

ILLINOIS GRANGER

In Essentials...Unity

In Non-Essentials...Liberty

In All Things... Charity

October 2026 Vol.6 No. 10

Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

I am Chair of the National Grange Ag Committee for 2026 NG session; we have started meeting to review and update policy. Additionally, I am part of a monthly Task Force studying the National Grange Building location. I now serve as the NG Deputy for the unaffiliated Granges. 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 meetings or special events your Grange is planning. 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. Any Granger is welcome to attend Revival events.

Ag committee, Thanks to Lana Korte and Marilyn Hoffmann, as co-chairs for this year and next. Lyle Lee will be chair when we are in Boone County ('28), 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. 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. Community Service Director, Heather Ellwanger has worked hard to keep IL Granges active; I am excited to see what everyone brings for Linus Blankets. Family Activities Committee, thanks to Trisha Renken and Marilyn Coe. Historian, Bev Smith has kept us all informed of the history of the Illinois State Grange. Thanks to the Buck family for sharing many boxes of Grange information and memorabilia. It was great fun for me to review the material in the boxes then to share some of the material with Bev. Junior Director, Melinda Schiefer worked hard to have the Juniors be active. Lecturer, Thanks to Ethan for your efforts.

Thanks for the contests that you still have, since National Grange no longer has contests. Legislative Director, Thanks to Marc Henrichs for his efforts as director I appreciate his efforts in taking over this position to keep the Illinois Grangers informed and involved in all legislative concerns in a non-partisan way. Membership Director, Thanks to Robin Kindberg for all of her efforts for the membership of IL State Grange. Youth, Beth Olsen, 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.

Thanks to Kim Robin for her work in reorganizing County Line Junior Grange # 27. And thanks to the efforts of Beaver Valley members to try to reorganize Beaver Valley Junior Grange. They were #2 organized in 1919. Adam Ellwanger (Deputy), Brian O'Dell (Deputy), and Karie Blasingame (Vice President) worked hard to settle the differences between two factions of one Grange. Thanks for all of their efforts. As a result of this settlement there has been a Grange reorganized, Charity #1713 and Charity Junior Grange #96 started. Be sure to check out all the information on the nationalgrange.org, and all the other media platforms. Grange Engage is a great place to check out many opportunities for your Grange and NG. Be sure to checkout Facebook (Illinois State Grange) and ILLINOISSTATEGRANGE.org for when looking for information. Please check the Grange Today publication that arrives in your email box. Send information to Phil Vonada, NG Communications Director, if your Grange is doing something exciting and different. If your Grange has a hall in need of upgrades, you can apply for the State Grange Hall Improvement Fund at illinoisstategrange.org. The EX Comm has increased the amount that can be asked granted. 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 been sent out to email boxes of Subordinate and Pomona Secretaries or Presidents. Remember that the submission date is mid-November. Hope you all get the Good Day Magazine. Think about donating to Grange Foundation in the 1 in 1000 Club. Grange Foundation has special meetings and information for the 1 in 1000 Club members.

We remember Renee O'Dell (1953-2026), Beaver Valley Grange, Past ISG Chaplain, Past ISG Lecturer,

Sophia Treser, (1938 – 2026), Turkey Hill Grange, Past ISG Family Activities Director, as they have passed to the Great Grange Above. Don and I attended the funerals for both magnificent women. I will personally miss them both immensely. Each Grange has lost members who served the Grange in many ways and have died in the past year. “Well Done Good and Faithful Servant.”

In 1974 the IL State Grange, 103rd session was in Springfield, IL, Russell Stauffer was President at that time. The Ramada Forum 30 Hotel was the location September 11-14. They started on Wednesday with some initial work, and on Thursday the attendees boarded 3 buses and toured the Governor’s Mansion, Lincoln’s tomb, Old State Capital, and Lincoln’s Home. IL State Grange was host of the Midwest Youth Conference, now called the Midwest Grange Leadership Conference and IL was host of that this year, 2026. Even in 1974 the delegates were discussing an increase in NG dues and having ISG match that dues increase. And again, this year we need to discuss a dues increase as we have removed money from reserve accounts for the last two years, and this budget once again dips into the reserves. This process cannot continue. There were 78 delegates for 43 Subordinate Granges, 15 delegates for 9 Pomona Granges For a total of 93 delegates. Those delegates passed a Illinois State Grange dues increase. There were 50 Resolutions acted on by the delegates in 1974. Brother Stauffer wrote in his report “The heritage of the Grange has been handed down through generations, but only through the hard work and dedication of its members. Will ours be the generation to let it slide into obscurity, or will we be the ones who really reach the heights during the Soaring Seventies, the early years of our Second Century? That question can only be answered by our record of achievement in the years ahead.” As Grangers today, we must continue working together to strengthen our Granges, our communities and meet the needs of all who call them home. A good Grange places Faith in God, nurtures hope, Depends charity and is noted for Fidelity in their community. Grange Strong. Community Strong. As NG President Hamp likes to say “let’s be stronger tomorrow than we are today”!

Fraternally, Lynette L Schaeffer

Illinois State Grange Secretary

It was great to see many of you at the State Session this past month! I hope everyone who came had an enjoyable and productive time.

With the 3rd quarter ending Sept. 30, please send me Community Grange Quarterly Reports and dues by Oct. 15. Before you mail them, text or email me an image of the report so I have the numbers and know that the dues are on the way.

At the State Session, the delegates passed Resolution 2026-05, which increases membership dues effective Jan. 1, 2027. All membership categories are increasing by \$5 per year (or \$1.25 per quarter), except for family plans, which are increasing by \$10 per year (or \$2.50 per quarter). Please continue to use the Quarterly Report forms marked "2026" through the 4th quarter 2026. Granges will be receiving new forms marked "2027" to use beginning the 1st quarter next year.

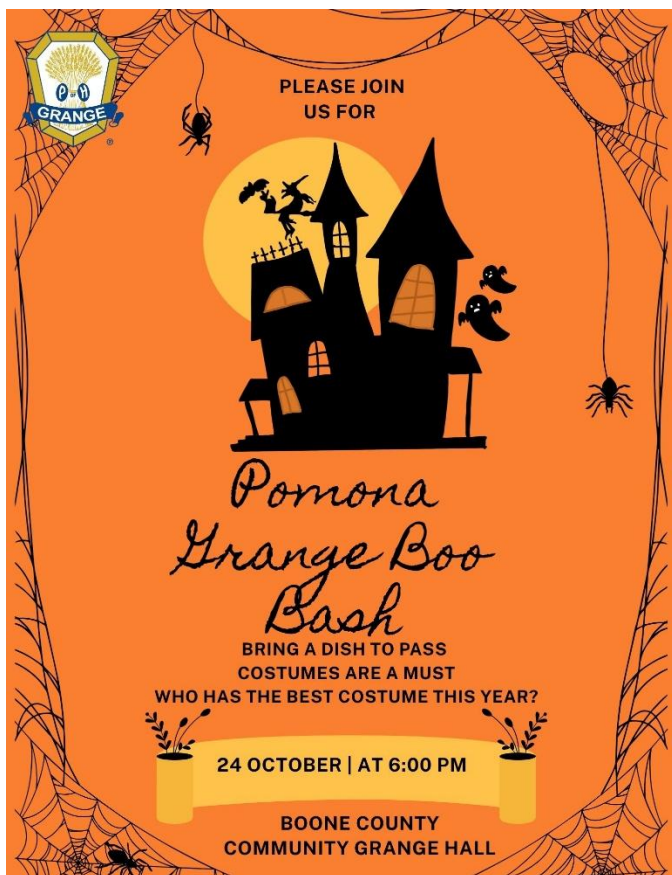
The deadline for National Grange bonding insurance is Nov. 15. Don't forget to send in your bonding insurance check and form by the deadline. If your Grange has chosen to be self-insured, I need the certification form by Nov. 15. You should have received the bonding insurance information and forms from Lynette back in June. However, if you've misplaced them, let me know, and I can resend them.

The Illinois State Grange is in the process of revising our IRS reporting and working through 990 filing issues with the local Granges. As part of that, we will email the Community and Pomona Granges information that will require your attention. Just a heads-up to be on the lookout.

Each year, the proceedings of the State Session are published in the annual Journal. Each Grange will be issued one printed copy, which will be distributed at GRIT. To save on costs, everyone else, including officers and committee chairs, will receive a digital copy. A digital copy will also be included with the other digital info distributed at GRIT. However, if you need a printed copy, please let me know as soon as possible so one can be reserved for you. If your Grange only wants a digital copy and not a printed copy, please let me know that, too.

I'll end with a plug for the Illinois Granger. If you want to keep informed about what's going on with the Grange in Illinois and keep up with official notices, deadlines, and other information, the Illinois Granger is a must-read. If you know a fellow Granger who doesn't receive it or doesn't read it, please encourage them to subscribe and read it!

Fraternally,
Brian Keller
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Guilford Hope Grange #6

Guilford Hope Grange met Sept 22, 2026, at Carrie Meyer & Ernie Carlson's home for a potluck lunch. Meeting was opened in the 4th degree with the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary and Treasurer's reports were given and approved. Wayne Lyford reported on the State session - attendance was down and they were trying to get all

the Granges to send delegates in the future, National Grange representative from Texas reported on the sale of the National Grange headquarters for 8 million dollars. Wayne talked about officer changes in the State Grange. Vivian Johnson, our deputy, talked about her Grange history and the establishment of Union Grange and some of their charter members. Martha Byrnes reported on distributing the dictionaries we gave the third graders at All Saints Academy in Rockford. We set our meeting dates and places for rest of the year. Meeting was adjourned. Nathalie Lyford, secretary

Broad Hollow Grange

Broad Hollow Grange has held their monthly potlucks with everyone sharing lots of good food. September 4th found the Grange decorated in all its fall splendor with fall foliage, fall flowers, scarecrows and other items. After a delicious potluck, all enjoyed Bunco games. Prizes were white elephant items. In August, the program theme was "Back to School." All enjoyed the "Funny School" stories. August trivia was shared and a school quiz was held. The program closed with "A Tribute to Teachers."

Junior department

Melinda Schiefer, Director
Steve Alltop, Assistant

Subordinate Grange Master/Presidents... Please watch your mailbox, and bring the envelope you receive to GRIT. If you are unable to attend, please send with a representative.

Also, Juniors... We need a name for our galaxy. Please share your ideas at GRIT. Or text them to me at [618-444-2852](tel:618-444-2852).

Beaver Valley Grange

Beaver Valley Grange met on September 18, 2026, for its August and September meeting. We were pleased to welcome new member Ritchie Valk, who was approved for membership.

President, Brian O'Dell shared highlights from the 155th Illinois State Grange Session. The election of officers resulted in Rick O'Dell being elected to a three-year term on the Executive Committee. Brian O'Dell will serve as Assistant Steward.

Congratulations to Abby Hopkins, a Manchester Elementary teacher, who was named Teacher of the Year!

Our late sister, Renee O'Dell, won Illinois Grange Member of the year. We are honored for this recognition on Renee's behalf.

Beaver Valley received numerous awards and recognitions. Brandon O'Dell was the overall winner with many entries and awards. Marisa O'Dell received Best of Show for her diamond art of John Wayne, created in memory of Renee O'Dell. Many other BVG members, both youth and adults, were also recognized for their accomplishments. Great job everyone!

Beaver Valley Grange will again support Wreaths Across America. Marisa and/or Brian O'Dell are the local points of contact, with Steve Picken representing Willow Creek Church. There are 140 veterans' graves at Scottish Cemetery, and wreaths will be provided for each branch of service. Members are encouraged to reach out to family and friends who may wish to participate. \$17 each.

Beaver Valley participated in Ag Day at Willow Creek church and enjoyed seeing the Little Miss and Queen winners from this year's fair! Thanks to everyone for stopping by!

Reminders:

-PAMA Tractor Trunk or Treat is Oct 17, 2026, 11-2. BVG will be sponsoring a tractor and have lots of goodies!

-Chipotle Fundraiser on Oct 17, 2026 5-9pm. Be sure to mention Beaver Valley Grange when ordering! Machesney Park location.

We look forward to another busy season of fellowship, service, and community involvement!

Fraternally submitted,
Micah Schlie
Publicity



Hello from Charity Grange

Mike and Kim Robin enjoyed going to State Session and Receiving the Charters for their Subordinate Grange #1713 and the Junior Charter #96. Charity Grange also enjoyed working with Prairie Grange for the Jeptoerfest. We also are helping set up for the Appreciation Dinner on September 23rd. We will be having our meeting on Tuesday evening instead of Wednesday because of the dinner. We had two of our members getting married over the weekend Ethan Walker and Kaitlyn Roth Congratulations to you both.



Congratulations to Charity Grange #1713

And

Congratulations to Charity Junior Grange #96

Congratulations!!!



Ethan Walker & Kaitlyn Roth
Charity Grange



Rebbeca Meyers & Nathan Sorg
Prairie Grange

County Line Grange #1751

At our September meeting our guest, Wayne Lyford, President of Guilford Hope Grange #6, conducted our installation of officers. We felt this was appropriate as it was at a meeting of Guilford Hope back in 1908 that County Line was founded. After the meeting we enjoyed Cake, coffee, and punch. Before our refreshments our President held a T-Shirt folding contest. Lisa Loveridge won the best folding prize and Butch Peters won the prize for worst fold.

We had one new member. Our Hometown Christmas Committee is starting to plan.

We had a Planning Meeting last month to discuss our committees and events for this new year. Our calendar is full.

Myron & Jean Peterson were our delegates to Illinois State Grange. We look forward to their report at our next meeting.

October will be our annual Halloween party and costume contest. The decorations are always very bootiful.



County Line Grange Museum Report

September was busy for the Chairman, as we continued sorting and documenting artifacts.

There is still much to be done. As Beverly Peacock Smith can attest to, it is very very interesting to look at the artifacts and read about them, when documentation is available.

Chris Gardner, the Curator of Collections for the Boone County Historical Museum was gracious to give us almost 2 hours of her time.

My husband and I had a wonderful tour of the Boone County Historical Museum. Chris

showed us the "back rooms" where storage was set up. We gleaned so much from her and we are very thankful. She shared how she

uses specific software to inventory their artifacts. She recommended a book,

MANAGING PREVIOUSLY UNMANAGED

COLLECTIONS by Angela Kipp. She uses it all the time. I have ordered it and expect it in a

day or two. Our President met with the overhead door company to fix the bottom seal

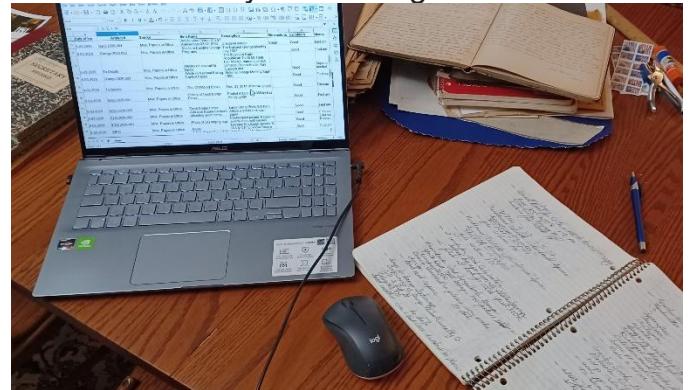
problem. We have a Museum Committee Meeting for Wednesday evening, September

30, to discuss our Mission, volunteer job opportunities for the Museum, our wish list, a

budget, goals, building maintenance, etc. We have a lot of work to do, and we are very

excited to see such progress.

Fraternally Submitted by Jean M. Peterson,
Chairman County Line Grange Museum



Flora Grange

Flora Grange held their September meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 7 pm at their Grange Hall with Wayne Lyford installing the new officers for the years 2026-2028. Tom Berry, president, called meeting to order with Grange Salutation and Pledge to American Flag, with Chaplain, Donna West leading us in an opening prayer.

Newly elected secretary Tammy Brauer took roll call of officers with nine in attendance and motion to approve the minutes of August 18th, 2026, meeting with one application for membership approved this evening.

Reports of Committees: Community Service: Lindakay Ebel thanked all that turned in community service hours this evening. Fair board: Todd Hegge reminded everyone of the fair appreciation dinner on the 23rd at 6:30; they will need helpers from each Grange to set up for the appreciation dinner on the 22nd, also the fair board will be meeting and discussing the good things and the things that need to be improved for next year for and during the fair.

Jack Ratcliffe reported on Farmland Protection. Many people from Boone County attended the meeting that was held concerning the land on Genoa Road that they want to use other than farmland. Jack reported there were over 200 people in attendance who are concerned about what is going to happen. Legislative, Marion Thornberry stated not much going on other than the County board and the mayor are talking about the Data center in Boone County 1-1/2 miles out of the city limits. Membership- Lindakay Ebel welcomed our new member and stated we all need to work on recruiting new members. Building and Grounds – Jack Ratcliffe stated a repair man will be checking over one of our refrigerators tomorrow, also, we may have to get some gravel for the driveway.

Lindakay Ebel gave the treasurer's report, including all deposits, expenses and balances on all accounts, with motion to approve from membership.

Old Business: Final plans were made for motorcycle run on October 3rd at Louie's Tap House in Roscoe. Motion was made to have Tammy make up a raffle basket for \$30 from Flora Grange. Registration is at 9 am, Motorcycle run rain or shine, with food, raffle baskets, 50/50 raffle, Live DJ from 4 to 8 pm.

Tom Berry talked about the Illinois State Convention he attended. Sydney Berry took part in the State Youth opening and Tom was appointed to the State Agricultural Committee for 2029. Both took the 5th and 6th degrees while at the State Convention also.

Tom presented Lindakay Ebel, Community Service Chairman for Flora Grange a certificate for 1st place^t for her community service book for the 2025-2026 year and a check for \$100 from the Illinois State Convention. Also, to Zackary Smith, Belvidere policeman who was policeman of the year at Flora Grange also received an award at the Illinois State Convention.

Emalee Colver showed some of the items she, Mary Jane Lane and Sharon Fidler entered at the convention with their beautiful quilts, etc. Mary Jane received the Flora Award and Emalee received the Pomona Award. Sharon received 1st place on her quilt and Emalee received 2nd place. We are so proud of our Flora Grange Sewing Circle, they made and took down 24 quilts for the Linus project out of the 104 that was given to Haven Network at the State Convention. Great job quilters!! So proud of all your hard work.

We discussed the Spaghetti dinner that will be held at Flora Grange on Sunday, November 1st from 11 am to 2 pm at the Flora Grange Hall for \$12 per person, including salads, spaghetti, roll, wafer & ice cream.

Rhonda Settle, Program chairman had hand outs and recipe for all in attendance. Emalee Culver collected \$33.00 in 'G' bills, Chaplain closed the Bible and closed with a prayer and Master Tom closed the meeting in full form.

Refreshments were served with fellowship following. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 7 pm.
Publicity, Lindakay Ebel

GRANGE RESOURCES AND INFORMATION TRAINING (GRIT)
Learn about Illinois State Grange programs and contests for the upcoming year.

October 10 & 11, 2026

October 10 –
Boone County Community Grange Hall
8791 IL Route 76,
Belvidere, IL 6108-9603

October 11 –
Turkey Hill Grange Hall
1375 East State Route 15,
Belleville, Illinois 62220

SCHEDULE
Potluck at 11:00 AM
Presentations at 11:45 AM

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

Presenters are expected to attend both sessions. If you cannot attend, please notify Lynette. Please send presentation information to Lynette or Karie, and send electronic files to Karie or Marisa for the USB stick by October 7 at 9:00 PM.

Thanks for your participation – Lynette

Donations to Illinois Granger

\$20 Henrietta Keller Enterprise Grange
\$100 Floraville Grange in memory of Bob Hoffman

EDITOR

Ruth Blasingame
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Calendar of Grange Events

2026

10/10 GRIT North 11am Potluck
11:45 Presentations
Boone County Comm Grangehall

10/11 GRIT South 11am Potluck
11:45 Presentations
Turkey Hill Grangehall

10/24 Boo Bash – Potluck and Dance 6pm
Costumes & bring a dish to pass
Boone County Comm Grangehall

11/1 Spagetti Dinner – Flora Grange 11-2pm

11/11-15 National Grange Session
Broken Arrow OK

2027

5/22 Illinois State Grange Picnic
Boone County Community P

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

STATEWIDE GRANGE PICNIC

MAY 22ND
11 AM

Table service and meat provided

BOONE COUNTY COMMUNITY GRANGE HALL

A day of Grange fellowship and community



Prairie Grange

Many of our members spent time at State Session as Officers and members of the Illinois State Grange. Our Juniors went on a troll hunt finding the 2 trolls the local high school had created by Lake Springfield. Many of our members won prize money in the Ag, FAC, Lecturer, Youth and Junior department contests. On September 19th Prairie Grange members sponsored JeepToberFest2026 with Jeeps and Tacos and numerous other sponsors. We had inches of rain come down but we still prevailed and had a great time with an offroad track, many obstacles, a show and shine, chuck a duck contest and many vendors and food trucks. Much mud was produced on the fairgrounds, but we had about 200 Jeeps enjoy the fun. We will be having a tent at the Paulson Ag Museum's Tractor and Treat on October 17th. We are getting excited about Boone County Pomona Grange's Boo Bash either on the 23rd or 24th of October. We are

looking into different costume options now. Our next meeting is Oct 19th at 7 pm, serving committee is the Henningers.

Prairie Grange presents Jeeptoberfest 2026



Chaplains Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

October, oh those falling leaves, bonfires, dust from the corn and bean fields, the fall crisp morning air. Tractors and combines doing the race against time to get crops out of the fields, and the gathering of the last of the garden produce. The pumpkin patches with bright orange colors, white, blues, black and many other pumpkin colors. That most likely is telling us that we are just around the corner to fall.

Hopefully we are done with the 100-degree weather and high humidity and cooler weather. Today I cut open some persimmon seeds and what did I find inside when I cut the seeds open but spoons. Now I know that many of you probably do not know what that means. You may not even know what they are, they are a bright colored fruit and the center of them if you open them there are many seeds, be extra careful cutting the seeds apart as they are very thin.

The spoon tells us lots of snow, a fork says, ice and snow and a knife is cutting ice.

There are lots of folklore that many people follow just as in Jesus' time. They followed different wind directions for what the weather would bring. The Bible tells us many signs, do we follow them as they did then. Our Lord shows us the way, we seek His ways to become better Christians will you follow Him .

It was so great to meet and make new friends and see old friends. What a great and loving organization the Grange is. Prayers to each of you and wishing you all a blessed fall.

“Well Done Good and Faithful Servant”

Shirley Porter

Age 90

Emerald Mound Grange

