Master of the Illinois State Grange Henrietta Keller, Past Worthy National Flora and Past First Lady and current Pomona of the Illinois State Grange sister Patty Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Master and Executive Committee Lyle Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master David Donley and Past First Lady and current Treasurer of the Illinois State Grange Mary Donley and State Officers, delegates and members.

My 2024-2025 year started out with attending the 153rd annual Illinois State Grange Session at DoubleTree by Hilton in Collinsville Illinois where I was Lady Assistant for the IL State Grange and walked in on Sunday Morning with the State Youth Department. On Oct 24th I helped at the Hopewell Grange Pancake and Sausage Supper. On October 26, 2024, I attended the Grange Resource Information Training at Turkey Hill Grange Hall with fellow Grange members and family. On Dec 7th Hopewell had their annual Breakfast with the Grinch. The event was a success and everyone enjoyed the day. The event will continue this December as well. On February 22 my husband and myself went with around 20 Hopewell members and friends to the Barn III Dinner theater in Goodfield. It was a very cute date night with a show. They always do such a wonderful show. On April 26th, Hopewell had the chance to hold their annual Spring Vendor Fair. The following day, on April 27th, Hopewell had their first Spaghetti and meatball drive thru dinner. I have attended all of my Subordinate Meetings where I am Secretary of Hopewell Grange. I have been helping with the Juniors activities and getting the word out in the community about Hopewell and all that we do for the community.

Fraternally Submitted,
Carrie Fisher- Lady Assistant of the Illinois State Grange

Chaplain Report

Worthy National Grange Vice President and New Jersey State President, John Benedik. Illinois State Grange Master/President sister Lynette Schaeffer, Worthy Past I was able to attend the State session in Collinsville last year, where I served on the session hosting committee.

National Grange Flora and current Illinois State Grange Pomona Sister Patti Lee and Past Master Illinois State Grange, Brother Lyle Lee. Brothers and Sister of Wisconsin State Grange. Illinois State Grange Officers, Delegates, Patrons and Guests.

I attended Grit conference at Turkey Hill Grange. I traveled to the Quad Cities in Iowa for the National Grange Session for a week meeting many new Grangers and working the registration table. Was able to attend some of the workshops and classes.

I serve as Master/President for Bluff Grange and also Master/President St. Clair County Pomona Grange. I was able to attend Grange dinners, and other activities that they sponsored. Attended all of my Grange Meetings and all of Pomana Meeting.

May the Lord Bless each of you in our coming and going. May his arms of comfort and peace be wrapped around you always.

Fraternally submitted

Charlotte Mehrtens
Illinois State Grange Chaplain

TREASURERS REPORT

This year has been a good year for staying on budget. We have not had any extraordinary expenses and have maintained status quo.

We have been able to fulfill 2 Hall Improvement Grant requests:

Turkey Hill Grange	\$5,000
Floraville Grange	\$1,590

Memorials in honor of 4 members have been made to the Honor Memorial Scholarship Fund:
C. Blye, R Keil, C. Klein-Lehr, J Thornberry

Scholarships were awarded to 5 applicants:
Emma Rutledge, Jennifer Smith, Emily Smith
Kayla Konieczki, Sammantha Meyers

I received 2 interest check replacements, missing from 2022, for New England Grange totaling \$83.56. This was deposited to the Terminated Hall/ Interest Escrow account.

In September, we will have a CD mature in the amount of \$188,000. When it is renewed, I will change the interest payment from being added to the principal to be deposited to our General Fund quarterly. This will add approximately \$5,300 to our budget for the future.

Following is a summary of Assets and current year income and expenses.

ASSETS

^General Fund	\$ 8,895.22
*ISG Reserve Money Market	16,283.37
*ISG Reserve CD's	328,387.00
**National Session	1,916.55
**Hearing Impaired	4,750.13
**Klotz Scholarship	14,125.39
**Memorial Honor Scholarship	20,731.31
**Munson Scholarship	55,885.47
**Nieffenegger Scholarship	10,000.00
**Terminated Hall/ Interest Escrow	10,123.87
**Closed Hall CD'S (9 Halls)	387,214.00

*TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS \$353,566

Funds can be used for general expenses

**TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS \$504,747

Funds are designated for a specific use and not general expenditures

Respectfully submitted
Mary Donley, Treasurer

Treasurer's Activities Report

This year I have attended several meetings at Turkey Hill Grange, assisted with the preparation and serving of 3 major dinners and other private dinners, assisted with the Farmers Markets on Thursdays and Saturdays thru the summer months, attended 1 Saturday morning breakfast at Emerald Mound Grange and GRIT last October.

Mary Donley, Treasurer

Secretary's Report

Besides serving as Illinois State Grange Secretary, my other Grange activities included serving as Lecturer for Enterprise Grange, my home Grange, and Treasurer for Emerald Mound Grange. For Enterprise, I helped coordinate the purchase and preparation of dictionaries for distribution to third graders in the O'Fallon area. I also created the labels for Enterprise's apple butter jars. I did their annual Christmas program in December and treated (or torment) them with pun-filled programs throughout the year. For Emerald Mound, I'm usually the cashier for their Big Breakfast and other fund raisers as often as I can. I regularly attended the meetings of both Enterprise and Emerald Mound. I also attended St. Clair County Pomona meetings when I was able, as well as GRIT at Turkey Hill last October. Thank you to everyone who has assisted me in my job as Secretary to keep the paperwork of the Grange moving and up to date!

Fraternally,
Brian Keller, Illinois State Grange Secretary

Membership/Recognition Report

Hello, hope this finds everyone doing well. I have been very busy keeping Grange membership up to date, could use a little better cooperation.

I have been busy keeping up with years of service recognition as well.

I attended ISG GRIT Conferences and talked about membership and recognition this past year.

I had the opportunity to be on the National Grange 2024 Planning committee in Bettendorf, Iowa. You can't believe what all is done behind the scenes to make a convention successful. What a great experience.

I attended the Midwest Regional Leadership Conference this past June that was held in Lowell, IN. We did workshops, played games, did community service project, attended an Observatory and saw the moon thru a telescope and we ate delicious food as well.

I participated in the Boone County Grange Open House event. We used our display boards at the Prairie Grange Consignment Sale and at the 4Moms2Moms Kids Consignment Sale to promote the Grange.

I helped in the Photography Department at the Boone County Fair and worked in the ticket office as well.

I am currently working on things to get ready for the Illinois State Grange Convention which will be held at the Boone County Fair Grounds in Belvidere, IL in September.

Just want to encourage all Grangers to go out and sign-up new members as well as be sure to recognize the members we have in our Granges for their years of service for we want to make our Granges all GRANGE STRONG.

Fraternally Submitted,
Robin Kindberg
Illinois State Grange Membership/Recognition Director

Ceres Report

Worthy National Grange Vice President and New Jersey State Grange President John Benedik, Worthy National Grange Executive Committee and Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaeffer, Worthy Wisconsin State Grange President Debbie Vine, Fellow IL and WI State Grange Officers, Delegates, and friends:

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone! I attend The Prairie Grange #1832 Subordinate meetings where I serve as Junior Director. I host bi-monthly dinner and movie nights where juniors and all are welcome to attend for crafts, community service, fun and fellowship. I also serve as the Junior leader for the Boone County Pomona Grange where I hosted a county wide Junior Grange day where we worked on entries for State Session, made cards for Military Service members, and had great fellowship with over 20 Juniors. At the last Boone County Pomona meeting I was elected Secretary and look forward to working in this new to me office. I am the sale manager for the 4Momz 2Momz resale that Prairie Grange hosts twice a year. I also volunteered at the annual fundraiser for The Prairie Granges' Consignment Auction. I attended the IL State Youth Spring Fling, IL State Youth Summer Picnic, and Midwest Leadership Conference In Lowell, IN. I also attended and volunteered at the National Grange Convention in Bettendorf, IA. At the National Convention I was part of the group who helped provide meals for the SHIPmates, organizing and maintaining the children's areas, and volunteered at the Wreaths Across America booth. While at the National Convention I was honored to receive the Midwest Cultivator Award for the work I have done with the 4Momz 2Momz Resale. I was thrilled to be a part of the National Granges' filming of the 7th degree. I got to host Harry and Cindy Greer (National Grange Ceres) at my home. I have known them most of my life and they were instrumental to my joining the Grange as a Youth in Colorado. I also had the pleasure of hosting Amanda Brozana from the National Grange Office, Scott Lyle (WA Grange), and Mykayla Piers (PA Grange) on their cross-country trip from the President's Leadership Conference in California back to Pennsylvania. Overall, it was an amazing Grange year, and I'm anxiously awaiting the 2025 National Grange Convention where my whole family (as well as my Grange family) will be cruising to Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao in November.

Fraternally,
Sara Ellwanger
IL State Grange Ceres

Pomona Report

Worthy National Grange Vice President and New Jersey State Grange President Brother John Benedik, Worthy National Grange Executive Committee Member and Illinois State Grange President Sister Lynette Schaeffer and 1st Dude Brother Don Schaeffer, Past National Grange Secretary and Past Master of Illinois State Grange Sister Henrietta Keller, Past National Grange Flora, Past 1st Lady and current Illinois State Grange Pomona Sister Patti Lee and Past Executive Committee Member and Past Illinois State Grange Master Brother Lyle Lee, Wisconsin State Grange President Debbie Vine and 1st Dude Brother Royal Vine, Past National Grange Executive Committee Member and Vice-President of Wisconsin State Grange Brother Duane Scott and Past 1st Lady of Wisconsin State Grange Sister Kymm Scott, State Officers, delegates, Patrons and Guest:

Well, it has been another exceptionally busy year and the time just flies by faster and faster! I believe I attended pretty much every Prairie Grange and Boone County Pomona Grange meeting. I served as Secretary at Boone County Pomona meetings, however when elections came up this year, I declined the nomination. I have reached a point in my life where I feel it is time to take better care of my health and needed to back off from a few things.

I helped for over a week with the Prairie Grange Consignment Auction in April. We helped with setting up for the 4Momz2Momz Consignment Sale.

We attended the National Grange session last November in Iowa where I helped at the registration desk. We hosted National Grange President Chris Hamp and 1st Dude Brother Duane while they were in Boone County for the historic filming of the 7th Degree.

We attended the Statewide Picnic which was held at the Boone County Fairgrounds. Also spent some hours working at the Boone County Fair helping with entries in the Home Economics building and in the floral department.

I think we attended one Junior Grange function. We try to support all Granges fundraisers.

We still do numerous fundraising auctions for several organizations, plus deliver Meals on Wheels. I work at the Baby Bank operated by our church and organize a Pioneer Lunch once a month from January through July and September through December.

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as Illinois State Pomona for the past several years and I feel it is time for someone else to have the opportunity.

Fraternally Submitted,
Patti Lee, Illinois State Grange Pomona

Flora Report

Past Flora and current Ag committee. I truly enjoyed the 4 years that I had the privilege to be Flora. Looking forward to increasing the entries in the Agriculture contests in 2026 and 2027. See everyone at GRIT.

Respectively submitted
Marilyn Hoffmann

Executive Committee Report

Worthy National Grange Vice President and New Jersey State Grange President John Benedik, Worthy National Grange Executive Committee member and Illinois State Grange Master Sister Lynette Schaeffer and brother Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and former Master of the Illinois State Grange Henrietta Keller, Past Worthy National Flora and Past First Lady of the Illinois State Grange and current Illinois State Grange Pomona sister Patty Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Master and Executive Committee member Lyle Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master David Donley and Past First Lady and current Illinois State Grange Treasurer Mary Donley and State Officers, delegates and members.

We the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee, Frank D. Wurth, Todd Hegge, Debra Wade, Lynette Schaeffer, Karie Blasingame, Mary Donley and Brian Keller, wish to submit the following report.

We met before the 152th Illinois State Session at Porters Steakhouse in Doubletree Hotel on September 12, 2024 in Collinsville IL. Those in attendance were Lynette and Don Schaeffer, Karie Blasingame, Phillip Vonada, Mary and David Donley, Kevin and Debra Wade, Brian Keller, Frank Wurth, Robin, Karrie and Kelly Kindberg, after dinner we went to the hospitality room to have our meeting, those in attendance were President Lynette Schaeffer, Vice President Karie Blasingame, ExCom Chairman Frank D. Wurth, Ex Comm Secretary Debra Wade, Treasurer Mary Donley, Secretary Brian Keller, Membership Director/Assistant Secretary Robin Kindberg and Karrie and Kelly Kindberg. Todd Hegge was in route and on the phone.

The meeting was opened by Chairman Frank D. Wurth.

Mary made a Treasurer Report and Brian made a secretary report. Lynette and Karie will check on virtual Banking.

65 Delegate books were printed. We will have 32 delegates. Most of the money for meals has been turned in.

Meal Totals:

71 adults for Friday night with 7 kid's meals

62 adults for Saturday lunch with 5 kid's meals

70 adults for Saturday Night with 8 kid's meals

Vice President Karie Blasingame

Karie is double booked on most meetings this month

President Lynette Schaeffer

Grit will be at Turkey Hill for the South on October 26 2024. The North will be at Boone County Community Building on October 27, 2024.

We have resolutions and By-Laws ready.

5th Degree by St. Clair County Pomona.

Friday night Speaker will be 109th District Representative will be Charles Meier.

Ethan will have a magician Friday night.

Future State Sessions will be at:

2025 Boone County Fair Grounds

2026 Springfield IL.

It was discussed and decided to get your room ½ paid for at National Grange you will have to work 6 hours a day.

On Sunday September 15, 2024 we met again after Session, everyone was in attendance including Todd and Mary was absent as she was not feeling well also in attendance was Emalee Colver and Phillip Vonada.

It was suggested that when we plan meals we need to be checking into allergies and dietary issues.

Robin, Karrie, and Kelly will be paid for typing this weekend.

On November 25, 2024 we met by zoom.

With National Grange just getting over we discussed National Grange Items 47 total people took 7th degree, 9 people were from Illinois. The tours were well complimented. National Grange will be coming to the Boone County Fairgrounds to film the 7th Degree to be used in the future, It was discussed about having Wisconsin Grange come in 2025 and having a joint Session.

If they are needing to do separate business they can use the Grange Hall.

The Scholarship question was discussed and it was decided as:

What Inspires you to be Grange Strong.

Scholarship will be due February 20, 2025 to Brian.

March 3, 2025, we met by zoom.

Brian made a secretary report and we have increased our membership by 129 according to quarterly reports.

Brian is looking into some unclaimed Funds he noticed while looking on the site.

Spring Fling was March 14 & 15 2025 at the Boone County Grange Hall; Part of the program was a Murder Mystery. The last Tuesday of the month is Youth Game Night.

Lynette attended the National Grange Leaders Conference in Rohnert California. Many workshops were done and she came away from there with many ideas and Knowledge.

Lynette is proud of Prairie Grange and Sara Ellwanger for their work on kicking off Project Sustenance for the National Grange.

Lynette is on the National Grange Task Force to find a new location for the National Grange Headquarters any ideas or suggestions let Lynette know.

The Scholarships were reviewed and 5 were awarded they went to:

Emma Rutledge Turkey Hill Grange

Jennifer Smith Turkey Hill Grange

Emily Smith Turkey Hill Grange

Kayla Konieczki Prairie Grange

Sammantha Meyers Prairie Grange

Mary, Frank D., Brian, and Lynette will be going over the budget.

June 2, 2025, we met by zoom.

Deadlines for all reports were discussed and dates were given so that Brian can get the book prepared.

The Youth held the Youth Picnic on May 31, 2025 food was good, a lot of haybales were being tossed, lots of wagon rides, Scholarships were presented but no talent was presented. Karie and Marisa went to Midwest Leadership in June.

State Session meals were discussed. Hotel will be the Staybridge Hotel price is \$109.00 per night; with tax it will be \$124.00.

Discussion on online payments, Brian will investigate this and check into what Square Account costs and benefits for the Illinois State Grange would be.

Committee Chairmans sent in request for budgets for State Session we discussed this in much details.

A letter will be sent to make sure all committees are paying judges and the prize money is the same for all committees.

We have made 2 donations of \$ 25.00 each to the Memorial Fund in memory of William Buck who was a past Steward, Executive Committee member and past Ag Chairman and Jean Thornberry who was a Family Activities Chairman and a State Deputy. We have given 3 requests for Hall Improvements to County Line Grange, Turkey Hill Grange, and Floraville Grange.

Fraternally Submitted Illinois State Grange Executive Committee

Frank D. Wurth Chairman, Todd Hegge Parliamentarian, Debra Wade Secretary, President Lynette Schaeffer, Vice President Karie Blasingame, Treasurer Mary Donley, and Illinois State Grange Secretary Brian Keller

Executive Committee Secretary Report

Worthy National Grange Vice President and New Jersey State Grange President John Benedik, Worthy National Grange Executive Committee member and Illinois State Grange Master Sister Lynette Schaeffer and brother Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and former Master of the Illinois State Grange Henrietta Keller, Past Worthy National Flora and Past First Lady of the Illinois State Grange and current Illinois State Grange Pomona sister Patty Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Master and Executive Committee member Lyle Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master David Donley and Past First Lady and current Illinois State Grange Treasurer Mary Donley and State Officers, delegates and members.

My year started out with attending the Illinois State Grange Session on September 2024 in Collinsville II. I attended GRIT at the Boone County Grange Hall. In October I worked for 2 days with our annual Pancake and Sausage supper. I attended breakfast with the Grinch at Hopewell Grange in December. In February I along with 21 other Grangers and friends went to Barn III where we saw a very amusing play about how empty Nester get their lives changed when the kids come back home. In April I helped at the bake sale for our Spring Vender Fair. The day after our Vender Fair we had a drive through Spaghetti Dinner but due to the fact it was the same day as my Churches 150th Anniversary Dinner I attended the dinner. I have helped mow Hopewell's grass along with Kevin, Clay, Jaxon, and we even had Cruz out picking up grass and was our water bottle runner. I have attended all my Subordinate Meetings where I am Chaplain. I have attended all zoom meetings of the Illinois State Grange Executive meetings.

Fraternally Submitted
Debra Wade,
Secretary of the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee

Agriculture Chair

Worthy National Grange Vice President and New Jersey State Grange President John Benedik, Worthy National Grange Executive Committee member and Illinois State Grange Master Sister Lynette Schaeffer and brother Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and former Master of the Illinois State Grange Henrietta Keller, Past Worthy National Flora and Past First Lady of the Illinois State Grange and current Illinois State Grange Pomona sister Patty Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Master and Executive Committee member Lyle Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master David Donley and Past First Lady and current Illinois State Grange Treasurer Mary Donley and State Officers, delegates and members.

The 2024/2025 AG year started in October with the attending of GRIT conference South at Turkey Hill Grange, and GRIT Conference North in Boone County at the Boone County Community Grange Hall.

In November, I attended the National Session, in Iowa, where I lead a couple of workshops, helped with transportation, and hospitality. I was also fortunate to take part in the 7th degree ritual.

In march, I took part, once again, in the 7th degree ritual, but this time, for the recording and historical preservation of the 7th degree ritual in it's fullest form. I am honored to have been a small part of Grange History.

In May I attended the State Youth Picnic. Great Fun was had by all.

Throughout the whole year, while I was attending State and National Grange functions, I was also busy back home in Boone County serving as President of Beaver Valley Grange, conducting monthly meetings, and helping organize many of our community service projects.

The 2025 AG contest for state session included 10 Departments, with 68 total categories.

We had 65 total entries, submitted by 33 Granger's, including 12 Junior entries, with a total prize money awarded of \$242.

The AG auction on Saturday night raised a total of \$700. Thank you to Wisconsin State Grange, and Illinois State Grange Youth for their donations of Ag Auction Items.

A special Thank You to Emalee Colver for her assistance on Friday, and a Very Special Thank You to the 2026 Ag Chair Representatives, Lana Korte & Marilyn Hoffman for all of their hard work and assistance during State Session, Ag is in good hand's!

Fraternally Submitted,

Brian O'Dell, Illinois State Grange Agriculture Chairman

AG Committee Report and Results– 2025

The 2025 AG Contest for State Session included these results.

We had 67 total entries in 10 categories in the AG contests submitted by 33 Granger's, including 12 Junior entries with a total prize money awarded of \$242.

We did not have a Best of Show chosen in the AG Department this year but the following were the Choices of the three Graces

Ceres Choice went to Savannah Anderson from Prairie Grange for her SCARECROW.

Pomona Choice went to Patty Bearth from Shiloh Valley Grange for her DECORATED PUMPKIN

Flora Choice went to Patty Bearth from Shiloh Valley for her DECORATED PUMPKIN

Saturday Evening we held our annual AG Auction. We had 75 items donated and we raised a total of \$700.00. Thank you to Wisconsin State Grange, and Illinois State Grange Youth for their donations and to Debbie Buck Crew for the donation they made as well.

A special Thank You to Emalee Colver for her assistance on Friday, and a very Special Thank You to the 2026/ 2027 Ag Chair Representatives Lana Korte and Marilyn Hoffmann for all of their hard work and assistance during State Session, AG is in good hand's !

AG Department Contest Winners as well as the results of the Auction Winners are listed below and Congratulations to all the winners.

Fraternally Submitted,

Brian O'Dell – 2025 Chairman and Committee Members Lana Korte and Marilyn Hoffmann

2025 Ag Contest Results

Vegetables

- a. Cucumbers
1st – Scarlett Ellwanger – Prairie
- b. Gourds
1st – Marilyn Hoffman – Floraville
2nd – Tina Lang – Floraville
3rd – Branden Lang – Floraville
- c. Hot Peppers
1st – Lyle Lee – Prairie
2nd – Patti Lee – Prairie
- d. White Potatoes
1st – Patti Lee – Prairie
2nd – Lyle Lee – Prairie
- e. Carrots
1st – Patti Lee – Prairie
2nd – Lyle Lee – Prairie

Fruits

- A. Grapes
1st – Cathy Zei – County Line

Vegetables Continued

- f. Cherry Tomatoes
1st – Ken Joseph – Enterprise
2nd – Lana Korte - Floraville
- g. Red Tomatoes
1st – Nancy Lyford – Guilford Hope
2nd – Wayne Lyford – Guilford Hope
- h. Yellow Tomatoes
1st – Nancy Lyford – Guilford Hope
2nd – Lana Korte - Floraville
3rd – Lyle Lee - Prairie
- i. Winter Squash
1st – Wayne Lyford – Guilford Hope
2nd – Brandon Lang - Floraville
3rd – Tina Lang - Floraville

Value Added Products

- a. Jams and Jellies
1st – Marilyn Hoffmann - Floraville

- B. Pears
 - 1st – Randy Eckert – Floraville
- C. Pumpkin
 - 1st – Lana Korte – Floraville
- D. Watermelon
 - 1st – Marilyn Hoffmann – Floraville

Herbs

- a. Potted Herbs
 - 1st – Cathy Zei – County Line

Field Crops

- a. 3 Ears of Corn
 - 1st – Jack Ratcliffe – Flora
 - 2nd – Tina Lang – Floraville
 - 3rd – Brandon Lang – Floraville
- b. Longest Ear of Corn
 - 1st – Brandon Lang – Floraville
 - 2nd – Jack Ratcliffe – Flora
- c. 1 quart of corn
 - 1st – Karrie Kindberg – Prairie
- d. 1 quart of soybeans
 - 1st – Robin Kindberg

Flowers

- a. Mixed Zinnia
 - 1st – Mary Ann Joseph – Enterprise
- b. Mixed Marigolds
 - 1st – Lana Korte – Floraville
- c. Coleus – 1 Variety
 - 1st – Marilyn Coe – Turkey Hill
- d. African Violets
 - 1st – Ellis Mundy – Prairie
 - 2nd – Dawn Mundy – Prairie

- 2nd – Lana Korte - Floraville
- 3rd – Cathy Zei – County Line

b. Pickles

- 1st – Marilyn Hoffmann - Floraville

c. Salsa

- 1st – Marilyn Hoffmann - Floraville

d. Most Unusual Jams/Jellies

- 1st – Marilyn Hoffmann - Floraville

Juice

- 1st – Cathy Zei – County Line

Outdoor

a. Decorated Pumpkin

- 1st – Patty Bearth – Shiloh Valley

- 2nd – Marsia O’Dell – Beaver Valley

b. Best Looking Scarecrow

- 1st – Elsie Zei – County Line

- 2nd – Scarlett Ellwanger - Prairie

- 3rd – Marilyn Hoffmann - Floraville

Market Basket

a. Group

- 1st – Marilyn Hoffmann - Floraville

AG AUCTION RESULTS – 2025

1. Rosemary Plant – Lana Korte - \$5.00
2. 2 Plates Cookies – Marilyn Hoffmann = \$10.00
3. Box Veggies – Robin Kindberg - \$3.00
4. M&M Candy Dispenser – Kim Robin - \$12.50
5. 2 Pumpkins – Choice – 1- Angie Dickerson - \$10.00 2- Kenny Joseph - \$10.00
6. Box Potatoes – Charlotte Mehrrens - \$5.00
7. Italian Pasta Basket – Trisha Renken - \$50.00
8. Gourds – Sara Ellwanger - \$12.50
9. Plate Pumpkin Bars – Rick O’Dell - \$7.00

10. Saucepan – Angie Dickerson- \$20.00
11. Veggie Box – Trisha Renken - \$12.50
12. Plate Chocolate Chip Cookies – Lynette Schaffer - \$5.00
13. Plate Tomatoes – Angie Dickerson - \$30.00
14. Dish Rack – Trisha Renken - \$5.00
15. Squirrel Food – Trisha Renken - \$3.00
16. 3 Cucumbers – Deb Wade - \$5.00
17. Veggie Basket – Lynette Schaffer - \$3.00
18. White Pumpkin – Sara Ellwanger - \$10.00
19. 3 Pumpkins – Choice – 1- Sara Ellwanger - \$20.00 2 – Marilyn Hoffman – 2 x \$10= \$20.00
20. Lemon Bars – Jodi Johnson - \$6.00
21. Veggie Basket – Angie Dickerson - \$ 12.50
22. Fresh Flowers/Mum = Emalee Colver - \$22.50
23. Fresh Flower/Mum – Lynette Schaeffer - \$22.50
24. Basket of Apples – Kim Robin - \$6.00
25. Corn bread Mix – Pancake Mix – Marilyn Hoffman - \$4.00
26. Buckwheat mix – Lyle Lee - \$2.50
27. Cornbread mix -Patty Bearth \$4.00
28. Buckwheat mix -Lana Korte - \$2.50
29. Squash/Pumpkin – Amber Fidder - \$3.00
30. Rhubarb Bread – Patty Bearth - \$5.00
31. Pumpkin – Lynette Schaeffer - \$17.50
32. Gourds – Patti Lee - \$2.50
33. Pair of Purple Cauliflowers heads – Patti Lee - \$4.00
34. Pumpkins/Gourds – Sara Ellwanger - \$17.50
35. Hershy fondue Kit Basket – Lynette Schaeffer- \$20.00
36. Indian Corn – Patti Lee - \$2.50
37. Tealight Decoration – Robin Kindberg - \$2.50
38. 5 Bales of Straw – 1- Debbie Vine -\$3.00, 1- Dona Hegge - \$3.00 3- Lyle Lee 3x3= \$9.00
39. Decorated Pumpkin – Debbie Wade - \$2.50
40. 3 Mums – 1- Debbie Wade - \$20.00 2-Patti Lee 2x\$20.00= \$40.00
41. Moscow Mule Basket – Kevin Brubach - \$35.00
42. Diamond Art Pictures – Choice 1- Angie Dickerson 3x\$7.50=\$22.50, 2 – Charlotte Mehrstens 1- \$7.50, 3 – Patti Lee - \$7.50
43. Diamond Art Picture resold -1- Patti Lee – 1- \$5.00, Kevin Brubach – Guitar picture - \$5.00, Wayne Lyford – tractor -\$5.00, Mindy Schiefer – Cowboy \$5.00
44. 2 Bucket of Grapes -Frank D. Wurth 2x\$5=\$10.00
45. JD Cookie Jar – Kim Robin - \$20.00
46. Eggs – 1 dozen – Sara Ellwanger - \$6.00
47. Grange Clock – Jim Blasingame - \$40.00
48. 1995 Fair Toy Bank – Amber Fidder - \$45.00
49. BC Fair Ornament – Ken Fidder - \$12.50
50. BC Fair Mug/Pin – Kevin Brubach - \$12.50
51. Grange Centennial Calander from Richland Grange – Maria Bobadilla - \$10.00 Money to ISG Fund
52. Scarecrow – Brandon O’Dell no cost

53. Smore Basket – Hilda Koluch - \$15.00
54. Basket of Pears – Jimmy Blasingame - \$5.00
55. Crochet Pair of Dolls – Sara Ellwanger \$20.00
56. Muffins from Wisconsin member – Jodi Johnson - \$7.50
57. Oatmeal Cookies – Kevin Brubach - \$5.00
58. Zucchini Brownies – Robin Kindberg - \$7.00
59. Zucchini Brownies/Rice Krispies – Debbie Vine - \$15.00
60. Honey dew melon/Tomatoes – Marion Thornberry - \$2.50
61. Canned items – Meat – Ruth Blasingame - \$6.00, Kevin Brubach 2 x \$5.00 = \$10.00
62. Canned item – pickles – Patty Bearth – 2x\$3.00=\$6.00
63. Jar of Salsa – Jodi Johnson - \$2.00
64. Peach Jellies – Angie Dickerson - \$4.00
65. Blueberry Lemon jelly – Trisha Renken - \$4.00
66. Grape/Jalapeno jelly/ tomato preserves – Lana Korte - \$2.50
67. Strawberry jelly – Vivian Johnson - \$4.00
68. Black Raspberry jelly – Robin Kindberg -2x\$4.00=\$8.00
69. Jar of fresh honey – Angie Dickerson - \$10.00
70. Maple Syrup – Jodi Johnson - \$8.00
71. Chunky knitted items – pumpkin – Maria Bobadilla - \$ 12.50
72. Chunky knitted items -tree/acorn/pumpkin – Kevin Brubach - \$50.00
73. Barn Sign – Robin Kindberg - \$30.00
74. Rag Quilt – Marilyn Hoffmann - \$45.00
75. Welcome Brick from Crew Monument in Chillicothe IL – KC Fidler - \$750.00

Illinois Granger Editor and Communications Director Report

National Grange Vice President John Benidict Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaeffer and First man Don Schaeffer, Past National and State Officers, Illinois State Grange Officers and Delegates, Brothers and Sisters, I serve as editor of the Illinois Granger and Communications Director for the Illinois State Grange.

I have attended most of my Prairie Grange #1832 meetings where I serve on the Executive Committee. I have attended all but one of the Boone County Pomona Grange Meetings where I serve as President. I have attended most of the Boone County Fair board meetings where I am a 25-plus year director and serve on the ticket committee and the review committee. I am the lead advisor for the Boone County Youth Fair board and have attended all the meetings. I attended National Session in Iowa as a co-chair for one day in the Hospitality room and assisted with the shirt sales. I was there for the whole session and enjoyed every day of it.

During the Fair I work in the concession trailer selling shirts for the Youth Fair board and in the Grandstand ticket office.

I attended the 2024 Illinois State Grange Session as a delegate, the Fair Appreciation dinner and the GRIT Conferences.

I attended the Illinois State Grange Picnic in May.

I have published the Illinois Granger up until June. At that time, I was having some health problems and my granddaughter Sammantha Meyers started helping me with the Granger. At this time it is a combination of Sam and I, with Sam doing most of the layout work and me doing the printing and mailing. Now I have become my husband's principal care giver as he is having severe health problems. Sam is willing to continue with the Granger if needed.

Fraternally,
Ruth Blasingame

Family Activities Chair Report

Hi everyone, Ann Johnson here, this past year I attended State Session and all of my Prairie Grange meetings. I've been busy with my job as a veterinarian. The FAC Committee was composed of Trisha Renken (2026 Chairman) and Marilyn Coe (2027 Chairman). Their assistance at this year's state session helped our department run smoothly. I also owe gratitude to Ruth Blasingame for tracking down the FAC Best in Show Traveling Trophy that had been misplaced for a short time as well as her answering questions when they arose throughout the year. Thanks everyone for allowing me to be this year's FAC Chairman.

Fraternally Submitted,
Ann Johnson
2025 FAC Chairman

Family Activities Final Report

We had 96 total entries submitted by 35 Grangers in 43 categories and 10 junior entries.

BEST of SHOW – went to Henrietta Keller from Enterprise Grange for her beautiful any other crochet Wall hanging.

CERES Choice went to Ruth Perley for her Quilted Wall Hanging

POMONA Choice went to Linda Ebel for her Quilt

FLORA choice went to Debbie Hoffman for her Plastic Canvas Christmas Decoration

We had 31 items in our raffle, and we sold 1,146 raffle tickets.
In the end we turned over \$886 to the Honor Memorial Scholarship Fund.

I want to thank Trisha Renken 2026 Chairman and Marilyn Coe 2027 Chairman for all their help throughout the past year and this weekend as well. Thank you for allowing me to be your 2025 Family Activities Committee Chairman.

Fraternally Submitted,
Illinois State Grange Family Activities Committee – Ann Johnson 2025 Chair, Trisha Renken 2026 Chair and Marilyn Coe 2027 Chairman

2025 FAC Contest Winners

2025 FAC Contests – 96 total entries from 11 Granges and 35 Grangers and 10 Juniors

Group 1 – Knitting

- A. Afghan
 - 1st – Ann Johnson, Prairie
- B. Baby Afghan
 - 1st – Nathalie Lyford, Guilford Hope
- E. Winter Wear
 - 1st – Ann Johnson, Prairie
- F. Any Other Item Not Listed
 - 1st – Patty Bearth, Shiloh Valley

Group 2 – Crochet

- A. Afghan
 - 1st – Mary Barnes, Prairie
 - 2nd – Aaron Barnes, Prairie
 - 3rd – Nan Barnes, Prairie
- B. Baby Afghan
 - 1st – Patti Lee, Prairie

Group 3 – Needlework continued

- C. Counted Cross Stitch
 - 1st – Mary Ann Joseph, Enterprise
- D. Plastic Canvas
 - 1st – Debbie Hoffman, Flora – Flora Award
 - 2nd – Angie Dickerson, Bluff
 - 3rd – Ruth Perley, Flora
 - HM – Karrie Kindberg, Prairie

Group 4 – Quilting

- A. Quilt – Queen, Full, or Twin
 - 1st – Sharon Fidler, Flora
 - 2nd – Emalee Colver, Flora
 - 3rd – Linda Ebel, Flora
- B. Quilt – Baby Quilt
 - 1st – Ruth Perley, Flora
 - 2nd – Nan Barnes, Prairie

Group 2- Crochet - continued

- D. Dish Cloths
 - 1st - Debbie Silver - Flora
- F. Any Other Item Not Listed
 - 1st - Henrietta Keller - Enterprise
 - Best in Show
 - 2nd – Dawn Calkins - Prairie
 - 3rd – Barb Trevathan - Flora
 - HM – Debbie Hoffman - Flora

Group 3 - Needlework

- A. Embroidery Items
 - 1st – Angie Dickerson - Bluff
 - 2nd – Linda Kay Ebel - Flora
 - 3rd – Debbie Silvers - Flora
 - HM – Mary Ann Joseph - Enterprise

Group 5 – Sewing continued

- D. Pillow
 - 1st - Ruth Perley - Flora
 - 2nd – Emalee Colver - Flora
- E. Any Other item not Listed
 - 1st – Emalee Colver - Flora
 - 2nd – Debbie Hoffman - Flora

Group 6 Jewelry/ Miscellaneous

- A. Bracelet
 - 1st – Debbie Silvers - Flora
 - 2nd – Hilda Koluch – Turkey Hill
 - 3rd – Angie Dickerson - Bluff
 - HM – Linda Kay Ebel - Flora
- B. Necklace
 - 1st Angie Dickerson - Bluff

- C. Rag Quilt, Any Size
 - 1st – Ann Johnson, Prairie
 - 2nd – Karie Blasingame, Prairie
 - 3rd – Ruth Blasingame, Prairie

- D. Quilted Wall Hanging
 - 1st – Sharon Fidder, Flora
 - 2nd – Ruth Perley, Flora
 - 3rd – Emalee Colver, Flora
 - HM – Linda Ebel, Flora

- E. Table Runner
 - 1st – Sharon Fidder, Flora
 - 2nd – Ruth Perley, Flora
 - 3rd – Nathalie Lyford, Guilford Hope
 - HM – Linda Ebel, Flora

- F. Unfinished Square –
- G. Max Size 16 ½ X 16 ½ inches
 - 1st – Emalee Colver, Flora
 - 2nd – Sharon Fidder, Flora

Group 5 – Sewing

- A. Apron
 - 1st – Nathalie Lyford, Guilford Hope
 - 2nd – Linda Ebel, Flora
- B. Clothing, 1 Item
 - 1st – Nathalie Lyford, Guilford Hope
 - 2nd – Debbie Hoffman, Flora
- C. Clothing, 2 or more Items
 - 1st – Debbie Hoffman, Flora

Group 7 Food Continued

- A. Bars – Any Kind (Lemon, Brownie, Cookie, etc)
 - 1st – Patti Lee, Prairie
 - 2nd – Marilyn Coe, Turkey Hill
 - 3rd – Lana Kote, Floraville

Group 8 – Juniors

- A. Blanket, Any Kind (Tie, Sewn, Crochet, etc)
 - 1st – Ibrahim Fabela, Prairie
 - 2nd – Brandon O’Dell, Beaver Valley
 - 3rd – Julio Garcia, Prairie
- B. Jewelry, Any
 - 1st – Ella Fidder, Flora
- C. Keychain
 - 1st – Ella Fidder, Flora
- E. Red Category – Anything Red!

- C. 2 or more-piece set
 - 1st – Debbie Silvers - Flora
 - 2nd – Hilda Koluch – Turkey Hill
 - 3rd – Angie Dickerson - Bluff

- D. Green Category
 - Anything Green!
 - 1st – Angie Dickerson - Bluff

Group 7 Food

- A. Quick Breads – any kind
 - 1st – Robin Kindberg - Prairie
 - 2nd – Patti Lee - Prairie
 - 3rd – Debra Wade - Hopewell

HM – Mary Ann Joseph - Enterprise

- B. Cookies – No Bake 1 dozen
 - 1st – Debra Wade - Hopewell
 - 2nd – Angie Dickerson -Bluff

- C. Cooke – Christmas 1 dozen
 - 1st – Karrie Kindberg - Prairie
 - 2nd – Angie Dickerson -Bluff
 - 3rd – Debra Wade - Hopewell

- D. Cookies Chocolate Chip
 - 1st – Debra Wade - Hopewell

- 2nd – Mary Ann Joseph - Enterprise
- 3rd – Angie Dickerson -Bluff

HM – Nathalie Lyford – Guilford Hope

- 1st – Morgan Schlie, Beaver Valley
- 2nd – Elsie Zei, County Line
- 3rd – Scarlet Elwanger, Prairie
- HM – Hattie Schlie, Beaver Valley

Group Project

- A. From 1 or more Granges – Adult Bibs, Minimum 10 Bibs
 - 1st – Prairie Grange
- B. From 1 or more Granges – Baby Blankets, Any Kind (Sewn, Knit, Crochet, etc), Minimum 10 Blankets– To be donated to The Haven Network
 - 1st – Flora Grange

Family Activities Raffle Winners – 2025

1. Coffee Lovers Basket – Kelly Christensen – Beaver Valley Grange
2. Sunflower Basket – Cathy Zei – County Line Grange
3. Halloween Basket – Deb Silvers – Flora Grange
4. Hot Chocolate Basket – Steve Alltop – Emerald Mound Grange
5. Cider Wine/Cookies/Glasses – Debbie Vine – Wisconsin State Grange President
6. Tea Lover Basket – Micah Paulson – Beaver Valley Grange
7. Sunflower Windchime – Marilyn Hoffman – Floraville Community Grange
8. Man Basket – Mark Bearth – Shiloh Valley Grange
9. Succulent Plant – Terry Reeves – Enterprise Grange
10. Gardening Basket – Frank D. Wurth – Enterprise Grange
11. Rainbow Skittles Basket – Wayne Lyford – Guilford Hope Grange
12. Kitchen Basket – Sara Olstad – County Line Grange
13. Spa Basket – Katie Renken – Hopewell Grange
14. M&M Candy Holder – Dawn Calkins – Prairie Grange
15. Picnic Basket – Beth Olson – Beaver Valley Grange
16. Blue Party Basket – Guilford Hope Grange
17. Cat Loves Basket – Angie Dickerson – Bluff Grange
18. Jams and Towels – Lynette Schaeffer
19. Quilted Bag and Wall hanging – Ruth Blasingame
20. Fall Basket – Emalee Colver – Flora Grange
21. Christmas Diamond Art Picture – Cathy Zei – County Line Grange
22. Rag Quilt – Kim Robin – County Line Grange
23. Circle Drink Bag – Duane Scott – LaPrairie Grange
24. Circle Drink Bag – Lynn Edwards – Turkey Hill Grange
25. Circle Drink Bag – Kim Robin – County Line Grange
26. Quilt Tealight – Latoya Berg – Bluff Grange
27. Fall Decore – Mark Bearth – Shiloh Valley Grange
28. Amish Pie making Basket – Charlotte Mehrstens – Bluff Grange
29. Cat Halloween Plastic Canvas Tissue Box – Hilda Koluch – Turkey Hill Grange
30. Rag Quilt – Sara Ellwanger – Prairie Grange
31. Large Mum Plant – Mary Ann Joseph

Historian Report

Worthy National Grange Vice President and New Jersey State Grange President John Benedick, Worthy National Grange Executive Member and President of Illinois State Grange Lynette Schaeffer, First Gentleman Don Schaeffer, Past National Officers, Illinois and Wisconsin State Officers, Delegates, Patrons and Guests:

Last State Session I was approached by Sara Ellwanger, who was curious to know where all the current and former Grange Halls were located. So, I took this idea and made up a new book. Most of the photos are from the 1971 Illinois State Grange Centennial Program booklet (pink booklet). I have about 83 or so photos, arranged by counties. Also, an interesting Grange Hall that was only a basement was Mayfield Grange#1851. I didn't realize this until Wayne Lyford mentioned it to me.

I entered "Blast From The Past" Grange historian articles in November, December, March, June and July issues of the Illinois Granger. Darl Diehl of Union Grange gave me many photos to incorporate into my books. I provided the Junior Grange #27 for Kim Robin of County Line Grange so they can re-organize. I google Grange information from time to time on E-bay. I found some articles about Trask Bridge Picnic. I wrote a letter to the Burrirt Township requesting an invitation to visit their museum of Burrirt Grange, Trask Bridge Picnic, and Burrirt Township. I am waiting for a reply. Vivian Johnson also provided me some newspaper articles of the picnic and other Grange news to copy. I really appreciate any Grange articles or information that anyone wants to share with me.

On February 15, 2025, I was invited to Union Grange to present a program on Grange History. I shared the two books I have made about their Grange. Much to my surprise I received a 1961-62-63 Winnebago County Plat Book sponsored and printed by Union Grange all those years ago. We all reminisced and had a good time.

My E-Bay searches produced the following Grange treasures:

1939 Illinois State Grange Roster

Book- "Rich Harvest: A History of the Grange 1867-1900 signed copy by D. Sven Nordin

1940 (Red) Trask Bridge Picnic Souvenir Program booklet

1999 Turkey Hill Grange Cookbook

1967 Grange Stamp cachet on envelope, postmarked April 17, 1967

May 15 to 17. I helped work at the Guilford Hope Grange Rummage Sale. Wayne dug out some photos of my uncle Bob Pepper who was their Master celebrating the 85th Anniversary in 1957. He also gave me some flyers of when they used to promote Barn dances at the Lyford Barn at Midway Village Museum.

May 31. I attended the Illinois State Grange Picnic at the Boone County Fairgrounds. I also donated an item for the auction.

June 3. I visited the Boone County Fair Administration Building. I told the office girl that I was the Grange Historian. Then she gave me a box of Grange goodies that someone dropped off there.

June 21. Carrie, Dave, Martha and I attended the “Field To Fork” agricultural event held at the Midway Village Museum. We hosted a Grange display in the Ralston House on behalf of Guilford Hope Grange#6. While volunteering I learned that this Ralston family(Peter and Zaidee) were Grange members of Guilford Hope Grange going back to the 1930’s. Many of the historic houses and also the Barn at the Museum have Grange ties. I also attended a meeting back at the Museum on June 24 for our Guilford Hope Grange meeting of which we presented a sizeable monetary donation to the Museum.

August 4-5. I volunteered at the Boone County Fair in the Home Economics building. I paid a visit to the County Line Grange Hall on the fairgrounds which houses the Grange Museum. Kim Robin did a fantastic job displaying all the Grange historical items.

I am currently President and Secretary of Perryville Grange#1805. I am approaching my membership of 60 years. I am an affiliate member of Guilford Hope Grange#6, attending most of their meetings and help on the annual rummage sale. I am also Treasurer of Winnebago County Pomona Grange#73

Thank you for allowing me to be your Grange Historian.

Fraternally Submitted
Beverly Smith, Historian

Junior Grange Report

Current National Grange Vice- President and current President of New Jersey State Grange Brother John Benedick , National Grange Executive Committee Member and current President of the Illinois State Grange Sister Lynette Schaeffer and 1st Dude Brother Don Schaeffer. Past National Grange Secretary and Past Master of the Illinois State Grange Sister Henrietta Keller, Past National Grange Flora, Past 1st Lady and current Pomona of the Illinois State Grange Sister Patti Lee. Past Master and Past Executive Committee Member of the Illinois State Grange Brother Lyle Lee, Past National Grange Junior Director Sister Emalee Colver, current President of the Wisconsin State Grange Sister Debbie Vine and 1st Dude Brother Royal Vine Past National Grange Executive Committee Member, Past Wisconsin State Grange President and current Vice-President of the Wisconsin State Grange Brother Duane Scott and Past 1st Lady of the Wisconsin State Grange Sister Kymm Scott,

This year has come and gone too quickly it seems. I have continued to be busy with our business. Thank you for your continued faith and support as your Junior Director. A special thank you to some special Granger helping last night as we tried to leave our car battery went dead. The after hour service call was greatly appreciated.

We had a total of 21 entries this year submitted by 3 Granges. One mini junior and 14 junior entries as well as 5 Juniors at Heart entries. Best of Show went to Hattie Schlie from Beaver

Valley Grange for her Vincent Van Gough painting. Ceres choice went to Colten Kellen from County Line Grange. Pomona's Choice was Morgan Schlie from Beaver Valley. Flora Choice went to Scarlette Ellwanger from Prairie Grange.

In closing, they say time flies when you are having fun. So... here is to a FUN new year.

Fraternally Submitted,
Mindy Schiefer
Illinois State Grange Junior Director

Illinois State Grange Youth Report

This past year my Grange Story has grown in so many ways. I was able to take the 7th degree, was a marching candidate, participated in the Rose drill at a National Level, and go to National Session.

I also went to Midwest Leadership Conference and again met up with some more fabulous Grangers that I can call friends.

The Youth Department had a Great turnout for Spring Fling and at our Murder Mystery Dinner were even able to have some non-Grangers from the Community attend. Our Statewide picnic that the Youth hosted was again another fabulous event and well attended, and we all rode into the sunset on a wagon ride throughout the Boone County Fairgrounds. It was a fabulous sight to see.

My favorite part of this year is seeing The Juniors and The Youth and their growth. These bright young Grangers are our Future, and I can say we are in good hands. They are growing up to be Bright, Wonderful, intelligent leaders of tomorrow.

My challenge to all of you reading this is if you see a Junior Granger or a Youth Granger, stop them and thank them and tell them they are doing a Great job. We all need to encourage our Leaders of tomorrow.

Can't wait to share our plans for next year. To Infinity and Beyond.

Fraternally Submitted,
Marisa O'Dell
Illinois State Grange Youth Co-Director

Youth Contest Results

Lego Cat2- Vehicles

1 st place-	Scarlette Ellwanger	Prairie Grange
2 nd place-	Don Schaeffer	Shiloh Valley
3 rd place-	Marisa O'Dell	Beaver Valley
Honorable Mention-	Will Schlie	Beaver Valley

Cat3- Flowers

1 st -	Marisa O'Dell	Beaver Valley
2 nd -	Ella Fidder	Flora

Cat4- Animals

1 st -	Ella Fidder	Flora
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Cat6- Miscellaneous	1 st - Morgan Schile	Beaver Valley
Diamond Art		
Holidays-		
	1 st - Kelly Kindberg	The Prairie
	2 nd - Robin Kindberg	The Prairie
Animated		
	1 st - Mary Innis	The Prairie
	2 nd - Dawn Mundy	The Prairie
	3 rd - Kelly Kindberg	The Prairie
	Honorable Mention – Robin Kindberg	The Prairie
Nature		
	1 st - Kelly Kindberg	The Prairie
	2 nd - Marisa O'Dell	BVG
	3 rd - Karrie Kindberg	The Prairie
	Honorable Mention- Mary Innis	The Prairie
Western-		
	1 st - Kelly Kindberg	The Prairie
	2 nd - Carson Dearing	The Prairie
	3 rd - Mary Innis	The Prairie
	Honorable Mention- Robin Kindberg	The Prairie
Miscellaneous		
	1 st Marisa O'Dell	BVG
	2 nd Karrie Kindberg	The Prairie
	3 rd Nan Barnes	The Prairie
	Honorable Mention- Robin Kindberg	The Prairie
Fabric and Food		
Shirts-		
	1 st Brandon O'Dell	BVG
	2 nd Ella Fidder	Flora
	3 rd Nan Barnes	The Prairie
	Honorable Mention- Ana Mueller	County Line
Painted Pumpkins		
	1 st Carsen Dearing	County Line
	2 nd Ella Fidder	Flora
	3 rd Julio Garcia	The Prairie
	Honorable Mention- Scarlett Ellwanger	
Something Stuffed		
	1 st Ruth Blasingame	The Prairie
Ceramics		
Functional		
	1 st Hattie Schile	BVG
Display		
	1 st Kelly Kindberg	The Prairie
	2 nd Beth Olson	BVG

Cookies	3 rd Marisa O'Dell	BVG
	1 st Robin Kindberg	The Prairie
	2 nd Karrie Kindberg	The Prairie
	3 rd Kelly Kindberg	The Prairie
	Honorable Mention- Ella Fidler Flora	

Pomona – Scarlett Ellwanger - The Prairie for Vehicle Legos
 Ceres- Beth Olsen - BVG for Ceramics
 Flora- Marisa O’Dell - BVG for Flower Lego

Boone County Deputy Report

Worthy National Grange Vice President and New Jersey State Grange President John Benedik, Worthy National Grange Executive Committee and Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaeffer, Worthy Wisconsin State Grange President Debbie Vine, Fellow IL and WI State Grange Officers, Delegates, and friends:

I attend as many Subordinate meetings at The Prairie Grange #1832 and Boone County Pomona meetings as work allows. I was recently elected Steward in Boone County Pomona. I volunteer helping set up and tear down at the 4Momz 2Moms Resale and at the Consignment Auction for Prairie Grange. I also help at the Boone County Fair wherever I am needed. I attended local Grange meetings as Deputy and assisted Lynette with any concerns that the State Grange had. I attended the National Grange Session in Bettendorf, IA where I helped transport Grangers to and from the airport. I also hauled the National Grange regalia back to Belvidere where it was stored for the filming of the 7th Degree. I helped haul the 7th Degree items to the HS and back to the Grange Hall. I am saddened by the loss of all the Grangers this last year, Jean Thornberry will be missed as my co-deputy.

Fraternally,
 Adam Ellwanger
 IL State Grange Deputy for Boone County

St. Clair County Deputy Report

This report is being presented to the Illinois State Grange, delegates, and membership. Another year has gone by and all Granges in St. Clair County have survived.

Some Grange’s fund-raising activities have been very successful while others may have been a little disappointing. All Granges are trying to have good fund-raising activities. Carry out orders have become very popular with breakfast and dinner fund-raising meals. The Granges in St. Clair

County offer a variety of food options throughout the year. Emerald Mound has a “Big Breakfast.” Progressive has Pork Chop, Pork Steak, and very popular Soup & Grilled Cheese Dinners. Turkey Hill has Chicken Dinners and Ham/Peach Dinners. Floraville offers their famous Wurstmart Dinner while Bluff operates a Sumer Sausage Raffle for their local town homecoming. Shiloh Valley serves Spaghetti Dinners at a local function and Enterprise cooks their special apple butter. Broad Hollow sponsors two 3-day bus trips to Branson, Mo. In October and November. This year both are booked full.

All Grange halls and properties in St. Clair County are being kept in excellent condition with improvements being made as they are needed.

Thanks to all Grange members for doing your part as good members and officers saying, “I’d be delighted.”

Fraternally submitted,
Kenneth A. Joseph
St. Clair County Deputy

Winnebago County Deputy Report

Worthy National Grange Vice President and New Jersey State Grange President John Benedik, National Grange Executive Committee member and current Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaeffer and First Man Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and Past President of the Illinois State Grange Henrietta Keller, Worthy Past President of the Illinois State Grange David Donley, Worthy Past Flora of the National Grange and current Illinois State Grange Pomona Patti Lee, Worthy Past President of the Illinois State and Past Member of the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee Lyle Lee, Past National Grange Junior Director Emalee Colver, State Grange Officers, Delegates, Patrons and Guests.

I attended the G.R.I.T. Conference and Jack and Laurel Ratcliff’s anniversary party, Guilford Hope Grange rummage sale, and the Illinois State Grange picnic where I donated an item for the Youth auction. I attended meetings at both Guilford Hope and Perryville Granges. I attended all my own Grange meetings where I serve as Master and Secretary. I attended all but one of Winnebago Pomona meetings.

Fraternally, Vivian Johnson

Illinois State Session Committee Assignments 2025

Agriculture/ Conservation and Energy: Chair, *Wayne Lyford*. Members: Steve Paulson, Mary Ann Joseph, Henrietta Keller, Rick O’Dell, Vivian Johson.

Financial: Chair: *James Coe*. Members: Angie Dickerson, Kenneth Joseph, Nancy Lyford, Charlotte Mehrtens, Katie Renken.

Good of the Order and Bylaws: Chair, *Carol Neff*. Members: Kim Robin, Beverly Smith, Frank D. Wurth, Karie Blasingame, Ethan Edwards. **(Resolutions 1, 2, 6)**

Grange Activities / President’s Address: Chair, *Carrie Fisher*. Members: Cathy Zei, Amber Fidder, Don Ellwanger, Patti Lee. **(Resolutions 3, 4, 5)**

State and National Welfare & Transportation: Chair, *Ken Fidder*. Members: Marc Henrichs, Marilyn Hoffmann, Sara Ellwanger, Deb Wade, Steve Koluch.

Health & Education: Chair: *Dayle Paulson*. Members: Steven Silvey-Alltop, Patty Bearth, Ruth Blasingame, Todd Hegge, Lana Korte.

RESOLUTION ACTIONS

RESOLUTION #	COMMITTEE	ACTION
Resolution #1	Good of the Order and By-Laws	Accepted as written
Resolution #2	Good of the Order and By-Laws	Rejected - Lost
Resolution #3	Grange Activities/President’s Address	Rejected - Lost
Resolution #4	Grange Activities/President’s Address	Accepted as amended
Resolution #5	Grange Activities/President’s Address	Accepted as written
Resolution #6	Good of the Order and By-Laws	Rejected - Lost
Resolution #7	Ag/Conservation and Energy	Accepted as amended
	Financial Committee	Accepted as presented
	President’s Address Committee	Accepted as presented
	Health Education Committee	Accepted as presented
	State and National Welfare Committee	Accepted as presented

**ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE RESOLUTIONS
FOR 2025 STATE SESSION**

2025-01

**Illinois State Grange Website
Flora Grange #1762**

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Grange website is a valuable tool for getting information to our members, and

WHEREAS, we appreciate and comment the work of the Webmaster, we believe the website needs some clarifications and revisions.

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Grange website be “Cleaned up” to delete the things that give no further information when “Clicked on” and re-categorize the items under the heading of Departments So that the paper items are listed under the proper departments, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Grangers submitting items for the Illinois State Grange website help with this matter by telling the Webmaster where they want their items posted when submitting them

COMMITTEE ACTION: accepted as written

DELEGATE ACTION: accepted Resolution 2025-01 as written

2025-02

**Publication of Key ISG Personal Contact Information
Flora Grange #1762**

Original Resolution

WHEREAS, it is vital that contact information for Key Illinois State Grange personal be available to all Illinois Grange members, and

WHEREAS, not all members have internet service to access the roster when it is posted on the website,

WHEREAS, contact for all key personnel is not available in the Illinois State Grange, nor is it always available on materials distributed at GRIT, and

WHEREAS, it would greatly simplify finding the information needed,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That a permanent listing of name, phone number and email address for the following current officers/ department chairs be published in every future Illinois Granger (Preferably in the same spot each month) so that it is readily available to all members at all times. List to include President, Vice President Secretary, Treasurer, Lecturer, and chairpersons of the following committees: Agriculture, Community Service, Communications, Family Activities, Historian, Junior Grange, Legislative, Membership, Youth and Webmaster.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Unfavorable – Reject this resolution

Due to privacy concerns, and scammers using the information we ask that the committee chairs give everyone their contact information at GRIT and members can also ask for an emailed copy of the Roster or ask their President or Secretary for the information. They also have the

ability to contact the Communications Director who can point them in the correct direction who's information is at each Grange.

DELEGATE ACTION: Sustain the Committee Action and reject this resolution. Resolution 2025-02 is LOST

2025-03
Community Service Book Guidelines
Prairie Grange #1832

Original Resolution

WHEREAS, The National Grange has turned the Community Service Book requirements over to each individual state to do as they desire, and

WHEREAS, there are no set guidelines as to what Illinois Grangers are to do for Community Service Books, and

WHEREAS, the judging of the Community Service books are to be done on the State level now with the winner announced at State Convention and books are not to be sent onto National Grange any more for judging,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois State Grange set up a committee (member from the North, Central and South) to establish specific guidelines for the Community Service books,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to have Community Service books, include Volunteer Hours, Community Service Projects and specific awards forms from National Grange: Firefighter of the Year, Teacher of the Year, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Non-Granger of the Year, Junior Granger of the Year and Granger of the Year (National Grange is still sponsoring those awards) as well as include the current year Distinguished Grange Award form so ALL Granges are treated equally and everyone knows what is required

COMMITTEE ACTION: Sent back to committee then was committee's action was to reject this resolution.

The guidelines are currently being restructured by the Community Service Director.

DELEGATE ACTION: Sustain committee's action. Resolution 2025-03 was rejected. Resolution was LOST.

2025-04
Outstanding Farmer/ Rancher/ Agriculture Advocate
Prairie Grange #1832

Original Resolution

WHEREAS, The Grange was founded as an Agricultural Organization to support the Future of Agriculture,

WHEREAS, The Grange is one of the leading Organizations Supporting Rural Communities, and

WHEREAS, The Grange is a proud advocate of the Agricultural Community, and

WHEREAS, The Grange currently does not have a “Honor” recognizing outstanding member(s) of the Farming, Ranching and Agricultural Advocacy or Rural Advocacy,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Grange develop recognition for Outstanding Member(s) in the field(s) of Farming/ Ranching/ Agricultural Advocacy and/or Rural Advocacy.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Rewrite the Therefore be it Resolved to read
Therefore be it resolved that the Illinois State Grange develop a Community Service form to Honor Farm/Ag Advocate of the Year.

DELEGATE ACTION: Sustain Committee’s Action as rewritten.

2025-05
Adopt a Legislator
Prairie Grange #1832

WHEREAS, The Grange actively works to help develop resolutions, bills and Laws that benefit our communities and,

WHEREAS, The Grange actively works to help develop resolutions, bills, and laws the benefit our States and Country as a whole,

WHEREAS, The Grangers can be excellent lobbyist and advocates for their communities, resolutions, bills, and Laws by interacting with elected officials from other areas of their State and Nation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a “Adopt a Legislator” program should be developed to help put Urban and Rural Legislators with Grangers not within their area, Connect with Grangers so that each respective Legislator and Grange are able to see different Rural and Urban perspectives. <http://www.ilfb.org/ilfb-in-action/adopt-a-Legislator>

COMMITTEE ACTION – Favorable accepted as written

DELEGATE ACTION – Sustain Committee’s action. Accepted as written

2025-06
Adopt a Lifetime Membership Program for Community Granges
Turkey Hill #1372

Original Resolution

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Grange does not have a Lifetime Membership Program for its Community Granges, and
WHEREAS, State Grange in other parts of the country have programs which administer and encourage their Community Granges to offer Lifetime Memberships, and
WHEREAS, These Granges have reported the Lifetime Membership program to be financially advantageous to their Grange and reduce the workload of their secretaries; and
WHEREAS, The Lifetime Membership allows Grangers the opportunity to honor other Grangers and provide memorials for loved ones.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois State Grange adopt a program which administers and encourages a Lifetime Membership option for their Community Granges.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Unfavorable – Reject this resolution

Each Grange can establish their own dues structure and if they choose could create a lifetime membership as long as they pay their state and national dues each quarter.

DELEGATE ACTION: Sustain Committee's action – Reject Resolution 2025-06. Resolution was LOST.

2025-07
Supporting the Rights and Welfare of Migrant Workers
Agriculture/Conservation and Energy Committee 2025

Original Resolution

WHEREAS, migrant workers contribute significantly to the economic development, social growth, and cultural diversity of host countries, and
WHEREAS, migrant workers often face challenges including lack of legal protection, poor working conditions, discrimination, and limited access to healthcare and social services, and
WHEREAS, ensuring the rights, dignity, and wellbeing of migrant workers is essential for promoting social justice and inclusive development, now
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Illinois State Grange and the National Grange affirm its commitment to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers, in line with international labor standards and human rights conventions, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Illinois State Grange and the National Grange call for implementation of policies that guarantee fair wages, safe working conditions, and equal treatment for migrant workers without discrimination, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Illinois State Grange and the National Grange urge for the provision of accessible healthcare, legal assistance, and social services to migrant workers and their families, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Illinois State Grange and the National Grange encourage public awareness campaigns to foster understanding, respect, and inclusion of migrant workers in communities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Illinois State Grange and the National Grange, supports collaboration with international organizations, labor unions, employers and civil society to enhance protections and opportunities for migrant workers.

DELEGATE ACTION: To Amend the resolution and rewrite it as follows:

Agriculture/ Conservation and Energy
2025-07
Supporting the Rights and Welfare of Legal Migrant Workers

WHEREAS, legal migrant workers contribute significantly to the economic development, social growth, and cultural diversity of host countries, and

WHEREAS, legal migrant workers often face challenges including lack of legal protection, poor working conditions, discrimination, and limited access to healthcare and social services, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Illinois State Grange and the National Grange affirm its commitment to protect and promote the rights of legal migrant workers, in line with international labor standards and human rights conventions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Illinois State Grange and the National Grange call for implementation of policies that guarantee fair wages, safe working conditions, and equal treatment for legal migrant workers without discrimination, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Illinois State Grange and the National Grange urge for the provision of accessible healthcare, legal assistance, and social services to legal migrant workers and their families, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Illinois State Grange and the National Grange encourage public awareness campaigns to foster understanding, respect, and inclusion of legal migrant workers in communities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Illinois State Grange and the National Grange, supports collaboration with international organizations, labor unions, employers and civil society to enhance protection and opportunities for legal migrant workers.

Resolution was accepted as rewritten and amended.

President's Address

The President's Address was accepted as presented, See pages 11-17 in the Delegate Book, and pages 32-38 in this Journal.

Secretary's Acknowledgments

Thank you to Sisters Robin Kindberg, Karrie Kindberg, and Kelly Kindberg, who served as assistants to Illinois State Grange Secretary Brian Keller before, during, and after the State Session. Their help in taking and typing minutes, typing reports, recording the various activities and contest/raffle results, and much more, was invaluable. Additional thanks to everyone who provided information and reports for this Journal. It's their content that makes the Journal the

important resource that it is. Also, thanks to Sisters Henrietta Keller and Mary Ann Joseph who helped at the registration table not only Friday morning, but throughout the State Session. And special thanks to Kenny and Mary Ann Joseph who let the Secretary camp with them at the Boone County Fairgrounds during State Session and use their camper as an on-site Secretary's office. – Brian Keller, Illinois State Grange Secretary.

Table of Contents

Page	Title
3-4	Agenda
5	Officers/Committee Chairs/Directors
6	Delegates
7-12	Minutes, Day 1
13-18	Minutes, Day 2
18-22	Minutes, Day 3
22-23	Sunday Morning Service
24-25	Celebration of Life
25	5 th and 6 th Degree Candidates
25	Rose Drill Participants
26	Court of Flora
26	Illinois State Grange Officers Present
26	Youth Drill Participants
26-27	Murder Mystery Dinner Cast
27	Community Service Award Winners
27	New Haven Network Donations
27	Quilt of Valor Recipients
28	Illinois State Grange 2025 Scholarship Recipients
28-29	Illinois State Grange Budget
30-31	Credentials Report
31	Recognition Awards
32-38	President's Report
38-40	Vice President's Report
40	Lecturer's Report
40-41	Ladies Assistant Steward's Report
41	Chaplain's Report
42-43	Treasurer's Report
43	Secretary's Report
43-44	Membership/Recognition Report
44	Ceres Report
45	Pomona Report
45	Flora Report
46-48	Executive Committee Report
48	Executive Committee Secretary's Report
49	Agriculture Chair Report
49-50	AG Committee Report and Results
50-51	AG Contest Results
51-53	AG Auction Results
53-54	Illinois Granger/Communications Director Report
54	Family Activities Committee Chair Report
54-55	FAC Final Report
55-57	FAC Contest Winners

57	FAC Raffle Winners
58-59	Historian Report
59-60	Junior Grange Report
60	Youth Report
60-62	Youth Contest Results
62	Boone County Deputy Report
62-63	St. Clair County Deputy Report
63	Winnebago County Deputy Report
64	State Session Committee Assignments
64	Resolution Actions
65-69	Resolutions
69-70	Secretary's Acknowledgments