155th Annual Session - 2026

ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE

JOURNAL



Northfield Inn & Suites
3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield, Illinois
September 11-13, 2026

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Secretary's Acknowledgments

Many thanks to Sisters Robin Kindberg, Karrie Kindberg, and Kelly Kindberg, who assisted me before, during, and after State Session. Their help with taking minutes, typing reports, taking notes on the various activities, and more was invaluable and greatly appreciated. Thank you also to everyone who provided information and reports for this Journal, helping to make it a valuable reference. A special thank you to Sister Henrietta Keller, who helped with the registration table throughout State Session and contributed much to making sure things went smoothly and efficiently. – Brian Keller, Illinois State Grange Secretary

Schedule of Events 155th Annual Session of Illinois State Grange
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL, September 11-13, 2026

Friday, September 11, 2026

8:30 AM – Noon
Registration & Contest entries in place in display room

9:30 State Officers Practice Sixth Degree Practice

1:00 PM Open in the Sixth Degree – **Lynette Schaeffer**, President
Open to all Delegates and Grangers attending
Roll Call of Officers Close in the Sixth Degree Open in the Fourth Degree
Presentation of William "Buddy" Overstreet Member of NG Executive Committee and his wife Karen Overstreet, Past President of Texas State Grange. IL Past Presidents and National Officers/Committee

Presentation. Mayor of Springfield **Misty Buscher**
Response –**Karie Blasingame**, Vice President
Roll Call of Delegates
Adoption of Order of Business –Frank D Wurth, Chair Exec Comm
Meeting place for 2027 St Clair
Invitation of Meeting Place 2028 Boone/Winnebago with Wisconsin?
Reports –Treasurer (Budget), Secretary (Credentials), Exec Committee (Deb Wade)

2:15 Recess
2:30 Election of Officer [one Executive Committee member **Todd Hegge**]

Appointment of Session Committees Assignment of Resolutions
Committee Instruction by President and Vice President
Resolutions to the committees

4:00 Grange Closed in the Fourth Degree
Committee Meetings
6:00 Main Banquet

7:00 Evening Program
Introduction of Special Invited Guests
Summary of Address of State President – **Lynette Schaeffer**
Community Service Awards – **Heather Ellwanger**, Director
Membership Awards – **Robin Kindberg**, Director
8:30 Committee Meetings

Saturday, September 12, 2026

7:00 Ag Presentation Ag Chairman: **Lana Korte/Marilyn Hoffmann, Jennifer Fishburn** Horticulture Educator with University of Illinois Extension in Logan, Menard, and Sangamon counties.

8:00 Opening in Fourth Degree Roll Call of State Officers
Roll Call of Delegates Reading and Adopting of Minutes
8:45 Junior Grange Report and Awards – **Mindy Schiefer**
9:45 Report – Committee on Finance & Accounts
10:00 Recess

10:15 Committee Reports
11:30 Family Homemaking Projects Luncheon –**Trisha Renken**, Director
1:15 PM Obligation of Fifth Degree – **William "Buddy" Overstreet**
Conferring of Sixth Degree – IL State Grange Officers
3:00 Recess

3:15 Legislative – **Marc Henrichs**
4:00 National Grange Representative Report/Workshop – William "Buddy" Overstreet Member of NG Executive Committee and his wife Karen Overstreet, Past President of Texas State Grange. Topic not sure yet
Committee Reports
5:00 Grange Closed in Fourth Degree (Take possessions with you)

6:30 Youth/Young Adults Banquet – **Karie Blasingame, Marisa O'Dell**
7:30 Evening Program
Trivia Night **- Lynette Schaeffer**
Auction – **Lyle Lee**

Sunday, September 13, 2026

9:00 AM Celebration of Life – **Charlotte Mehrtens**, Chaplain

8:45 Opening in the Fourth Degree – Youth/Young Adults Officers
Roll Call of Youth Officers Roll Call of State Officers
Roll Call of Delegates
Reading of State Minutes
9:00 FAC/AG – Final Reports and Sash Transfers
Community Service Booklets, – **Heather Ellwanger**, Director
Committee Reports
Completion of Remaining Business/Installation of Officers – William "Buddy" and Karen Overstreet
Closing of the 155th Annual Session

2025-2026

Officers

President/Master – Lynette Schaeffer
Vice President/Overseer – Katherine (Karie) Blasingame
Lecturer – Ethan Edwards
Steward – Don Ellwanger
Assistant Steward – Rick O'Dell
Lady Assistant Steward – Carrie Fisher
Chaplain – Charlotte Mehrtens
Treasurer – Mary Donley
Secretary – Brian Keller
Gatekeeper – Brian O'Dell
Ceres – Sara Ellwanger
Flora – Marisa O'Dell
Pomona – Angie Dickerson
Executive Committee 2026 – Todd Hegge
Executive Committee 2027 – Debra Wade
Executive Committee 2028 – Frank D. Wurth

Committee Chairs / Directors

Agriculture 2026 & 2027 – Lana Korte/Marilyn Hoffmann
Agriculture 2028 – Lyle Lee
Communications Director / IL Granger Editor – Ruth Blasingame
Community Service Director – Heather Ellwanger
Family Activities Director 2026 – Trisha Renken
Family Activities Director 2027 – Marilyn Coe
Grange Historian – Beverly Smith
Junior Director – Mindy Schiefer
Legislative Director – Marc Henrichs
Youth / Young Adult Co- Director – Katherine (Karie) Blasingame
Youth / Young Adult Co- Director – Marisa O'Dell
Youth / Young Adult Co-Director – Beth Olson
Membership Director – Robin Kindberg
Webmaster – DJ Joseph

2026-2027

Officers

President/Master – Lynette Schaeffer
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Lecturer – Ethan Edwards
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Assistant Steward – Brian O'Dell
Lady Assistant Steward – Carrie Fisher
Chaplain – Charlotte Mehrtens
Treasurer – Mary Donley
Secretary – Brian Keller
Gatekeeper – Adam Ellwanger
Ceres – Sara Ellwanger
Flora – Marisa O'Dell
Pomona – Angie Dickerson
Executive Committee 2027 – Debra Wade
Executive Committee 2028 – Frank D. Wurth
Executive Committee 2029 – Rick O'Dell

Committee Chairs / Directors

Agriculture 2027 – Lana Korte/Marilyn Hoffmann
Agriculture 2028 – Lyle Lee
Agriculture 2029 – Tom Berry
Communications Director / IL Granger Editor – Ruth Blasingame
Community Service Director – Heather Ellwanger
Family Activities Director 2027 – Marilyn Coe
Family Activities Director 2028 – Kim Robin
Family Activities Director 2029 – Katie Renken
Grange Historian – Beverly Smith
Junior Director – Mindy Schiefer
Junior Assistant Director – Steve Alltop
Legislative Director – Marc Henrichs
Youth / Young Adult Co- Director – Katherine (Karie) Blasingame
Youth / Young Adult Co- Director – Marisa O'Dell
Youth / Young Adult Co-Director – Beth Olson
Membership Director – Robin Kindberg
Webmaster – DJ Joseph

Delegates for the 2026 State Grange Session

Grange	County	Delegate
Beaver Valley #1790	Boone	Brian O'Dell
		Marisa O'Dell
Big Thunder #1940	Boone	None
Bluff #1826	St Clair	Robert Comstock
Broad Hollow #1806	St Clair	Carol Neff
Capron #1901	Boone	None
Charity #1713	Boone	Kim Robin
		Mike Robin
County Line #1751	Boone	Jean Peterson
		Myron Peterson
Emerald Mound #1813	St Clair	Steve Alltop
		Marc Henrichs
Enterprise #1929	St Clair	Valerie Hancock
		Mary Ann Joseph
Flora #1762	Boone	Sydney Berry
		Tom Berry
Floraville #1918	St Clair	Marilyn Hoffmann
		Lana Korte
Galt #1853	Whiteside	None
Guilford Hope #6	Winnebago	Nancy Lyford
		Wayne Lyford
Harmony #957	Winnebago	None
Hopewell #1747	Tazewell	Carrie Fisher
		Katie Renken
Leroy Community #1873	Boone	None
Perryville #1805	Winnebago	Beverly Smith (unable to attend)
Prairie #1832	Boone	Don Ellwanger
		Heather Ellwanger
Progressive #1811	St Clair	None
Shiloh Valley #1807	St Clair	Patty Bearth
		Ethan Edwards
Troy Grove #1852	LaSalle	None
Turkey Hill #1370	St Clair	Chris Bersett
		Ron Bersett
Union #811	Winnebago	Vivian Johnson
Boone County Pomona #78		Karie Blasingame
		Ruth Blasingame
St Clair County Pomona #21		Kenneth Joseph
		Charlotte Mehrtens
Winnebago County Pomona #73		None

Secretary Minutes
1st day of the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange
Friday, September 11, 2026

Pre-session Activities

The display rooms were opened at 8:30AM to check contest entries in Agriculture, Family Activities, Lecturer, Junior, Community Service and Youth Departments.

At 10:00AM the State Grange Officers practiced for the opening drill and for the 6th degree.

At 1:01PM the Illinois State Grange Officers marched in to begin the 1st day of the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange. The meeting was opened in the 6th degree by President Lynette Schaeffer at the Northfield Inn and Suites in Springfield, IL. Sister Lynette Schaeffer welcomed everyone to this year's session.

OPENING SONG – America The Beautiful

Sister Charlotte Mehrtens Illinois State Grange Chaplain read a story and said a prayer entitled "Jesus Wept," and asked everyone where were you 25 years ago on 9-11.

Roll Call of Illinois State Grange Officers found 15 officers present with 1pro-temp officer. Brother Avery Wurth from Enterprise Grange served as flag Bearer.
Since there was no further business to conduct the meeting was closed in the 6th degree and lowered to the 4th degree.

Honored Guests were presented: National Grange Executive Committee Member Brother William "Buddy" Overstreet and his wife Sister Karen Overstreet Past President of the Texas State Grange, Past National Grange Secretary and Past Master of Illinois State Grange Sister Henrietta Keller, Past National Grange Flora, Past First Lady of Illinois State Grange Sister Patti Lee, Past Master and Past Executive Committee Member of the Illinois State Grange Brother Lyle Lee, Past Illinois State Grange Master Brother David Donley and current Treasurer of the Illinois State Grange Sister Mary Donley, and Past National Grange Junior Director Sister Emalee Colver were our Honored guests. They were escorted to the President's station and were asked if they wanted to speak.
Buddy Overstreet – Thank you for having us here for your session. Karen Overstreet – Thank you for allowing us to join your session. Henrietta Keller – Great to be here, thank you for allowing me to be the National Rep for Illinois. David Donley – Extremely happy to be here because of health issues. Lyle Lee – Great to the see the Grange Family again and I look forward to this every year. Patti Lee – Wonderful to be back with Grange Family looking forward to a great session

Presentation of Speaker – Misty Buscher is the Mayor of Springfield. She welcomed everyone back to Springfield. She explained that it is the 100th Anniversary of Illinois Historic Route 66 that runs through Springfield. She invited everyone to visit Lincoln's Home, the Tomb, Law

Office as well as other memorials around the city. Her final message was God Bless each and everyone of us for what we do for the community and the state.

Vice-President Karie Blasingame gave her response – Thank you for letting us return to your town and for all you do.

Roll Call of Illinois State Grange Delegates found 27 Subordinate Delegates and 4 Pomona Delegates in attendance along with several other Grangers.

Brother Frank D. Wurth Chairman of the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee presented the Order of Business for the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange.
The changes to the schedule are as follows:

- At 1:15pm Saturday September 12th, 2026, Obligation of the Fifth Degree will be done by National Representative Buddy Overstreet
- At 3:15PM Grange Historian Beverly Smith will not be at session, someone will give her report
- At 6:30PM Karie Blasingame and Marisa O'Dell will be in charge of the Youth and Young Adult Banquet due to Sister Beth Olson being unable to attend due to health reasons.
- At 7:30PM Lynette Schaeffer will be holding a Trivia Night instead of the Talent Show.
- Lyle Lee will be in charge of the Ag Auction.
- On Sunday morning Installation of Officers will be done by the National Representatives Buddy and Karen Overstreet.

Don Ellwanger moved to adopt the Order of Business of the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange as amended, and Brian O'Dell seconded the motion. Motion carried.
The full Order of Business of the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange was adopted and will appear in the journal.

The 156th annual session of the Illinois State Grange will be held September 10-12, 2027 At the Mascoutah Sportsman Club in Mascoutah Illinois. Hotel to Be determined. With St Clair County hosting.

Sister Ruth Blasingame President of Boone County Pomona Grange invited everyone to join us for the 157th annual session of the Illinois State Grange to be held at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Belvidere, IL on September 8-10, 2028, in the Chicken Barn.

Reports were given from the following:
Treasurer – Mary Donley (Budget)
A copy of the budget is in your Delegate books.

- The Hall improvement Grant will be increased to $7500 per project per year or $15,000 over 3 years. There were 2 requests this year Boone County Pomona for $15,000 for new windows and floor to be replaced in the Community Grange Hall and Flora Grange for $868 for window replacement and kitchen repairs.
- This year we submitted 4 memorials in honor of past directors: Sophia Treser, Noah Mullins, Renee O'Dell and Bob Hoffmann
- We presented 3 Scholarships to Emma Rutledge, Cassidy Renken, and Emily Smith

Steve Alltop moved to adopt the Budget report as presented and Kim Robin seconded the motion. Motion carried. The full report of the Treasurer (Budget) was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Secretary – Brian Keller (Credentials)
A copy of the Credentials report is in the Delegate book. There are 790 members in the State Grange. Everyone needs to go out and sign-up new members to increase our membership.
The full report of the Credentials was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Delegates of Charity Grange were escorted to the President's Station where they received their official Charter for Charity Grange # 1713 and the Official Charter for Charity Junior Grange #96
A short recess followed.

Executive Committee Report – Debbie Wade – Executive Committee Secretary
Sister Debbie Wade, Secretary of the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee, gave their report. She went over each meeting and what was discussed. There is a correction to the Executive Report on page 27 that the GRIT Conference will be October 10th at the Boone County Community Grange Hall and the October 11th meeting will be at Turkey Hill Grange Hall. The full report of the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee was adopted as amended and will appear in the journal.

Don Ellwanger moved that the Assistants and Steward do not have to carry their staves during ballot collecting, Motion Seconded by Brian O'Dell. Motion carried.

Election of one Executive Committee member was held. Rick O'Dell was elected to a 3-year term on the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee. Congratulations Rick. Then an election was held to replace Assistant Steward. Brian O'Dell was elected to the position of Illinois State Grange Assistant Steward. A third election for the office of Gatekeeper was held. Adam Ellwanger was elected to the position of Illinois State Grange Gatekeeper. These positions are only to be held until the next full election.

Appointment of Session Committees, Assignment of Resolutions and instructions were given by President Lynette Schaeffer and Vice President Karie Blasingame. Committees will meet after session closes.

Committee chairs were reminded that you need to get your resolutions and committee action back to the Kindberg's as soon as possible so they can be ready for presentation in the morning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Behind the President's station are various items from National Grange for a donation you may take whatever you wish. (Grange sign poster board, song books, "People Pride and Progress" Book, individual implement pieces, etc…) Donations will go to the Grange Foundation.
- Prairie Grange will be working with The Rockford Jeep Club to present Jeeptoberfest on September 19, 2026, at the Boone County Fairgrounds. There will be mud pit, tug of war,

off road races, a couple of bands, food trucks, a duck sale fundraiser and a chuck a duck contest. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- Youth and Young Adult Department is selling dips and mixes. They are $6 each and 50% of the profit goes to the youth department. Delivery will be at GRIT.
- Beaver Valley Grange is doing Wreaths Across America, where wreaths are place on the graves of Veterans at the Scottish Argyle Cemetery. The Cost is $17 per wreath. Contact Brian or Marisa O'Dell for details.
- Sign up for the 5th and 6th Degree
- There will be a receiving line for dinner starting at 5:30PM tonight

Sister Lynette Schaeffer presented a Veteran Pin in the shape of the Grange Emblem as a Thank You for serving our county. The recipients for this pin included Lyle Lee, Myron Peterson, Todd Hegge, Dave Donley and Marc Heinrich.

CLOSING SONG: Take Me Out To The Ballgame

The Grange was closed at 3:50PM in the fourth degree. Thus ended the business of the first day of the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange.

Friday Evening Program

Shortly before 6:00PM 63 adults and children gathered for the Main Banquet. Sister Charlotte Mehrtens Illinois State Grange Chaplain gave the blessing, and a delicious Italian Feast was enjoyed by all.

President Lynette Schaeffer welcomed everyone to the program. She then introduced the Head Table, and they were asked if they wanted to say anything. No one responded.

Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaeffer gave a summary of the President's address. The full report is in your Delegate books and will appear in the journal.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer announced Sister Marisa O' Dell will be joining the National Grange Fellows this year. She is looking for an AG chairman for the 2029 State Session which will be in the central part of the state. Sister Lynette announced that Sister Kim Robin will be the FAC chairman for 2028. Asked all Granges to submit articles to the Granger including Granges, Officers and Committee Chairs. National Grange Session for 2029 will be in St. Louis Missourri at the Renaissance Half Moon Hotel

Sister Lynette Schaeffer then turned the program over to Sister Heather Ellwanger and Sister Marisa O'Dell for the Community Service program.
The winners of the Community Service books are as follows:
4th Place – Turkey Hill Grange
3rd Place –Perryville Grange
2nd Place – Emerald Mound Grange
1st Place – Flora Grange

Congratulations to all the winners.
Teacher of the Year - went to Abby Hopkins who was nominated by Beaver Valley Grange
Fire Fighter of the Year went to Cody Terry who was nominated by Emerald Mound Grange
Law Enforcement Officer – went to Zachery Smith who was nominated by Flora Grange
Non-Granger of the Year went to Dawn Putnam who was nominated by Turkey Hill Grange
Junior Granger of the Year went to Ibraham Fabela who was nominated by Prairie Grange.
Granger of the Year went to Renee O'Dell who was nominated by Illinois State Grange Community Service Committee.

Our Community service project this past year was making blankets for the Linus Project. The individual Granger who donated the most blankets was Emalee Colver from Flora Grange. The Grange that donated the most blankets was Charity Grange with a total of 25+ blankets donated.
In total 99 blankets were donated to the Linus Project. Thank you to all that donated the blankets Linus project will certainly appreciate all those blankets.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Heather Ellwanger and Sister Marisa O'Dell for a job well done.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer then turned the program over to Illinois State Grange Membership/Recognition Director Sister Robin Kindberg to present membership and recognition awards. My name is Robin Kindberg, and I want to start out tonight by saying as of June 30, 2026, Illinois had a total of 790 total members. The breakdown is in your delegate book on the Credentials sheet. This past year we LOST 38 members in total: 22 passed away. 16 dropped and 12 demitted to another Grange in the state. We had 9 Granges that took in 30 new members. Each Grange that took in new members will receive a check ($5.00) for each new member and they are as follows:
Beaver Valley - $10.00 – 2 new members, 1 new Junior member and 3 demitted into that Grange
Big Thunder - $5.00 – 1 new member and 1 Affiliate member and 5 demitted into that Grange
Broad Hollow - $5.00 – 1 new member
Enterprise - $25.00 – 5 new members
Flora - $ 10.00 – 2 new members
LeRoy Community - $20.00 – 4 new members
Prairie Grange - $40.00 – 8 new members
Progressive - $10.00 – 2 new members
Turkey Hill - $30.00 for 6 new members and 2 Affiliates
Unfortunately, we had a net LOSS in membership this past year. I want to challenge everyone to go out and sign – up new members we need our membership to GROW!

Now I switch hats and present the Recognition Awards for 2026. It gives me great pleasure to present 3 membership plaques this year and no bars this year. The first membership plaque goes to LeRoy Community Grange to Sonny Lott who signed up 4 new members and the second plaque goes to LeRoy Community Grange to Jeff Vance for signing up 4 new members and the third plaque goes to Prairie Grange to Dawn and Ellis Mundy for signing up 4 new members. The complete list of Recognition awards is listed in your delegate books. We honored Grangers for 2130 years of service to the Grange. Please be sure to honor those members who have so diligently served the Grange.

The full report of the Illinois State Grange membership and Recognition report and winners will appear in the journal.
Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Robin Kindberg for a job well done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

-Resolutions need to be to the Kindberg's ASAP so they will be ready for session tomorrow
-Committees will meet at the close of the program tonight.

- Coffee cups on the table are free, please take them
- 7:00AM will be the Ag program with speaker in the meeting room
- Please sign up for 5th and 6th Degree
- Grange Revival in 2027 is Smokey Mountains in North Carolina

-

The evening closed at 7:20PM.
Thus ended the 1st day of the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,
Brian Keller
Illinois State Grange Secretary

2nd day of the 155th Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange
Saturday September 12, 2026

The morning began at 7:40AM with the 2026-2027 AG Co-chairs Sister Lana Korte and Sister Marilyn Hoffmann welcomed everyone to the AG program. Sister Lana Korte welcomed Jennifer Fishburn Horticultural Educator with the University of Illinois Extension from Menard, Sangamon and Logan County to our meeting. She talked about the University of Illinois Master Gardeners program and Pollinators. She gave suggestions as to what to plant from March through October to keep the pollinators around. She encourages everyone to leave the milkweed plants around; they are needed for the monarch butterfly. She talked about other things besides native bees that are pollinators, bees, moths, rats, beetles, birds and hummingbirds. Everyone needs to be aware of jumping worms they are very destructive. She then thanked the Grange for all the work we do in the community. Sister Lynette Schaeffer then thanked Sister Lana Korte, Sister Marilyn Hoffmann, and Brother Lyle Lee for all their hard work on the committee this year.

At 8:15 AM Sister Lynette Schaeffer Illinois State Grange President opened the 2nd day of the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange. Avery Wurth from Enterprise Grange served as flag bearer.

OPENING SONG: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Roll Call of Illinois State Grange Officers found 15 officers present and 1 pro-temp officer present.
Roll Call of Illinois State Grange Delegates found 27 Subordinate Delegates present and 4 Pomona Delegates present as well as several other Grangers in attendance.

Minutes of the 1st day of the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange were read. They were adopted as presented and will appear in the journal.

Sister Mindy Schiefer Illinois State Grange Junior Director was escorted to the President's station where she gave her Junior report. Sister Mindy Schiefer reported that we had 9 total entries in the Junior contests this year. There were 9 Junior entries from 10 Junior Grangers from 3 Junior Granges. We had 3 entries in the Young at Heart contest and no Juniors in the mini-Junior contest. Sister Mindy Schiefer then presented awards to Beaver Valley Junior Grange, County Line Junior Grange, Charity Junior Grange and Prairie Junior Grange. She also introduced National Junior Granger of the Year Scarlette Ellwanger. This year's new projects will be presented at GRIT. Today the Juniors were going to the zoo and troll hunting at the Memorial Gardens. President Lynette Schaeffer presented gavels to the 3 new/ reorganized Junior Granges. The full report of the Junior Director and the Junior contest winners will appear in the Journal.

Myron Peterson, Chairman of the FINANCIAL COMMITTEE gave their report. They were assigned Resolution #5. RESOLUTION 2026-05 – ISG Dues Increase.
Committee action was accepted as written.

Delegate action was to accept the committees proposal.

RESOLUTION 2026-05 was adopted as written
The full report of the Financial Committee was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Charlotte Mehrtens, Chairman of the HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE gave their report. They were assigned Resolution #4.
RESOLUTION 2026 -04 – Installation of Stop-arm Enforcement Cameras on School Buses Nationwide at State Expense.
Committee action: was accepted as written

Delegate action was to accept the committee's proposal

RESOLUTION 2026-04 was adopted as written
The full report of the Health and Education Committee was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Vivian Johnson Chairman of the GOOD OF THE ORDER AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE gave their report. They were assigned Resolution #2.
RESOLUTION 2026 – 02 By-Laws Amendment Make Secretary and Treasurer Voting Members of the ISG Executive Committee.
Committee action was accepted as written with a typing error correction

Delegate action was to accept the committee's proposal

RESOLUTION 2026 – 02 was adopted as written

The GOOD OF THE ORDER AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE was also assigned Resolution #7 RESOLUTION 2026-07 State Session Attendance.

Committee Action was accepted as amended with an additional THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED added

Delegate action was to accept the committee's proposal with the amendment
RESOLUTION 2026-07 was adopted as written

The full report of the Good of the Order and By-Laws Committee was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Frank D. Wurth Chairman of the STATE AND NATIONAL WELFARE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE gave their report. They were assigned Resolution # 1.
RESOLUTION 2026 – 01 – Contacting Elected Officials

Committee action was to send the resolution back to Prairie Grange for further development

Delegate action was to accept the Committees proposal

RESOLUTION 2026 – 01 will be sent back to Prairie Grange for development
The full report of the State and National Welfare and Transportation Committee was adopted and will appear in the journal.

A special presentation was made to Ibraham Fabela as Illinois State Grange Junior Granger of the year for 2026.

Then at 9:51AM we dismissed for a short recess.

Meeting was called back to order at 10:24AM by President Lynette Schaeffer

A video presentation was given from National Grange President Sister Chris Hamp on building our Granges in the future. She also referenced the various programs the National Grange partakes in. She Congratulated Turkey Hill and Prairie Grange for receiving the Distinguished Grange Award for 13 consecutive years and Emerald Mound for a 3rd year of being an Action Grange. Sister Hamp also gave a shout out for reorganizing Charity Grange #1713 and for reorganizing County Line Junior Grange, Beaver Valley Junior Grange and for starting Charity Junior Grange.

Wayne Lyford, Chairman of the GRANGE ACTIVITIES/PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS COMMITTEE gave their report. They were assigned Resolution #6.
RESOLUTION 2026 – 06 Grange Hall Insurance

Committee action was accepted as rewritten

Delegate action was to accept the Committee's proposal

RESOLUTION 2026 – 06 was adopted as written.

The GRANGE ACTIVITIES/ PRESIDENT' ADDRESS COMMITTEE wrote Resolution #8
Resolution 2026-08 Resolution Formatting

Committee action was accepted as written

Delegate action was unfavorable.
Resolution 2026-08 was LOST.

Wayne Lyford, Chairman of the PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS COMMITTEE gave their report. They were assigned the President's Address.
Committee action – was to Thank Sister Lynette Schaeffer and Brother Don Schaeffer for all their wonderful work they have done for the Illinois State Grange.

Delegate Action – accept the committee's proposal
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS was adopted
The full report of the Grange Activities/President's Address committee was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Brian O'Dell Chairman of the AGRICULTURE/CONSERVATION AND ENERGY COMMITTEE gave their report. They were assigned Resolution # 3.
RESOLUTION 2026 – 03 -Data Center Policy
Committee Action was accepted as written

Delegate action was to accept the committee's proposal

RESOLUTION 2026 -03 was adopted as written.
The full report of the Agriculture/Conservation and Energy Committee was adopted and will appear in the journal.

Independent Resolution submitted by Sara Ellwanger. She presented Resolution #9.
RESOLUTION 2026-09 Illinois State Grange Youth and Junior Ambassador Scholarship Application

This resolution did not go through committee

Delegate action was to accept the resolution as written

RESOLUTION 2026-09 was adopted and will appear in the Journal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sister Lynette Schaeffer introduced the new 2028-2029 Ag Chairman Tom Berry from Flora Grange
- Rose drill will practice when session closes
- When you check out of the hotel, get a copy of your room receipt and give it to Mary Donley to be reimbursed for a portion of your room
- Get items from the display room as soon as possible
- Fill out mileage form if you are a State Officer or Committee Chairman and give to Sister Mary Donley for reimbursement

Sister Karen Overstreet then challenged everyone with Illinois Trivia

Recess was called at 11:00AM to attend the FAC Luncheon

At 11:30 AM the Family Activities Committee Luncheon and raffle took place. Sister Trisha Renken 2026 Family Activities Committee Chairman welcomed 59 adults to the FAC luncheon. She thanked everyone for coming and for donating items to the raffle. She then introduced the Past FAC chairs who were in attendance. Illinois State Grange Chaplain Sister Charlotte Mehrtens gave the blessing, and everyone enjoyed a Taco Buffet. Following the meal Trisha Renken thanked her committee of Marilyn Coe for all their help this session. As well as thanked Katie Renken and Cassidy Renken for helping with all the FAC Department

Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Trisha Renken and her committee for a job well done. Then she introduced Sister Marilyn Coe who will be the 2027 FAC Chairman and Kim Robin who will be the 2028 FAC Chairman and Katie Renken will be the 2029 FAC Chairman. Sister Trisha Renken and her committee proceeded with the raffle and congratulated all the winners after handing out contest prize money to Granges.
The full report of the Family Activities Committee, all FAC Contest winners and raffle winners will appear in the journal.

At 1:49PM the meeting was called back to order and National Grange Representative Brother Buddy Overstreet gave the Fifth-Degree Obligation to a class of 2 candidates.

At 2:00PM the Officers of the Illinois State Grange conducted the Sixth Degree to a class of 3 candidates. Sixth Degree Certificates were presented to all the Sixth-Degree candidates. Sister Lynette Schaeffer congratulated all the candidates and welcomed them in to the Degree of Flora. The names of the 5th degree and 6th degree candidates, Rose Drill participants and the Court of Flora along with the names of the Illinois State Grange Officers who participated in the Sixth Degree will appear in the journal.

At 2:44 PM a short recess followed:

National Grange Executive Committee Member William “Buddy” Overstreet and his wife Karen Overstreet Past President of Texas State Grange gave their workshop on “Protecting your Hearing.” They gave a little history about themselves, and Karen Overstreet was a deaf educator. It is easier for a hearing-impaired person to control a conversation than if they just listen and can’t understand or comprehend the full conversation. We did an activity where we lined up by birth dates without verbally speaking. The smallest bones in the human body are found in the ear. Farmers who are exposed to loud noises for a long period of time tend to lose

their hearing. Karen provided us with tips on how to talk to a person who is hearing impaired. Her final message to all of us was “Protect your ears, when hearing is lost it cannot be replaced”.

Brother Marc Henrichs Illinois State Grange Legislative Director gave his report. He spoke about several bills that have been passed in Legislation in regard to New Dietary guidelines and promote eating minimal amounts of processed food. Medical schools are requiring Doctors to take nutrition courses to better treat dietary needs. The House past the Farm Bill in May but Senate has not passed it yet. John Deere agreed to a settlement to make John Deere provide necessary tools to farmers and independent companies to fix their own equipment to cut down on labor costs. Be on the look out for Screw Worms, they are very destructive and hard to get rid of and harmful to animals and humans. Brother Marc Heinrichs and Sister Lynette Schaeffer are working on compiling legislative policies of the Illinois State Grange. The full report of the Illinois State Grange Legislative Director will appear in the journal.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer gave a short history report on the Junior Granges of Illinois.
Jr Grange #1 is unknown, Beaver Valley Junior Grange is #2 and was originally organized June 24, 1919. Broad Hollow Junior Grange is #3 and Kerp Valley was #4 and Shiloh Valley is #5. This year we ended the Junior Grange numbers at Charity Junior Grange as #96. Sister Lynette Schaeffer looks forward to finding out more information about the Illinois Junior Granges from Sister Beverly Smith Illinois State Grange Historian in the future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
- Sister Ruth Blasingame Grange Editor gave a list of Granger emails to all Delegates to take back to their Granges to be updated and returned to her by October 1st
- A copy of your hotel bill needs to be given to Mary Donley in the morning to be reimbursed. This is for Officers and Committee Chairs only
- Sister Robin Kindberg needs a membership list and roster to be returned to her by October 1, 2026
- Please leave lanyards in the meeting room for reuse in the future
- Thank you from Hopewell Grange for all the donations to the Hospitality Room this weekend.
- Broad Hollow announced they have a Branson trip planned in October and November, See Carol Neff for details.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer and Brother Buddy Overstreet discussed what Grange Advocacy is. . It is where corporations contribute money to the National Grange to promote various programs and involvement in the communities nationwide.

CLOSING SONG: Good Night Grangers

The business of the 2nd day of the 155th Illinois State Grange annual state session was closed at 4:20PM in the fourth degree.

Saturday Evening Program

At 6:30PM 63 Grangers gathered for the Youth Banquet. Sister Charlotte Mehrtens gave the blessing, and a delicious Chef's Pizza Buffet was enjoyed by all.

Sister Marisa O'Dell and Sister Karie Blasingame welcomed everyone to the program. They gave a summary of the Youth and Young Adults events and activities held throughout the past year They had 49 entries in the Youth contests this year by 5 Granges. The presented prize money to the 5 Granges who entered projects in the contests. They also presented special awards including Senior Cadet of the Year – Robin Kindberg, Star Cadet of the Year went to Colten Kellen of Charity Grange and Astronaut of the Year went to Scarlette Ellwanger of Prairie Grange. Sister Marisa and Sister Karie thanked everyone for their support throughout the year. The full report of the Youth Department, and all contest winners will appear in the journal.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Marisa O'Dell, and Sister Karie Blasingame for a job well down.

The program was turned over to Sister Lynette Schaeffer who encourage Grangers to participate in a Trivia Night. The winning table received $5 gift certificates to be used in the AG Auction.

The evening concluded with the annual Auction with Brother Lyle Lee as Auctioneer, Ag Co-Chairs Sister Lana Korte, Sister Marilyn Hoffmann, Sister Katie Renken, Sister Scarlette Ellwanger, Sister Patti Lee and Sister Ruth Blasingame assisted with the auction. All Auction winners will appear in the journal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
- Meeting will open at 9am with the worship service and a Celebration of Life by Sister Charlotte Mehrtens.
- Check out for the hotel is 11am

The evening concluded at 8:50PM.
Thus, ending the 2nd day of the 155th annual Illinois State Grange session.

Fraternally Submitted,
Brian Keller
Illinois State Grange Secretary

3rd day of the 155th Annual Session of the Illinois State Grange
Sunday, September 13, 2026

At 9:00AM Sister Charlotte Mehrtens, Illinois State Grange Chaplain presented a worship service and followed it with a Celebration of Life to honor our brothers and sisters who have recently gone on the Great Grange above. Sister Charlotte Mehrtens reported $263 from today's offering will be used to start the Scholarship Fund for the Junior and Youth Ambassadors.
The full report on the Worship Service and the Celebration of Life will appear in the journal.

At 9:30AM the meeting was opened in the Fourth Degree by the Youth and Young Adults of Illinois State Grange. They did an amazing marching drill, and they introduced the theme for next year is Illumination Station. Avery Wurth of Enterprise Grange served as Flag Bearer.

OPENING SONG: Good Grange Spirit

Honored Guests were presented. National Grange Executive Committee member Brother William "Buddy" Overstreet and his wife Sister Karen Overstreet who is Past President of Texas State Grange, Past National Grange Executive Committee member and current President of Illinois State Grange Sister Lynette Schaeffer and 1st Man Brother Don Schaeffer, Past National Grange Secretary and Past Master of Illinois State Grange Sister Henrietta Keller, Past National Grange Flora and Past first Lady of Illinois State Grange Sister Patti Lee and Past Master Of the Illinois State Grange Brother Lyle Lee, Past Master of Illinois State Grange Brother David Donley and his wife Sister Mary Donley current Treasurer of the Illinois State Grange, Illinois State Grange Youth/Young Adult Co-Youth Director Sister Marisa O'Dell, Co-Youth Director Sister Karie Blasingame were our Honored Guests and were escorted to the President's station where they were given the opportunity to share a few words of wisdom.

Buddy Overstreet- Amazed of what you guys have done. There is a bright future ahead

Karen Overstreet – Y'all did an amazing job. I am delighted to see the support and love for the village of the young people of Illinois

Lynette Schaeffer – this drill is multigenerational and that we really support the youth. Thanks for a job well done

Don Schaeffer – Thanks for all the hard work and thank you to Karie and Marisa

Henrietta Keller – Very proud of all of you, you did a fantastic job

Patti Lee – Wonderful group of individuals that have literally grown up in the Grange

Lyle Lee- What a great honor and privilege to watch the youth do their drill. This was always a highlight of the weekend. Thank you to everyone here and the youth for what you have done this year.

David Donley – I never could do what you guys do thank for all your hard work

Roll Call of Illinois State Grange Youth Officers found 14 officers present. Roll Call of the Illinois State Grange Officers found 15 officers present and 1 pro-temp officers present.
Roll Call of Illinois State Grange Delegates found 25 Subordinate Delegates present and 3 Pomona Delegates are present as well as several Grangers in attendance.

The meeting was then turned back over to the Illinois State Grange Officers.
Minutes of the 2nd day of the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange were presented as read. The following amendments were made to the minutes:

- Katie and Cassady were volunteers for the FAC Department

Minutes of the 2nd day of the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange were adopted as amended and will appear in the journal.

Sister Trisha Renken and Sister Marilyn Coe were escorted to the President's station. Trisha Renken 2026 FAC Chairman gave the final report for the Family Activities Committee. We had a total of 53 entries in the FAC contest this year, no junior entries. Best of Show went to Henrietta Keller from Enterprise Grange for her crochet wall hanging. Ceres Choice award went to Mary Ann Joseph Enterprise Grange for her embroidered fire trucks. Pomona Choice award went to Emalee Colver from Flora Grange for her quilted wall hanging. Flora Choice award went to Mary Jane Lane from Flora Grange for her quilted baby blanket. 30 items were donated for the raffle. After expenses are taken out, over $300 was given to the Honor Memorial Scholarship fund. Sister Trisha Renken thanked her committee and all those that helped her throughout the past year and this weekend.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Trisha Renken and her committee for a job well done. The FAC committee sash was then transferred to Sister Marilyn Coe who will be the 2027 FAC chairman and Kim Robin was introduced as the 2028 FAC chairman and Katie Renken will be the 2029 FAC chairman.
The full report of the Family Activities Committee and the FAC contest winners and the raffle winners will appear in the journal.

Sister Lana Korte and Sister Marilyn Hoffmann, Illinois State Grange Co-Chairs of the 2026-2027 Ag Committee were escorted to the President's station. Sister Lana Korte gave the final report of the Ag Committee. They had a total of 68 entries in the Ag Contests this year from 23 Granger from 10 Granges and 2 Junior entries as well. Lyle and Patti Lee received a plant for the most individual entries and the Grange with the most entries was Floraville Grange who received a traveling trophy. There were 55 items donated for the AG Auction. After expenses were taken, they turned over $710 to the Klotz Memorial Scholarship fund. Sister Lana Korte thanked her committee and everyone who helped them this past year as well as this weekend. She also thanked all those who helped with the auction last night.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Lana Korte and her committee for a job well done. The Ag Committee Sash was then turned over to Sister Marilyn Hoffmann who will be 2027 Ag Committee Co-chair along with Sister Lana Korte and Brother Lyle Lee will be the 2028 Ag Chairman and Tom Berry from Flora Grange will be Ag Chairman in 2029.
The full report of the Ag Committee, Ag contest winners and Auction winners will appear in the journal.

Sister Heather Ellwanger Community Service Director reported 104 blankets were donated with a $350 monetary donation given to the Linus Project.

Sister Patti Burth was escorted to the President's station to give the Lecturer's department final report. The Lecturer's department had 24 entries from 8 Granges from 15 Grangers. This year as well as 13 Junior entries from 2 Junior Granges. Best of Show went to David Donley from Turkey Hill Grange for his stain glass birdfeeder. Ceres Choice award went to Scarlette

Ellwanger from Prairie Grange for her outer space painting. Pomona Choice award went to Dawn Calkins from Prairie Grange for her birch tree painting. Flora Choice award went to Patti Lee from Prairie Grange for her Diamond Art painting. She thanked everyone for participating. Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked Sister Patty Burth for all her hard work this year for filling in for Brother Ethan Edwards.
The full report of the Lecturer's department and Lecturer's contest winners will appear in the journal.

A motion was made by Don Ellwanger to have the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee pay all the unpaid bills and to approve the minutes of the 3rd day of the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange. Motion was seconded by Charlotte Mehrtens Motion carried. The minutes of the 3rd day of the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange will appear in the journal.

A short recess followed

The meeting was called back to order at 11:05 AM where the Installation of the new offices of Executive Committee member Rick O'Dell, Assistant Steward Brian O'Dell and Gatekeeper Adam Ellwanger was carried out by the installing team of Karen Overstreet, Buddy Overstreet, Don Schaeffer, Lynette Schaeffer, Charlotte Mehrtens and Valerie Hancock. Congratulations Rick O'Dell on being elected to the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee for a 3-year term. Congratulations Brian O'Dell on being elected to the office of Illinois State Grange Assistant Steward. Congratulations Adam Ellwanger on being elected to the office of Illinois State Grange Gatekeeper. Thank you to Todd Hegge for your years of service to the Illinois State Grange.

Illinois State Grange President Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked National Grange Executive Committee member Brother William "Buddy" and his wife Karen for attending this Illinois State Grange session. Sister Karen Overstreet and Brother Buddy Overstreet thanked everyone for allowing us to be a part of your Grange family and thank you for being a mentor for me on the National Grange Executive Committee. The Overstreet's presented Don and Lynette Schaeffer with a gift of goodies all made in Texas including the novel written by her daughter and other items of their state flower the blue bonnet. Sister Lynette and Brother Don Schaeffer presented Brother Buddy and Sister Karen Overstreet with a basket of goodies including apple butter, jams and jellies and an Illinois State Grange plate.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer thanked everyone who helped with hosting this session and to Hopewell Grange for handling the Hospitality Room. She also thanked all the State Grange Officers, Committee Directors and everyone else who helped make this state session a success.

Sister Lynette Schaeffer reminded everyone that the 156th annual session of the Illinois State Grange will be September 10-12, 2027, at Mascoutah Sportsman Club in Mascoutah Illinois. St. Clair County Granges will be hosting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-GRIT Conferences will be October 10th at Community Grange Hall in Belvidere, IL beginning at 11AM with a potluck and then will be on Sunday October 11, 2026, at Turkey Hill Grange beginning at 11AM with potluck. Hope to see EVERYONE there.
- Get the flash drives and all reports to Karie to be put GRIT information onto the flash drive
-Youth are still selling dips and mixes see Karie or Marisa
- Bluff Grange is being given use of parking lot with conditions of the owners being able to use the building twice a year and will be having a trivia night 1st Friday night in November starting at 7:00pm
- Get hotel information to Mary Donley to be reimbursed
- Prairie Grange Jeeptoberfest is September 19th
- Beaver Valley Grange is doing wreaths across America
- Thank you to Emerald Mound for the beautiful backdrop for all the pictures this weekend.
- Thank You to Avery Wurth for being the Flag Bearer this weekend

CLOSING SONG: God Be with You

The meeting closed at 11:42AM, Thus ending the 3rd day of the 155th annual session of the Illinois State Grange.

Fraternally Submitted,
Brian Keller
Illinois State Grange Secretary

Sunday Morning Church Service

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

One of the verses from "angels among us" song, oh, I believe that there are angels among us. They come to you and me in our darkest hours to show us how to live, to teach us how to guide us with the light of love

How true we all have angels among to guide us on our journey. God Bless each of you. Renee and Sophia were our angels to guide us here on earth.

Let us Pray
Dear Lord, allows your grace to extend through us, to others, as others have allowed you to do for us, even when doing so is and inconvenience. Amen

From Psalm 92:1-2
It is good to praise the Lord, proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.

I'd like to share with you:
We are celebrating the 250th Anniversary of America this year, the birthday of our country. We stand tall and with great pride that we can call ourselves American's. Our great

country has stood the test of time, the wars that were fought, the loss of many men and women fighting for freedom. We have withstood floods, the mighty fires, drought, and many more things like the pandemic and accidents. As we stop and look at the beautiful specious skies that God has made for us. The amber waves of grain waving in the field golden yellow. The purple mountains majesties standing so tall against the blue skies with snow capped covering them. The fruited plains that feed the world. We are the breadbasket of the world, Jesus feeds us through his loving hands.

He sheds his grace on us to protect us we have been granted liberty in law and self-control. For heroes proved in liberating strife. We are on our journey such as Jesus was. Jesus endured many trials in his journey, the army of enemies, some of his Apostles, the healing of the sick, his love of everyone and his enemies

As we celebrate this 250th Anniversary let us share our love with our brothers and sisters in Christ, our neighbors and the world as Jesus has.

Jesus draws us ever nearer as we labor through the storms of life. Let the many treasures of the trials ahead of us be with us forevermore refrained. May our journey bring blessings, and we rise on wings of faith and hold fast and true.

Offering Collected

The Bible tells us our Lord is always watching even while we sleep. Well, I open my eyes catch his gaze and delight in recognizing the face of Jesus, the one who loves me like no other. The phrase “watching over you, appears multiple times in eight short verses of Psalms 121. What will he see when I open my eyes on new day. Will he see me smiling broadly because no matter what the day holds, I am held, cherished, prayed over, and watched over. This morning may I make eye contact with the one whose gaze is already on me. If you glance at your phone or groan when first awaken in the morning, build a new habit. Open your eyes slowly towards heaven, smile wide and start your day with “Good Morning Jesus.”

The Lord’s Prayer

Go In peace, love and happiness all the day through

Celebration of Life

Renee O’Dell, born in 1953, was 72 years old when she passed away on April 24. Renee married Rick O’Dell on July 1, 1972. They celebrated 54 years together. Renee was a very loving and devoted mother to her two children Michelle O’Dell and Brian O’Dell and wife Marisa, four grandchildren and great grandma to two, Aunt too many nieces and nephews.

Renee was a long-time employee of Rockford Mercantile Agency. She served as President (past) of Beaver Valley Grange where she was a faithful member for 36 years. She also served as Past Illinois State Grange Chaplain and Lecturer.

She spent most of her life singing in various choirs and cherished her time with the Sweet Adalins group River City Sound for over 30 years. A lifelong volunteer, and Past Director and Superintendent of Boone County Fair Board. A faithful member, Elder and Deacon of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church in Argyle.

She is survived by her husband Rick O'Dell, Son Brian O'Dell, and Brothers Donald Paulson, Steven Paulson, Gerald Paulson, Rodney Paulson and Thomas Paulson.

Renee was deceased by her parents and her daughter Michelle O'Dell

From Psalms 16:1

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; on your right hand are pleasures

Sophia Dee Treser was born in Abilene, Texas on November 27, 1938, and passed away on March 9, 2026, in Belleville, IL. Sophia was a loving homemaker, wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She is survived by her loving Charles of 56 years. Six children, 13 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. Sophia served as Illinois State Grange Family Activities Director in 2010. She proudly served as a volunteer for many projects and programs for Illinois State Grange, St. Clair County Pomona Grange, Turkey Hill and Emerald Mound Grange.

When Sophia attended State Grange, parents of young children always knew there was an extra set of eyes on their children. Sophia lived a life of serving for others and was a fun, loving, caring women.

From Psalms 91:11

Because I live, you may live also. Well done good and faithful servant.

5th Degree Candidates

1. Sydney Berry – Flora Grange
2. Avery Wurth – Enterprise Grange

6th Degree Candidates

1. Sydney Berry – Flora Grange
2. Tom Berry – Flora Grange
3. Avery Wurth – Enterprise Grange

Rose Drill Participants

1. Ruth Blasingame – Prairie Grange
2. Katie Renken – Hopewell Grange
3. Karie Blasingame – Prairie Grange
4. Heather Ellwanger – Prairie Grange

Court of Flora

1. Karrie Kindberg – Charity Grange
2. Lana Korte – Floraville Grange
3. Kim Robin – Charity Grange

Illinois State Grange Officers

President – Lynette Schaeffer
Vice President – Karie Blasingame
Lecturer – Patty Bearth
Steward – Don Ellwanger
Asst Steward – Rick O'Dell
Lady Asst Steward – Carrie Fisher
Chaplain – Charlotte Mehrtens
Treasurer – Mary Donley

Secretary – Brian Keller
Gatekeeper – Brian O'Dell
Ceres – Sara Ellwanger
Flora – Marisa O'Dell
Pomona – Angie Dickerson
Ex Comm 2026- Todd Hegge
Ex Comm 2027 – Debra Wade
Ex Comm 2028 – Frank D. Wurth

Illinois State Grange Youth Officers

President – Katie Renken
Vice President – Karie Blasingame
Lecturer – Avery Wurth
Steward – Trisha Renken
Asst Steward – Adam Ellwanger
Lady Asst Steward – Carrie Fisher
Chaplain – Erin Wurth
Treasurer - Brian O'Dell

Secretary – Cassidy Renken
Gatekeeper – Clayton Fisher
Ceres – Scarlette Ellwanger
Flora – Marisa O'Dell
Pomona – Sydney Berry
Ex Comm – Frank DJ Wurth
Ex Comm - _____
Ex Comm - _____

Installation of Officers Team

Valerie Hancock
President – Karen Overstreet
Regalia Bearer – Don Schaeffer

Chaplain - Charlotte Mehrtens
Escort – Lynette Schaeffer
Witness – Buddy Overstreet

Community Service Winners

1st Place – Flora Grange
2nd Place – Emerald Mound Grange
3rd Place –Perryville Grange
4th Place – Turkey Hill Grange

Teacher of the Year - Abby Hopkins (nominated by Beaver Valley Grange)
Firefighter of the Year- Cody Terry (nominated by Emerald Mound Grange)
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year – Zachery Smith (nominated by Flora Grange)
Non-Granger of the Year - Dawn Putnam (nominated by Turkey Hill Grange)
Junior Granger of the Year - Ibraham Fabela (nominated by Prairie Grange)
Granger of the Year - Renee O'Dell (nominated by Illinois State Grange)

104 blankets were donated, with a $350 monetary donation given to the Linus Project.

Illinois State Grange Scholarship Recipients - 2026

Cassidy Renken (Hopewell Grange) - Meteorology
Emma Rutledge (Turkey Hill Grange) – Veterinary Science
Emily Smith (Turkey Hill Grange) – Secondary Education, English Concentration

ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE PROPOSED BUDGET

1/1/27 TO 12/31/27

INCOME:

	PROPOSED 2026	ESTIMATED ACTUAL 2026	PROPOSED 2027
SUBORDINATE DUES	$25,514	$25,552	$25,552
STATE SESSION	8,000	5,000	5,000
5TH DEGREE	3	3	1
6TH DEGREE	10	10	10
GRANGER DONATION	500	45	500
INTEREST INCOME	5,573	5,573	5,532
RESERVE FUNDS		10,000	6,575

TOTAL ESTIMATED INCOME: $46,170

ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE PROPOSED BUDGET 1/1/27 TO 12/31/27

EXPENSES:	PROPOSED 2026		ESTIMATED ACTUAL 2026	PROPOSED 2027
NATIONAL DUES	$ 10,560		$15,500	$15,500
HONORARIUMS	8,495		8,000	8,000
RENT STORAGE	750		0	375
ACCOUNTING	0		0	0
LIABILITY INSURANCE	375		375	375
BONDING	120		120	120
STATE SESSION	10,000		8,000	12,000
LEGISLATIVE	0		0	0
GRANGER NEWSLETTER	2,000		1,251	500
EXECUTIVE MEETING	500		300	300
MILEAGE / TRAVEL	3,000		4,508	6,000
SUPPLIES	1,000		282	750
DONATIONS/MEMORIALS	500		50	300
JUNIOR COMMITTEE	250		250	250
YOUTH COMMITTEE	250		450	450
COMMUNITY SERVICE	250		250	250
LECTURER	250		250	250
FAMILY ACTIVITIES	500		250	250
AGRICULTURE	800		612	600
COMMUNICATIONS	0		350	350
MEMBERSHIP	**0**		**550**	**550**
TOTAL EXPENSES ESTIMATED FOR 2027		**$46,170**		

Credentials Report for Illinois State Grange
2025-2026

At the end of the membership year on June 30, 2026, Illinois had a total of **22** Subordinate Granges with a total of **790** members, as reported by the individual Granges. This breaks down to **665 Individuals (this included 9 Fourteen to Seventeen Year Olds and 23 Affiliate Members)**, **32 Family Plans** that included **110 family members,** and **15 Associate** members. Illinois has **89 Golden Sheaf** members, **9** of which received their Golden Sheaf Awards prior to January 1, 2001. **6** Subordinate Granges have a total of **23 Affiliate** members. There are **3 Pomona Granges** in the state with a total of **215** members.

At the end of the membership year, Illinois had **8** Granges with Junior Grange Charters (County Line, Emerald Mound, Enterprise, Flora, Hopewell, Prairie, Shiloh Valley, and Turkey Hill) with **33** total members and +1 Junior members totaling **6** from **2** other Subordinate Granges. County Line Junior Grange #27 was reorganized on September 1, 2025, with its charter reissued in October 2025.

Since the end of the membership year, a Subordinate Grange was reorganized, a Junior Grange was organized, and a Junior Grange was reorganized. Charity Grange #1713 was reorganized on June 10, 2026, with its charter reissued in July 2026. Charity Junior Grange #96 was organized on June 10, 2026, with its charter issued in July 2026. Beaver Valley Junior Grange #2 was reorganized on July 10, 2026, with its charter reissued in August 2026.

During the past membership year (July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026), there were **2** members who reached **50 years** of membership and received their **Golden Sheaf award, 2 members** received the **75-year Diamond** award, and **1 member** received the **Letter of Recognition for 85 years of membership.**

Additional Milestones: **6-25 yr** Silver Star Certificates, **13-30-yr** seals, **2-35 yr** seals**, 0-40 yr** seals, **3-45 yr** seals, **4-55 yr** seals, **6-60 yr** seals, **4-65 yr** seals and **3-70 yr** seals were presented this year. That's a total of **2130 years of service** recognized this year by the Granges of Illinois. All names are listed below. Congratulations to all the recipients and keep up the good work!

There are **27** Delegates registered, representing **15** Community Granges. There are also **2** Pomona Granges represented, with **4** delegates registered.

Alphabetical Listing of Subordinate Granges of Illinois

Grange	County	Origin Date	Membership as of 6/30/2026
Beaver Valley #1791	Boone	Dec. 1, 1916	43
Big Thunder #1940	Boone	Mar. 9, 1993	24
Bluff #1826	St Clair	Dec. 1, 1922	12
Broad Hollow #1806	St Clair	Jan. 20, 1921	16
Capron #1901	Boone	May 10, 1939	7
Charity #1713	Boone	Jun. 10, 2026 (reorg)	23*
County Line #1751	Boone	Sept. 9, 1908	57
Emerald Mound #1813	St Clair	Nov. 29, 1921	14
Enterprise #1929	St Clair	Mar. 10, 1956	33
Flora #1762	Boone	Sept. 30, 1910	141
Floraville Community #1918	St Clair	Mar. 8, 1948	37
Galt #1853	Whiteside	Mar. 17, 1931	5
Guilford Hope #6	Winnebago	Jul. 3, 1871	18
Harmony #957	Winnebago	Jan. 23, 1874	4
Hopewell #1747	Tazewell	Mar. 2, 1907	31
LeRoy Community #1873	Boone	Mar. 31, 1933	31
Perryville #1805	Winnebago	Jan. 18, 1921	6
Prairie #1832	Boone	Jun. 13, 1923	118
Progressive #1811	St Clair	Mar. 16, 1923	16
Shiloh Valley #1807	St Clair	Jan. 27, 1921	29
Troy Grove #1852	LaSalle	Feb. 28, 1931	11
Turkey Hill #1370	St Clair	Apr. 9, 1874	126
Union #811	Winnebago	Dec. 18, 1873	11

*Charity Grange is not included in the membership year ending 6/30/2026 numbers because its charter wasn't issued until July 2026.

Pomona Granges – Boone County #78, Saint Clair County #21, Winnebago County #73

Junior Granges with active charters – Beaver Valley #2, Charity #96, County Line #27, Emerald Mound #66, Enterprise #88, Flora #10, Hopewell #16, Prairie #20, Shiloh Valley #5, Turkey Hill #7

Recognition Awards 2025– 2026 for the State of Illinois

25 Years
Jerry Paulson – Beaver Valley
Allen Fidder – Flora
Ann Johnson - Prairie
Dawn Mundy - Prairie
Ellis Mundy – Prairie
Jeremy Meyers – Prairie

30 Years
Brenda Paulson – Beaver Valley
Cindy Gorman - Perryville
Robyn Gorman – Perryville
Jimmy Blasingame - Prairie
Ruth Blasingame – Prairie
Karie Blasingame – Prairie
Sarah Meyers – Prairie
Patti Lee – Prairie
Terri Henninger – Prairie
Richard (Dick) Frette – Turkey Hill
Gail Long – Turkey Hill
Gail Long – Turkey Hill

35 Years
Lyle Lee - Prairie
Frank D. Wurth – Turkey Hill

40 Years
None

45 Years
Mary Jane Lane - Flora
Robin Kindberg - Prairie
Janet Plote – Turkey Hill

50 Years Golden Sheaf
Karen Harter – Beaver Valley
Sharon Fidder - Flora

55 Years
Linda Rensing – Broad Hollow
David Volger – Broad Hollow
Karl Kindberg – Prairie
Sally Campbell - Union

60 Years
Nancy Russell – Broad Hollow
David Wiskamp – Broad Hollow
Betty Suemnicht -Broad Hollow
Emalee Colver – Flora
Laurel Ratcliffe – Flora
Beverly Smith – Perryville

65 Years
Brad Blake – Beaver Valley
Carol Neff – Broad Hollow
Neil Schaller – Broad Hollow
Roland Greenland - Union

70 Years
Shirley Brandenburger – Broad Hollow
Betty Hardt – Broad Hollow
Stanley Wayne Lyford – Guilford Hope

75 Years
Arlene Brandenburger – Broad Hollow
Dale Helms – Turkey Hill

80 Years
NONE

85 Years
Donald Sanford – Guilford Hope

President's Annual Report
September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026
President and First Man Activities

The Grangers of Boone and Winnebago hosted the 154th annual IL State Grange Session at the Boone County Fairgrounds, Belvidere, IL, September 13 – 15, 2025. Officers and members of Wisconsin State Grange attended and participated in the first-ever joint State Grange meeting. Debbie Vine serving as President of Wisconsin State Grange, we shared various leadership roles. Both celebrating 154 years of conventions. We met, had displays, and ate in the newly updated Chicken Barn, near the updated bathrooms. National Grange Vice President, John Benedik, New Jersey, was the honored guest representing the NG. John was instrumental in keeping everyone involved in the meeting. The speaker for Friday night was Sarah Hagenow, Alice in Dairyland, WI. Debbie Vine did the introduction. It was great learning about WI agriculture. Thanks to Marisa and Emalee for organizing a Quilts of Valor presentation. Seven veterans were recognized with a Quilt of Valor. The speaker for the Agriculture morning presentation was Meteorologist Candice King WTVO, weather person. It was enjoyable hearing her presentation. Worthy National Grange President Christine Hamp joined the meeting via Zoom (Video conferencing) to discuss how IL and WI will be participating in a pilot membership program. The Youth department and friends performed in a murder mystery dinner theater on Saturday evening. Enjoyed by all. It was fun to figure out "whodunit". Session Committees and Resolutions were worked through and sent to National Grange. It was wonderful to share the session with WI State Grange members and plans were discussed to continue this event in three years when IL State Grange Session is in the north region again. Thanks to all the ISG Officers, Committee chairs/Directors for all their hard work. It was a great session.

The Grange Resources Information and Training (GRIT) was on October 11, 2025, at St Mark Lutheran Church, Washington, IL. This facility was handicapped accessible and a great facility for the meeting. We started at 10:00 with potluck lunch at noon. Many Grangers attended to learn about the contests and programs for the upcoming year. Thanks to the Committee Chairs and Directors for all their hard work on setting up the new contest and programs. Thanks to Deb Wade for procuring the facility. I am once again thankful to Karie and Marisa for copying the information to USB sticks, and to DJ for posting the information to the illinoisstategrange.org website, under the departments and contests tab. The Grangers were asked to bring the USB memory sticks from last year, and many did.

The 159th session of the National Grange was on the Carnival Horizon Cruise Ship. Twenty IL Grangers plus a guest attended the first ever NG Session Cruise. Don served on the Conservation Committee, and I was on the Agriculture Committee. Most of the committee work was done prior to the convention started. The resolution that was sent to the National Grange from IL was adopted. Much was discussed and decided; about one hundred resolutions were brought to the floor and acted on by the delegate body. Election of National Grange Officers was held, and there were changes: Walter Hartly, RI, was elected to the Executive Committee, and Dr. Richard Stonebraker, MD, was elected as Lecturer. I was not re-elected to the National Grange Executive

Committee. The video of the Seventh Degree was shown for the first time, there were a few computer glitches, but it was a great presentation. I am so proud of the IL Grangers who assisted with this project. The days on the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao were wonderful. Some of the work of the delegates included passing a dues increase for the National Grange, starting January 1, 2026. The delegates heard reports from and acted on various study groups on Junior Dues, Delegate Representation, National Session, and Performance Improvement Plans for State Granges. At the National Grange Honors Night, November 21, via video conference, the following were honored from IL: Congratulations to Turkey Hill Grange, Prairie Grange, and County Line Grange for earning the Distinguished Grange Award. A Grange in Action award went to Emerald Mound Grange. Many other awards and distinctions were announced. And the most exciting announcement for IL Grangers was near the end: Junior Granger of the Year – Scarlette Ellwanger, IL. Congratulations Scarlette! We are all very proud of you! I am SO Proud of YOU ALL!!

The National Grange Leader's Conference was held at Nugget Casino, Sparks, NV, April 30 – May 3. Don and I attended. There was a good group of Grangers from many states. Many various workshops for putting in our toolbox were thoroughly presented. The presenters were Grangers and others that were well prepared in their topics. The 2027 National Grange Session will be held at this hotel.

I was able to attend Spring Fling for a while. And the Executive Committee met as well. Thanks to the Youth for having a great event.

I enjoyed the All - Granger picnic in Boone County on May 30, 2026, sponsored by ISG Youth Dept. IL State Grange Scholarships were awarded to Emma Rutledge, (Turkey Hill), Emily Smith (Turkey Hill), and Cassidy Renken (Hopewell). Our Youth Directors (Beth, Karie and Marisa) led an "Out of this World" experience. Thanks to them and everyone who brought food to share. Thanks to those who brought items for the raffle and those who purchased items. Later that day, we attended Broad Hollow Grange, where they observed their 105th anniversary. I was honored to present longevity awards to several members.

Don and I attended the Midwest Leaders Conference in June at Boone County Community Grange Hall. The event was well planned, thanks to Karie and Marisa for their efforts. I was disappointed that not more IL Grangers attended the event. Each State attending presented great workshops on a variety of topics. I presented one of the workshops that was presented at the NG Leaders Conference. IA will be the host next year; they mentioned that the weekend will change.

I am Chair of the National Grange on the Agriculture Committee for the 2026 NG session; we have started meeting often 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 (Granges not connected with a State Grange). 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 and all 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 Smoky Mountains for Grange Revival 5.0 in 2027. Any Granger is welcome to attend Revival events. This year, there are Cabins and Lodge rooms available.

Departments

Agriculture 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), The '29 chair will be announced.

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. Thanks, Ruth, for helping with the publications. 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, let me know.

Community Service Director – Heather Ellwanger has worked hard to keep IL Granges active; I am excited to see what everyone brings for Linus Blankets. Prayers for Heather's health. Thanks to Marisa for her assistance to Heather.

Family Activities Committee - Thanks to Trisha Renken and Marilyn Coe. As of writing this I do not have anyone fill the chair in 2028 (Boone /Winnebago). And now I am looking for a person to chair for 2029. It will be in central IL at that time. I hope to announce at least one person on Friday night.

Historian - Bev Smith has kept us all informed of the history of the Illinois State Grange. Thanks, Bev, for your efforts and articles. Great display in display room. Thanks to the family of Marion, Wayne, Carol and Bill Buck for sharing many boxes of Grange information and memorabilia. It was great fun for me to review the material in the boxes and then to share some of the material with Bev.

Junior Director – Melinda Schiefer worked hard to have the Juniors be active. Thanks for helping with the Leadership meetings. Thanks, Mindy, for your efforts.

Lecturer – Thanks to Ethan for your efforts. Thanks for the contests that you still have, since National Grange no longer has contests. Thanks, Ethan, for helping with Leadership meetings.

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 Director – 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. If you want information on the website, please contact DJ.

Good of the Order

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. Good luck to them.

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 to Adam, Brian, and Karie for all of their efforts. As a result of this settlement, there is a Grange reorganized, Charity #1713 and Charity Junior Grange #96. Thanks to all the Grangers that worked well together.

Be sure to check out all the information on the nationalgrange.org , and all the other media platforms. And Grange Engage is a great place to check out many opportunities for your Grange and NG. Be sure to check out Facebook (Illinois State Grange) and ILLINOISSTATEGRANGE.org 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 granted. Contact me, or anyone on the IL Ex Committee if you have any questions. It is important that, when applying for a Hall Improvement Fund, you 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. Remember to keep your subscription current. Consider getting a subscription and renewing your subscription.

Think about donating to the Grange Foundation in the 1 in 1000 Club. Donate $1000 to the foundation, and you will be one of a thousand people in the club. Grange Foundation has special meetings and information for the 1 in 1000 Club members. And if you would like to be a member of the Grange Foundation, look for information on the Nationalgrange.org website. Annually, they are always looking for members,

In Memorial

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. These two have been great supporters of the Illinois State Grange. They will be sadly missed by many Grangers in IL. Don and I attended the funerals for both of these magnificent women. I will personally miss them both immensely. "Well Done Good and Faithful Servant."

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 Conclusion

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 an 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, dispenses 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

Vice President's Report

Grange Family,

Another Grange year is coming to a close, so many things have happened throughout the year. This year has been jam-packed with exciting adventures across the seven seas. We started out the year with the GRIT conference in Washington, IL, introducing the theme in the youth department of Out of this World. In November, National Session at Sea, "now…bring me that Horizon" was full of fun and sun times with all of our Grange family from across the nation. I enjoyed my time aboard the ship as well as on the islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao. Many Grange activities filled up the winter, as Secretary of Prairie Grange I create a monthly newsletter, as a Grange we went to the Icehogs Teddy Bear Toss together, we also went to the Beloit SkyCarps game this summer to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our great nation by taking in a game on

the 5th of July. Marisa, Beth and I hosted Spring Fling in March and the Grange Picnic in May. I am on a number of National Grange Work groups that have met via ZOOM throughout the year. I am excited to say that I chose the location for next year's Grange Revival 5.0 in the Great Smoky Mountains in North Carolina. I am so excited to share this place with everyone and we expect that it might rival how many people we had when we went to South Dakota. Please join us if you can.
This year has been one of many transitions for Granges in our state, I am happy to have been able to guide a Grange through dividing into 2 smaller Granges who are going to do great things for their respective Granges. Please welcome Charity Grange and Charity Junior Grange to the Illinois State Grange and Thank County Line Grange for their perseverance through changes. I look forward to exciting things from both Granges, "To Infinity and Beyond."

Fraternally,
Katherine (Karie) Blasingame
Vice-President, Illinois State Grange



Steward's Report

Worthy National Grange Representatives, Master of the Illinois State Grange, Lynette Schaefer, Officers of the Illinois State Grange, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters, Grangers and Guests.

I have spent the last year as President of Prairie Grange #1832. I attended most of the Boone County Pomona Grange meetings where I have been Vice President.

My family and I have tried to make it to many different Grange functions this year. We attended the GRIT conference hosted by Hopewell Grange and attended the Midwest Leadership conference at the Boone County Community Grange Hall

I, along with my family, worked at the Prairie Grange Consignment Auction, making sure that we were in the correct lot, and I was a Ring man on one of the lines. I organized the Courtesy Carts at the Boone County Fair with the help of some great volunteers. We ran 5-6 passenger golf carts throughout the parking lots of the Fairgrounds from 9 am to 9 pm all 6 days of the Boone County Fair.

Fraternally Submitted,
Don Ellwanger, Steward of the Illinois State Grange

Lady Assistant Steward's Report

Worthy National Grange Executive Committee Member, William "Buddy" Overstreet, and Past President of Texas State Grange, Karen Overstreet. Past Worthy National Grange Executive Committee Member & Illinois State Grange Master Sister Lynette Schaeffer and brother Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and former Master of the Illinois State Grange Henrietta Keller, Past Worthy National Flora and Past First Lady of the Illinois State Grange sister Patty Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Master and Executive Committee Lyle Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master David Donley and Past First Lady and current Illinois State Grange Treasurer Mary Donley and State Officers, delegates and members.

My 2025-2026 year started out with attending the combined 154th Illinois & Wisconsin State Grange Session at Boone County Fairgrounds in Belvidere, Illinois where I was Lady Assistant for the IL State Grange and walked in on Sunday Morning with the State Youth Department. On October 11th, Hopewell Grange hosted Grange Resource Information Training at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Washington, IL. Everyone had a great time and had a good turnout. On Oct 23rd I helped at the Hopewell Grange Pancake and Sausage Supper. On October 25th Hopewell had their annual Fall Vendor & Craft Show. I was busy getting all the vendors beforehand and then taking your money in the Concessions. Unfortunately, Hopewell had to cancel their annual Breakfast with the Grinch in December because of a small blizzard. The event will continue this December. On February 21st my husband and myself went with around 20 Hopewell members and friends to the Barn III Dinner Theater in Goodfield. It was a very cute date night with a show. They always do such a wonderful show. On April 25th, Hopewell had the chance to hold their Annual Spring Vendor Fair. The following day, on April 26th, Hopewell had their Second Spaghetti and Meatball Drive Thru Dinner. On June 17th Hopewell Members helped bus & clean

the tables at Pizza Ranch in Morton IL. (Give that youngest member a rag & spray bottle and he will have EVERYTHING clean …. then he will come up to you and ask how much is that worth to get paid 😊.) On July 10th myself & a few Hopewell members participated in a fundraiser at The Barn III in Goodfield IL. I have attended all of my Subordinate Meetings where I am Secretary of Hopewell Grange. I have been helping with the Grange activities and getting the word out in the community about Hopewell and all that we do for the community.

Fraternally Submitted
Carrie Fisher, Lady Assistant of the Illinois State Grange

Chaplain's Report

Greetings to my Brothers and Sisters in Christ. From Psalm 28; 7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in him and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him.

Worthy National Grange Executive Committee member Brother William " Buddy" Overstreet and Sister Karen Overstreet, Past President of Texas State Grange. Illinois State Grange Master/ President and Past National Executive member Sister Lynette Schaeffer and First Man Brother Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and Past Master/President Illinois State Grange Sister Henrietta Keller, Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master/ President David Donley and Sister Mary Donley Illinois State Grange Treasurer, Worthy Past National Flora Patti Lee and Past Illinois State Grange Master/President and Past Executive Committee member Illinois State Grange Brother Lyle Lee. Illinois State Grange Officers, Delegates, Patrons and Guests.
Since we last met at the Boone County Fairgrounds in September 2025, I have attended as many Grange meetings and activities as possible. I have attended all of Bluff Grange's meetings where I serve as Master/President and all of St. Clair County Pomona Grange serving as Master/President.

I Helped with Bluff 's Chicken and Dumpling Dinner in October. We held our Annual Meat Shoot in January making homemade chicken noodle soup to serve to those who attended. I attended Progressive Grange B-B-Q and their soup dinner.
Attended funeral services for Sister Sophia Treser who was a member of Turkey Hill Grange for many years. I attended Broad Hollows 105th Anniversary and enjoyed the potluck and evening entertainment. I was unable to attend Turkey Hill Grange Ham and Peach Dinner in August that is always so good.
I took part in the Butter Braid fundraiser for Pomona Grange in August.
I have written the Chaplain's Corner each month; I do hope that the members have enjoyed it.

From Luke 1: 37
For with God nothing shall be impossible.
May God bless each of you and hold you in His loving arms always.

Fraternal Submitted
CHARLOTTE MEHRTENS, Illinois State Grange Chaplain

TREASURER'S REPORT

This year, the Executive Committee voted to increase the Hall Improvement Grant to $7500 per year or $15,000.00 over three years with a maximum of 50% of the project, whichever is less. We had 2 requests and they were approved:

Boone County Pomona Grange	$15,000
Flora Grange	868

Memorials in honor of deceased officers and committee chairs or their spouse have been deposited to the Memorial-Honor Scholarship Fund:
Sophia Treser, Renee O'Dell & Bob Hoffmann

In September, I will be partially redeeming a Certificate of Deposit to cover a shortfall in cash flow as income is insufficient to cover expenses. This has been an issue for a while. In order to maintain the reserves that we have, income needs to increase. Membership dues are our primary source of income; therefore, we need to implement an increase.

3 Scholarships were awarded this year to:
Emma Rutledge, Cassidy Renken & Emily Smith

ASSETS

*General Fund	$ 6,745.02
*ISG Reserve Money Market	5,663.04
*ISG Reserve CD'S	335,094.38
**National Session	1,917.55
**Hearing Impaired	4,750.13
**Klotz Scholarship	12,924.87
**Memorial Honor Scholarship	21,489.52
**Munson Scholarship	55,422.01
**Nieffengger Scholarship	10,000.00
**Terminated Hall/Interest Escrow	8,430.30
**Closed Hall CD'S	387,996.05

*TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	$347,502.44
**TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	$502,930.43

Respectfully Submitted
Mary Donley, Treasurer

Gatekeeper's Report
Boone County Deputy's Report

Worthy National Grange Executive Committee member William "Buddy" Overstreet & Past Texas State Grange President Karen Overstreet, Worthy National Grange Executive Committee and Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaffer, and First Man Don Schaffer, Fellow IL State Grange Officers, Delegates, and Friends.

If I had to compare the 2025/26 Grange Year for Boone County as Deputy to a Disney Attraction, it would probably be The Pirates of the Caribbean. There were ups and downs, lefts and rights, and eventually someone got wet. But in the end, we caught the dog holding the keys, and those keys were to a New Grange! Meetings were attended by both Adam Ellwanger and I, as Deputies, to the Granges of Boone County throughout the year, some more than others. Congratulations to the 8th Grange of Boone County, Charity Grange #1713!

Back at Beaver Valley Grange #1791, I continued my tenure as President while we welcomed new members, draped the charter for 2 very important Grange members, Brother Brad Blake, a member of Beaver Valley for 65 years, and my favorite Granger of all, my mom, Renee O'Dell. I hope there is an AG auction up there for you! I also attended multiple joint Grange functions and outings, the ISG Youth Picnic, and Fairboard meetings. Beaver Valley Grange is planning to raise money for and lay 140 wreaths for Wreaths Across America this December.

Fraternally Submitted,
Brian O'Dell, ISG Deputy & ISG Gatekeeper

Ceres' Report

Greetings Grange Family,

It's hard to believe that another year has already come and gone. Things haven't changed much for me. I am still a member of Prairie Grange where I am in charge of the Juniors. We host bimonthly movie and dinner nights as well as sporadic craft and community service days. I am the sale manager for the 4Momz 2Momz consignment sale that Prairie Grange hosts twice a year. This is a fundraiser as well as a community service project. I helped at the yearly Prairie Grange Consignment Auction, laid wreaths for Wreaths Across America, and went to the Beloit Sky Carp baseball outing. In Boone County Pomona Grange I currently hold the office of Secretary and have participated in handing out birthday cake kits, collected hats and gloves, items for the Haven Network, and several other community service projects. The whole family got to attend the National Grange Session at Sea this year. It was tons of fun cruising with all our Grange Family to Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao. We even had non-Granger Grandma Christy join us from Colorado! I am happy to report that no jar of dirt was needed, and the rum was in fact, not gone! We watched Scarlette compete for National Junior Ambassador, and she was awarded the National Junior Granger of the Year for her 250 hours of community service she completed in the last year. While in New York in May for my nephew's graduation from Cornell, we stayed near the NY State Grange office and checked it out. It was a fun trip. I attended the Mid-West

Leadership Conference in June, which was held at Boone County Community Grange Hall. I led a workshop called Leadership 101, I'll be happy to share it if you need a nice Lecturers program. Scarlette will be 13 soon and entering the 7th grade, Caroline is 3 and starting Pre-K 3. Adam is 40something and a firefighter/paramedic/fire investigator with the City of Belvidere. I continue to be a PROUD GRANGER and strive to make my Grange a better place where we work to create a stronger community through action and involvement. Now, bring me that horizon!

Fraternally,
Sara Ellwanger

Flora's Report

Worthy National Grange Executive Committee William "Buddy" Overstreet, Worthy Past Texas State Grange President Karen Overstreet, Worthy Past National Executive Committee and Illinois State Grange President Lynette Shaeffer, Fellow IL State Grange Officers, Delegates and friends;
I can't believe how fast time has flown by. It seems we just saw each other at Session in Northern Illinois. I have attended multiple meetings and events near and far this year, as well as attending my own Grange meeting and Pomona Meeting, where I hold the position of Ceres and Gatekeeper.
I have attended Spring Fling, The Statewide Picnic, Grit, and Midwest Leadership Conference. Multiple Grange activities with not just Beaver Valley Grange but also The Prairie Grange. Karie and I attended the celebration of life of Brother Jason Smith, President of Indiana State Grange.
The hardest part of this year was saying goodbye to my Mother-in-law, Sister Renee C. Odell. Past Illinois State Lecturer, Past Illinois State Chaplain, Past Illinois State Deputy. She will always be part of our memories.

Fraternally Submitted,
Marisa L. O'Dell
IL State Grange Flora

Pomona's Report

Worthy National Grange Executive Committee Member William "Buddy" Overstreet. Past Texas State Grange Karen Overstreet, Illinois State Grange President Grange Lynette Schaeffer, Grange Officers, Delegates and Friends.

I service as Vice President for Bluff Grange. It has been a busy year.

I've attended all my Grange meetings. I've also attended St. Clair County Pomona meeting when I was able as well as ISG GRIT conference in Washington, Illinois.

Fraternally,
Angie Dickerson
Illinois State Grange Pomona

Executive Committee's Report

Worthy National Grange Executive Committee Member, William "Buddy" Overstreet and Past President of Texas State Grange Karen Overstreet, Past Worthy National Grange Executive Committee member and Illinois State Grange Master Sister Lynette Schaeffer and brother Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and former Master of the Illinois State Grange Henrietta Keller, Past Worthy National Flora and Past First Lady of the Illinois State Grange Sister Patty Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Master and Executive Committee member Lyle Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master David Donley and Past First Lady and current Illinois State Grange Treasurer Mary Donley and State Officers, delegates and members.

We the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee, Frank D., Todd, Debra, Lynette, Karie, Mary, and Brian wish to submit the following report,

The Illinois State Grange Executive Committee met on **September 18, 2025** at the Community Grange Hall Building at the Boone County Fairgrounds at 6:35 p.m. Those in attendance were Lynette and Don Schaeffer, Frank D and Erin Wurth with boys, Todd and Dona Hegge, Debra and Kevin Wade, Karie Blasingame, Brian Keller.
Brian reported that the Delegate books are ready.
There are 14 checks on Unclaimed Checks site.
Karie received a letter from four sight about checks.
Karie received a Hall Improvement from County Line Grange.
Karie was asked to be on the National Grange Convention Management Team (CMT) nationwide team. Looking into Grange fee which would be for all meals.
Don, Lynette, Lana, and Karie all attended Grange Revival 4.0 in Torrey Utah on July 21-27 2025. The next one in 2027 will be in the Smokey Mountains, Deep Creek Tube Center & Campground in Bryson City, North Carolina.
Don and Lynette met with Debbie Buck Crew to collect items that Bill and Carol Buck had at their home; it was very interesting Lynette brought some to State Session many pictures to be remembered.
Chris Hamp will be talking Pilot on Membership on Saturday of State Session. It is about starting new Granges and help with it.
Grit was discussed Debbie gave 2 places to choose. Karie made motion to go to St. Marks Church in Washington, Il. And to give $ 100.00 as our rental Fee. Grit will be October 11,2025.
We then discussed State Session.

Sunday September 21, 2025
The Executive Meeting was called to order by President Lynette. Frank D. was nominated for chairman of Executive Committee. Frank D. was elected as Chairman. Debbie was nominated as Secretary of the Executive Committee. Debbie was elected as Secretary. Todd was nominated

as Parliamentarian of the Executive Committee. Todd was elected as Parliamentarian.
Donations for the breakfast and use of fair building to Boone County Pomona. Motion was made

by Lynette to pay $400.00 to them Debbie seconded the motion, motion passed.
Lynette made motion to pay Robin, Kelly, and Karrie Kindberg $ 50.00 each for typing this weekend Todd seconded the motion, motion passed.
Frank made motion to pay $ 300.00 to each Granges individual check for Community Service Books
We will audit books at January Executive Meeting.
Debbie will check when Grit payment is due then pay if it needs to be paid before GRIT.
Debbie made motion to buy 6, - 3 column budget books Lynette seconded the motion, motion passed.
Hall Improvement, $ 2160.70 will be sent to County Line this is ½ the bill.
Discussion on New Pilot Program. Lynette and Robin will get together and discuss it further.

December 7, 2025
Worthy President Lynette sent an email that Brian needed a topic for the Scholarship Question. She suggested the following:
1-What should my local Grange be doing for the 250th Anniversary of USA?
2-What should my local Grange be doing to get more people my age to join me as a member?
3-What can I do to help my local Grange grow as an important part of my community?
4- What is a Community Service project my local Grange should be involved in?
Todd made a motion to accept the third question it was seconded by Debra all agreed motion passed.
It was decided to put March 1, 2026 as deadline.

January 10, 2026
5 Granges paid for Bonding
Brian did the 990 N Secretary of State Reports.
Karie met with National Grange Committee to discuss 2025 and 2026 National Grange Sessions.
National Grange Cruise was fun.
The National Youth Team was written about during cruise.
National Grange Session was unique. Cruise on Carnival Ship. Lynette has been asked to work with Nevada Granges as a Deputy. Next Session will be in Broken Arrow, Tulsa OK.
Plans are being made for State Session at Northfield Inn and Suites in Springfield IL.
Lynette has found more unclaimed funds for State Grange she has started the process to get these funds.
There will be an Officer and Committee meeting by zoom on January 22, 2026 Lynette will be discussing the following: 250th Celebrations, RLI, Membership, FAC person, Membership Pilot to name the main items.
Lynette is needing a FAC person soon.
Working on 2027 meeting place in St. Clair County.
National Grange has questions on where do we need to go from here.
Sent out Scholarship news.
There was a discussion on several Hall Improvements, Turkey Hill had some windows that were run into by a car so the windows and possibly the roof will need to be replaced. Emerald Mound is needing a new roof, Boone County Community Grange Hall put in new windows and new floor.
Limits are 50 per cent of project. $ 5,000.00 per project and $ 10,000.00 every 3 years.

We discussed accounts, where the money is coming from. We can take money out of CD's when they mature or use interest money. One suggestion was to put $ 12,000.00 in Hall Improvement Account Fund as we have a CD coming mature soon. Lynette made motion to put $ 12,000.00 in Hall Improvement Fund, $ 26,000.00 available in Hall Improvement Account. Todd made motion to change Hall Improvement Request Fund to a $ 7,500.00 per project with Grange receiving 50 per cent with a 3-year limit of $ 15,000.00. This will start on June 1, 2026. All dates will be by application date. The vote was 4-1 motion passed.
Lynette made motion to change date to February 1, 2026 as Hall Improvement starting date.
Scholarship Discussion,
We discussed the scholarships and since we also discussed them on an email we added them to minutes.

March 11, 2026
Three people turned in their scholarship applications,
Treasurer-
A deposit was made to Northfield Inn and Suites.
National Grange Sessions will be year and state they will be in:
2026-----Tulsa Oklahoma
2027------Nevada
2028------Texas
2029-------St. Louis Missouri
Spring Fling will be March 13,14, 2026 at Boone County Fairgrounds.
Workshops will be on photography, cake pops, DIY projects on how to make a centerpiece from Dollar Store and Goodwill, Murder Mystery Dinner and Dance. 4Momz2momz Kids. Resale Grange Act
Do we want an official to welcome us to Springfield? Discussed possible Cemetery Manager, or Mayor.
We will do a 5th Degree obligation instead of full form Karie made motion.
Dates for Springfield State Session deadlines:
Rooms -----August 7, 2026
Resolutions------July 1, 2026
Meal Tickets----August 7, 2026
Marisa will be in charge of 6th degree rose drill.
Room list was reviewed and it was ok.
Lynette will look into guest for Friday Night 5-6 perhaps.
It was suggested that we have a fun night to do what we want at State Session.
The officers and Committee officers attended a zoom meeting to discuss items of the Performance Improvements Plan for the Illinois Grange. Lynette will be working with Granges in person and online to help meet their needs. Anyone wishing to open a new Grange let her know.
Hope everyone is checking out the Grange Engage available for your Grange and each person too.
Some of Illinois Granges have signed up to participate in the grants the National Grange has going on now.
Lynette heard that one Granger is interested in The Grange Foundation Ernestine Keiser Memorial Scholarship.

Plans for the 155th annual IL State Grange Session at the Northfield Inn and Suites on September 11-13, 2026 in Springfield IL. On Saturday we would like everyone to wear Red, White and Blue clothing for celebration of America 250th Anniversary. Draft Schedule will be forwarded.
National Grange Leadership Conference will be in Sparks Nevada in May this year. Next National Grange Session will be in Tulsa Oklahoma November 11-15 2026.
Lynette is a National Grange Deputy for Granges with no State Grange and for Florida State Grange. There are 3 in Alaska and 2 in Nevada.
Scholarships were discussed we will be awarding 3 scholarships this year:
Cassidy Renken from Hopewell Grange money from Klotz Fund
Emma Rutledge from Turkey Hill Grange money from Klotz Fund
Emily Smith from Turkey Hill Grange money from the Memorial Honor Fund
Meals for State Session will be:
Friday night- Italian Feast- $ 40.00
Saturday Lunch-Taco Bar Buffet- $ 30.00
Saturday Supper- Chefs Own Pizza Buffet- $ 30.00
The Illinois State Grange Executive Committee met in person on March 13,2026 at the Boone County Grange Hall after we had dinner with Spring Fling participants.
We audited books of Department Chairs, Family Activities and Community Service, Karie will order new books for the Department Heads.
Brian will send inventory of what ribbons we have.
Hall Improvement Request:
Boone County Pomona put in a request for window Replacement requesting $ 7,500.00 for Support Reimbursement.
Boone County Pomona also made a request for Refinish and Seal Floor requesting $ 7,500.00 for Support Reimbursement. Lynette made motion.
State Session 2027 in Southern Illinois was discussed. Sportsman Club in Mascoutah, IL.

June 22, 2026
Requests for delegate books and State Session meals are due on August 7. 2026. Resolutions are due July 1, 2026. Brian has received one resolution with another on its way we need more resolutions.
Boone County Pomona was given a check for Hall Improvement for the amount of $ 15,000.00 for 2 requests of $ 7500.00 for improvements
Karie talked about the problems between several Granges.
Karie made a motion to do a Grange Startup cost of $ 200.00; We will have a list of the Starup Fund for future references. Todd seconded it motion passed.
Startup List
Charter Fee----------$ 50.00
Junior Charter Fee----------$ 10.00
Reorganization Fee----------$ 50.00
5 manuals at $ 15.00 each----$ 75.00
Miscellaneous Fee----------$ 15.00
total $ 200.00
Mid-West is June 26-28, 2026

Lynette has been working with Robin on the New Grange Pilot Program, she has been talking with Carrie Fisher for a new Grange near Mt Zion, IL. Also have talked with Jeff Sesol from Princeton, IL on the possibility of a new Grange.
Bonding- the letters have been sent to Granges via email or personally at St Clair Co Pomona meeting.
Grange Engage- She is looking forward to a workshop at Mid-West Grange Leaders Conference to help all members with this powerful product.
Membership Goal -1 new Grange per state from National Grange. Illinois has met that with the reorganization of Charity #1713 Grange.
Scholarship Winners Emily Smith (Turkey Hill) Emma Rutledge (Turkey Hill), Cassidy Renken (Hopewell) attended the Grange Picnic on May 30, 2026 at Boone County Fairgrounds and received their scholarships.
Lana, Don and Lynette went from the Picnic to Broad Hollow Grange's 105th anniversary celebration. Lynette had the privilege of awarding years of service to 7 members. From 50 to 75 years of service.
155th annual State Session September 11 – 13, 2026 Northfield Inn and Suites in Springfield IL. Karen and Buddy Overstreet will be our guests from Texas. Karen is President, and Buddy on National Grange Executive Committee, and Grange Foundation board member. Lynette can't wait to show Karen and Buddy how Illinois does Grange work.
Don and Lynette attended the National Grange Leadership Conference in Sparks, NV, May 1-3. It was a weekend filled with fellowship and workshops. Lynette will be hoping to present one of the workshops during the Midwest Grange Leaders Conference.
The Midwest Grange Leaders Conference will be held at Boone County Community Grange Hall June 26-28.
Marissa has asked to be recommended from Lynette to be a Communications Fellow in 2026 at National Session in Broken Arrow OK.
Lynette has been working with Mascoutah Sportsman Club for Session in 2027 they will charge $1800.00 for the building for Thursday afternoon till Sunday morning. Then we will work with a caterer Betty Ann Catering in Mascoutah IL, And do we need 2 hotels?
It was discussed about changing the salary of President, Secretary, Treasurer and possibly one for Vice President.
President makes $ 375.00 per month x 12 =4500.00
Secretary and Treasurer salary is $ 1200.00 a year.
Youth theme this year is Out of this world.
Grit Conference October 10, 2026 at Turkey Hill Grange and the other October 11, 2026 at Community Grange Hall both starting at 11:00 am.
Hall Improvement Fund Flora Grange had their basement windows repaired, painted, and kitchen redone, Request was $ 1700.35 -50% would be $ 868.00 Lynette made a motion to reimburse them that amount Debbie seconded the motion, motion carried.
Turky Hill will be reimbursed for the damage done when a car ran thru it by the owners of the car.
The budget will be worked on by Lynette, Mary and Frank D. in July.
Budget requests were discussed from Community Chairmans of Ag, Community Service, Granger and Youth.

August 4, 2026
Secretary= Brian
Brian made mention that at every quarter checks have been getting lost in the mail. Brian suggested before you send checks make a copy and email to him so he has at least a copy of your report. If they get lost.
Discussed budget: suggested to raise book to $ 10.00, and maybe going back to registration fee at Session. And possibly raising dues.

We have made motions to give $ 25.00 each to the Memorial Fund in Memory of Noah Mullins, Sophia Treser. and Renee O'Dell, and Bob Hoffman.

Fraternally Submitted Illinois State Grange Executive Committee
Frank D. Wurth Chairman, Todd Hegge Parliamentarian, Debra Wade Secretary, Lynette Schaeffer President, Karie Blasingame Vice President, Mary Donley Treasurer, and Brian Keller Illinois State Grange Secretary.

Executive Committee Secretary's Report

Worthy National Grange Executive Committee Member, William "Buddy" Overstreet and Past President of Texas State Grange Karen Overstreet, Past Worthy National Grange Executive Committee member and Illinois State Grange Master Sister Lynette Schaeffer and brother Don Schaeffer, Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and former Master of the Illinois State Grange Henrietta Keller, Past Worthy National Flora and Past First Lady of the Illinois State Grange Sister Patty Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Master and Past Illinois State Grange Executive Committee member Lyle Lee, Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master David Donley and Past First Lady and current Illinois State Grange Treasurer Mary Donley and State Officers, delegates and members.

My year started out with attending Illinois State Grange Session on September 2025 in Rockford at the Boone County Fairgrounds. I attended GRIT in Washington, IL at St. Marks Church. In October I worked for 2 days with our annual Pancake and Sausage supper. In February I along with 19 other grangers and friends went to Barn III where we saw a very amusing play. In April I helped at the raffle sales table for our Spring Vender Fair. The day after our Vendor Fair, we had a drive-through Spaghetti Dinner. I have helped mow Hopewell's grass along with Kevin, Clay, Jaxon, Carrie, and Jimmie, and we even had Cruz out picking up grass and was our water bottle runner. I attended our two fundraisers, one at Barn III Theater and one at Pizza Ranch, where if we help that night, we get a percentage of the meal price. I have attended all my Subordinate Meetings, where I am Chaplain. I have attended all meetings of the Illinois State Grange Executive meetings.

Fraternally Submitted
Debra Wade, Secretary of the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee

Agriculture Committee's Report

Worthy National Grange Executive Committee member William "Buddy" Overstreet and very recent Past President of the Texas State Grange Karen Overstreet, Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaeffer and First man Don Schaeffer , Worthy Past National Grange Secretary and former President of the Illinois State Grange Henrietta Keller, Past Worthy National Flora and Past First Lady of the Illinois State Grange Patty Lee, Past Illinois State Grange President Lyle Lee , Past Illinois State Grange President David Donley and Past First Lady and current Illinois State Grange Treasurer Mary Donley, State Officers, delegates and members. My 2025/2026 AG year started in October with the GRIT conference in the center of the state. In November I helped my Grange with our annual wurstmarket. I was able to attend the first National Grange Session at sea. The cruise to the ABC Islands was most enjoyable, and the viewing of the 7th Degree video that was made in Boone County, IL, was inspiring. I also had the honor of being a Guest Officer on the Executive Committee for the closing of the National Grange meeting on Monday evening. "Thanks, Lynette." In May, I attended the State Grange picnic at the Boone County fairgrounds, always an enjoyable event. Later that day I attended the 105th anniversary of Broad Hollow Grange. I attended my local and Pomona meetings throughout the year. The 2026 Agriculture contest had 13 departments with 68 categories.

Lana Korte
AG Chair

Illinois Granger Editors' and Communications Director's Report

National Grange Representatives Buddy Overstreet National Grange Executive Committee Member & Texas State Grange Past President Karen Overstreet, Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaeffer and First man Don Schaeffer, Past National and State Officers, Illinois State Grange Officers and Delegates, Brothers and Sisters, I serve as editor of the Illinois Granger along with my granddaughter Sammantha Meyers and Communications Director for the Illinois State Grange.

I have attended all my Prairie Grange #1832 meetings where I am a member of the Executive Committee. I have attended all the Boone County Pomona Grange Meetings where I serve as President. I have attended all but one of the Boone County Fairboard meetings where I am a 26 plus year director and serve on the ticket committee. I am the lead advisor for the Boone County Youth Fairboard and have attended all the meetings.

During the Fair I work mainly in the concession trailer selling shirts with the Youth Fairboard. I organize a schedule of the Youth members working around the fairgrounds. I also help in the Ticket office as needed.

I attended the 2025 Illinois State Grange Session as a delegate, the Fair Appreciation dinner and the GRIT Conference. I also attended Spring Fling, the ISG Picnic and part of the Midwest Leadership Conference.

I participated in shopping for and purchasing gifts for patients at Symphony Northwoods for their Christmas celebration. I donated some tiny baby afghans to the Haven Network. I am currently making blankets for the Linus Project. I am always willing to donate a rag quilt to any local organization to help them raise money.

Sam has been busy in her first year of teaching in Oskaloosa Iowa. She attends Grange when she can if she is home. She assists in the Culinary department at the Boone County Fair and anywhere else she is needed.
Sam and I have published the Illinois Granger every month. Sam does the layout and I do the printing and mailing. I am constantly working on the mailing list to keep it up to date.

Fraternally,
Ruth Blasingame &
Sammantha Meyers

Community Service Director's Report

Worthy National Representatives, Past National Officers, Illinois State Grange Officers Delegates, Patrons and Guests.

I enjoyed this year's project because we got to see all the blankets for the Linus Project. I also enjoyed being Ceres of Prairie Grange, lecturer for Pomona Grange, and a superintendent at the Boone County Fair and State Grange Community Service Officer. I have been to all the Grange meetings and Grit, Spring Fling, and Mid-West Leadership Conference.
I look forward to the next year, starting a new project

Fraternally,
Sister Heather Ellwanger

Historian's Report

Worthy National Grange Executive Committee member William Overstreet, Past Texas State Grange President Karen Overstreet, Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaeffer, First Gentleman Don Schaeffer, Past National Grange Officers, Illinois State Grange Officers, Delegates, Patrons and Guests:

This year our country is celebrating our 250th Anniversary/Birthday! We as Grangers can particularly be proud Americans who practice many freedoms we enjoy today. We are able to assemble for meetings, pledge to our American flag, sing the "Star Spangled Banner" and offer prayer in our opening ritual. After the Civil War, The Grange was dedicated to promoting rural life but was open to all, in contrast to other organizations at that time. The Grange established its National headquarters in Washington, D.C. and leaders contributed to many legislative issues of our country. The Grange had input on agricultural issues such as: The Granger Laws pertaining to railroads, establish Department of Agriculture and cabinet status, the Interstate Highway Program, creation of Extension Service, Vo-Ag programs, Rural Free Delivery Postal System, Rural Electrification Administration, School Lunch and Milk program and the list goes on.

In honor of America's 250th I made a poster signifying the Grange's attributes that symbolize our freedoms. My show and tell items at State Grange Session will include: Book-Women of the Grange, Iowa State Grange Cookbook, National Grange Christmas card from former National Grange Master Herschel Newsome, The Grange Blue Book, Grange Melodies Songbook 1917,

Songs for the Grange 1874, Granger newspaper of September 1962, The Grange Newsletter September 1966, Building the Grange 1944 and 1946 booklets, and Grange decal.

After some trips to Pecatonica, Illinois, I finally solved the mystery of where the former Prairie View Grange hall was located. Thanks to my second cousin, she pointed out the house to me so now I have the address.

Many thank-yous to: Kim Robin for copying articles of Rock Creek Grange, Harrisville Grange, LeRoy Community Grange; Ethan Edwards for a photo of State Grange attendees of 1948; Lynette for all the items from the Buck Family, also Harvard Juvenile Grange scrapbooks; and Dayle Paulson for items from Brad Blakeman.

I wrote four articles "Blast From The Past" for the Illinois Granger newspaper- April, May, July, and August. On May 21 and 22 I helped with the Guilford Hope Grange Rummage Sale. I attended the Illinois State Grange Picnic on May 30th. I also donated a gift for the auction. On June 6 I attended Renee O'Dell's (former State Officer) memorial service. August 9th I will be helping in the Home Economics Department at the Boone County Fair.

I am President and Secretary of Perryville Grange #1805 and an affiliated member of Guilford Hope Grange #6. I serve as Treasurer of Winnebago County Pomona Grange #73. In April 2026 I received my 60 year seal of membership.

Thank you for the opportunity to preserve Grange History.

Beverly Smith
Illinois State Grange Historian

Membership Report
July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2026

MEMBERSHIP

There was a total of 30 new members and 1 new Junior member this past year along with 3 Affiliate changes.

We lost a total of 38 members and 1 Junior member, 22 DIED, 16 dropped along with 1 Junior and 12 members demitted to another Grange.

So the state of Illinois DID NOT have a net gain in membership for 2025-2026 Grange year.

NEW MEMBERS

Each Grange that took in new members will receive a check for $5.00 per the number of new members they took in:

Beaver Valley # 1791 - $10.00 for 2 new members and 1 new Junior and 3 demitted in
Big Thunder - $5.00 for 1 new member and 1 Affiliate member
Broad Hollow - $5.00 for 1 new member
Enterprise - $25.00 for 5 new members
Flora - $10.00 for 2 new members

LeRoy Community – $20.00 for 4 new members
Prairie - $40.00 for 8 new members
Progressive - $10.00 for 2 new members
Turkey Hill - $30.00 for 6 new members and 2 Affiliates
Congratulations to all those Granges for signing up new members!

RECOGNITION
Tonight (Friday) I will be presenting 3 Plaques - each of these members signed up 4 new members
Jeff Vance from Leroy Community Grange – 4 new members
Sonny Lott from Leroy Community Grange – 4 new members
Dawn and Ellis Mundy from Prairie Grange – 4 new members
Congratulations for signing up at least 4 new members!

FYI – Demitted members are NOT considered new members because they are just transferring their membership from one Grange to another Grange per National Grange President Chris Hamp and National Grange Membership Director Amanda Brozana.

Fraternally Submitted
Robin Kindberg
Illinois State Grange Membership/Recognition Director

Membership/Recognition Report

Hope this finds everyone doing well. This past year has been extremely busy for me trying to keep all membership changes up to date.

We did not have a net gain in State Grange membership this past year. Several of our members passed away.

August found me helping with the Photography Department and the Grandstand Show Ticket office for the Boone County Fair.

September, I attended Illinois State Grange session in Belvidere and helped Brian Keller the ISG Secretary with Secretary duties.

October, I presented a workshop on Membership/Recognition requirements at GRIT Conference held in central Illinois.

November and December I helped gather stuffed animals for the Rockford Ice Hogs Hockey team Teddy Bear Toss. Members of Prairie Grange donated over 150 stuffed animals to help the Ice Hogs help make children and adults who were hospitalized during holiday season a little brighter.

January was not a good month I fell and broke my left wrist so was kind of laid up a little.

February and March I updated the membership list of each Grange. I also gave out many Recognition awards to different Granges, and I did attend Spring Fling.

April, I worked as a clerk who signed in Bidders and collected money before and after Prairie Grange Consignment Sale.

May, I was able to enjoy the birth of our second granddaughter, Payton Joy, born May 28, 2026. I helped with the 4Momz2Momz Consignment sale as a consigner and as a cashier. I also

attended the Statewide Grange Picnic, and I also helped welcome home local veterans from the Vet's Roll trip they took to Washington DC, the end of May.

June, I attended the Midwestern Leadership Conference in Belvidere, IL and I also helped provide a meal for the Veterans at the local Veteran's Drop off Center.

I have attended all of the Prairie Grange meetings where I hold the office of Chaplain and all of the Boone County Pomona Grange meetings where I hold the office of Pomona this past year.

Throughout the year, I have either hand-delivered or mailed out several Recognition awards to different Granges here in Illinois to honor Grangers for their years of service to this great organization of ours.

This year has been very busy and stressful keeping records up to date. I am looking for someone to shadow me and take over this project in the near future. If you are interested, please contact me.

Robin Kindberg
Illinois State Grange Membership/Recognition Director

Boone County Deputy's Report

If I had to compare the 2025/26 Grange Year for Boone County as Deputy to a Disney Attraction, it would probably be The Pirates of the Caribbean. There were ups and downs, lefts and rights, and eventually someone got wet. Some might have called it a mutiny, while others requested parlay, but in the end, we caught the dog holding the keys, and those keys were to a New Grange! Meetings were attended by both Brian O'Dell and I, as deputies to the Granges of Boone County throughout the year, some more than others. Congratulations to the new Grange of Boone County, Charity Grange #1713! While Sirens and Krakens were fought, there were also beautiful days of sailing, especially during the National Grange Session at Sea, where we docked at Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao. I was fortunate in this, as my family was also aboard the ship with me. As a lifelong member of Prairie Grange and Boone County Pomona Grange, I continue to serve my time aboard those ships, helping with the Consignment Auction, 4Momz 2Momz Sale, Grange Hall cleanups, and whatever else the Captains deem necessary. Remember, not all treasure is silver and gold, mate!

Fraternally, Adam Ellwanger

St Clair County Deputy's Report

Worthy National Grange Executive Committeeman, Brother William "Buddy" Overstreet, Worthy Past State Master/President of the Texas State Grange, Sister Karen Overstreet; current Illinois State Grange Master/President, Sister Lynette Schaeffer and First Man Brother Don Schaeffer; worthy Past National Grange Secretary and Past Master of the Illinois State Grange, Sister Henrietta Keller; Worthy Past Illinois State Grange Master/President, Brother David Donley and past First Lady of the Illinois State Grange, Sister Mary Donley; worthy Past National Grange Flora and former past First Lady of the Illinois State Grange, Sister Patti Lee, and past Master/President and Past Executive

Committee Member of the Illinois State Grange Brother Lyle Lee; State Grange Officers; Delegates; Patrons; and Guests.

I am one of two Grange Deputies for St. Clair County. During the past Grange year, I helped at Enterprise Grange's Apple Butter cooking day and attended their meeting. I attended the Grange Informational Conference in October. I helped at Progressive Grange's Spaghetti Dinner in November, attended their Christmas Party, helped with their Pork Steak Dinner in January, and helped with their Soup Supper in February plus their Wurstmarkt in March.

I made a donation to Floraville Community Grange's Wurstmarkt, and in December, I attended Enterprise Grange's Christmas Potluck. I attended Bunco at Emerald Mound Grange in February and their Port Steak Dinner in June.

I attended Turkey Hill Grange's Spaghetti Dinner, their meeting in June, their June Bunco night, and their Ham and Peach Dinner in August. I was Installing Chaplain for the Installation Team to install Enterprise Grange's officers.

At my Grange, Broad Hollow Grange #1806, I am Master/President. Due to COVID, several years ago, our Grange was unable to celebrate its 100th anniversary so this year, for our 105th year, we celebrated on a special night in May with an anniversary cake, a potluck, and the hall decorated in red, white, and blue for our nation's 250th anniversary. We also had special entertainment, honored our long-time members, and gave a short history of our Grange. Our Grange sponsors a monthly potluck for the community followed by a program each month on the first Friday. We donated to four nearby food pantries,and provided dictionaries to the public and parochial schools in Freeburg and New Athens. Our big project is sponsoring two trips to Branson for the community in October and November, and I serve as the tour guide. Last year we had a bus load of 48 people in October and 51 in November. I have attended all my Grange meetings and the St. Clair County Pomona meetings where I hold the office of Ceres.

Fraternally submitted,
Carol Neff
St. Clair County Deputy

Winnebago County Deputy's Report

Worthy National Grange representatives, William and Karen Overstreet. Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaeffer, State Officers, Delegates, Patrons and guests.

I started out the year by attending the GRIT conference in October and the National Grange Convention in November. I attended all my subordinate Grange meetings and all the Pomona meetings. I attended meetings at Guilford Hope Grange and Perryville Grange. As a member of Union Grange, eight of us attended Flora Grange Roast Beef Dinner, then we toured Midway Village in the afternoon, returning to Ron and Nancy's for pie and ice cream. I attended and made purchases at Guilford Hope Grange's fundraiser garage sale. I attended the funeral of Renee O'Dell. I attended the Midwest Region Conference in June held at the Boone County Community Grange and presented a workshop on what Granges were doing in the early 1900's which were found in old newspaper articles found at the Rockford Public Library.

I have researched the 18 charter members of Union Grange (12 men and 6 women) from December 1873 and discovered 3 were married couples, one brother and sister, two who served in the Civil War, and at least five were farmers. Three of the men's wives joined at the next meeting in 1874. I was most surprised by their ages, as 7 were in their 20s, 5 were in their 30s, and 4 were 40-50-60s. I was unable to find out anything about 2 of the men. I had a lot of fun and read some interesting articles in the old newspapers.

Fraternally, Vivian Johnson
Winnebago County Deputy



Lecturer's Department Final Report

We had 24 subordinate entries in Lecturer's Department contest this year submitted by 8 Granges from 15 Grangers with 12 categories.
We had 13 Junior entries from 2 Junior Granges.

Best of Show in Lecturer's Department went to David Donley from Turkey Hill Grange for his stained-glass bird display.
Ceres Choice Award went to Emilie Ellwanger from Prairie Grange for her outer space painting.
Pomona Choice Award went to Dawn Calkins from Prairie Grange for her Birch tree painting.
Flora Choice Award went to Patti Lee from Prairie Grange for her Diamond Art Veteran Picture.

Lecturer's Contest Winners

Category – Photography
- A. Action
  1. Adults
     - 1st – Sara Ellwanger - Prairie
     - 2nd – Amber Fidder – Beaver Valley Grange
     - 3rd – Adam Ellwanger – Prairie
  2. Juniors 11-14
     - 1st – Scarlette Ellwanger - Prairie
- B. Vacation
  1. Adults
     - 1st – Sara Ellwanger – Prairie
     - 2nd – Carol Neff – Broad Hollow
     - 3rd – Karie Blasingame - Prairie
     - HM – Amber Fidder – Beaver Valley Grange
  2. Junior 11-14
     - 1st – Scarlette Ellwanger - Prairie
- C. At Home
  1. Adults
     - 1st – Amber Fidder – Beaver Valley Grange
     - 2nd – Sara Ellwanger - Prairie
  2. Juniors 5-7
     - 1st – Caroline Ellwanger - Prairie
  3. Juniors 11-14
     - 1st – Scarlette Ellwanger - Prairie

Category Painting/ Drawing Pastels
- A. Adults
  - 1st – Patti Lee - Prairie
  - 2nd – Emilie Ellwanger - Prairie
  - 3rd – Dawn Calkins - Prairie
  - HM – Steve Paulson – Beaver Valley
- B. Juniors 5-7
  - 1st – Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange
  - 2nd – Ella Fidder – Beaver Valley
- C. Juniors 8-10
  - 1st – Hattie Schilie – Beaver Valley
- D. Juniors 11-14
  - 1st – Gracie Haras - Prairie
  - 2nd – Scarlette Ellwanger - Prairie
  - 3rd – Olivia Shumaker - Prairie

Category Dimensional Media
- A. Adults
  - 1st – David Donley – Turkey Hill
  - 2nd – Angie Dickerson - Bluff
  - 3rd – Patty Bearth – Shiloh Valley

Category Patriotic Collage
- A. Adults
  - 1st – Angie Dickerson - Bluff

Category Personal Collection (12 items)

A. Adults
   1st – Beverly Smith - Perryville
   2nd – Patty Bearth – Shiloh Valley
   3rd – Karrie Kindberg - Charity

Category Handicraft Holiday Tree Ornaments (3 ornaments)

A. Ornaments involving sewing needlework or textiles
   1. Juniors 5-7
      1st – Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange
B. Ornaments using other material or techniques
   1. Adults
      1st – Angie Dickerson - Bluff
      2nd – Hilda Koluch – Turkey Hill
   2. Juniors 5-7
      1st – Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange

Category Seasonal Door Decoration

A. Welcome Holiday or Season
   1. Adults
      1st – Angie Dickerson - Bluff
   2. Juniors 5-7
      1st – Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Granage

Category – Origami Animals (make 3)

A. Juniors 11-14
   1st – Scarlette Ellwanger - Prairie

Category – Creative Writing

A. Adults
   1st – Amber Fidder – Beaver Valley

Ag Contest Final Report

We had 54 total entries in 30 categories in the Ag Department submitted by 17 Grangers including 4 Junior entries.

Best of Show of the Ag Contest went to Marilyn Hoffmann from Floraville Grange for her annual plant.
Ceres Choice Award went to Lyle Lee from Prairie Grange for his mixed zinnia.
Pomona Choice Award went to Tina Lang from Floraville Grange for her bell peppers.
Flora Choice Award went to Marilyn Hoffmann from Floraville Grange for her annual plant.

We held our Annual Ag Auction. We had 55 items donated and we raised a total of $1000+. After expenses were taken out, we turned in $710 to the Klotz Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Ag Contest Winners 2026

Category: Vegetables

A. Green Beans
   1st – Patti Lee – Prairie Grange
   2nd – Lyle Lee – Prairie Grange
B. Cucumbers
   1st – Lyle Lee – Prairie Grange
   2nd – Patti Lee – Prairie Grange
C. Bell Peppers
   1st – Tina Lang – Floraville Grange
   2nd – Patti Lee – Prairie Grange
   3rd – Lyle Lee – Prairie Grange
D. Hot Peppers
   1st – Brandon O'Dell - Beaver Valley
   2nd – Lyle Lee – Prairie Grange
   3rd – Patti Lee – Prairie Grange
E. Cherry Tomatoes
   1st – Scarlette Ellwanger – Prairie
   2nd – Sara Ellwanger – Prairie
   3rd – Lana Korte – Floraville Grange
F. Red Tomatoes
   1st – Patti Lee – Prairie Grange
   2nd – Dave Donley – Turkey Hill
   3rd – Lyle Lee – Prairie Grange
G. Yellow Squash
   1st – Lyle Lee – Prairie Grange
   2nd – Tina Lang – Floraville Grange

Most Unusual Vegetable

A. Longest Vegetable or Fruit
   1st – Mindy Schiefer – Emerald Mound Grange
   2nd – Steve Alltop – Emerald Mound
   3rd – Marc Henrichs – Emerald Mound Grange
B. Longest Bean
   1st – Patti Lee – Prairie Grange
   2nd – Lyle Lee – Prairie Grange

Category: Fruits

A. Pumpkin
   1st – Tina Lang – Floraville Grange
   2nd – Brandon Lang – Floraville
   3rd – Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange

Category: Field Crops

A. 3 ears of corn
   1st – Justin Schaeffer – Shiloh Valley
   2nd – Ken Joseph – Enterprise
B. Longest ear of corn
   1st – Justin Schaeffer – Shiloh Valley
C. 3 ears of Indian Corn
   1st – Marilyn Hoffmann - Floraville
D. Corn 1 quart bag
   1st – Karrie Kindberg – Charity Grange

Field Crops Continued

E. Soybeans 1 quart bag
   1st – Karrie Kindberg – Charity

Category Cut Flowers
Must be in a clear glass container
Fall Garden Bouquet not to exceed 24" tall

A. Zinnias 6 stems
   1st – Marilyn Hoffmann – Floraville
B. Zinnias Mixed Variety 6 stems
   1st – Lyle Lee – Prairie Grange
   2nd – Patti Lee – Prairie Grange
   3rd – Ken Joseph – Enterprise Grange
C. Marigolds 6 stems
   1st – Lyle Lee – Prairie Grange
   2nd – Patti Lee – Prairie Grange
   3rd – Marisa O'Dell – Beaver Valley
D. Marigolds Mix Variety 6 stems
   1st – Marilyn Hoffmann - Floraville

Category Potted Plants
Not to exceed 8" at base of pot

A. African Violets
   1st – Marilyn Hoffmann - Floraville
B. Coleus 1 variety
   1st – Marilyn Hoffmann - Floraville
   2nd – Marisa O'Dell – Beaver Valley
C. Coleus mixed variety
   1st – Marilyn Hoffmann - Floraville
D. Other Annual
   1st – Marilyn Hoffmann - Floraville
E. Succulents
   1st – Marilyn Hoffmann - Floraville

Category Terrarium
Any variety no larger than a cubic foot

A. Terrarium
   1st - _____
   2nd - _____

Category Market Basket
No longer than 30 inches; 8 or more items

A. Group Basket
   1st – Floraville Grange

Value Added Product

A. 8oz jar jam, jelly or fruit butter
   1st – Hilda Koluch – Turkey Hill
B. Jar of Pickles (must be labeled)
   1st – Tina Lang – Floraville Grange
C. Honey
   1st – Lynette Schaeffer – Shiloh Valley Grange

Category Outdoors

A. Decorated Pumpkin no carvings
   1st – Marilyn Hoffmann - Floraville
   2nd – Marisa O'Dell – Beaver Valley
B. Best Looking Scarecrow not to exceed 4 feet with stick
   1st – Angie Dickerson – Bluff Grange
   2nd – Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange

Ag Auction Results 2026

1. Rhubarb Pie – Henrietta Keller - $12.50
2. Lemon Zucchini Bread – Mike Robin - $10
3. Wolf Diamond Art – Vivian Johnson - $12.50
4. Scarecrow Sign – Marisa O'Dell - $17.50
5. Campbell's Soup Basket – Tom Berry - $17.50
6. Pumpkin Bread – Mike Robin - $15
7. 3 Boxes of Crackers – Wayne Lyford - $17.50
8. Flower Basket – Jean Peterson - $22.50
9. Fall Basket – Marilyn Hoffmann - $35
10. Box of Veggies – Trisha Renken - $5
11. Zucchini and Apple Bread – Mike Robin $20
12. Pumpkin – Marc Heinrichs – $12.50
13. Fudge – Buddy Overstreet - $35
14. Terrarium – Angie Dickerson - $15
15. Mix of Snacks – Caroline Ellwanger - $10
16. Box of Veggies – Angie Dickerson -$17.50
17. Zucchini Bread – Tom Berry - $10
18. Coke Basket – Marc Heinrichs- $25
19. Crackers/ Granola Bars – Lynette Schaeffer $10
20. Welcome Sign – Tom Berry - $40
21. Ceramic Box of Décor – Katie Renken -$22.50
22. Banana Nut Bread – Rick O'Dell - $17.50
23. Box of Veggies -Jean Peterson - $20
24. Decorated Pumpkin – Trisha Renken - $5
25. Pumpkin Cranberry Bread – Mike Robin $20
26. Box of Snacks – Wayne Lyford - $27.50
27. Christmas Tray – Marilyn Hoffmann -$5
28. Candy Cane Cookies – Kelly Kindberg - $17.50
29. Box of Flowers in vases – Katie Renken - $15
30. Sourdough Roll and Chex Mix – Myron Peterson - $2.50
31. Texas Beaver Nuggets – Patti Lee - $12.50
32. Mums – Kim Robin 2x $22.50 = 45
33. Mums – Marisa O'Dell - $22.50
34. Mums – Lyle Lee - $22.50
35. Box of Veggies – Trisha Renken - $22.50
36. Pistachio Butter Cream Cake – Hilda Koluch - $10
37. Apple Sauce and Gingersnap Cookies – Wayne Lyford - $10
38. Wine Basket – Lynette Schaeffer- $50
39. Box of Random w/ Cow Lights – Robin Kindberg -$10
40. Potted Plant – Marilyn Coe – 2x $12.50 = $25
41. Veterans Diamond Art – Ruth Blasingame - $10
42. Pumpkin Bread / Lemon Blueberry cake – Frank D. Wurth - $7.50
43. Field Crop Box – Trisha Renken – $2.50

44. Pickles / Honey / Jelly – Lana Korte - $27.50
45. Christmas Ornaments – Marilyn Hoffmann - $10
46. Fondue Basket – Katie Renken - $30
47. Veggie Box – Mike Robin -$5
48. Nativity Scene/ Ceramic Pumpkin – Robin Kindberg - $5
49. Michael Kors Purse – Tom Berry -$65
50. USA Patriotic Collage – Marisa O'Dell - $2.50
51. Pumpkin – Kenny Joseph - $20
52. Box of Field and Indian Corn – Trisha Renken - $5
53. Budweiser Basket – Wayne Lyford - $ 27.50
54. Coleus Flower – Mike Robin -$10
55. Coleus Flower – Patti Lee - $10
56. Coleus Flower – Angie Dickerson - $10

Family Activities Final Report

We had 53 total entries submitted by Grangers with no Junior entries.

Best of Show in the Family Activities Department went to Henrietta Keller from Enterprise Grange for her crochet any other item.
Ceres Choice went to Mary Ann Joseph from Enterprise Grange for her needlework fire trucks.
Pomona Choice went to Emalee Colver from Flora Grange for her quilted wall hang.
Flora Choice went to Mary Jane Lane from Flora Grange for her quilted baby blanket.

We had 30 items donated to the raffle.

After expenses were taken out, we turned in $300 over to the Honor Memorial Scholarship Fund.

FAC Contest Winners

Group 1 – Knitting
- A. Baby Afghan
  - 1st – Nathalie Lyford – Guilford Hope Grange
- B. Winter Wear
  - 1st – Patty Bearth – Shiloh Valley

Group 2 – Crochet
- A. Afghan
  - 1st – Henrietta Keller - Enterprise
  - 2nd – Patti Lee – Prairie Grange
- B. Baby Afghan
  - 1st – Nancy Shea -
  - 2nd – Henrietta Keller - Enterprise
  - 3rd – Patti Lee - Prairie
- C. Any other item no listed
  - 1st – Henrietta Keller - Enterprise
  - 2nd – Patty Bearth – Shiloh Valley

Group 3 – Needlework
- A. Embroidery Items
  - 1st – Angie Dickerson - Bluff
  - 2nd – Mary Ann Joseph - Enterprise
- B. Plastic Canvas
  - 1st – Karrie Kindberg - Charity
  - 2nd – Angie Dickerson - Bluff

Group 4 – Quilting
- A. Quilt – Queen, Full or Twin
  - 1st – Sharon Fidder - Flora
  - 2nd – Emalee Colver - Flora
- B. Quilt Baby Blanket
  - 1st – Emalee Colver - Flora
  - 2nd – Mary Jane Lane - Flora
- C. Quilted Wall Hanging
  - 1st – Emalee Colver - Flora
- D. Unfinished Square size 16 ½ x 11 ½
  - 1st – Emalee Colver - Flora
  - 2nd – Sharon Fidder - Flora
- E. Any other item not listed
  - 1st – Nathalie Lyford – Guilford Hope Grange

Group 5 Sewing
- A. Apron
  - 1st – Nathalie Lyford – Guilford Hope Grange
- B. Any other item not listed
  - 1st – Sharon Fidder - Flora
  - 2nd – Emalee Colver - Flora

Group 6 Jewelry / Miscellaneous
- A. Bracelet
  - 1st – Angie Dickerson - Bluff
- B. Necklace

1st – Angie Dickerson - Bluff

C. 2 or more piece set
   1st – Angie Dickerson - Bluff

Group 7 Baking
All food items have a recipe and additional Ziplock with taste testing sample

A. Quick Bread – fruit inspired small loaf
   1st – Nathalie Lyford – Guilford Hope Grange
   2nd – Cassidy Renken - Hopewell
   3rd – Mary Ann Joseph - Enterprise
   HM – Hilda Koluch – Turkey Hill
B. Quick Bread – garden inspired large loaf
   1st – Cassidy Renken - Hopewell
   2nd – Hilda Koluch – Turkey Hill
   3rd – Angie Dickerson - Bluff
   HM – Scarlette Ellwanger - Prairie
C. Christmas Cookies – 1 dozen
   1st – Cassidy Renken - Hopewell
D. Cookie recipe before 1976 – 1 dozen
   1st – Nathalie Lyford – Guilford Hope Grange
   2nd – Mary Ann Joseph - Enterprise
   3rd – Cassidy Renken - Hopewell
   HM – Angie Dickerson - Bluff
E. Bars – 2 flavors incorporated –1 doz.
   1st – Cassidy Renken - Hopewell
   2nd – Hilda Koluch – Turkey Hill
F. Something Lemon – follow above guidelines
   1st – Angie Dickerson - Bluff
   2nd – Hilda Koluch – Turkey Hill

Group 8 Food Other
Note all food items must have a recipe and an additional Ziplock for sampling

A. No Bake Cookies – 1 dozen
   1st – Hilda Koluch – Turkey Hill
   2nd – Angie Dickerson - Bluff
B. Peanut Brittle – 1-quart Ziplock
   1st – Trisha Renken - Hopewell
C. Chex Mix – 1-quart Ziplock
   1st – Trisha Renken - Hopewell
   2nd – Angie Dickerson - Bluff
   3rd – Karrie Kindberg - Charity
D. Trail Mix – 1-quart Ziplock
   1st – Angie Dickerson - Bluff
   2nd – Robin Kindberg - Charity
E. Fudge – 1 dozen
   1st – Patti Lee – Prairie Grange

Family Activities Raffle Winners – 2026

1.Harry Potter Basket – Frank D Wurth
2. Tea Set – Cassidy Renken
3. Storage Set – Marisa O'Dell
4. Hello Kitty Set – Marilyn Hoffmann
5. Lantern – Kim Robin
6. Eternal living – Marilyn Hoffmann
7. Outdoor Blanket – Brandon O'Dell
8. Outdoor Blanket – Deb Wade
9. Pet Vet Playset – Jaxson Fisher
10. Stencil Puzzle – Jaxson Fisher
11. Blue House Basket – Marilyn Hoffmann
12. Angel Statue – Kim Robin
13. Bunny with yard flag – Brandon O'Dell
14. Candle and flag – Kim Robin
15. Candle and flag – Karrie Kindberg
16. Two candles – Emalee Colver
17. Over 21 Picnic Basket – Lana Korte
18. Portable Seat – Carol Neff
19.Garden Basket – Brian O'Dell
20. Tin pumpkins – Steve Alltop
21. Mosquito Repellant – Marilyn Hoffmann
22. Candle Holder – Emalee Colver
23. Vaccuum Sealer – Lana Korte
24. Popapopcorn – Patti Lee
25. Cookbook – Mary Ann Joseph
26. Mug Basket – Deb Wade
27. Pumpkin Sign Basket – Patti Lee
28. Flower pot – Jaxson Fisher
29. Flower pot – Ruth Blasingame
30. Circle Bag – Marilyn Hoffmann

Legislative Director Final Report

Honored Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaeffer, State Officers, Distinguished Guests and fellow Grange members: This has been an active year for us and an eventful one in government. Despite shutdowns and the demands of an election year, our senators and representatives advanced and passed several bills, while others remain in committee. Here are a few key highlights

Dietary Guidelines Shift to Whole Foods

Published in early January, the 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans promote traditional, minimally processed foods while recommending limits on heavily processed products and added sugars, particularly in sweetened beverages. They support a broad mix of animal- and plant- based proteins, such as eggs, poultry, seafood, read meats, beans, peas, lentils, other legumes, nuts seeds and soy. Issued jointly by the US Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services, the guidelines were first introduced in 1980.

Medical Schools Finally Prioritize Nutrition Education

Medical schools have long provided too little nutrition education. For decades, agriculture, food, and nutrition organizations – including the National Grange – have advocated adding nutrition courses to medical school requirements. Now 19 more medical schools have

committed to requiring at least 40 hours of nutrition education or an equivalent, joining 54 schools that have already done so. The Departments of Health and Human Services and Education collaborated under the 'Making America Healthy Again" initiative to promote this important change.

Senate Farm Bill Action Expected

Farmers and ranchers have been waiting for Senate action on Farm Bill 2.0 since the House passed its version in May. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman John Boozman delayed committee consideration while working to resolve provisions that could threaten passage. Key disputes include overturning California's Proposition 12, which sets animal-welfare standards for pork sold in the state; exempting federally approved pesticides from state laws; and restoring Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Boozman said "He hoped the committee would act by August1." With Congress in recess throughout August and October, the bill would need full Senate consideration in September or be delayed until the lame-duck session after the midterm elections. Farm Bill 2.0 would complete work on a new farm bill that began with last year's One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

John Deere Reaches Antitrust Settlement

Under a proposed settlement filed July8, John Deere agreed to provide farmers and independent repair shops with the same repair tools available to its dealers, resolving an antitrust lawsuit brought by the Federal Trade Commission and five state Attorney Generals. These resources include tools for reading and clearing electronic fault codes, reprogramming components, restarting equipment after emissions-related shutdowns, accessing technical manuals and troubleshooting guidance, and completing other repairs. Deere must submit compliance reports every 60 days during the initial rollout and annually for the following 10 years. Earlier this year, the company also agreed to pay $99 million and expand equipment owner's access to repair resources to settle a farmer-led class-action lawsuit over its repair practices. Right-to-repair remains a longstanding policy priority for the National Grange.

New World Screwworm Reaches the United States

For months, we tracked the screwworm infestation as it moved from Central America through Mexico toward the US border. Its arrival appeared increasingly likely, and several New World Screwworm (NWS) cases have now been confirmed in Texas and New Mexico. Previously eradicated from the United States in the 1960's NWS poses a serious threat to livestock, wildlife, and pets. However, it is a parasite – not a disease – and does not create a food-safety risk for consumers. The danger comes from larvae that harm animal health and welfare.

Identifying the Screwworm Fly

The NWS fly is about the size of a housefly, with orange eyes, a metallic blue-green body, and three dark stripes along its back. It can be transported by people, vehicles, pets, livestock, and wildlife. Its larvae enter through open wounds and feed on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals, causing severe injury and suffering if an infestation is not detected and treated promptly. The Food and Drug Administration has issued an Emergency Use Authorization for over-the-counter treatments for infestations in livestock and pets.

What's has been done in the past?

America previously eradicated screwworms by developing sterile screwworm flies. Screwworm flies mate only once, so if the flies are infertile, no eggs are hatched and no larvae emerge. Even though the USDA began ratcheting up sterile fly production over the past year in anticipation of such an outbreak, supplies of sterile flies are still limited. USDA is developing methods to maximize the production of sterile male flies and using modeling to deploy existing flies. Construction of expanded production facilities has been in the works for the past year, which should begin coming online within the next year.

I hope and pray that, after the election, our elected officials will come together to serve the people and complete the work before them.

Respectfully submitted
Marc Henrichs
Illinois State Grange Legislative Director

Junior Department Final Report

Worthy President, Officers, Guests and fellow Grangers.
Time sure flies when you are having fun. We had 9 projects submitted by 10 Junior Grangers. How can that be? 2 of our Juniors worked together on one of the projects. How wonderful to see. I'm excited to have the National Junior Granger of the year from Illinois. Congratulations Scarlette Ellwanger. And if that is not enough, two Junior Granges were reorganized: County Line Junior Grange and Beaver Valley Junior Grange and a new charter was given to Charity Junior Grange #96 was the icing on the cake. Here's to another year of growth. See you in October with the new projects at GRIT. TO INFINTIY AND BEYOND!

Fraternally Submitted
Mindy Schiefer
Illinois State Grange Junior Director

We had 9 total entries in the Junior contests this year.
We had 9 Junior entries from 10 Junior Grangers from 3 Junior Grangers.
We had 3 Junior at Heart Entries.
Best of Show of the Junior Department went to Carson Dearing from Charity Junior Grange for his out of this world saucer.
Ceres Choice Award went to Anya Schumaker from Beaver Valley Jr. Grange for her out of this world project.
Pomona Choice Award went to Brandon O'Dell from Beaver Valley Jr, Grange for his creation poster.
Flora Choice Award went to Russell Gilbert from Prairie Jr Grange for his creation poster.

The Junior Activity today is to visit the zoo and troll hunting at the memorial gardens.

Contest Winners

Not So Small World

5-7

1. Connor Dearing – Charity Grange

8-10

1. Carson Dearing – Charity Grange
2. Aria Schumaker – Prairie Grange
3. Kennedy Dearing – Charity Grange

11-14

1. Olivia Schumaker & Gracie Haras – Prairie Grange
2. Scarlette Ellwanger – Prairie Grange
3. Kaitlyn Shere – Charity

Bible Story – Creation

5-7

2. Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange

11-14

1. Russell Gilbert – Prairie Grange

Juniors at Heart

Zen Doodle

1. Robin Kindberg – Charity Grange
2. Karrie Kindberg – Charity Grange
3. Kelly Kindberg – Charity Grange

GRANGEYOUTH

Youth Department Final Report

We had 55 total entries in 20 categories in the youth contest submitted by 17 Grangers in 3 Granges. We had 24 Junior entries from 10 Junior Grangers from 4 Junior Granges.
Best of Show went to Marisa O'Dell from Beaver Valley Grange for her western diamond art.
Ceres Choice Award went to Scarlette Ellwanger from Prairie Grange for her animal Lego set.
Pomona's Choice Award went to Brandon O'Dell from Beaver Valley Grange for his 3-D model of the solar system.
Flora's Choice Award went to Karrie Kindberg from Charity Grange for her space diamond art.
Next years theme will be Illumination Station.

Youth Contest Winners

Category Legos

A. Space Lego Set
   - 1st – Frank DJ Wurth - Enterprise
   - 2nd – Scarlette Ellwanger - Prairie
   - 3rd – Kelly Kindberg - Charity
   - HM – Karrie Kindberg - Charity

B. Vehicle Lego Set
   - 1st – Cruz Fisher - Hopewell
   - 2nd – Jaxson Fisher - Hopewell
   - 3rd – Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange
   - HM – Scarlette Ellwanger - Prairie

C. Flowers Lego Set
   - 1st – Ella Fidder – Beaver Valley
   - 2nd – Karrie Kindberg - Charity
   - 3rd – Robin Kindberg - Charity
   - HM – Kelly Kindberg - Charity

D. Animals Lego Set
   - 1st – Avery Wurth - Enterprise
   - 2nd – Scarlette Ellwanger - Prairie
   - 3rd – Cruz Fisher - Hopewell

E. Miscellaneous Lego Set
   - 1st – Scarlette Ellwanger - Prairie
   - 2nd – Avery Wurth - Enterprise
   - 3rd – Cruz Fisher - Hopewell
   - HM – Brian O'Dell – Beaver Valley

Category Diamond Art
Framed and ready to hang

A. Holiday
   - 1st – Robin Kindberg - Charity
   - 2nd – Karrie Kindberg - Charity
   - 3rd – Kelly Kindberg - Charity

B. Animated Character
   - 1st – Kelly Kindberg - Charity
   - 2nd – Karrie Kindberg - Charity

C. Animals
   - 1st – Karrie Kindberg - Charity
   - 2nd – Robin Kindberg - Charity
   - 3rd – Kelly Kindberg - Charity

D. Nature
   - 1st – Robin Kindberg - Charity

E. Landscapes
   - 1st – Marisa O'Dell – Beaver Valley

F. Western
   - 1st – Marisa O'Dell – Beaver Valley

G. Space
   - 1st – Kelly Kindberg - Charity
   - 2nd – Karrie Kindberg - Charity
   - 3rd – Scarlette Ellwanger - Prairie

H. Miscellaneous – coaster can be a complete set
   - 1st – Robin Kindberg - Charity
   - 2nd – Marisa O'Dell – Beaver Valley

Category Ceramics

A. Functional
   1st – Marisa O'Dell – Beaver Valley
B. Display
   1st – Brian O'Dell – Beaver Valley
   2nd – Marisa O'Dell – Beaver Valley
   3rd – Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange

Category Fabric and Food

A. Decorated Items
   1. Shirt
      1st – Ella Fidder – Beaver Valley
   2. Tote
      1st – Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange
B. Something Stuffed
   1. Miscellaneous
      1st – Ella Fidder – Beaver Valley

Category Poster

A. Pollinator Poster, Tic Tok or You Tube
   1st – Ella Fidder – Beaver Valley
   2nd – Charlotte Klinefelter – Beaver Valley Grange
   3rd – Georgia Beasley – Beaver Valley Grange
   HM – Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange
B. 3D Model or Solar System Poster Tic Tok or You Tube
   1st – Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange
   2nd – Olivia Shumaker - Prairie
   3rd – Scarlette Ellwanger - Prairie
   HM – Gracie Haras - Prairie

2026 Illinois State Grange Youth Contest Entries

Lego Item or Scene

1) Space Lego Set
   a) Scarlette Ellwanger – Prairie Jr Grange #20 – 2nd place
   b) Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Jr Grange #2
   c) Kelly Kindberg – Charity Grange #1713 - 3rd place
   d) Karrie Kindberg – Charity Grange #1713 - HM
   e) Frank Wurth III – Enterprise Jr Grange #88 - 1st place
2) Vehicles Lego Set
   a) Adam Ellwanger – The Prairie Grange #1832
   b) Scarlette Ellwanger – Prairie Jr Grange #20 - HM
   c) Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Jr Grange #2 - 3rd place
   d) Avery Wurth – Enterprise Jr Grange #88
   e) Jaxon Fisher – Hopewell Jr Grange #16 - 2nd place
   f) Cruz Fisher – Hopewell Jr Grange #16 - 1st place
3) Flowers Lego Set
   a) Karrie Kindberg – Charity Grange #1713 -2nd Place
   b) Kelly Kindberg – Charity Grange # 1713 - HM
   c) Robin Kindberg – Charity Grange #1713 -3rd place
   d) Ella Fidder – Beaver Valley Jr Grange #2 -1st place
4) Animals Lego Set
   a) Scarlette Ellwanger – Prairie Jr Grange #20 - 2nd place (Ceres choice)

b) Avery Wurth – Enterprise Jr Grange #88 - 1st place
c) Cruz Fisher – Hopewell Jr Grange #16 - 3rd place

5) Miscellaneous Lego Set
a) Marisa O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange #1790
b) Scarlette Ellwanger – Prairie Jr Grange #20 - 1st place
c) Brian O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange #1790 - HM
d) Avery Wurth – Enterprise Jr Grange #88 - 2nd place
e) Cruz Fisher – Hopewell Jr Grange #16 - 3rd place

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

1) Holidays
a) Robin Kindberg – Charity Grange #1713 - 1st place
b) Kelly Kindberg – Charity Grange #1713 - 3rd place
c) Karrie Kindberg – Charity Grange # 1713 - 2nd place

2) Animated Characters
a) Kelly Kindberg – Charity Grange #1713 -1st place
b) Karrie Kindberg – Charity Grange #1713 - 2nd place

3) Animals
a) Karrie Kindberg – Charity Grange #1713 - 1st place
b) Kelly Kindberg – Charity Grange #1713 - 3rd place
c) Robin Kindberg – Charity Grange #1713 - 2nd place

4) Nature
a) Robin Kindberg - Charity Grange #1713 – 1st place

5) Landscapes
a) Marisa O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange #1790 - 1st place

6) Western
a) Marisa Odell – Beaver Valley Grange #1790 - 1st place (BEST IN SHOW)

7) Space
a) Scarlette Ellwanger – Prairie Jr Grange #20 - 3rd place
b) Kelly Kindberg – Charity Grange #1713 - 1st place
c) Karrie Kindberg – Charity Grange #1713 - 2nd place (FLORA CHOICE)

8) Miscellaneous (Coasters can be a complete set)
a) Robin Kindberg – Charity Grange #1713 -1st place
b) Marisa O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange #1790 - 2nd place

Ceramics

1) Functional
a) Marisa O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange #1790 - 1st place

2) Display
a) Marisa O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange #1790 - 2nd place
b) Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Jr Grange #2 - 3rd place
c) Brian O'Dell – Beaver Valley Grange # 1790 - 1st place

Fabric and Food

Decorated Items

1) Shirt
    a) Ella Fidder - Beaver Valley Jr Grange #2 – 1st place
2) Tote
    a) Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Jr Grange #2 - 1st place
3) Apron
4) Miscellaneous

Something Stuffed

1) Crochet
2) Sewn
3) Miscellaneous
    a) Ella Fidder – Beaver Valley Jr Grange #2 - 1st place

Cookies: Three Decorated Cookies.

Pollinator Poster, TIKTOK or YouTube

a) Charlotte - Beaver Valley Jr Grange #2 - 2nd place
b) Ella Fidder – Beaver Valley Jr Grange #2 - 1st place
c) Georgia Beasley – Beaver Valley Jr Grange #2 - 3rd place
d) Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Jr Grange #2 - HM

Food Waste Poster, TIKTOK or YouTube

Mental Illness Poster, TIKTOK or YouTube

Hearing/Signing Poster, TIKTOK or YouTube

Anything AG related Poster, TIKTOK or YouTube

3D Model of Solar System, Poster, TIKTOK, or YouTube Video

a) Scarlette Ellwanger – Prairie Jr Grange #20 - 3rd place
b) Gracie Haras – Prairie Jr Grange #20 - HM
c) Olivia Shumaker – Prairie Jr Grange #20 - 2nd place
d) Brandon O'Dell – Beaver Valley Jr Grange #2 - 1st place (Pomona choice)

Illinois State Session Committee Assignments 2026

Agriculture/ Conservation and Energy: *Chair*: Brian O'Dell, Todd Hegge, Kenneth Joseph, Don Ellwanger, Lana Korte, Marc Henrichs, Kim Robin **(Resolution 3)**

Financial: *Chair*: Myron Peterson, Mary Donley, Ruth Blasingame, Heather Ellwanger, Marilyn Hoffmann, Steve Alltop **(Resolution 5)**

Good of the Order and Bylaws: *Chair*: Vivian Johnson, Deb Wade, Karie Blasingame, Tom Berry, Marisa O'Dell, Carrie Fisher **(Resolution 2, 7)**

Grange Activities / President's Address: *Chair*: Wayne Lyford, Angie Dickerson, Ron Bersett, Katie Renken, Sydney Berry, Jean Peterson **(Resolution 6, 8)**

State and National Welfare & Transportation: Chair: Frank Wurth, Rick O'Dell, Chris Bersett, Patty Bearth, Valerie Hancock, Mike Robin, Bob Comstock **(Resolution 1)**

Health & Education: *Chair*: Charlotte Mehrtens, Sara Ellwanger, Ethan Edwards, Nancy Lyford, Mary Ann Joseph, Carol Neff **(Resolution 4)**

Resolution Actions

Resolution	Assigned Committee	Action
2026-01	State and National Welfare & Transportation	Rejected – Lost
2026-02	Good of the Order and Bylaws	Adopted as written
2026-03	Agriculture/Conservation and Energy	Adopted as written
2026-04	Health & Education	Adopted as written
2026-05	Financial	Adopted as written
2026-06	Grange Activities/President's Address	Adopted as amended
2026-07	Good of the Order and Bylaws	Adopted as amended
2026-08	Grange Activities/President's Address	Rejected – Lost
2026-09	Independent – Not Assigned	Adopted as written

ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE
ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS and ACTIONS FOR 2026 STATE SESSION

2026-01
Contacting Elected Officials
Submitted by Prairie Grange #1832

Original Resolution
WHEREAS, the Grange is a grassroots organization that lobbies for causes affecting their membership;
WHEREAS, the Grange sends out communication asking the membership to reach out to their elected officials to vote in favor or against certain bills or resolutions;
WHEREAS, currently there is no easy way for the Grange members to find who their elected officials are;
WHEREAS, many members do not know how to write a proper response about stances of the Grange;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Grange establish an Online Grassroots Action/ Advocacy Center, that showcases key legislative campaigns. Where members can sign up to receive alerts of when our voices need to be heard on a particular Resolution or Bill. Where members can type in their zip-code and immediately receive contact information for their elected officials or immediately send them a pre-written response about the Granges stance on a particular Resolution or Bill.
Evidence/Examples
http://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home

http://www.fb.org/advocacy

COMMITTEE ACTION: Unfavorable -Send back to referring Grange for further development
DELEGATE ACTION: Approved to send back to referring Grange.
RSOLUTION 2026-01: Was LOST

2026-02
Bylaws Amendment
Make Secretary and Treasurer voting members of the ISG Executive Committee
Submitted by Turkey Hill Grange # 1370

Original Resolution
WHEREAS, the current bylaws of the Illinois State Grange (ISG) require the State Grange Secretary and Treasurer to be non-voting members of the ISG Executive Committee (Article VI, Section 4 and 5 and Article XI, Section 1); and
WHEREAS, the duties of the ISG Executive Committee as defined as “general supervision of the Order between the regular scheduled meetings of the State Grange …” (Article X1, Section 2): and

WHEREAS, these duties often pertain to areas of the operation of the State Grange that are the responsibilities of the Secretary and the Treasurer who have no vote;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the By-laws of the ISG be changed in all articles and sections to make the ISG Secretary and Treasurer voting members of the ISG Executive Committee.
COMMITTEE ACTION: Favorable
DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written
RESOLUTION 2026-02: Was adopted as written

2026-03
Data Center Policy
Submitted by Shiloh Valley Grange #1807

Original Resolution
WHEREAS, the demand for and use of, Artificial Intelligence in all aspects of our businesses and our lives, is growing at an exponential rate, and
WHEREAS, the explosive growth of Artificial Intelligence is driving an equally exploding demand for building new Data Centers all-across America, and
WHEREAS, Data Centers require 4 critical resources, namely; land to build on, access to plentiful water, access to plentiful and affordable power, and readily available access to Internet connectivity, and
WHEREAS, production agriculture requires land, water and electricity to thrive, as an industry, and that same industry is also a critical source of America's food supply ad driver of our economy, and
WHEREAS, the rapid expansion of Data Centers across America will be increasing the competitive-demand on the local - availability of water, affordable and available power, and land on which to build (including farmland), and
WHEREAS, the Grange, from its founding, has protected, promoted and supported responsible Production Agriculture in all forms, while also supporting free enterprise,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grange develop policy, and act, through legislation efforts, to collaborate with other organizations where possible, and alone where not, to implement responsible governmental guidelines and laws that will regulate responsibility, the expansion of these Data Centers, in such a way as to prevent their ability to impede or unfairly compete with Production Agriculture for resources, or to put those people who engage in Production Agriculture at a financial, productive or competitive disadvantage,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Grange work to educate their members, as well as the public, as to the importance of maintaining a healthy and profitable Agricultural Economy, as paramount to maintaining a healthy national economy.
COMMITTEE ACTION: Favorable as written
DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written
RESOLUTION 2026-03: Adopted as written

2026-04
Installation of Stop Arm Enforcement Cameras on School Buses Nationwide as State Expense
Submitted By Beaver Valley Grange # 1791

Original Resolution
WHEREAS, the safety of students traveling to and from school is a fundamental responsibility of government and educational institutions; and
WHEREAS, motorists who illegally pass stopped school buses place children at significant risk of injury or death while boarding or exiting school buses; and
WHEREAS, reports from transportation departments, school districts, and law enforcement agencies across the United States demonstrate that violations of school bus stopping laws occur thousands of times each day; and stop-arm enforcement cameras have proven effective in identifying and deterring motorists who unlawfully pass stopped school bus; and provides objective evidence of violations, and promotes accountability among drivers; and
WHEREAS, many school districts lack the financial resources necessary to purchase, install, maintain, and administer stop-arm camera systems on school buses; and
WHEREAS, protecting children is a statewide and national public safety interest that should not be dependent upon the financial capacity of individual school districts;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Grange and the National Grange support legislation and public policy requiring the installation of stop-arm enforcement cameras on all school buses operating within the state and throughout the United States; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that states are encouraged to establish uniform standards for camera equipment, evidence retention, privacy protection and citation procedures to ensure fairness, consistency, and due process: and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all costs associated with the purchase, installation, operation, maintenance, data management, and enforcement of such camera systems shall be funded by the respective state governments, with supplemental federal funding where appropriate, so that no financial burden is placed upon local school districts or taxpayers within individual school systems; and
BE IT FINALLY RESOVED, that states shall cooperate with federal agencies, transportation authorities, law enforcement agencies, and educational organizations to promote nation wide implementation of school bus stop-arm camera programs; and that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, State Legislatures, State Board of Education, members of Congress, The United State Department of Transportation and other relevant governmental bodies for consideration and action.
COMMITTEE ACTION: Favorable as written
DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written
RESOLUTION 2026-04 Adopted as written

2026-05
ISG Dues Increase
Submitted by Illinois State Grange Executive Committee

Original Resolution
WHEREAS, the IL State Grange budget has dipped in the reserve funds the last two years,
WHEREAS, the 2027 Budget for ISG will once again dip into the reserve fund,
WHEREAS, decreasing ISG programs and contest would decrease member benefits,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all dues membership categories be increased by $5 per year ($1.25 per quarter) per member per category. The family membership category would see an increase of $10. The increase would be effective January 1, 2027.
COMMITTEE ACTON: Favorable as written
DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as written
RESOLUTION 2026-05 Adopted as written

2025-06
Grange Hall Insurance
Submitted by Bluff Grange #1826

Original Resolution
WHEREAS, many smaller Granges that have halls, and
WHEREAS, those Granges also have maintains and insurance that they have to lower, and
WHEREAS, Many Granges have problems paying their high insurance rates, and
WHEREAS, they are doing fundraisers just to pay the insurance, and
WHEREAS, those fundraisers could be used to support community service projects and etc.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all state Granges work with National Grange in actively working in helping to find insurance companies to find affordable coverage for all Grange Halls.
COMMITTEE ACTION: Rewritten with a couple of changes

WHEREAS, many smaller Granges have halls, and
WHEREAS, those Granges also have to maintain and insure those halls, and
WHEREAS, many Granges have problems paying their high insurance rates, and
WHEREAS, they are doing fundraisers just to pay their insurance and maintenance,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, all State Granges work with the National Grange in actively helping to find insurance companies with affordable coverage for all Grange Halls.
DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as amended
RESOLUTION 2026-06 Was adopted as amended.

2026-07
State Session Attendance
ISG Executive Committee

WHEREAS, State Session is an important time to share Grange information and learn about the ritual and history of our organization, and
WHEREAS, many of our Subordinate and Pomona Granges have not sent representatives to State Session for a number of years,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that each Subordinate and Pomona Grange in the State needs to send at least 1 representative to State Session for a minimum of 8 hours once every 3 years or they will be considered a Grange not in good standing and will face the consequences that that entails.
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bylaws Article 2 Section 6 should read as thus: " each Subordinate and Pomona Grange in the State needs to send at least 1 representative to State Session for a minimum of 8 hours once every 3 years or they will be considered a Grange not in good standings and will face the consequences that that entails."

COMMITTEE ACTION: We kept the resolution the same except added and additional therefore,

WHEREAS, State Session is an important time to share Grange information and learn about the ritual and history of our organization, and
WHEREAS, many of our Subordinate and Pomona Granges have not sent representatives to State Session for a number of years,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that each Subordinate and Pomona Grange in the State needs to send at least 1 representative to State Session for a minimum of 8 hours once every 3 years or they will be considered a Grange not in good standing and will face the consequences that that entails.
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bylaws Article 2 Section 6 should read as thus: " each Subordinate and Pomona Grange in the State needs to send at least 1 representative to State Session for a minimum of 8 hours once every 3 years or they will be considered a Grange not in good standings and will face the consequences that that entails
THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, if your Grange has missed two consecutive Illinois State Grange sessions , the closet deputy or State Grange Representative to your area will contact you for ideas on how to get your struggling Granges involved.
DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as amended
RESOLUTION 2026-07 Was adopted as amended

2026-08
Resolution Formatting
Submitted by ISG Grange Activities Committee

WHEREAS, at every State Grange Annual Session resolutions are presented , and
WHEREAS, those resolutions are sent to committees to be reviewed, and
WHEREAS, most resolutions are not written in a consistent format,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a proper format example be provided in each delegates book.
COMMITTEE ACTION: Favorable as written
DELEGATE ACTION : LOST

2026-President's Address
Submitted by the Grange Activities/President's Address Committee

COMMITTEE ACTION: Accepted as presented
DELEGATE ACTION: Adopted as presented see full report in the delegate book and/or it will appear in the journal
RESOLUTION : PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS was adopted as presented

2026-09
Youth and Young Adult Ambassador Scholarship Application
Submitted by Youth and Young Adults/Sara Ellwanger

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Grange has a Youth bank account, but not a Junior account,

WHEREAS, there are no set rules, regulations, or guidelines for the financial assistance that could be given to a Youth Ambassadors,

WHEREAS, Youth and Junior Ambassadors must attend National Session to complete the application process to achieve the title of National Grange Ambassador,

WHEREAS, travel, registration, and attendance cost could deter many qualified applicants from applying to the National Youth and Junior Ambassador programs,

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Grange should encourage the growth of the Grange by supporting the Youth and Junior departments,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Grange establish a Youth and Junior Ambassador Scholarship program, where Youth and Juniors who are applying to the National Ambassador programs can receive financial assistance to attend National Session to complete the application process.

COMMITTEE ACTION; was not brought before a committee
DELEGATE ACTION; Adopted as written