



ILLINOIS GRANGER

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



September 2026 Vol. 6 No. 9



Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

Hopefully this finds you all healthy and cool. It is hot and humid here, more than normal for the end of August! The air is fragrant with just baled hay, one of my favorite smells. We are about

done with picking tomatoes and green beans, hopefully I will have some for the Ag Contest for session. About ready to start football season for our grandson Logan at Aurora University, we will be traveling north many Saturdays.

Congratulations to those who reorganized Beaver Valley Junior Grange #2. This is really exciting during this year we have gained three Junior Granges. Very exciting to me!! That means that IL Granges are working with the children of the Grange! I hope that this means GRANGE will be strong into the future!

Congratulations to Marisa O'Dell for being accepted into the Grange Communication Fellows for National Session in Broken Arrow, OK. Joining an elite group of Karie Blasingame and Ethan Edwards.

I am also excited to participate in the National Grange Rural Women Shaping Health Research Project. Shiloh Valley and Emerald Mound Granges, under my guidance, have been selected to participate in this project. National Grange website states "Rural women age 50 and older

know things about health care that researchers often do not hear. They know what it means to drive a long distance for an appointment. They know what it means to care for a spouse, a parent, a child, or a neighbor while also trying to take care of themselves. They know which services are hard to get, which questions do not get asked, and what actually matters when decisions are being made about health care. That is why the National Grange, supported by an award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), is working to make sure rural women's voices are included in future health research."

Just two weeks from today we will be leaving for State Grange Session. The meeting 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. Resolutions have been sent to the Presidents so if you are not the delegates please make sure they are aware of the resolutions. William "Buddy" and Karen Overstreet will be our National Grange Representatives. Buddy is on the National Grange Executive Committee and Karen is the just past President of Texas State Grange. I can't wait to show Karen and Buddy how Illinois does Grange. I hope that you all are making plans to attend. I have heard that not every Grange is sending delegates. This makes me sad. Each Grange should send delegates to help set the policy for the State Grange.

GRIT (Grange Resources and Information Training) will be October 10th and 11th. 10th will be Boone County Community Grange Hall, 8791 Il Route 76 Belvidere, IL. 11th will be Turkey Hill Grange Hall, 1375 East State Route 15, Belleville, IL. potluck at 11:00 AM, Presentations at 11:45 AM, Presentations by Agriculture Chair, Community Service Director, Communications/Editor, Family Activities Chair, Historian, Junior Director, Lecturer, Legislative Director, Membership, President, Secretary, Website, Youth Director.

It appears that despite the rain the Boone County Fair was a success. Good Job Boone County GRANGERS!

Did you all signup for the Engage program for National Grange? There is still time and it is helpful to State and National Grange to have addresses, emails and pertinent information. It is easy for each Grange to setup information and services for their Grange.

Next National Sessions will be in Broken Arrow, OK, Nov 9-14, 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 Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange is almost here - September 11-13 at the Northfield Inn & Suites in Springfield. For those attending, please stop by the registration table that Friday morning to pick up your Delegate Books, meal tickets, and name tags. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m., and the State Session starts at 1 p.m. If you haven't paid for your books and meals yet, you should do that at the registration table. If you're not arriving until later, don't worry. We'll put aside what you need for when you get there. Would you like to be part of the Secretary's committee that runs the registration table and helps with other behind-the-scenes tasks? Just let me know - not only would your help be greatly appreciated,

but you'd have the satisfaction of helping your fellow Grangers!

Looking ahead for Grange Secretaries, the end of the third quarter is September 30. Quarterly Reports and dues should be mailed or delivered to me by October 15. To ensure I get your membership numbers on time, I'm asking you to make a scan or take a picture with your phone of your Quarterly Report and email or text it to me before you put it in the mail. That way, I'll not only have the numbers faster, but I'll know it's coming in the mail and can reach out to you more quickly if it doesn't show up in a reasonable amount of time. Thank you in advance for your help!

As always, if you have any questions or need help, don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing many of you in Springfield!

Fraternally,

Brian Keller

Secretary, IL State Grange
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GRIT



**Learn about Illinois State
Grange programs and
contests for the
upcoming year.**

Grange Resources and Information
Training (GRIT)

October 10 & 11, 2026

10th – Boone County Community Grange Hall

8791 Il Route 76 Belvidere, IL 61008-9603

11th – Turkey Hill Grange Hall

1375 East State Route 15, Belleville, Illinois 62220

potluck at 11:00 AM

Presentations at 11:45 AM

**Agriculture Chair, Community Service Director,
Communications/Editor, Family Activities
Chair, Historian, Junior Director, Lecturer,
Legislative Director, Membership,
President, Secretary, Website,
Youth Director**

Membership

Well by the time you receive this Granger you should have or will be soon receiving a letter in the mail with the new Officer and Committee Chairman Roster form in it. PLEASE fill it out completely and email or mail it back to Robin Kindberg ASAP BEFORE October 1, 2026.

All Secretaries are required to send me via email or through the mail a completed and up to date Membership list for your Grange. Please include name, address, city, state, zipcode, birthdate month and year, and email address. Also include any degrees that member may have taken.

Attend GRIT Conferences in October to learn about the Recognition awards. If you have any questions feel free to text me 815-978-0452 at any time. My email address is robinkindberg5@gmail.com. Or mail them to me at Robin Kindberg 12971 Olson Road Caledonia, IL 61011.

Hope to see EVERYONE OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND GRANGERS TOO AT THE GRIT CONFERENCE.

Robin Kindberg

ISG Membership/Recognition Director

Hopewell

NOTICE

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

Guilford Hope Grange

Guilford Hope Grange met August 25 at Paulson's Ag Museum our annual Dues Paying/Picnic, the Grange furnished the food. Before the meeting, President Wayne Lyford presented our annual \$1,000 contribution to a representative of Midway Village Museum for their Education Fund. He also presented a Certificate from the National Grange to Don Sanford for 85 years of membership. We were

happy to welcome his three daughters who shared the start of his Grange story which began in Ohio. He became the youngest Master in Ohio history at 16 a couple years later. David Byrnes then presented Wayne Lyford with a seal for being a 70-year member. The meeting opened in the 4th degree with the usual reports. Martha Byrnes brought one of the dictionaries for us to see before giving them to All Saints Academy of Rockford. Our slate of officers was discussed and approved and our next meeting was set for Sept. 22. Nathalie Lyford Pictures: One is of the check being given to Midway Village, Don and his certificate and with his daughters and Wayne getting his 70-year seal.



Prairie Grange

The meeting of Prairie Grange was held on Monday, August 24, 2026 with President Don Ellwanger presiding.

The worthy Chaplain Robin Kindberg and worthy Ceres Heather Ellwanger draped the charter in honor of our Sister Mary Innis who recently passed away.

We held a Fair Wrap-up: Sister Marlene Williams talked about the Pork Chop Dinner we held on Sunday of the fair. We had a few issues this year but we worked through them. We sold over 500 porkchops and we did well but there will be some changes taking place before we do it again next year.

Brother Don Ellwanger reported Scooter sales was very successful this year. Might have to order more for next year.

Sister Sheri Bochmann Grandstand Ticket Sales Manager was thanked along with all those that helped her in the Grandstand Ticket Office for the long hours they put in and all the hassle they had to deal with due to Mother nature this year.

Prairie Grange took in three new members tonight.

Members of Prairie Grange reviewed the resolutions that will be voted on at State Session and they told their delegates how to vote.

Election of Officers was held, and the following members are the new officers for Prairie Grange for the next two years.

President – Don Ellwanger
Vice-President – Sheri Bochmann
Lecturer – Sara Ellwanger
Steward – Manny Fabela
Asst Steward – Adam Ellwanger
Lady Asst Steward – Sarah Meyers
Chaplain – Jennifer Tobin-Tinch
Treasurer – Mary Brubach

Secretary – Karie Blasingame
Gatekeeper – Kevin Brubach
Ceres – Heather Ellwanger
Pomona – Mary Swanson
Flora – Nan Barnes
Exec Committee – 1 yr – Jeremy Meyers
Exec Committee -2yr – Lyle Lee
Exec Committee – 3 yrs – Ruth Blasingame

Prairie Grange will be co-sponsoring Jeeptoberfest on September 19, 2026 at Boone County Fairgrounds. Lots of help will be needed. Watch for sign-up sheets on Facebook soon. The meeting was closed in full form at 8:50 PM.

Fraternally Submitted

Robin Kindberg

Prairie Grange Publicity Chairman

Beaver Valley Grange

Beaver Valley Grange did not meet in August as we were busy with the Boone County Fair.

Congrats to Molly Shipton who participated in the Fair Queen Contest. Molly is a 4H-er and we love supporting local youth on reaching their goals in the community.

Next meeting is September 18th at 7:00 pm at the Community Grange Building at the Boone County Fairgrounds.

Reminder: 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.

Fraternally submitted,
Micah Schlie



Flora Grange

Flora Grange held their August meeting and election of officers on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 7 pm at their Flora Hall with 31 Flora Grange members in attendance, two new members and five members from other Granges in attendance.

Vice President Marion Thornberry called the meeting to order, held Draping of the Charter for Kaye Abolins, followed with prayer by Chaplain Donna West. The Grange Salutation and Pledge to American Flag was recruited by all in attendance and roll call was taken by Secretary Laurel Ratcliffe with eight officers in attendance and minutes of the July 14, 2026, meeting were approved. Two former members also rejoined the Grange this evening and were given the obligations of the Grange.

Reports of Committees: Community Service: Lindakay Ebel stated she turned the Flora Grange community service book into Heather Ellwanger, chairman on July 29. Lindakay thanked all members of the Flora Grange for turning in hours they had worked during the past year, for the Grange, at our fair and for our community.

Agriculture: Bob Scherer reported we have had some nice rains lately, crops are looking good, let's hope the prices are good when harvest time comes around. Fair Board: Todd Hegge stated we had just short 199,000 people at the fair this year, it rained almost every day, however we still had people. Some things had to be cancelled, we had some new things this year, which people seemed to enjoy. Starting to plan the 2027 fair already.

Farmland Protection: Jack Ratcliffe reported there was no meeting in July, will hold a meeting in August. Legislative: Marion Thornberry stated there were a lot of politicians at the fair this year, other than that, not much going on right now. Membership: Lindakay stated we have now started a new Grange year. Tonight we welcomed Kyle Woelffer and his friend into our Grange again and we all need to

get out and try to recruit new members. Family Activities: Deb Silvers stated at our September meeting she will have raffle tickets for the Illinois State Convention raffle to sell to our members. Quilting: Emalee Colver reported there will be quilting this weekend for those who want to come and quilt or work on the project of your choice. Building & Grounds: Jack Ratcliffe reported Ron Eucker is still mowing the lawn and doing a great job, and he and Laurel are cutting the tall weeds that are growing in the fenced area each week.

Lindakay Ebel gave the treasurer's report from June 9 th to August 18, 2026, including all expenses and income and balances of all accounts, in which were approved by the membership.

Election of officers was held tonight, serving for the next two years.

President – Tom Berry

Vice President – Todd Hegge

Secretary – Tammy Brauer

Treasurer – Lindakay Ebel

Chaplain – Donna West

Program Director – Rhonda Settle

Executor Director – 3 Year Term – Max Ryan

Motion was made to send President Tom Berry and guest to Illinois State Grange Convention September 11-13, 2026, at Springfield, IL as our delegates.

Tammy Brauer gave an update on the motorcycle run to be held September 19, 2026, at Louie's Tap House in Roscoe, IL. All are invited.

Emalee Colver collected \$44.00 in 'G' bills, Marion Thornberry

celebrated his birthday on Sunday. Jack reported fair appreciation dinner will be on September 23, tickets will be given to those who worked at the fair. Our new president, Tom Berry closed the meeting at full form.

Refreshments were served, and members enjoyed fellowship together.

Next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 8 th , 2026, 7pm at the Flora Grange Hall.

Publicity – Lindakay Ebel

County Line Grange

County Line Grange has been quite busy lately. At our July meeting we elected officers. Our annual Grange Day outing was held at the Oak Lane Winery in Poplar Grove on July 11, with great food, drinks and camaraderie. The weather was lovely, too. We cleaned up after the Kishwaukee Kennel Club Dog Show on Sunday, July 12th. It was hot, but we made some money! We served breakfast and lunch July 18 and 19 at the MOPAR show at the Boone County Fairgrounds. It was a great success and lots of fun. On August 2nd we



had a general clean-up and "Get Ready for the Fair" at the County Line Grange Hall and Museum. During the Boone County Fair, August 11-16, our people were taking care of the Reed School House and the County Line Grange Hall & Museum all week. On Saturday we served our annual Chicken Dinner and it was a Winner! We send a HUGE thank you to all who gave of their time and to those who helped us who were friends and not official members. On Friday, August 21st, several of us met at the Boone County Fair Grounds to put the Reed School House to bed, which included putting up the outside shutters, covering the books and displays with plastic, and removing anything that was no longer needed in the Schoolhouse. We enjoyed ourselves working together. We received four new members since July. We celebrated "after the fair" at our August meeting with a potluck at 5:30 and meeting at 6:00. We had Fair Reports and made plans for the future. On August 30th we will have a planning meeting to decide on Committees and events for the next year.

Fraternally submitted
Cathy Zei
Jean Peterson

County Line Grange Hall and Museum
on the Boone County Fairgrounds, Belvidere, IL
by Jean M. Peterson, County Line Grange
for the September Illinois Granger

We started working on the County Line Grange Hall and Museum at the end of June. Many Grangers help clean and sort and set up the center of the room to look like a formal Grange Meeting. We had a full set of blue Subordinate Grange sashes and a full set of green Pomona sashes that we draped at each Officer's place. We put typed and laminated signs labeling the Officers and their duties at each Officer's spot as well. We have 11 display cases with displays in each one. We were able to get labels in cases which did not have labels. 4



exhibits were rearranged and it looked pretty good inside. We also sprinkled signs talking about the Grange throughout the exhibits.



had almost 1100 visitors. We gave out

25 membership applications. We installed flag holders on each side of the porch entrance for the Illinois State flag and the Grange Flag. They look beautiful flapping in the wind. All of this was in preparation for the Boone County Fair, August 11-16. We were visited by the Illinois State Grange Historian Beverly Peacock Smith. She was very helpful, knowledgeable, and encouraging. The Winnebago County author Carrie Meyer, PhD ("Days on the Family Farm") came in and visited with us, too. A lot of work is still to be done, and we have made wish lists for supplies and for the building itself. A big thank you to all who helped prepare.



Calendar of Grange Events

2026

9/11-13 Illinois State Grange Session
Springfield Illinois

9/19 Jeeptoberfest by Prairie Grange
Boone County Fairgrounds

11/11-15 National Grange Session
Broken Arrow OK

2027

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

Notes

Granger Donations

2 Rolls of Stamps Big Thunder Grange

September



FAC

2026 FAC Contests

- Group 1 – Knitting
 - A. Afghan
 - B. Baby Afghan
 - C. Baby Items, 1 or More
 - D. Winter Wear
 - E. Any Other Item Not Listed
- Group 2 - Crochet
 - A. Afghan
 - B. Baby Afghan
 - C. Baby Items, 1 or More
 - D. Winter Wear
 - E. Any Other Item Not Listed
- Group 3 – Needlework
 - A. Embroidery Items
 - B. Counted Cross Stitch
 - C. Plastic Canvas
 - D. Any Other Item Not Listed
- Group 4 – Quilting
 - A. Quilt – Queen, Full, or Twin
 - B. Quilt – Baby Quilt
 - C. Rag Quilt, Any Size
 - D. **Quilted Wall Hanging**
 - E. Unfinished Square – Max Size 16 ½ X 16 ½ inches
 - F. Any Other Item Not Listed
- Group 5 – Sewing
 - A. Apron
 - B. Clothing, 1 Item
 - C. Clothing, 2 or more Items
 - D. Pillow
 - E. Any Other Item Not Listed
- Group 6 – Jewelry/Miscellaneous
 - A. Bracelet
 - B. Necklace
 - C. 2 or More Piece Set
 - D. **Bead It!**
- Group 7 – Baking

Note – All food items must have a recipe and additional ziplock with taste testing sample

 - A. Quick Breads – Fruit inspired (1 small Loaf) *(no additional sample)*
 - B. Quick Breads – Garden inspired (1 large loaf) *(no additional sample)*
 - C. Cookies – Christmas (1 Dozen) *(judge sample 2 cookies)*
 - D. Cookies – recipe book is before 1976 (1 Dozen) *(judge sample 2 cookies)*
 - E. Bars – 2 flavors incorporated (1 Dozen) *(judge sample 2 cookies)*
 - F. Something Lemon (follow guidance of similar items and include judge sample)
- Group 8 – Food Other

Note – All food items must have a recipe and additional ziplock with taste testing sample

 - A. No Bake Cookies (1 Dozen) *(judge sample 2 cookies)*
 - B. Peanut Brittle (1 Quart Ziplock) *(judge sample snack ziplock)*
 - C. Chex Mix (1 Quart Ziplock) *(judge sample snack ziplock)*
 - D. Trail Mix (1 Quart Ziplock) *(judge sample snack ziplock)*
 - E. Fudge (1 Dozen) *(judge sample 2 squares)*
- Group 9 – Juniors
 - A. **Blanket, Any Kind (Tie, Sewn, Crochet, etc)**
 - B. **Jewelry, Any**
 - C. **Keychain**
 - D. **Vacation Advertisement (brochure, poster, any size)**
 - E. **Reinvent your favorite cookie in a non-edible way (felt, paper, wood etc)**
- Group Project
 - A. **From 1 or more Granges – Adult Bibs, Minimum 10 Bibs**
 - B. **From 1 or more Granges – Baby Blankets, Any Kind (Sewn, Knit, Crochet, etc), Minimum 10 Blankets– To be donated to Community Service Project so follow guidance from**



Chaplains Corner

By: Charlotte Mehrtens

As I sit here at the end of August thinking of this past summer, things we have all been busy doing, I hear just about the same content, (where has the summer gone). Many of us kind of sheltered in our homes because of extreme heat and humidity and heavy rains but life still went on. There is still lots to be thankful for, what God has given us, gardens that provide our food, farmers getting their crops planted some later than planned, many other workers that we depend on. Have you taken the time to look around you to see what God has placed around you. We need to take time to do that to see His love. School here has started and my youngest great grandson has started preschool. I don't think his mom has stopped crying yet. He keeps telling her he is a big boy. Maybe that's what many of us also think that we don't need God in our lives because we are big children but we always need Him in our life. He walks with us and guides and shows us the way. Will you continue to follow Him? Our prayers go to our Brothers and Sisters who are sick, in pain and recovering from surgery God's blessings be with you. Those who rejoice with happiness God bless each of you also. Blessings to all of you, I hope to see many of you at State Session so be sure to bring your HAPPY SMILES WITH YOU.

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

Granger Info

Send info to:
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Donations to Illinois Granger
\$7 Ruth Perley Flora Grange

