



Illinois Granger

In Essentials... Unity
In Non-Essentials... Liberty
In All Things... Charity

January 2024

Vol 4 No 1



Union Grange Meeting

Union Grange was hosted by Rollie Greenland in November at his residence in Heritage Woods. Standing are Darl Diehl, Sally Campbell, Nancy Erbe, Terry Meyer, and Ron Erbe. Seated is Rollie Greenland. Picture was taken by Vivian Johnson. Seven members were present.

Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

The Schaeffer's hope you all had a Merry Christmas. And are now preparing for a New Year that is better than ever. Hope you are planning to make your Grange better than ever as well. Don and I celebrated with family for days! It was wonderful. Hope you all were able to celebrate with family, the reason for the season. Hope the new year is filled with happiness and activities you enjoy.

I promised more information about National Grange Session #157. The Resolutions from IL – I know that two were sent back as state issues. Saving Prime Farmland from Solar Invasion, and Rodeos, US Farmland was combined with several others on the topic and passed the delegate body, Farm Equipment Repair is already current policy. Awards for County Line and Turkey Hill for Distinguished Grange, County Line did not place for the Community Service Book, but there were lots of books to judge. The Prairie Grange was awarded Grange in Action. Turkey Hill Grange received a check for the efforts for the ACP Grant, Affordable Connectivity Program. Thanks to all the Granges in IL for your efforts.

Leaf River Grange has sold their hall and will be closing the Grange at the end of this quarter. Troy Grove has sold their hall but will be continuing to meet. Thanks to Clifford Graven and Roy Plote for their efforts on the sale of the buildings.

I am working on email addresses for all members, or at least one per family, so National can complete some more grants. So, if you get an email from me, please just send a "Got it" or something like that so I know that this is a good email address for you. The

GRANGE STRONG



IL State Grange and the National Grange would like to start sending you emails about upcoming information.

You have probably received a letter to return from an insurance company conserving \$4000 death policy. Yes, it is legit, it is free if you listen to the sales pitch from an insurance representative. They will be offering you the opportunity to purchase more but you can decline the extra policies if you are not interested.

Robin Kindberg is back to being Secretary for the short term, we are looking for someone to take over the position. Jenn and Elaine have been diagnosed with health concerns. Trisha a new Job and working on the By-Laws. Any ideas please let me know. I also need a Membership director and a FAC chair for 2026. ANYONE interested in these positions please let me know. Please contact me if you are interested in serving the IL State Grange in one of these positions. There are people around you that would be willing to assist you with the service.

Some of IL Granges have signed up for participating in the grants the National Grange has going right now. Please check the Patrons Chain and any other information from National Grange about the ACP and Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award (EADI #30051) for a program entitled “Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors.” “This program provides local Community Granges the resources to educate and inform their areas about what senior citizens should be doing to prepare for surgeries – before the surgery and when they return home,” Joan Smith, project manager said. “There’s also a comprehensive ‘Preparing for My Future’ guide, with questions that any adult should think about. It covers topics from where bank accounts are located and what kind of care you’re willing to have, to who in your community might be able to help you with certain activities post-surgery.” Find information at National Grange or contact me, I have limited information to share.

The Grange Foundation has a scholarship opportunity for Grange members seeking farther education. Please contact [https:// grangefoundation.org/](https://grangefoundation.org/) for further information and to check out this opportunity for all Grangers who have been a Granger for at least one year.

Meetings are being held for the next National Session in Bettendorf Iowa – anyone wanting to help please let me know, Nov 12 -17, 2024.

The Building – we are working with another group on the sale. Again.

Presidents Conference in Myrtle Beach in February, President’s Day weekend. Don and I plan on going. Happy New Year to ALL.



Illinois State Grange Youth

Where has the time gone?!?!? Happy New Year Grange family. We hope you are adding Spring Fling to your calendars which will be March 15-16. The location will be the Boone County Fair Grounds. We are planning a great weekend of fun and discovery. Come join us as we go back in time to the 1950’s. Please let either Karie or Marisa know if you are planning on joining us so we can plan food.

We are also looking for sponsors or donations for Friday snacks and Saturday lunch or dinner. Please reach out to Marisa 815-914-7411 if you and/or your Grange are able to help.

Stay tuned to the granger next month for updates.

Co - Youth Directors Marisa and Karie

GRANGE STRONG



“Grange Strong: Rooted. Resilient. United.”

Grange Strong is “a powerful expression that embodies the strength, unity, pride, and resilience of the Grange,” said Hamp, “It reflects our collective power, shared values, and enduring spirit. This phrase signifies a commitment to supporting one another, facing challenges with resilience, and working together to achieve common goals.”

Throughout the next two years, Granges are encouraged to use the “Grange Strong” theme in their programming, displays, exhibits, and more. We encourage Grange members to use the hashtag #GrangeStrong in your posts, so we can connect with one another.

Members Needed for Work Groups

I am looking to put together several Work Groups to review and make recommendations on various components of the National Grange. If you are interested in being considered, have a name or names to recommend, or thoughts to share, **please let me know** within the next couple of weeks.

- Communications
- E-Membership
- Merchandise and Sales
- Fundraising
- Bylaws Review

Imagine the impact the Grange can make when we prioritize and actively work toward enhancing the experience and value we provide to each member. How awesome this country could be if every community had a strong, vibrant Grange focused on resilience and relevance. Remember also that determined people working together can do anything. Let all who desire join in serving as Caretakers of a Legacy!

Chris Hamp

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Happy New Year from Turkey Hill

What a productive year we have had with many projects completed. We are looking forward to our 150th Anniversary events on April 20, 2024. Our plans include an open house from 10-noon, a program at 1:30 and a dinner at St. Clair Country Club at 7pm that evening. Please contact Charles Treser (cgtreser@aol.com) for information about reservations.

We finished October with our annual Wurstmarkt. We served 529 diners with 56 members and 7 non-members working a total of 234 hours. Eighty-two pies and desserts were donated. Remaining food was donated to the Violence Prevention Center.

Prior to our November meeting, the THG quilters held their Quilts of Valor Ceremony. Nine quilts were awarded to veterans and snacks followed the presentations. We had 102 guests that night and did our very best to honor our award recipients. It was a wonderful evening.



Our Honored Veterans

Back Row left to right: Bill McIntire, Bruce Bornert, Jacob Diener, Don Stein, Howard Bateman, Gary Cunningham

Front row left to right: Tom Fulford, Clifford Good, David Hernandez, Don Schilling.



Our Quilters

Back row, left to right: Ilene Martin, Chris Bersett, Judy Brindley, Lynne Edwards, Mary Beth Lee

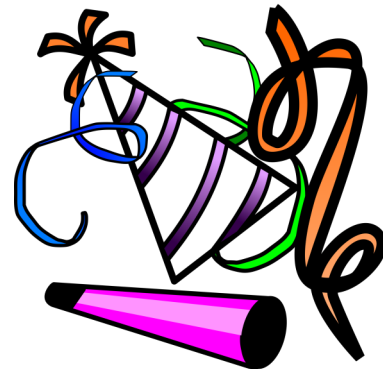
Front row: Edith Robinson, Nikki Wilcoxon

December featured two events. At our annual Christmas party, our 4H group participated in the entertainment. It was a fun evening of food, fellowship and song. Our Family Activities event was attending a Christmas Choral Concert followed by a trip to Papa Vito's for pizza afterwards.

Plans are already underway for 2024 events, starting with the Chicken Dinner in April and the "100 Years of Horsepower" held at The Renner Stock farm in August.

We wish all Grangers a prosperous and fun-filled 2024.

Happy New Year!



Holiday Greetings from Flora Grange

Flora Grange's holiday started out with Deb Silvers and Barb Trevathan ringing the bell at PNC Bank in Belvidere for the Kettle Drive again this year. This is something they look forward to each year and they wear bells on their clothing to add to the holiday season.

During the months prior to the holiday season, one of the sewing groups of Flora Grange made many ornaments and a tree skirt for the Christmas tree for our needy family.

On November 29 four members set up a Christmas tree at the Community Center, then took it down and delivered it to a family we chose this year to help during the holidays along with all the ornaments our sewing group had made and the family was also given gift cards.

Next Christmas project was to put up displays in Belvidere Park for Hometown Christmas to wish the public Merry Christmas from Flora Grange and the Boone County Fair, (two displays). Those included Jack and Laurel Ratcliffe, Marilyn, JT and Max Ryan, Ed Cosman and Joe Bradley.

Flora Grange #1762 held their annual Christmas Potluck/Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at the Flora Grange Hall starting at 6:30 pm.

Prior to the party, Emalee Colver, Dona Hegge, Vince Melillo and Lindakay Ebel made up 15 fresh fruit and cookie trays for shut-in and the elderly to be delivered by members of the Grange to let them know we are thinking of them during the holiday season.

Fifty plus members of Flora Grange enjoyed a delicious dinner, main dishes prepared by our hostesses, Laurel and Jack Ratcliffe; roast beef and ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, and green bean casserole, and Grange members brought many other dishes of delicious food and desserts to share.

Following dinner, everyone moved upstairs and the program chair, Jack Ratcliffe had several Christmas games for us to play, including a Christmas word scramble which was won by Lon Buzzell.

All in attendance enjoyed singing Christmas carols and Santa Claus (Dan Burow) joined the party and talked to the children in attendance and Vince Melillo read 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' to all in attendance.

The evening closed by singing Silent Night and everyone was wished a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous and Healthy New Year.

Wishing all Grangers, a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From Flora Grange #1762
Lindakay Ebel, Publicity



Family Activities

The tree is up and decorated. The cookies are made. This is the first year I have ever made iced sugar cookies. I didn't do too bad at decorating them.

I would like to apologize. I did not realize that I did not delete the decorated cake category. If you can let your Grange members know, I have eliminated this category.

Decorated cakes are hard to transport such long distances. Plus, we will not be able to refrigerate them during Session.

This year my family and I went to the Polar Express at Union Station. Inside Union Station, there is a restaurant called The Train Shed. We had lunch there. I would suggest going there. If you have never been to Polar Express you must go. Once you load the train it begins to move. The staff begins their skit just like the movie. You will receive a chocolate cookie and hot chocolate. Santa will come down the aisle and greet each child. Each child receives a silver bell from Santa.

Next month my newest grandbaby will be here. As of right the C-section is scheduled for January 12, 2024. I can not wait to meet you Sullivan Allen Gardner.

Pictures to follow in next Granger.

I hope everyone enjoyed your family time. May God bless you and your family in the new Year.

Fraternally Yours,

Angie Dickerson

Family Activities Chairman

BLAST FROM THE PAST

By Beverly Smith

“Tis the Season”!! Yes, I am still in Illinois and just came in from shoveling snow! I don’t know if we will make it to Florida this winter. My husband continues to doctor under three different doctors.

Therefore, the other day I decided to organize in my craft room. I came across many Grange items and clippings. I have been busy adding things to my various Grange scrapbooks.

A few years back, Dorothy Newcomer gave me lots from Rock River Grange #1921 (Lee Co.). They were organized on June 19, 1951 (the year I was born!). They had 50 charter members. There are several pages of a very detailed history that were used on their 40th and 50th anniversaries. They were a very active Grange, having chicken dinners, selling popcorn, bake sales, ice cream, fall festivals, Booster nights, and so on. I made a whole notebook of over 50 pages.

On the Junior Grange, I have added the 1992 Junior Grange Cookbook and the Super JG Test to their notebook. Then Burns Grange#1839 (Henry Co.)-a Galva News article of January 1986 called “Kernels off the Cob” by Merle Warner giving a brief history of that Grange. Also came across a photo from 1946 of 11 male Grangers of Ney Grange dressed up as women for a Lecturer’s program!

Today, I checked my emails. Steve Koluch of Turkey Hill Grange requested any information about Bob White Grange#1809 (St. Clair Co.). I have provided him with Illinois Granger article from April 1946 celebrating their 25th Anniversary. They were organized February 1921. It stated that they had 44 charter members, gave their officers’ names, and presented Silver Star certificates to nine charter members.

Thank you to Emalee Colver for the Grange photos. I have added many to the notebooks. The post cards of the National Grange Building in Washington, D. C. really are special and rare. I will be treasuring them along with other National Grange memorabilia I have collected over time.

Everyone Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!! Let's look forward to a Happy New Year 2024 too!

Calendar of Grange Events

2024

- 1/20 Emerald Mound Big Breakfast 8-10 am
\$15 adult, \$6 ages 3-12, under 3 free
- 3/15-16 Spring Fling – Boone County
- 4/20 Turkey Hill Grange 150th Anniversary
- 9/13-15 Illinois State Grange Session-
St. Clair county

11/10-17 National Session Quad Cities

Sign up to work

Donations: Memorial Scholarship

Donations: Illinois Granger

\$100 Enterprise Grange

NOTE: Please send me any important dates, members in nursing homes, rehabs, or senior living, obituaries, donations, births, weddings, any good news from your Grange so I can add them to the newsletter.

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Hello Brothers and Sisters

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. I was privileged to have a sit down with Senator Syverson on what to expect in 2024. The following is some of what I learned.

As Illinoisans prepare to ring in the New Year, more than 300 new laws are set to take effect on Jan. 1, 2024. New laws range from limiting 2nd Amendment Rights to more positive legislation supported by Senate Republicans that increases protections and support for children, veterans and first responders.

Conflicting Priorities on Crime as the Year Ends

Among the issues that made headlines during the fall veto session is the Democrats' refusal to extend bipartisan legislation, passed in 2017 and set to expire at the end of the year, that established higher minimum prison terms for people convicted of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon if they'd previously been convicted of certain crimes. The legislation also increased penalties for unlawful use of a weapon by a felon.

Democrat lawmakers blocked legislation that would have extended this law from being heard in the Illinois House of Representatives, which means it will expire at the end of the year. At the same time, Democrats prioritized passing legislation that created laws that allow non-citizens to work as police officers and felons to work at casinos, which take effect Jan. 1.

New "Assault Weapon" Ban Requirements

While sales and purchases of certain firearms had already been made illegal by Illinois' controversial "assault weapon" ban (AWB), Illinois residents who already owned guns covered by the ban are allowed to keep them if they file required paperwork before Jan. 1, 2024.

The ban was the central component of the "Protect Illinois Communities Act," which State Senator Dave Syverson (R-Cherry Valley) voted against and has strenuously opposed.

The law requires owners of now-banned weapons and/or accessories to file an affidavit with the Illinois State Police (ISP) stating that they owned the firearms and/or accessories before the ban came into effect on Jan. 10, 2023. ISP submitted rules for the process, including what firearms and accessories are banned, to the Legislature's bicameral and bipartisan Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). After pushback from lawmakers on the panel, ISP held a series of hearings this fall discussing the rules and soliciting questions and feedback. Much of the feedback involved confusion over exactly which firearms and accessories are included in the vaguely worded ban and rules.

Additional concerns involve firearms purchased during a window created by conflicting court rulings. Between April 28 and May 4, 2023, a federal injunction blocked the implementation of the ban, allowing Illinois residents to make purchases during that window of firearms that would have been illegal if the AWB were in effect.

Senator Syverson supported legislation to modify the affidavit process to allow residents to keep those guns, but Democratic leadership refused to allow that bill to be called for a vote. According to the ISP rules, those firearms will become illegal on Jan. 1, 2024.

Meanwhile, several court cases challenging the constitutionality of the ban are ongoing, including two cases docketed with the United States Supreme Court. As an advocate for the 2nd Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners, Senator Syverson is hopeful that the ban will be overturned by the courts.

I gave my opinion on the subject; We already have enough gun laws to fill up Ida Public Library. All the gun laws do is destroy trees and use up ink. The laws and locks have the same effect, only honest people obey them. You want to stop the shootings, stop illegal gun dealers and the other people that sell guns illegally.

Some other laws to look for;

Human Trafficking Victims Get Opportunity to Move Past Trauma

New Laws Protect Children in Legal Proceedings

New Tools in the Battle Against the Opioid Crisis

Greater Protections for Reporting Elder Abuse

New Laws Support, Protect First Responders

Well, that's enough for now, prayers and good tidings to all.

Love Jean and Marion





Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

Happy New Year to each of you.

Do you have family traditions that you follow each year? Some that we do are. We open the front and back door and let the old go out and let the new come in. Lots of people eat herring or fish so they can swim forward all year. Some eat black eyed beans for money in the coming year. I could go on and on for more traditions as each family has their own. It would be fun to list your family traditions so that the younger members will remember them as they get older.

Just as we all have traditions to let the New Year in, so we also need to have family traditions with our children in Bible reading, prayer time, church time. Our children follow in our footsteps as they grow older, we need to remember to show them the way.

May we find peace, joy and grace this New Year. May our Lord and Savior guide and protect each hour. Love to each of you. Wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Grace Peace and Mercy unto you.

Notes from the Editor:

This month I only heard from three Granges, how sad is that. We currently have 8 Granges and a Pomona in St. Clair county, 7 Granges and a Pomona in Boone county, 4 Granges and a Pomona in Winnebago county, 3 Granges in counties without a Pomona. That adds up to 24 Granges if I haven't forgotten anyone. I am so disappointed in the response I am getting for the Granger. Once again I have two empty pages I could use. I have filler on some of the pages I have.

What are you people doing? Does no one bring a phone to meetings and take pictures? Is what you are doing not important enough to share it with the rest of us? Where is all of your news, births, marriages, deaths, fun things, sick

people, I could go on and on. I have a lot more questions I could ask, but I am discouraged.

I have not heard from the Agriculture department yet. Wouldn't you like to know what the contests will be for this year?

Where are all the officers? Is your life not exciting enough to let us know what you are up to? Every month I should be getting articles from department heads, officers, Granges, Pomonas, and anybody else who wants to send me an article. Have you done something exciting lately that you would like to share with us? Bring it on. It would be nice to have more articles than space to put them!!!

If anyone is interested in taking over this job please let Lynette and I know.

Thank You

Ruth Blasingame



ENCOURAGE IMPROVEMENT; REMEMBER THAT NATURE'S MOTTO IS ONWARD; SHE NEVER GOES BACKWARD.

Installation Ceremony; Installing Officer's charge to President