

The Gobbler



Volume 3, Edition 1
Spring 2023



Prez Sez

By Charles Treser

Another opportunity has arrived for me to express how thankful I am to be part of every one of you Turkey Hill Grangers! I have been around this Grange for about 25 years and have seen the growth and advancement of Turkey Hill Grange. The membership today has the potential to surpass many past achievements, working along with you, I am sure we will succeed.

I will begin the discussion now about the Chicken Dinner on April 16, 2023. There will be a major change in our dinner operation. There are a few food preparation positions that will need to be operating from 8 a.m. to close. Most positions will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude when we are closed and cleaned up. No more split shifts. Everyone will eat without charge at the coordination of the Dining Room Team Leader. There will be several future meetings with Team Leaders. A worker list for both Saturday and Sunday will be sent to each member later in February. No presales will be made for this dinner. This dinner is perhaps the most difficult to successfully accomplish; however, we should reflect on the fact that this dinner was first held in 1937 to raise funds for this building we are in today. So, tradition will prevail and the chicken dinner will continue.

Invite your friends and neighbors

Trivia NIGHT

Saturday, February 18, 2023

Doors open at 6 pm Trivia starts at 7 pm

Tables of 8, \$20 per person

New for this year fee includes:

- Playing heads or tails, alive or dead, and door drawings
- Sodas and water included in price of ticket

Workers needed to set up on Friday, February 17
Items for Silent Auction needed by Friday, February 17

Contact Tami Hughes
618-539-9766
Tami.Hughes@swic.edu

Fourth Degree—Winter—Fidelity

The Grange includes lessons told and learned through degrees. The first four degrees are based on the Seasons, actions, and tools from the natural world and agriculture. Fourth Degree emblem is the agate. The agate symbolizes the principles of manhood and womanhood. Also, it reminds us of our friendships “as firm as the stone itself.”

-From National Grange Pamphlet, Degrees and Symbols of the Subordinate Grange, membership@nationalgrange.org

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Flea Markets



Flea Markets were very successful during 2022 raising over \$4,300 for the Grange. Additionally, we built a group of vendors who regularly participated and expect to support us again in 2023.

The Flea Markets include both vendor tables on the lower level and a “yard sale” on the upper level. Vendor tables are available at \$15 per day for direct sales or crafters. Set up on Saturday or Sunday starts at 6:30 am. Early setup on the Friday before, 9 am — 6 pm for additional \$5 per 8-foot table.

The Grange will have its own Yard Sale on the Upper Level. We also will sell baked goods, food, snacks, and drinks all day. Donations of food items accepted on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

Help is needed.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Yard Sale set up (Friday before sale)
- Yard Sale sales Saturday and Sunday
- Food Service preparation and sales Saturday and Sunday
- Jam & Jelly table and Quilt Drawing table (Saturday and Sunday)
- Vendor support on Friday, Saturday, Sunday (open building, take payments, arrange tables)
- Shifts for workers are 8:30am-12 and 12-3:30pm

Questions: Stacy Rutledge at 618-593-0515.

Donated items taken anytime. Call Stacy Rutledge or Chris Bersett 618-233-6994 and we can meet you to get your items or bring them to the Grange and place on the Stage. No clothing or food items.

FLEA MARKET DATES

24-25 March (setup 23 March)
22-23 April (setup 21 April)
24-25 June (setup 23 June)
26-27 August (setup 25 August)
23-24 September (setup 22 September)



The Quilt Block Blues Quilt Drawing

St Louis Blues Hockey Team themed quilt drawing tickets available during Trivia Night, Flea Markets, Chicken Dinner, and Ham & Peach. Drawing after H&P. Tickets are \$5. We plan to sell 200. Winner will be drawn at the conclusion of Ham & Peach.

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The Quilt Block

Quilts of Valor

Quilts of Valor presentations were the program for Friday, [November 11, 2022, Veterans Day](#). Quilters worked hundreds of hours to make a unique quilt for each veteran. Quilts are registered with the Quilts of Valor Foundation and the National Grange. The quilt recognizes the veteran's service and dedication to the United States.



Quilts of Valor recipients, Left to Right, Charles Daiber, Norman Krause, Bill Hutcherson, David Philip, Bob Dintelmann, Ron Dormer, Jim Coe

—Photo by Mary Philip



The Quilters, Left to Right, Nikki Wilcoxon, Edith Robinson, Chris Bersett, Judy Brindley, Marilyn Coe, Mary Beth Lee, Barb Joseph

—Photo by David Philip

Calendar Update

March 2023		
Date & Time	Event	Notes
7, 7 pm	Executive Board Meeting	
10, 7:30 pm	Grange Meeting	Program: SWIC Admissions Coordinator, Laura Vahlkamp, a look at SWIC—past, present, and future.
14-15, 9 am—4 pm	Quilting Workshop	
24-25, 9 am—3 pm	Flea Market	Set up on 23 Mar
April 2023		
11, 7 pm	Executive Board Meeting	
14, 7:30 pm	Grange Meeting	
15, 8 am	Chicken Dinner Work Day	
16, 10:30 am—2 pm	Chicken Dinner	
22-23, 9 am—3 pm	Flea Market	Set up on 21 Apr
May 2023		
9, 7 pm	Executive Board Meeting	
12, 7:30 pm	Grange Meeting	
June 2023		
6, 7 pm	Executive Board	
9, 7:30 pm	Grange Meeting	Officer Nominations
24-25, 9 am—3 pm	Flea Market	Set up on 23 Jun
	Grange Meeting	Grange Activity
		Fund Raising Event



CHICKEN DINNER 2023

Turkey Hill Grange will hold its traditional Chicken Dinner fundraiser, April 16, 2023. The dining room and carryout trailer will be open 10:30 am — 2 pm. April 15 is Chicken Dinner workday at the Grange; help is needed starting at 8 am. Worthy

President, Charles Terser, is the Chairman. His “Prez Sez” article highlights changes this year.

- No shift work. Workers show up at designated start time and work until clean up is complete.
- All workers eat free; get “Worker Meal” card from ticket desk.
- Stuffing eliminated from menu.

Most things haven’t changed. This needs to be an all-hands event. We have jobs to suit everybody’s abilities. Price remains the same as last year: adults \$16, children \$8. We expect each Grange family to provide four pies, but we also accept other desserts.

MENU

Fried Chicken	Apple Sauce
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	Dessert
Green Beans	Drink (inside service only)
Cole Slaw	

Good and Faithful Servants

Mary Kathleen Richter



Mary Kaye (Heberer) Richter was born April 20, 1945, Belleville, IL, died Thursday, November 24, 2022, at her home in Trenton, IL. She was the youngest of three children of Henry and Lillian Heberer, who farmed outside of Freeburg. Mary Kaye was a 64-year member of Turkey Hill Grange. She was married to Norman Richter. They had three children, Michael, Sharon, and Charles. She ran a flower shop in her 20s, and remained a devoted farm wife throughout her lifetime.

Mary Kaye was the founder and executive director of the National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasia. Charles (Charley) was diagnosed with this rare disease in 1979. Mary Kaye discovered there was little information and almost no research on this disease, so she started a foundation literally at her kitchen table. The foundation raises money to improve research into the disease and to help families and children with Ectodermal Dysplasia. Through Mary Kaye's dedication and hard work, the foundation has helped over 9,200 families and raised in excess of \$3.6-million for research. Today Charley leads a normal life farming over 2,000 acres.

—from *Belleville News-Democrat*, Nov 28, 2002; *New York Times*, January 18, 2023

Burton “Burt” Carl Wikgren



Burt Wikgren was born in Belleville, November 11, 1932, and died August 14, 2022, at his home in Freeburg, IL. He grew up in Chicago. He and his brother would travel to their grandparents' farm in the summer where he learned to love the rural lifestyle. Burt attended the University of Chicago then transferred to the University of Illinois because of their agriculture program gaining a Bachelor of Science degree. In 1954 he married Martha Morin in Kankakee and later moved to Belleville. They had three children, Jeffrey, Julie, and Janice. Martha died in 2005 after 50 years of marriage.

Burt was a career Federal Employee with the Social Security Administration, working in Illinois and Wisconsin. He served in several management positions retiring as Assistant Director of the Alton Office. He soon accepted a position directing the Supplemental Social Security program inception in East St. Louis and Washington Park. He then started a program with the HUD Association to help keep seniors in their homes. The program not only helped the seniors, but also saved money for the state and federal government, of which he was very proud. Burt was very active in Optimists where he met his second wife, Marilyn Newell, whom he married in 2006. He was recently featured in the local newspaper for his accomplishments and was considered to be the “quintessential Optimist.”

Burt was a 23-year member of the Turkey Hill Grange, serving as Vice President and President of the Turkey Hill Grange Foundation. He also served as the Market Master, Belleville Old Town Market and worked with the vendors every Saturday for several years until 2019.

—from *Dignity Memorial*