Illinois Granger

In Essentials. . .Unity

In Non-Essentials. . .Liberty

In All Things. . . Charity

November 2026 Vol.6 No. 11

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Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

Well, the October weather is too warm and too dry here in southern IL. We have set records for the warmest September and are on pace for near that for October. Halloween is around the corner, be ready for the trick or treaters. Just to remind you all that the Schaeffer's are getting rid of the land line – so don't use the number that ends in 4237. Call the number that ends in 5546. Email me if you need the cell number.

Thanks to the presenters for the GRIT conferences. They were held October 10 at Boone County Community Grange Hall and one [Oct 11] at Turkey Hill Grange. Nearly 40 people attended each day. Much important information was shared and distributed, via voice, paper and USB. I hope you can find the information when you need it. Thanks to Karie for sharing the files on USB, thanks to DJ for sharing on the website (illinoisstategrange.org). Some of the points I mentioned.

Thanks everyone for making the 155th State Session of the IL State Grange a great achievement. Thanks to the delegates and officers for working on the budget and 9 resolutions. We had three resolutions that went to National for Session. Next year, Sept 10 – 12, 2027, the session will be at Mascoutah Sportsmens, 1535 N County Rd, Mascoutah, Illinois 62258. I am working with hotels for sleeping rooms.

Taxes – eform 990 – keep them current. Need any help, please contact me. Brian and I are working to get all the records current. The IRS has made changes for Organizations w/Group Exemption. Brian will be sending emails and letters to those with no email concerning this matter. If you are currently filling out the form 990n with IRS please continue as you have been. For most of you now is the time to fill the form.

The Bonding information has hit the email box of the Pomona/Subordinate Secretaries or President already. Please get the money and form back to Brian Keller ASAP or date Brian has set. The checks are made out to the Illinois State Grange. The information needs to be to Brian Keller before November 15.

Emerald Mound Grange and Shiloh Valley Grange, with my leadership have been chosen to participate in the **Rural Women Shaping Health Research (RWSHR).** NG. supported by PCORI award. is working to make sure rural women's voices are included in future health research. Watch for more at 160th NG Session.

National Grange Session will be on the Stoney Creek in Broken Arrow, OK, November 8 - 16, 2026. Don is on the Conservation Committee, and I am chair of the Agriculture Committee, both groups have been working prior to session to review and update Present Policy and Policy Statement. Congratulations to The Prairie Grange, Turkey Hill Grange, Prairie Junior and Boone County Pomona Grange for being Distinguished Granges. Awards will be on November 20, NG virtual Honors Night, 8:30 pm ET. Congratulations to Marisa O'Dell for being chosen as a Communications Fellow.

Always remember if your Grange has a Grange Hall and needs to make some improvements, the State Grange has a Hall Improvement Fund. The application form is on the website illinoisstategrange.org. Contact me, or anyone on the IL Ex Committee if you have any questions. It is important when applying for a Hall Improvement Fund to please provide **ALL** information requested. Look at your hall as a new person would look at it.

Good Day Magazine – have you subscribed? I hope that all of you have subscribed or will subscribe. Illinois appears in many of the magazines. This is a great publication. Make sure you renew

subscriptions in a timely manner. Look on the label to see when you will expire.

Make sure your secretary, Brian Keller and I have the correct emails, so that the Grange Engage is up to date. I recently sent emails to many of the email addresses that were in the Database – many of them came back – no longer a valid email.

Look often at the National Grange www.nationalgrange.org. See what is happening that you or your Grange might be interested in or participate in. Keep in mind that Grangers are an inspiration to your community. The last page of the *Grange Today* has a listing of different benefits. Check it out.

Any questions about Revival 5.0, it will be July 19 – 24, 2027 in Bryson, NC, part of the Great Smoky Mountains. Reservations will be ready after January 1, 2027. Lana, Don and I are planning on attending.

Recently at a Grange event a member mentioned to me that he likes helping other Granges with their projects, fundraisers, and programs. Even if it is just to purchase a meal ticket. Be supportive of other Grangers and Granges – usually they need assistance – contact them if you can help. Or just purchase a meal ticket or whatever the fundraiser is. BE SUPPORTIVE of each other. Remember that Grangers should be *Courageous Spirits* in their community while they Persevere down life's pathway.

Illinois State Grange Secretary

While I wasn't able to be at GRIT in Boone County, I was happy to see many of you at GRIT the next day at Turkey Hill. Great food and plenty of good information. Many thanks to all the presenters and everyone who came, making it a very worthwhile event!

November 15 is the deadline for turning in the paperwork for the bonding of Grange officers for individual Granges. Whether your Grange chooses to self-bond or purchase bonding insurance through the National Grange, it is very important that I receive the paperwork and your check, if applicable, by the deadline. Checks should be made payable to Illinois State Grange. The National Grange will then invoice us, and we will pay the premium on your behalf. Bonding checks and paperwork should be mailed directly to me so that I receive them by November 15. If you've chosen self-bonding, you can just email me the certification.

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

Fraternally,
Brian Keller, IL State Grange Secretary
703 E 2nd St, O'Fallon IL 62269
618-410-9020
brianjkeller@gmail.com

Illinois Granger

Deadlines for Articles

2026/2027

Oct 28 – Wednesday	New Contests
Nov 25 – Wednesday	New Contests
Dec 23 – Wednesday	
Jan 27 – Wednesday	
Feb 24 – Wednesday	
Mar 24 – Wednesday	Repeat Contests
Apr 26 – Monday	Info on Midwest Leadership Conference
May 26 – Wednesday	State Session Info
Jun 23 – Wednesday	State Session Infor
Jul 28 – Wednesday	Repeat Contests
Aug 25 – Wednesday	
Sep 27 – Monday	
Oct 27 – Wednesday	New Contests
Nov 24 – Wednesday	New Contests
Dec 27 – Monday	

Illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com
Ruth Blasingame – Editor/Communications
815-299-7884
8711 Deer Run Drive
Belvidere, IL 61008-9050

Every State Officer should send an article at least once per year.

Every Director, Community Service, FAC, AG, Youth, Junior, Lecturer, should send an article at least every other month.

Regular Grangers should submit good news, engagements, weddings, births, monumental birthdays or anniversaries, etc., and bad news, deaths, move to nursing homes, hospital stays, etc., whenever these events happen.

Do you have a hobby that we might like to know about? Send an article with pictures. Did your child's team make history? There are things in life we can share with others!

Bluff Grange Trivia Night

8567 Ste. Route 163 Millstadt IL 62260

Saturday November 7th

$15 per person max 8 per table

Mulligans $10 for 10

Doors open at 6 pm,

Trivia Starts at 7 pm

• Silent Auction •

Attendance prizes

Raffles 50/50'S

Bring your own Snacks and Drinks

and desire for fun.

For reservations

call or text Rob at 618-604-2858

Enterprise Grange

The last week of September was apple butter time for Enterprise Grange #1929. At least 25 Grangers and Grange friends turned out for the annual event at Kenny and Mary Ann Joseph's farm in O'Fallon Township. We started on Wednesday, September 23, with the washing of jars and buckets. Then, on Friday, we peeled the apples, cooked them down in traditional copper kettles, and ladled them into ricers to make apple sauce. Saturday started with a colorful sunrise and the cooking of the apple sauce with sugar and spices to make apple butter. The operation concluded in the afternoon with the canning of 203 pints and 168 half pints. Enterprise has been making apple butter in this way since 1967. Sale proceeds help fund our primary community service project of distributing dictionaries to third graders in O'Fallon area schools.



Boone County Pomona Grange

Hello Fall and fellow Grangers-

We are collecting pantry items for the VAC of Boone County. Please bring all items to the Pomona meeting. There will be a bin in the basement for collection. Let me know if you have any questions. Next meeting we will be collecting hats and mittens for our giving tree.

Fraternally submitted-
Marisa O'Dell





Illinois State Grange Juniors



Dot and her astronaut friend, Sparks, want to thank the Granges that joined the fun. To those that didn't, it's not the same without you. Stay tuned for more adventures shared.

2027 Illinois State Grange ***JUNIOR DEPARTMENT*** Contests

All Junior Contests - Individual must be a Junior, or 1+ member

Three age groups: 5-7, 8-10, 11-14. Entry age as of 1/1/2027 (National Guidelines)

Any entry that is not labeled and does not follow rules may be disqualified from judging, but may still receive a participation ribbon.

Maximum size is given in measurements of length-by-width-by-height

Mini-Juniors: Any child who is 5 by September 1, 2027 may send up to 3 entries to session. These projects will not be judged as other age groups are, but will receive participation ribbons.

Junior at Heart: Any Granger over the age of 20, as of September 1, 2027, may submit a project. These projects will be voted on by fellow Grangers for Best of Show.

Host State – Nevada

NOT SO Small World – To Infinity...

Your universe is expanding. Share about stars, moons, and other planets that you have discovered. Make a 3-D display (Maximum size 10x10x8"high) or poster (up to 11x14" finished size after mounted for stability) with the name, size, weather, etc. of your discovery.

Recycling – Altered book

Go thrifting and use an old book to create something new. Cut out a space and create a 3-D scene, fold pages to create a design, or use a page as base and add objects to create new scene.

Bible Stories - Creation

Make a poster, 3-D item, or give a 3-5 minute speech on one of the days 4, 5, or 6 of Creation.

The Arts

Create a picture of outer space using sand as the main component.

Melinda (Mindy) Schiefer

IL State Grange Junior Director

10949 Faust Road, Trenton, IL 62293

(618)444-2852 or schefr5@gmail.com



Leroy Community Grange

We have completed several community service projects in northern Boone County. We had a flag pole installed at the Long Prairie Cemetery. The second project involved painting the propane tank at Manchester School and adding the school name and mascot to the front.

Broad Hollow Grange

Broad Hollow Grange will meet on Friday, November 6th. Instead of a potluck, the meal will consist of soup and desserts at 6:30 p.m. The program following will include a tribute to Native Americans, Veterans' Day, and Thanksgiving.

The program for the first Friday potluck in October consisted of Halloween riddles, a Halloween word scramble, "Would You Rather Be," a quiz on fall and Halloween, Halloween Mad Libs, and fall facts. The hall was decorated with orange and black, witches, bats, and ghosts.

Calendar of Grange Events

2026

11/1 Flora Spagetti Dinner

11/7 Bluff Trivia Night

11/15 Bonding Deadline

11/11-15 National Grange Session
Broken Arrow OK

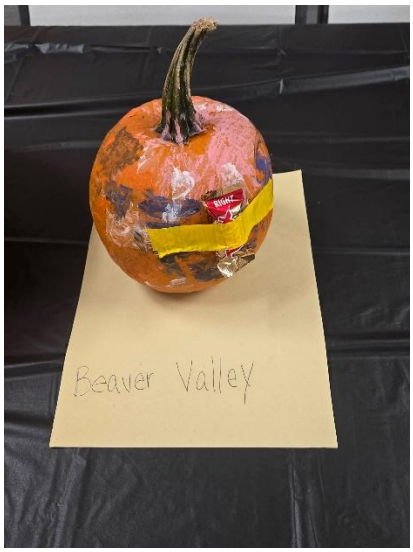
2027

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











Beaver Valley Junior Grange #2

Beaver Valley Juniors have been having fun and learning at meetings and at other events. We had fun decorating pumpkins and learning about everything fall. We ate different types of apples and found our favorite ones. We had fun at the Paulson Agriculture Museum Tractor Trunk or treat. We even had a costume contest at the Pomona Boo Bash. We are excited for the upcoming Polar Express Junior Christmas Party.

Fraternally Submitted
Beaver Valley Grange Juniors #2
Junior Matron- Marisa O'Dell

Beaver Valley Grange News

Beaver Valley Grange met on October 9th at the Boone County Community Hall. This is our 110th year as a Grange!

Members were recognized for their years of service, and officers were elected for the coming year. Installation of officers will take place at our November 13 meeting.

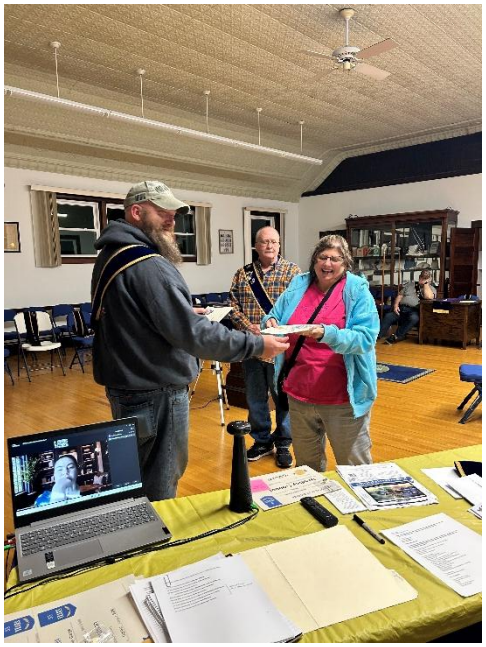
Congratulations to Marisa O'Dell on being selected as a National Grange Communications Fellow! We also approved plans for our Juniors and Youth to decorate a tree for Hometown Christmas in Belvidere and adopt a family for the holidays.

As fall harvest continues, we were reminded to use extra caution when sharing the roads with farm equipment. Our Juniors enjoyed painting pumpkins generously donated by Susie's Garden Patch. Jerry Paulson reminds us its time to cut back peonies and perennials; still time to plant your bulbs.

Reminder: we are still accepting donations for Wreaths Across America. See Brian or Marisa O'Dell.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Beaver Valley Grange and our community. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on November 13!









Happy Fall from Flora Grange #1762

Flora Grange held a pasta dinner/meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 6 pm at their Grange Hall with some 35 members in attendance. Following dinner, a guest speaker, Mike Novak from the Data Center from Belvidere spoke to our group and answered questions.

Master Tom Berry called the meeting to order at 7:25, followed by roll call and approval of the September 8, 2026, minutes. Jack Ratcliffe gave the obligations of the Grange to Michelle Berry who had joined several months ago. Reports from various committees followed:

Community Service: Lindakay Ebel reported on the GRIT workshop that was held in Belvidere on October 10th and the changes for community service. A certificate was presented to Flora Grange from The National Grange, signed by President Christine E. Hamp for First Place, Illinois State Grange, Outstanding Community Service book. Also, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year 2026, Zachary Smith. Lindakay thanked all that turned in hours this evening. She told us that we could display pictures for next year, however, they would not be judged.

Agriculture: Jack Ratcliffe stated crops are being harvested, weather has been great. Be careful on the roads for large equipment. **Fair Board:** Todd Hegge reported major acts will be the same, working on free acts, will have the bull riding and the demo derby. **Farmland Protection:** No meeting, farmers working in fields. **Legislative:** Marion Thornberry stated it is very important for everyone to get out and vote. Also, is anyone interested in ordering shirts? If so, see Marion. **Membership:** We all need to be working on recruiting new members. **Quilting:** There will be quilting on Saturday and Sunday. **Building & Grounds:** Still doing mowing as needed. Laurel & Jack are cleaning out some of the closets. Also, having person look at the one refrigerator.

Treasurer's report was given and approved. There was discussion on the liability insurance that is due November 1st, and this was resolved by a motion. Amy Bellavigna said she inherited some money and she would like to donate a new refrigerator/freezer to the Grange Hall in memory of Brian K. Babcock to replace the old one. She was thanked for her very generous donation by members of the Grange. $33.00 was collected in "G" bills. Members bid on four baskets that were left over from October 3rd. Meeting was closed in full form.

COME AND JOIN US AT OUR: Spaghetti & meatball dinner with salad, also bake sale and craft sale will be held on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 2026, 11:30 TO 2 PM** at FLORA **GRANGE HALL**, 2105 S Stone Quarry Road, Belvidere. This is open to the public for only $12.00. Dine In or Carry-Outs. Call 815-985-8544 for information.

Next meeting, Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 7 pm.

– Serving Committee – Marilyn Ryan, JT and Max Ryan and Maddy Aves.

Lindakay Ebel, Publicity

County Line Grange

First of all, many thanks to Nikki bishop for getting a certificate of recognition of legacy to the Fitich family, Nikki is fifth generation. The fitch family has been around for a long time, congratulations to the family. Thank you again to Nikki. We got the certificate; we will be putting it in a frame. Our October meeting was a great success. We are getting ready for hometown Christmas. We also had some grangers at the trunk or treat, that was nice. We are going to sponsor some 4 H kids for dairy and rabbits. Thanks to Ned and Kathy Loy for decorating the room, very awesome with the Halloween decorations. We had a nice social time with plenty of good sandwiches and salads. We are all happy for Linda Mullins. She is goine to Tennessee to visit her family and friends. Hope everyone has a wonderful candy eating Halloween. Cathy Zei

2027 Illinois State Grange Youth Contests

All entries are DUE at State Session Friday Morning.

LEGO Item or Scene

1. Illumination LEGO Set
2. Vehicles Lego Set
3. Flowers Lego Set
4. Animals Lego Set
5. Miscellaneous Lego Set
6. Original Lego Set, no KITS
7. Grange Related

Diamond Art: Must be framed, ready to hang; no sawtooth hangers.

1. Seasons/Holidays
2. Cartoon/Anime
3. Animals
4. Nature/Landscapes
5. Cities and Travel
6. Western
7. Illumination
8. Agricultural
9. Movie & T.V.
10. Miscellaneous (Coasters can be a complete set)

Ceramics

1. Functional
2. Display

Fabric

Decorated Items

1. Shirt
2. Tote
3. Apron
4. Shoes
5. Miscellaneous

Something Stuffed

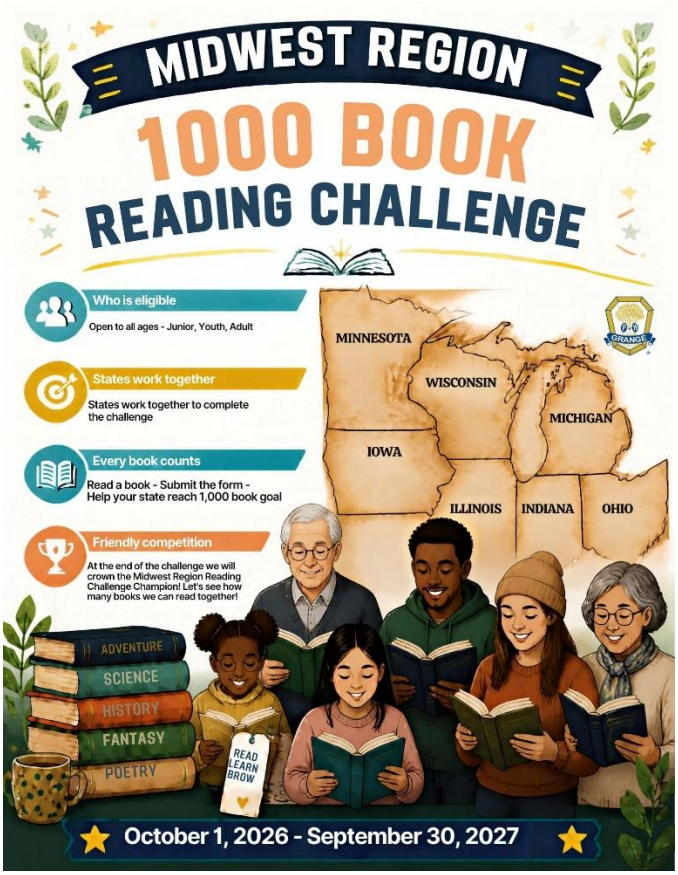
1. Crochet/knit
2. Sewn
3. Miscellaneous

FOOD (Three items per category)

1. Cookies
2. Cake Pops
3. Cupcakes
4. Gingerbread Houses

Poster, TIKTOK or YouTube Video

1. Pollinator
2. Food Waste
3. Mental Illness
4. Hearing/Signing
5. Anything AG-related
6. Illuminating





Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

Happy Thanksgiving to each of you.

Enter His gates with Thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. Psalm 100: 4

Recently one Sunday service message talked about if we as Christians stand on a firm foundation or stand on sandy ground. I have really had to stop and think about it. I think I'm on the right track of a firm foundation but then something happens that I'm not happy with and blame God for what happened, then I think well maybe I'm on sandy soil. So, I stop and ask myself if I'm strong enough to trust God or just strong enough to leave it in His hands. Sometimes we ask Him to heal someone who is very ill because we don't want lose a very dear one. We must lean on our Father on the firm foundation and trust Him. Stay away from the sandy soil.

The pilgrims that celebrated their first Thanksgiving here in America had enough faith that they took the chance to stand on the firm soils, but many all stood on the sandy soil of the unknown. Where do we stand as Christians in our lives.

Wishing each of you a very BLESSED HOLIDAY

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

The following Granges have not returned to me their corrected lists of members for the Granger.

Beaver Valley, Big Thunder, Capron, Leroy, Guilford Hope, Perryville, Troy Grove, Bluff, Broad Hollow, Emerald Mound, Floraville, Progressive, Shiloh Valley, Turkey Hill

With the few that I received I was able to reduce the mailing list down to 124. Keep this in mind as you correct your lists. Anyone who is able should receive the newsletter by email. Thank You



