

What? Me! A Grange Member? Please read, then answer! What is the Grange?

The Grange:

- is a family-oriented fraternal organization.
 - promotes harmony and cooperation.
 - elevates & enhances community betterment.
 - supports family values and education for all.
 - promotes our food production system.
 - encourages grassroots legislation.
 - works for a better way of life for all.
- National legislative levels.



Without a doubt the Grange offers the best all-around program of any community service, social, legislative, educational, or agricultural organization in our country. Members are encouraged to develop and share their many and varied talents. The Grange leads in many community affairs as many members are community leaders.

Outside the church, the Grange is our country's only family organization. The Grange is political but non-partisan; is religious, but non-denominational; and is the only fraternal organization with lobbyists at the State and National Legislative levels.



Background

The Grange was founded in 1867. Oliver Hudson Kelley, a Minnesota journalist and farmer, federal employees, and clergymen organized the Grange after the Civil War. At that time rural Americans were isolated and had grown discontent that industry and bureaucracy were advancing at the expense of our Nation's food and fiber producers. Even today, should our food and fiber production system disappear, what price would we pay for food?

The Grange is a family organization for all. Men, women, youth, and children from any and all backgrounds, education, and occupations are welcome. Grange membership totals about 180,000 in 37 States and Washington D. C.

The Grange was the first fraternal organization to admit women. A Grange cannot be organized without women. Four of the thirteen offices must be held by women.

As more and more families (couples, single parents, grandparents, and singles) express concern for God's earth, family togetherness, patriotism, and helping others through community service and high moral and ethical values, membership is growing.

Accomplishments

The Grange worked diligently and successfully for legislation to:

- regulate monopolies.
- provide rural free delivery of mail.
- promote food and fiber production
- establish the Interstate highway system.
- develop University Extension Programs.
- encourage vocational education in schools.
- ensure healthy food and fiber production.
- 4 H clubs originated in the Grange.

Junior Grange

Turkey Hill Junior Grange, for children ages 4 to 12, was organized in 1924. Over the years, it has been very active to almost non-existent depending on the number of interested local children.

Illinois Granger is the Illinois State Grange's newspaper—10 issues per year—read it --stay abreast with the Grange.

Our Core Values

Patriotism – Display and respect of the United States Flag, Pledge of Allegiance, and National Anthem.

Religious – Display and respect of the Christian Bible.

Political – Non-partisan; stands for and supports issues, not people; encourages everyone to participate in political activities as they desire.

Education – Education and training for all, dependent on capabilities and interests.

Improved Life – An improvement in all aspects of life for everyone.

Community Involvement – Service to the community in which the Grange is located and its members live

Member Based – All emphasis on members not products or material goods.

Family Oriented – All programs, activities, and events are designed for the entire family whether that family be a couple, and individual, a single parent, grand parents, mom, dad and children, etc.

Open Membership – Prospective members are accepted regardless of race, creed, religion, national origin, etc.

Fundamental Teachings – Natures cycles
Teaching Season People Plant World

Faith Spring Child The seed

Hope Summer Youth Young Plant

Charity Autumn Adults Flowers, Fruit

Fidelity Winter Seniors The Feast



MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Charles Treser, President 618-236-7719 or 618-531-2600, email: cgtreser@aol.com

Steve Koluch, Membership 618-530-5563, email: koluch.s@gmail.com

David/Mary Donley 618-235-3310 or 618-979-1707, email: dldonley@aol.com

Membership

Membership began with 19, reached 117 by 1890 then dropped of to the low 60s in the late teens. It rose rapidly in 1919 to 125 and then rose steadily reaching 327 in 1950. A decline set in and by 1996 there were 156 members. Membership today is 160.

Who are our Members?

Our Community Grange members are from essentially all professions and backgrounds.

Accounts	Public Servant	Auctioneer
Bankers	Carpenters	Teachers
Farmers	Mechanics	Nurses
Social Workers	Truck drivers	Doctors
Loan Officers	Musicians	Clergy
Technicians	Homemakers	Plumbers
Electricians	Insurance Agents	Masons
Secretaries	Financial Advisors	Labors
Senior Citizens	Retired People	Lawyers
Architects	Computer technicians	
IT workers	Stay-at-home moms and dads	
Kindergarten-	college students	

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Some Things We Do

Three major annual dinners.
Donations to worthy causes.
Sponsor Busy Bees 4 H Club.
Sponsor Cub Scouts meeting place
Interesting programs at every meeting
Assist Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens
Sponsor youth Baseball Team Belleville
Sponsor American Heritage Girls Troop
Public use of Hall, Dinners and Meetings.
A major vendor at the Old Town Farmers' Market ans Swansea Fasrmers' Market

The Grange Motto

*"In essentials, unity;
in non-essentials, liberty;
in all things, charity."*

Turkey Hill Grange

Background

About seven years after Oliver H. Kelley and his six co-founders started the Grange movement in the United States, Isaac Terrell held a meeting on April 9, 1874, at Mt. Pleasant School to organize a Grange in the Turkey Hill area. On April 17, 1874, Turkey Hill Grange was chartered with nineteen members — 15 men and 4 women. The first meetings of Turkey Hill Grange were at the homes of the charter members. Later Fred Helms offered the upper story of his home as a meeting place, and here they met until the first hall was built in 1885. Henry and Mary Eckert donated an acre of land to be used for school and Grange purposes. Donations for the hall were by neighbors and Grangers. A June 25, 1886 letter states "In the new Grange and school house they also hold church services. It is very nice, the number of Grangers is growing."

On Jan. 28, 1904, Turkey Hill Grange and school burned. A building committee quickly drew up plans for a second Grange hall. The first meeting in the new two-story frame structure with heat and kitchen was in November 24, 1904. The mortgage was paid in August 1921.

A fund for a new hall started May 23, 1924. The last meeting in that second building was January 23, 1937 as it was torn down. The corner stone for the current hall was laid April 18, 1937 with the first meeting held July 19, 1937. The hall was to cost no more than \$11,000 but by completion the cost was \$18,103. To help pay the mortgage, a Wurstmarkt was held in November of 1938. This fund-raiser was so successful that it has continued every year since then, and today is a tradition of the community.

An elevator, four handicapped accessible restrooms, and a paved parking lot were added in 2004. Renovation of our downstairs is in the planning stages at this time.

March 25, 2022

*****TURKEY HILL GRANGE, NO. 1370

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Apt No/Street _____ Phone: Home _____ Work phone _____

email _____ I am at least 12 years old. Birth Date (optional) _____

Occupation _____ I desire to unite with others in elevating and advancing the interest of community life and family values. I understand the Grange is non-denominational and non-partisan. I pledge on my honor to abide by the laws of my State and Nation, and the rules and regulations of the Grange. I will not propose an improper person for membership, nor will I oppose the admission of anyone solely on the grounds of personal prejudice. I will endeavor to be a true and faithful Grange member. Should I violate this agreement, I may be dropped from membership.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Recommended by: _____ & _____

Dues \$40.00 per year \$10.00 per quarter Payable with this application \$ _____

Do you wish to receive the *Illinois Granger* by email? Yes NO