



ILLINOIS GRANGER

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



June 2026 Vol. 6 No. 6



Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

Hopefully this finds you all healthy. We just celebrated Memorial Day, and I hope many of you were able to honor the fallen.

Memorial Day is the day set aside to honor and

mourn members of the military who have passed away while serving in the United States Armed Forces. On this day, we pay tribute to those who gave their lives while protecting and serving their nation. Thanks to all our Veterans for their service. I saw that many Granges and Grangers assisted or sponsored events to honor the fallen heroes.

I understand that several Boone County Grangers attended a recent Vets Roll trip to Washington DC, I hope you had a great experience. Thanks for your service.

Don and I were greatly saddened by the passing of two significant Grangers, Sophie Treser [Turkey Hill Grange] and Renee O'Dell [Beaver Valley]. They both served their Granges well and the State Grange; Sophie was a FAC director and Renee served as Chaplain and Lecturer. They were wonderful to have around, always willing to assist wherever they were. Renee knew how to entertain the group and Sophie was always a childcare giver at all the meetings. Our deepest sympathy to their families. Well Done Good and Faithful Servants. Today is rainy, warm and humid. We recently had

about 3 inches of rain with storm, no damage but much flooding. Corn and soybeans in the ground and the first cutting of hay is in the barn. Hope you are able to plant your gardens. Rhubarb and gooseberries coming in strong, raspberries are starting to ripen, sweet corn, green beans and tomatoes growing. Thanks for the birthday wishes. Don and I attended the NG Leadership Conference in Sparks, NV, May 1- 3. It was a weekend filled with fellowship and workshops. I am hoping to present one of the workshops during the Midwest Grange Leaders Conference. Hope many of you attend. The Statewide Picnic will be held at the Boone County Fairgrounds in the Pavillion on May 30 th at 11:00 am. The main dish will be provided by the Youth and sides and desserts will be potluck style. I hope all the scholarship winners will be at the luncheon to accept their awards. I am hoping to attend the Picnic and then on the Broad Hollow Grange for the 105 Anniversary program.

The Midwest Grange Leaders Conference will be held at Boone County Community Grange Hall June 26-28. **This will be open to all Grangers in the Midwest.** I am sure that plans are being made that will be filled with workshops, information, fun and great food. The theme for the weekend is Heritage Days. Come spend time with other Grangers. In this Illinois Granger there is more information, check it out.

IL State Grange Session will be September 11 – 13, at Northfield Inn Suites and Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Dr, Springfield, IL. At the

Executive Committee meeting we decided on menus and started a draft schedule. William “Buddy” and Karen Overstreet will be our National Grange Representatives. Buddy is on the National Grange Executive Committee and Karen is President of Texas State Grange. I can’t wait to show Karen and Buddy how Illinois does Grange. Brian Keller has sent out the information, and I will be sending letters to Officers and Committee people soon.

Hope you all are checking out Grange Engage to avail yourself and your Grange of valuable opportunities through this portal. You can see the new National Grange Journal of Proceedings, and download a copy for yourself.

Next National Sessions will be in Tulsa, OK, Nov 11 -15, 2026. If you are interested in going and want to stay at the main hotel reservations need to be made now. November 8-13, 2027 Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, NV. November 13-18, 2028 Kalahari Resort & Convention Center, Round Rock, TX. November 12-17, 2029 Renaissance St Louis Airport Hotel, St Louis, MO.

ISG Secretary Report

Annual report time is coming up for Pomona and Junior Granges. The reporting year ends June 30, so reports should be sent to me along with dues payment as soon as possible after that date. If you need a blank copy of either the Pomona or Junior report form, let me know, and I can send you one. Pomona and Junior Granges were not affected by the recent dues increase, so you can use the same forms as last year.

The 155th Illinois State Session is less than four months away - September 11-13 at the Northfield Inn & Suites, 3280 Northfield Dr, Springfield, IL. Please send resolutions to me by Wednesday, July 1. They will be compiled and sent to the individual Granges so they can study them and give their delegates their thoughts. Subordinate and Pomona Granges - please let me know who your delegates will be by Friday, August 7. Each Grange in good standing is entitled to send two delegates to the State Session - the Master/President and one other

member in good standing. If the Master/President is unable to go, an alternate may be selected.

Lynette will be making hotel room reservations for State officers and committee chairs.

She will be reaching out to you soon about that. All others, including delegates, should call the hotel directly to make their reservations. The group rate is \$135 plus 14 percent tax for a total of \$153.90 per night.

Reservations must be made by Friday, August 7. Call the hotel at 217-523-7900. Mention Illinois State Grange when making reservations. Rooms come with a complimentary breakfast. Check-in is 3 p.m., and check-out is 11 a.m.

There will be three meals during the State Session. Friday dinner will be an Italian Feast Dinner Buffet for \$40. Saturday lunch will be a Taco Bar Buffet for \$30. Saturday dinner will be a Chef’s Own Pizza Buffet for \$30. All prices are per person. If you want all three meals, the total cost is \$100. Meal reservations must be sent to me by Friday, August 7.

For each person, I need their name, the Grange they belong to, and the meals they want.

Reservations can be mailed to me with payment. They can also be emailed to me. If you choose email, payment must be made at the registration table on Friday, the first day of the State Session. Make checks payable to “Illinois State Grange.” All meal tickets can be picked up at the registration table.

Delegate Books are \$5. Delegates are expected to purchase one, but other Grangers attending the State Session can purchase one, too. I need your orders by Friday, August 7. You can send me your order by mail with payment, or send me your order by email and pay at the registration table on Friday, the first day of the State Session. For each book ordered, I need to know the name of the person wanting the book and the Grange they belong to. All Delegate Books can be picked up at the registration table.

Looking ahead, we've been notified that premium rates for Grange bonding insurance purchased through the National Grange will not change for 2027. Granges will be receiving more information about this in the near future, including details on rules and exclusions.

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

Fraternally,

Brian Keller

Secretary, Illinois State Grange

618-410-9020

brianjkeller@gmail.com

703 E 2nd St, O'Fallon IL 62269

Gobbles from Turkey Hill



Steve Koluch, our Granger of the Year pictured with Community Service Chair Tami Hughes and President Ron Bersett.

Beaver Valley

Summer is almost here! We hope everyone has had a nice spring and enjoying the beauty that comes this time of year. And hopefully not the allergies that also come with this time of year!

Beaver Valley met on May 8th at the Boone County Community Hall. We began our meeting with draping the Beaver Valley chapter charter for Sister Renee Christina O'Dell, past President, who passed on April 24. Thank you to our guests and other Grangers who attended the ceremony in honor of Renee.

We heard several informational reports including agriculture by Steve Paulson. Illinois ranks #1 in the US in production of what 3 cash crops. Answer: Soybeans, Pumpkins and Horseradish. Illinois is #2 in corn producing in the USA. Which of these is the highest cash crop per acre? That would be most profitable is Saffron, gourmet mushrooms and specialty herbs. Also, Jerry Paulson reports there has still been a little frost but Mother's Day is the traditional time to plant. The Garden Club and Wild Flowers have their sale out at the Beef Barn.

Reminders:

-Pomona Grange still needs blankets for the Linus program that can be for children, teens, and adults.

-Work on projects for State Session.

-May 30th is the IL state Grange picnic at the fairgrounds.

Thank you to Jerry Paulson who explained the difference from Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, and Armentis Day and read a poem of Flanders Field.

Fraternally submitted,
Micah Schlie
Publicity



Emerald Mound Grange

Emerald Mound Grange has been working lately on strengthening ties with the local community and improving our Grange Hall. We continue to work with the Leu Civic Center from Mascoutah to provide a place for people to come out and play Bunco and other cards and games. Normally, we have 2 Mondays that we meet: the first Monday we meet is for Bunco and the second Monday we meet is for cards and games. We only met once in May due to the Memorial Day holiday and we are only meeting once in June on the 15th for cards

and games. The bunco game planned for June 1 has been cancelled due to some construction at the Grange building.

The latest building improvement we are working on right now is an update to the handicapped ramp. We found someone to replace the boards that people walk on and to fix some of the supporting boards. The boards will have a substance applied to them to make them really strong, so they should last for at least 9 more years before needing repair. We also plan to have a concrete pad poured at the bottom to make getting on the ramp easier. This update will be great so our visitors who rely on the ramp can continue to use it safely.

Another local community group we work with is the Farmers and Friends 4-H. They are meeting at our Grange Hall every month now. They have volunteered to help with a couple of breakfasts already and with our food booth at the Lebanon May Market. In June, they will bring us some ice cream at our meeting to celebrate Dairy Month. They are a very nice group to work with.

During the summer, we are not holding Big Breakfast. It doesn't do as well when the weather is nice and warm. Instead, we will have a dinner on the third Saturday of the month from 5 – 7 pm. We recently had a BBQ dinner. June 20, we will have a Pork Steak Dinner. We will share a flyer on Facebook as soon as the exact menu and price is determined.

Pomona Grange Report

Boone County Pomona Grangers met on Wednesday May 6, 2026 at 7:00PM. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented.

We welcomed 5 new members into Pomona Grange tonight.

Committee reports were given.

Watch out for an increase in gas tax.

Hope everyone is working on projects for State Session and don't forget we need blankets for t

he Linus Project as well.

Youth Flower Sale was successful and now they are getting ready for the Statewide Grange Picnic on Saturday May 30, 2026 at the Grange Pavillion at the Boone County Fairgrounds beginning at 12:00PM. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass and something to donate for the Silent Auction to help support the Youth programs.

Juniors attended Spring Fling and learned a lot and had lots of fun.

Planters are in full swing as farmers are trying to get their crops in the fields. And be careful on the roadways for lots of farm equipment.

Watch for ticks. It is that time of year already. Be extra careful when removing them.

Grangers in Boone County are getting ready for the Boone County Fair which is August 11-16 th and lots of volunteers are needed to make this project successful.

The past two months our worthy Chaplain has been very busy trying to send cards to Grangers who are ill and flowers to those who have been in the hospital.

Grange reports were given:

BEAVER VALLEY – Funeral Services for Sister Renee O'Dell will be Saturday June 6, 2026 at 11:00 AM at Willowcreek Presbyterian Church in Argyle IL Visitation is at 10:00AM and a Luncheon will follow at the Paulson's Ag Museum just down the road from the church.

BIG THUNDER, CAPRON, COUNTY LINE had no report.

FLORA – Held a roast beef dinner that was successful.

LEROY – Were saddened to report the lost of Brother Paul Temple.

PRAIRIE – Consignment Auction was good even though number of bidders and consigners was down. 4Momz2Momz Consignment sale went well and we also took part in the Grange Open House.

Reminder Prairie Grangers are going bowling at Concordia Lanes in Belvidere on Sunday May 31 at 2PM so come and join us.

Also there will be a Night Out at the Beloit SkyCarp Baseball game on Sunday July 5, 2026 at 1:00PM. Cost is \$40 per person includes food from 12:30 – 2:30PM, baseball hat and the ticket to the game. Open to all Grangers. Contact Karrie Kindberg if you want to join us.

A thank you was read from Dave and Sharyn for all the thoughts and prayers they received while in the hospital as well as a thank you was read from the Paul Temple family for thoughts and prayers they received for the loss of Paul. Treasurer's report was approved as presented. Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM in full form.

Karrie Kindberg

Boone County Pomona Grange Publicity Chairman

Flora Grange

May 12 meeting of Flora Grange was called to order by Master Ken C. Fidler at 7 PM with Grange Salutation and Pledge to American Flag. Roll Call was called by Secretary Laurel Ratcliffe with five officers in attendance and five officers absent. Minutes of the April 14, 2026, meeting were approved.

We welcomed new member Ann Niles and Jack Ratcliffe gave her the Grange obligations. She was welcomed into Flora Grange by all members present.

Committee Reports were given including Agriculture: Roger Miller reported the wet season is over, most of the crops were planted in the last few weeks and the prices are finally starting to come up a little. Community Service: Lindakay Ebel thanked members for turning hours in this month. Tonight names were given for our annual distinguished individuals' recipients for this year for Granger, Non-Granger, Fireman, Policeman and Teacher of the Year. They will be honored at our dinner on Tuesday, June 9th along with our Grange members receiving Recognition of Years of Grange Membership & Service awards as well as our annual Memorial Program will also be held.

Fair board: Todd Hegge stated there was some discussion about the appreciation dinner

following the fair each year, seems there are more people there each year. A motion was made from our Grange that a ticket is given to only the person who works at the fair, not to their family or their spouse, only to that person, motion was seconded. Buildings & Grounds: Jack Ratcliffe thanked Ron Eucker for mowing the lawn again, he and Laurel also cut tall grass and weeds along the fencing by the air conditioning, and he and Ed Cosman cut some trees again, a lot to care for around the building. Membership: Lindakay Ebel suggested when approaching people about joining the Grange, to mention the Boone County Fair is a part of the Grange, the seven Grange's in Boone County own the fairgrounds, which a lot of people do not realize. This sometimes sparks interest, as people are really interested in the fair. Quilting: The Friday group will continue to make Linus quilts, and the Saturday and Sunday group are working on the Red, White and Blue National Quilt Block.

Lindakay Ebel gave her monthly financial report, which included all deposits and expenses and balances in each account. She then gave a year end detailed report for 2025 on expenses and income and answered questions anyone had on any bills or income for the past year.

It was mentioned that if you work at a Grange food stand these hours are marked down for Flora Grange and the Boone County Fair pays Flora Grange \$15 an hour for each hour you work, not to the person working. It was suggested that in the November we have a Spaghetti Dinner. There was discussion and it was tabled until the June meeting.

A motion was made to change our bylaws to hold our election of officers in August instead of September, so president has time to make reservations to attend the State convention, motion was seconded.

Jack Ratcliffe read some poems on Mother's Day and had several handouts on Mother's Day and Memorial Day.

Todd Hegge collected 'G' bills from those in attendance.

Sharon Miller closed the Bible and said a closing prayer.

At the close of the meeting, Ken Fidler stated he was stepping down as Flora Grange Master.

The Grange was closed in full form, and we all enjoyed a wonderful lunch.

Next meeting will be our Potluck Dinner with our Distinguished Guests, Awards night and our annual Memorial Program on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to share.

Lindakay Ebel, Publicity

Broad Hollow Grange

Broad Hollow Grange #1806 met on Friday, May 1st, for its monthly first Friday potluck. After a delicious meal, a short program took place. Living and deceased Mothers and Fathers were honored. Information was shared about Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day. There was a joke about Mothers and "My Mother's Super Powers." There was a joke about Fathers and "What is a Dad?" Since the Grange met on May 1st, "Hello May!" took place. Those attending received a plant in honor of the living and deceased Mothers and Fathers. Several Rummy games were played with each receiving a prize.

The charter was draped and a Memorial Service was held for Grange members lost during the past year. The charter was draped in memory of Arlene Wittenauer and a Memorial Service held. A poem "Life" was read in her memory. Prior to belonging to the Grange, she was named the Grange's "Community Citizen of the Year" for all her community activities.



Union Grange

Union Grange members mourn the loss of Heidi Dettman (1980-2026) who passed away May 14, 2026 from cancer, leaving a husband and three young children. Heidi worked for the Rockford School District in overseeing the curriculum of all the students in the Rockford Public Schools. She was genuinely interested in every person she met and put everyone at ease immediately. She taught her children life lessons and kept them engaged in sports, dance and the value of family and friends. A celebration of life was held May 27 at the Lombardi Club in Rockford. She leaves behind her husband Andy, children Leo, Gus and Ada, parents Ron and Nancy Erbe, two brothers and their families plus many aunts, uncles and cousins. A go-fund-me page has been established with funds going toward the children's education.

Prairie Grange

45 Prairie Grangers and guests gathered to enjoy a delicious meal on Monday May 18, 2026 as a token of appreciation for all the hours of service put into our Community Service projects this past year.

Thanks to everyone's help these projects would not have been so successful without all the volunteer hours each Granger and others contributed.

Prairie Grangers are going to the Beloit Skycarp Baseball game on Sunday July 5, 2026. The cost is \$40.00 per person that includes All the Food you can eat from 12:30 – 2:30PM, a

hat and the ticket to the game. If interested contact Karrie Kindberg at 815-222-7550.

Next meeting on June 15 th will be a Salute to All of the Veterans in our Grange. Everyone is welcomed to join us as we celebrate their service to our country.

Robin Kindberg

Prairie Grange Publicity Chairman

Membership

ATTENTION ALL GRANGES!!!

The Grange membership year is from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 and NOW is the time to honor the members of your Grange for their years of service to this wonderful organization we belong to.

SEAL and 25 year Silver Star Certificates are to be ordered thru: Robin Kindberg 12971 Olson Road Caledonia, IL 61011.

SEALS and 25 Year Silver Star Certificates

I have seals for 30, 35, 40, 45, 55, 60, 65 and 70 years of service. They are \$3.00 each with \$2.00 shipping and handling fee or \$5.00 for each seal. If you are ordering 2 seals the cost is $\$3.00 + \$3.00 + \$2.00 = \8.00 but if I hand deliver them I will not charge you the \$2.00.

25 year Silver Star Certificates – The cost is $\$15.00 + \$5.00 = \$20.00$ per certificate. You will be charged the \$5.00 shipping and handling fee for each certificate even if they are hand delivered.

Be sure to fill out Illinois State Grange Award Order form K and send it to me with proper payment made out to ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE.

GOLDEN SHEAF 50 YEAR AND 75 YEAR AND 80 AND 85 YEAR LETTERS

As of May 1, 2026 National Grange increased their prices. The cost for 50-year golden sheaf certificates is \$15.00 each with shipping and handling fee of \$9.00 costing \$24.00 per certificate. The cost of the 75 year certificate and 80 and 85 year letters is \$15.00 each with shipping and handling. If ordering more than 1 certificate the cost will be $\$15.00 + \$15.00 + \$10.00 = \40.00 . Shipping and handling will vary depending on the number of certificates you order at a time.

For 50, 75, 80 and 85 year certificates/letters be sure to fill out Golden Sheaf, Diamond and Special Letters Form L for me and fill out Form M from National Grange and send them with proper payment Made out to NATIONAL GRANGE to me. All of the Seals and Certificate orders MUST come to me first so I can stamp them with ISG seal

and then I will send them onto National Grange.

Any questions please contact me

robinkindberg5@gmail.com.

Robin Kindberg

Illinois State Grange Membership/Recognition Director

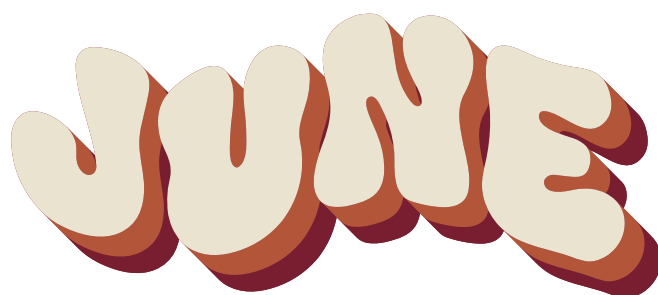
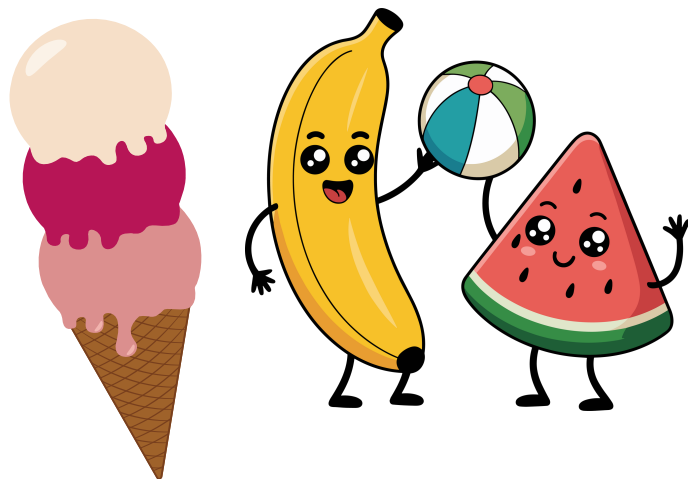
Well Done Good and Faithful Servant



Mary Jane Zipse

1939-2026

Keaf River Grange





Chaplains Corner

By: Charlotte Mehrtens

I know I say this all the time “where does the time go.” But where does it go? Most of the schools are closed already for summer vacation, farmers are relaxed a little bit earlier with most of the field work done, and now is the wait and see on how the gardens bring forth the fruits of the plants. Now that’s a lot to think about, we are always busy, so the days still march pass us.

I saw the sunrise this morning and it was so beautiful. No matter what happened yesterday today is a new day, a chance to breathe in new fresh air and the smells around us, to hope and to embrace the goodness around us.

Nature displays beauty, but do you see it yourself? Just as the sun was made to shine and the sky to reflect its brilliance, you were created with purpose and worth. The real beauty is found in kindness, love, and the unique way you bring light into the lives of others. Each new day is a gift, an opportunity to see God’s handiwork and experience His grace.

As the sun rises and the sky turns blue take a moment to appreciate the beauty around you and within you. You are valuable, you are loved, and just like the morning light you were made to shine and time goes on.

Just as time goes by we are reminded of our many loved ones who have passed away, our many brothers and sisters mourn with you and hold you in their loving arms. For happiness and joy we celebrate with you the good news. May God bless each of you with His loving arms around you.

Calendar of Grange Events

2026

6/15 Emerald Mound Bunco

6/26-28 Midwest Grange Leadership Conference

7/1 Deadline for Resolutions

8/7 Deadline for Rooms and Meals for State Session

8/11-16 Boone County Fair Belvidere IL

9/11-13 Illinois State Grange Session

11/11-15 National Grange Session Tulsa OK

2027

7/18-25 Grange Revival/Smoky Mtns Edition
Bryson City, NC

