



ILLINOIS GRANGER

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

August 2026 Vol. 6 No. 8



Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

Hopefully this finds you all healthy and cool. It is hot and humid here, more than normal at the end of July! We are about done with picking blackberries. Tomatoes and green beans need to

be picked every couple days.

Don and I attended Midwest Grange Leaders Conference (June 26-28.). I was sorry that not more of you attended the meeting. Karie and Marisa worked hard to make a great conference. I presented a workshop, and there were many great workshops on a variety of topics. I am sure many of you would have enjoyed the event. Plans are being made for next year's conference in Iowa. It was mentioned that the weekend would change. Thanks to Karie and Marisa, those who helped with meals, those who helped prepare and tear-down, helped with the tours, and all those who presented workshops.

IL has a new Junior Grange!! Charity Junior Grange #96. And plans are being made to re-organize another Junior Grange!! Good look to all those Junior members. Does anyone have a complete listing of all the Junior Granges that have been organized in L?? I am trying to gather that information.

Don and I visited with Chris & Duane Hamp, Jody and JodiAnn Cameron and hotel staff of the

Renaissance Hotel, in St Louis, MO. We toured the hotel, it seems that it will be a good fit for National Session in 2029. We also took the opportunity to see the Big Boy steam engine while it traveled through the area and had them over to our home for dinner. It was a great weekend.

IL State Grange Session will be September 11 – 13, at Northfield Inn Suites and Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Dr, Springfield, IL. Secretary Brian has sent the information on menus and other important dates. Please be working on Resolutions of important matters to your Grange. The Prairie has submitted the first resolution, and I know that at least one will be coming from Shiloh Valley. 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. I have sent letters to Officers and Committee people, and I have hotel reservations. I have sent the reservations out to the officers and committee people. I hope that you all are making plans to attend and that each Grange will have delegates attending the meeting. I hope that there will be resolutions for the delegates to work review.

Next National Session will be in Broken Arrow, 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. They are also asking for volunteers to assist with all the "behind the scenes work". Contact Karie, she will get you in touch with proper person.

ISG Secretary Report

The 155th Illinois State Session is right around the corner - September 11-13 at the Northfield Inn & Suites, 3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL. Here are some housekeeping items and deadlines to remember. Please read carefully.

Hotel Reservations: Lynette has already made the reservations for State officers and committee chairs. 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 and mention Illinois State Grange when making the reservations. Rooms come with a complimentary breakfast. Check-in is 3 p.m., and check-out is 11 a.m. All Grangers are responsible for paying the hotel directly for their rooms.

State Session Meals: 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**. Since we're so close to the deadline, please email your reservations to me instead of sending them by mail. For each person, I need their name, the Grange they belong to, and the meals they want. Meal tickets can be picked up and payment made on Friday, September 11, the first day of State Session at the registration table. Make checks payable to "Illinois State Grange".

Delegates: Pomona and Community Granges should email me the names of their delegates by **Friday, August 7**. Delegate Books cost \$5 and can be paid for and picked up at the State Session registration table. However, I need to know if you need a Delegate Book by the August 7 deadline. I also need reports (to be included in the Delegate Book) from State officers, deputies, and committee chairs by August 7. If you're working on a report but can't make the deadline, please let me know. I may be able to reserve a spot for you if I know when it's coming.

Registration Table: Help at the registration table is

always welcome, whether it's just for a short time or for the duration. Just let me know if you'd like to join our merry band of helpers! As always, if you have any questions or need help, don't hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

Brian Keller

Secretary, Illinois State Grange

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Membership

Well, a NEW Grange Membership Year has started: JULY 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

All Granges should be having Election of Officers within the next couple of months.

Please fill out the GRANGE ROSTER Form and either email it or mail it to me BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2026. I will be compiling a new Grange Roster before the GRIT Conferences in October.

If your Grange DOES NOT hold elections until after that date, please send me a copy of the current officers and when election is completed send me the new officer lists as soon as possible.

Be sure to send me a NEW complete, up-to-date list of all of your Grange members before October 1 , 2026.

Please include Name, address, phone Number, email address, birthdate (Month/Year) and the date the member Joined the Grange. You can also include any degrees they may have had in the past.

This is for ALL GRANGE SECRETARIES to do BEFORE October 1 st . This new Roster Form will be mailed to each Secretary before September 10, 2026. Any questions either text (815-978-0452) or email me or write to me at:

Robin Kindberg

12971 Olson Road

Caledonia, IL 61011

Kfarm5@aol.com

Robin Kindberg

Illinois State Grange Membership/Recognition
Director

ISG Agriculture Department

Hello All, I hope everyone's Summer is going well, that your flowers are blooming and your gardens are green and bountiful.

This year we are trying something different to encourage more participation in our contests.

A prize will be awarded to the individual with the most entries.

There will be a traveling trophy awarded to the Grange with the most entries.

Stay cool and we will see you in September!

Your Ag. Committee,
Lana Korte Marilyn Hoffmann Lyle Lee

Blast From the Past

The Grange Centennial Club(pamphlet) was established for Patrons to participate in the Grange's Centennial observance 1867-1967. An individual could contribute at least ten dollars to the Grange Centennial Fund or secure at least ten new members. Corporations could donate \$100 to be recognized. These funds were especially established to support contests, trips, a documentary film, and related historical documents.

I have been given two-six page handouts regarding National Grange's plans for the Centennial Year. One of the major uses of the funds was the suggestion of adding the Grange Meditation Center at the Gettysburg National Cemetery. William Saunders, one of the seven founders of the Grange and first National Master, was the landscape architect and planner for the Gettysburg Cemetery. He was formally thanked by both the government and President Abraham Lincoln for his great work. This Grange Meditation Center would be a great dedication for his contribution. He also encouraged every state to have a National Cemetery.

Again, I am so grateful for these historical pamphlets that the Buck Family have donated. One special National Master was Herschel D. Newsom. I now have his 85th session original address booklet in 1951 in New Jersey and the 99th annual session in Kansas in 1965. On June

23, 1970, Newsom dedicated an exhibit honoring William Saunders at the Gettysburg National Park Cemetery. The exhibit contained Saunders' original drawings and plans for the cemetery plus other memorabilia. Per, The Grange Newsletter of July 1970, Newsom was delivering what turned out to be his final Grange ceremony. One week later he suffered a fatal heart attack.

I have corrected those Juvenile Grange photos I was given. They were actually from Harvard Juvenile Grange with some items from Pat Rich. I found where they fell out of their scrapbooks that Lynette gave me. I re-glued many pages too. I have nine scrapbooks from 1959 to 1972.

Many thanks to Dayle Paulson for inviting me over on July 17 to look over some Grange articles that she got from Brad Blakeman who passed away. I now have some new items for the scrapbooks and show and tell for State Session.

Enjoy your summer and I hope to see you at State Grange Session in Springfield!

By Beverly Smith, Historian

2026 ISG National Representative



Buddy Overstreet, Executive Committee Member

Buddy Overstreet was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi then moved to Texas when he was 5 years old. After graduating from Somerset High School, he worked as a diesel mechanic and was enlisted in the United States Coast Guard Reserves. He attended the University of Texas in San Antonio where he received a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Accounting. In 1993 Buddy obtained his CPA (Certified Public Accountant) license. He worked at various accounting firms in the San Antonio area and retired from USAA after 26 years. He also retired from the Coast Guard

Reserves after 30 years of service. He currently has a CPA practice.

Buddy is also extremely involved in his local church, Oak Island United Methodist Church. He currently serves on the Worship Team and is the church's Finance Chairman.

Buddy joined the Grange when he and his wife, Karen started dating in 1979. He currently holds the office of President of the Alamo Community Grange, Steward of the Bexar County Pomona Grange, Assistant Steward of the Texas State Grange and is a member of the National Grange Executive Committee. In 1995, him and his wife were Texas State Grange Young Couple.

Buddy and Karen currently live on a 190-acre farm where they raise coastal hay and lease some of the land out for grazing and hunting. They have been married for 37 years and have three children, Carl, Leah, and Karryn. In Buddy's spare time, he enjoys hunting, woodworking, gardening, and fishing.

Emerald Mound

With the weather being so hot this summer, we are thankful for our window air conditioners in the Grange Hall that allow us to still meet. We had to move our BBQ Picnic indoors on July 18. The crowd was a little thin, but we still had some Grangers and a few people from town show up to support us. In fact, Lynette and Don Schaffer stopped by with the National Grange Convention Committee, including National Grange President Chris Hamp and her husband Duane. They had all been to St. Louis to look for a location for the 2029 National Grange Convention. We were delighted they came so they could rest from their day's work and have a good meal.

We only had one Bunco/Cards & Games Day in July. So many people are busy in the summer. When we had the latest one on July 27, two of our attendees said they love the new handicap ramp. We are taking a break from games in August but hope to start again in September.

We continue to partner with our friends in the Farmers and Friends 4-H Club. June was National Dairy Month, and they brought us some delicious ice cream bars from Prairie Farms to enjoy! We presented them with a check that night to help them purchase some project books for their 4-H members. On July 31, we will have a small food booth at the 4-H animal show and competition at Scheve Park in Mascoutah. We do this every year so the 4-H members and their families have an onsite place to get lunch. Finally, we would like to congratulate our EMG Vice President Steve Alltop for facilitating the donation of over \$1,200 worth of vegetable plants to be distributed to clients and families of CYHS (Coordinated Youth and Human Services). The plants were generously donated by Bill Millikin, owner of Lebanon Ace Hardware where Steve works. This donation helps CYHS fight hunger in the community and assists them in teaching their clients how to grow their own food. Thank you, Steve (and Bill) for all your work and generosity in joining the fight against hunger!



Prairie Grange

Prairie Grange members gathered on Monday, July 20, 2026, for our annual Grange Picnic which was a delicious potluck enjoyed by about 50 Grangers in attendance. A short meeting followed.

Boone County Fair is fast approaching, and Prairie Grange will be doing the Pork Chop Dinner on Sunday, August 10, 2026. Contact Marlene Williams if interested in helping. It was decided Don and Heather Ellwanger will be the delegates from Prairie Grange to Illinois State Grange session in Springfield IL in September.

Prairie Grange is sponsoring ducks for the Jeptoferfest in September so we decided on the size and we also talked about the amount that will be needed for Chuck-A-Duck contest. We voted to order yellow and blue tie-dye bracelets with Prairie Grange written on them for the giveaway bags for Jeptoferfest. New Prairie Grange T-shirts design was discussed, and it was decided to order them before fair. Watch Facebook for orders/cost details.

Membership Awards were presented to the following members: Karl Kindberg 55 yrs, Robin Kindberg 45 yrs, Lyle Lee 35 yr, Jimmy Blasingame 30 yrs, Ruth Blasingame 30 yrs, Karie Blasingame 30 yrs, Sarah Meyers 30 yrs, Patti Lee 30 yrs, Ann Johnson 25 yr Silver Star Certificate, Dawn Mundy 25 yr, Silver Star Certificate, Ellis Mundy 25 yr Silver Star Certificate and Jeremy Meyers 25 yr Silver Star Certificate. Congratulations to all the years of service recipients.

Fun Awards were also presented: Always Late Award – Jodi Johnson, Youngest at Heart – Mary Innis, Patti Lee, Lyle Lee, Jeremy Meyers, Ruth Blasingame, Manny Fabela, Nan Barnes. Happiest Granger was a tie – Mary Brubach and Sara Ellwanger, the Planner Award went to Secretary Karie Blasingame, and the Busy Bee Award went to Robin Kindberg for always doing something.

Robin, our Grange Chaplain, presented Military Certificates and a Veteran pin to wear proudly

to Virgil Hale and Russ Kindberg Jr thanking them for their service to our country as part of the Patriot's program.

Our next meeting was to be on Aug 17, 2026 but it was decided to move the next Prairie Grange meeting to Monday, August 24, 2026, at 7:00PM and remember this will be election of officers.

Meeting closed at 7:48PM.

Robin Kindberg

Prairie Grange Publicity Chairman





On July 5th, 28 members of Prairie Grange and Beaver Valley Grange had some fun times together celebrating the 250th of America. We went to the Beloit Skycarp baseball game that was a double header. A fun time was had by all.

Karrie Kindberg
Prairie Grange
Grange Activities chairman

Beaver Valley Grange

Beaver Valley Grange met on July 10 for an evening of fellowship, community updates, and exciting news. President Brian O'Dell welcomed several guests, including Molly Shipton, a contestant for the 2026 Boone County Fair Queen. Molly shared the inspiring story of how the late Renee O'Dell had encouraged her to pursue the title, making this year's competition especially meaningful. Beaver Valley Grange is proud to sponsor Molly and wishes her the very best. The Grange also welcomed several new members. With the addition of three new Junior members, Beaver Valley Grange is able to reinstate its Junior Grange Charter, an exciting milestone! Members heard a letter of appreciation from Pam Lindley thanking the Grange for continuing to care for the memorial flag and flower display honoring Bruce Lindley at the Boone County Fairgrounds. Steve Paulson shared an interesting agriculture report on the growing use of drones in farming and how they are helping producers work more efficiently while reducing environmental impact. He also reminded members to always use pesticides safely and according to label directions. Congratulations were extended to Brian and Marisa O'Dell, who recently received a Certificate of Honor through the National Grange Patriots Program in recognition of their

service to our country. Members also received updates on preparations for the Boone County Fair and upcoming Grange activities. Marisa O'Dell reminded everyone of the importance of washing hands and cleaning fresh produce to help prevent illness.

We are participating in Wreaths Across America this winter. Contact Brian or Marisa O'Dell or Steve Paulson. There are 140 veterans graves at the Scottish Cemetery. They provide 7 wreaths for all branches of service. \$17 each.

There will be no August meeting because of the Boone County Fair. The next Beaver Valley meeting will be held on Thursday, September 18, at 6:30 p.m. and will include a potluck dinner. Hope to see many of you at the Fair in August!!

Fraternally submitted,

Micah Schlie

Publicity Chair

Gobbles from Turkey Hill

We are putting the finishing touches on our "Hole in the Wall" project. It has been a work in progress, but we are very pleased in our contractors and our volunteers. Hats off to David Edwards and Randy McKelvey for their work.

We are preparing for the Ham and Peach Dinner and the 100 Years of Horsepower Event. Both require lots of preparation, but we have already prepared, packaged and frozen 300 lbs. of pulled pork for the Horsepower show. We next move into purchasing the rest of the food items.

In April, we had a wonderful afternoon celebrating our Scholarship winners, Community Service awards and our Longevity Awards. Our Community Service Winners were: Community Service - Dawn Putnam with Moms on a Mission

Educator of the Year- Deb Davinroy

Granger of the Year- Steve Koluch

The Law Enforcement and Firefighter will be honored in July.

Scholarships went to Gaven Range and Sam Haake.

Longevity awards were given to

5-years: Steve and Hilda Koluch, Roger Mueller, Emma Rutledge
10 years: Lisa Griffith, Mary Philip, Bob and Barb Ruhl
20 years: John Manfredi, Marilyn Wikgren
30 Years: Dick Frette, John and Gail Long
35 years; Frank D Wurth
45 years: Janet Plote
75 years: Dale Helms

In June, we hosted the Extension Service Cooking School. They used the building for four days of sessions. The Farm Bureau held a dinner and meeting here, also. July brought the non-livery judging for the County to our building. We got to see their projects and some of us were judges.

Flora Grange #1762

Flora Grange held a work night at the Boone County Fairgrounds on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm with some twenty-three members doing various jobs such as scraping and painting picnic tables, trimming bushing, cleaning the little cashier's booth, and working in various buildings.

A meeting was called to order with Pledge to American Flag, the bylaws were read for the third time and motion was made and seconded to change that elections of officers be held on the second Tuesday in August of the even year except for the Executive Committee which is a three-year term with one member being elected each year, instead of the month of September, motion was carried.

Tammy Brauer reported more on the motorcycle run which will be held in September, the final stop will not be held at the Flora Grange Hall, but at a bar in Roscoe, contact Tammy for more information.

Also, just as a reminder, Flora Grange will have the breakfast stand at the Boone County Fair starting on Tuesday, August 11th, again on Saturday, the 15th and Sunday (16th) (be there around 5:30 am if you are helping in the kitchen), call Mary or Laurel if you can help. Also, we will be serving the Pulled Pork sandwich/dinner on Thursday, (the 13th) starting at 11 am too whenever we sell out.

Our AUGUST MEETING will be ONE WEEK later, Tuesday, AUGUST 18TH, 7 PM at the Flora Grange Hall. This is an important meeting, ELECTION OF OFFICERS, for the next two years. So, mark your calendar now, so do not forget!!! Refreshments will be served by Marion Thornberry, Tammy Brauer and Jennifer Munch following the meeting. See you at the meeting. Lindakay Ebel, Publicity



Broad Hollow Grange News

Broad Hollow Grange met on Saturday, July 11th, due to the 4th of July weekend the previous week. A potluck preceded the program with lots of great food enjoyed by all. The program opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Those attending participated in a quiz on the American Revolution in honor of our nation's 250th birthday. The hall was decorated in red, white, and blue for the occasion. Those attending shared their favorite 4th of July either when they were kids or one of their favorite 4th of Julys, or how they spent their 4th of July for this year's 250th birthday. Participants then told little known facts about the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Everyone had fun filling in the blanks and then reading "A Crazy Summer Road Trip". Several shared "Advice from a Garden". The program closed with "Happy 250th 4th of July to all! May the 250th 4th of July be a symbol of peace, prosperity, and happiness in your lives. God bless America and the people who live here!"

Over 50 people attended Broad Hollow Grange's 105th anniversary which was celebrated on May 30th. Lots of good food was shared at the potluck prior to the program. The Illinois State Grange Chaplain, Charlotte Mehrtens, provided the prayer prior to the potluck. Everyone enjoyed the great variety of music provided by the ukelele group. A short history of the Grange through the years was shared. Members were recognized for years of membership. Recognizing the recipients was the State President of the Illinois State Grange, Lynette Schaeffer. Celebrants of membership years included 50 years, Cindy Vogler; 55 years, David Vogler and Linda Rensing; 60 years, David Wiskamp, Nancy Russell, and Betty Suemnicht; 65 years, Neil Schaller and Carol Neff; 70 years, Shirley Brandenburger and Betty Hardt; and 75 years, Arlene Brandenburger. A special 105th white and chocolate birthday cake was baked by Mary Koehler. The hall was decorated in red, white, and blue for the nation's 250th birthday.

Thanks to all who made our celebration a success.

Members of Broad Hollow Grange hosted the Granges in St. Clair County on Wednesday, June 10th. Broad Hollow members served a lunch to the participants and had several numbers for the program.

Broad Hollow Grange made monetary donations to the Food Pantries in Freeburg, New Athens, Hecker, and Smithton.

Boone County Pomona

On July 1 st members of Boone County Pomona Grange met at the Community Grange Hall for our meeting. This was our yearly picnic and everyone fully enjoyed a delicious potluck. Our only order of business was to elect our State Session Delegates which will be Ruth and Karie Blasingame. Our next Pomona meeting will be September 2nd.

Fraternally submitted

Karrie Kindberg

Publicity chairman

ISG Hospitality

Dear Grange Members,
Hopewell Grange is in charge of the Hospitality Room at State Session on September 11-13, 2026 we are asking if anyone would like to donate some bottles of water and individual snack items, we would certainly appreciate it. Thank You in advance
Debbie Wade



Guilford Hope Grange #6

Guilford Hope Grange met July 28 at David & Martha Brynes home for a noon potluck lunch and meeting. The meeting was opened in the 4th degree.

Secretary and treasurer's reports were given and approved. Beverly Smith reported that she had delivered 7 blankets to Marissa O'Dell for the Linus project. It was decided to again purchase dictionaries for the third grade class at All Saints Academy in Rockford. We voted to send a donation to Habitat for Humanity of Winnebago County. We finalized details for our August meeting at Paulson's Ag Museum which will also be our dues paying meeting. Martha Brynes will contact Midway Village to see if they can have a representative attend to accept our yearly donation from our garage sale. We will also recognize some of our long-time members. David Brynes shared a presentation he had made to the Y's Men's Club of Rockford about his 21 years as Executive Director of the Midway Village Museum Center. He retired a couple years ago and thought we would be interested in how our donations and grants they have received have been used. One of the largest involved moving the Lyford barns which were donated by the Meyer family to the museum. How they got moved, all the volunteer work involved and he had a picture of the Guilford Hope Grangers serving lunch out in the yard on moving day. Several members recalled the events, Very interesting!



Well Done Good and Faithful Servant



Thelma Sue Ladson

1936-2026

Troy Grove Grange

Susie was hard working and industrious her entire life. She retired from Hart Carter in Mendota after 44 years of work. She was very generous and would donate to any cause she could. She had a kind heart with a passion for animals. Susie was a woman of strong faith and devotion. She was a member of the Church of the Nazarene for 68 years. She loved and was loved by so many people. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She will be greatly missed.





Chaplains Corner

By: Charlotte Mehrtens

Another day, Another month

Hello, hope you are all enjoying this summer and having fun with all your family. Remember that the freedom we always enjoy wasn't always free, many people paid the price to keep our country free and safe.

Just as our Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Many of us will enjoy picnics, fireworks displays, and family times together. I hope that as we all gather together to celebrate this special 250th anniversary we can all draw closer together in Christ.

Many of us have lost loved ones these past few months we send our deepest prayers to you.

Many of us have many happy times reminding us that we are free to embrace what we have to share.

HAPPY 250TH ANNIVERSARY TO EACH OF YOU.
GOD BLESS.

Calendar of Grange Events

2026

8/2 Turkey Hills Ham & Peach Dinner 10:30am-2pm

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

9/19 Jeeptoberfest by Prairie Grange at the Fairgrounds

11/11-15 National Grange Session Tulsa OK

2027

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

Grange Prayer List

Brian Smith

Al Henninger

Rollin Greenland

Joann Lungstrom

Jimmy Blasingame

Dawn Mundy

Ellis Mundy

Mary Beth Lee

Jane Helms

Heather Ellwanger

Sheri Bochmann

Dave Geske

Jim Langandorf

Robin Kindberg

Please let us know if you have more names for the Prayer List.

Granger Info

Send info to:

Ruth Blasingame

Sammantha Meyers

Illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com

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8711 Deer Run Dr

Belvidere, IL 61008-9050

Donations to Illinois Granger

\$7 Ruth Perley Flora Grange

