



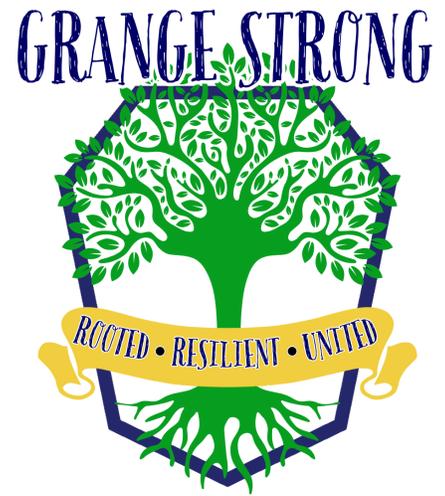
# ILLINOIS GRANGER

*In Essentials... Unity*

*In Non-Essentials... Liberty*

*In All Things... Charity*

September 2024 Vol 4 No 9



Philip Vonada will be the National Grange Representative for the Illinois State Grange Session. He is currently the National Grange Communications Director. Philip Vonada is a lifelong Granger, currently living in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He is a member of Penns Valley Grange #158 (Centre County) and Eagle Grange #1 (Lycoming County) and is also the current Director of the Pennsylvania State Junior Grange. He has previously been a Communications Fellow for the National Grange (2019, 2021), a contributor to *Good Day!* magazine, the John Trimble Legislative Youth Experience delegate (2018) and was a National Grange Youth Officer.



Philip holds a B.S. in Speech Communication from Millersville University of Pennsylvania and an M.A. from Villanova University. He has a broad background in fundraising and nonprofit management, most recently working as the General Manager for the Community Theatre League, Inc. in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

In his spare time, Philip enjoys hiking, traveling, photography, honing his skills in the kitchen, performing in and directing community theatre productions, and working out.. Welcome Philip.

## Calendar of Grange Events

### 2024

- 9/13-15 Illinois State Grange Session- Collinsville IL
- 9/19-21 4Momz2Momz Consignment Sale
- 9/21 Donation only Spaghetti Dinner at Turkey Hill Grange to benefit Charles and Sophie Treser
- 10/26 Jack & Laurel Ratcliffe 60th Anniversary Party 1-4 pm Flora Grange Hall please RSVP
- 10/26 **GRIT** South Turkey Hill Grange 10am cold pot luck at noon
- 10/27 **GRIT** North at Boone County Community Grangehall noon potluck meeting to follow

### 11/11-16 National Session Quad Cities

11/11 Host Banquet—Boat Tour

11/16 6th & 7th Degrees

### 2025

7/22-27 Grange Revival—Torrey Utah

9/19-21 State Session at Boone County Fairgrounds

Donations: Memorial Scholarship

Donations: Illinois Granger

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.

Ruth Blasingame 815-299-7884

illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com

8711 Deer Run Drive Belvidere, IL 61008

## Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

The hot dry conditions continue. The soybeans could really use some rain. The plants are setting pods but without rain the pods will not fill complete. Many veggies are being harvested even though it is dry, (sweet corn, tomatoes, okra, tomatoes, egg plant, tomatoes, green beans). We have also harvested the honey crop for the fall, lots of honey. The bees were busy. I have had cataracts removed from both eyes now and they have healed completely. So, the next time you see me I'll be either eye glass free or with "cheaters" so I can see close up.

Don and I attended the Enterprise Grange picnic, it was a great time. We were sorry to hear the death of Kenneth R Joseph, Turkey Hill Grange. Kenny had served as Legislative Director for several years. Condolences to Barbara and family.

Thanks to Lana Korte for assisting Don and I in cleaning/organizing the ISG storage unit. We found some really nice Pomona Sashes from Ogle County Pomona. The 5<sup>th</sup> degree presentation will be using them. There are some nice Subordinate and Junior sashes, staves and there are lots of song books, various ages and sizes from Granges (Subordinate and Junior). If you are interested in any books just let me know before the session so I can bring them for you.

The 153<sup>rd</sup> annual IL State Grange Session will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Collinsville, IL September 13 – 15, 2024. Hope you are all planning to attend. The Granges from St Clair County have made plans for a great convention. We have a few resolutions, and the Bylaws committee has been working on resolutions for the proposed changes. The proposed Bylaws and resolutions have been sent via email to the Presidents and Secretaries of the Granges. Phil Vonada, National Grange Communications Director, and PA Junior Director, will be our National Representative. IL Representative Charlie Meier will be the speaker on Friday evening. Make sure you have sent your delegate information to Brian Keller so your Grange will be represented at the meeting. I hope you are working on contest items to compete and show all the Grangers your talents. National Grange will not be holding a "Talent Show" so IL Lecturer, Ethan Edwards, has decided to follow suit. He has contacted a magician for a show. I hope the Officers and Directors have completed and sent to Brian it is not a good look to not have a report in the State Session dele-

gate packets. If you need meals let Brian Keller know, he can put you on a waiting list.

IL State Grange is working with Grange Advocacy on a pilot project, Rural Initiatives. Each Grange can work with other community groups on a project for the community. If you need extra money to get the project off the ground, let me know and we will see what ISG can do for your Grange. Grangers from Turkey Hill, Emerald Mound, Floraville Community and Shiloh Valley will be working together to provide food and drink to many visitors at the 100 years of Horsepower event this next weekend (Aug 29-31) Belleville, IL. Many groups throughout the county will be working together for this event.

The Grange Resources Information and Training (GRIT) will be October 26, 2024, at Turkey Hill Grange Hall. The meeting will start at 10:00 am with a cold potluck lunch at noon. On October 27 at Boone Community Grange Hall at Noon with potluck. All Grangers are invited to attend to learn about the contests and programs for the upcoming year.

Hope all of you have made reservations for National Grange Session in Bettendorf Iowa, Nov 11 -16, 2024 with the National Grange and with the Isle Casino hotel. IL State Grange is part of the host group. If any Granger is wanting to help please let us know. Emalee Colver was appointed as Registration host. Ruth Blasingame and Lana Korte have been appointed as IL Hospitality hosts for Wed, 13<sup>th</sup> and IL will assist WI on Saturday. Karie Blasingame is working on Transportation and Workshops for the convention. These groups will need assistance during the convention. Please contact them if you are willing to help. ***Any IL Granger that signs up and completes helping for 6 hours or more a day, fill out the hour forms and submit the forms to Karie or me. You will be given ½ of the hotel room payment, not to exceed the total amount of room bill. You need to pay the hotel bill then ISG will pay you later.*** If you would like to receive the 7<sup>th</sup> degree, Bettendorf will be the place on November 16. We are asking if there are veterans that have not received a Quilt of Valor and will be at the National Grange Convention, please let me know ***ASAP***, they could be part of the NG presentation. Registration is now open on the National-Grange.org website. Register now. Now is the time to plan to be at National Grange Session, at Isle Casino, Bettendorf, IA., Nov 11 -16. Register now to attend the National Grange Session and sign up to help with various tasks.

## Greetings from FAC Women's Activities

Greeting Grangers!

I'm so excited. State Session is almost here. How many entries did you get done this year. I hope to see a lot of beautiful entries. Let me know if you need the entry slips for your entries. My email is [angied@bakerpool.com](mailto:angied@bakerpool.com). I am in need of Raffle items/baskets. Hopefully each Grange can help with Raffle items/baskets.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at State Session in September.

Fraternally,

Angie Dickerson

FAC Chairperson

## Beaver Valley Grange #1791

A blend of July and August Meeting

July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting brought us a new Junior Plus One – Brandon O'Dell. We now have 4 Junior Plus One's. Its been a long time since we had young ones. Community Service hours were turned and report on Fairboard. Steve Paulson gave a report on snakes on the farm and how they can help control lime disease by keeping the population of mice down. So leave the snakes be as they contribute to the ecosystem. Legislative report read by Brian O'Dell about the local freelance worker protection acts and a new bill out to detect AI and protect data and data integrity. Our junior Morgan Schlie read Grandpa Steve's report on Safety and gave safety tips on swimming. Reminders of Rivets Fundraising event coming up, and our support for Chow Down on July 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. National Grange will be Nov. 11-16 in Bettendorf, Iowa and Brian and Marisa O'Dell accepted as delegates for State Session which will be in Collinsville, IL in September.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting was held after the Fair. Agriculture report given by Steve Paulson told us that farmers are finding the new remote monitoring systems very beneficial. Flowers, Jerry Paulson tells us now is the time to plant trees and bushes and cut back and divide your hostas. We all want him to come to our house to do this! Health, Education and Welfare, reminder to get the children's immunizations, continue to wash your hands as the flu season is upon us. Legislature reported by Brian that there is an objection to installing solars on 32 acres in an area where Rockford would like to consider turning the corn field into residential. The State wants to pass a law for large events to have recycling bins. Mostly, this is directed at large buildings that hold events like convention centers. Morgan Schlie read the Safety report for Grandpa Steve on the theory of Take Two for Safety. Consider this checklist: actions: talk, action, knowledge, and equipment. The take two checklist is an effective method in

investigating and preventing accidents. Our next work day is at the Tamale fest on September 7<sup>th</sup>, shifts of 1-4 and 4-8 were assigned. Recap on Fairboard, and review of Resolutions. The Jrs. Worked on their projects for State Session and I have attached a couple of pictures. Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> is the Appreciation Dinner, and Jerry Paulson will serve at our next meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Fraternally submitted,

Dayle Paulson, Publicity



## Guilford Hope Grange #6



Guilford Hope Grange met July 30th, 2024 at the home of Gene and Caroline Wheeler. A noon pot luck was enjoyed by 13 members and 2 guests from Midway Village Museum. After our lunch, Cara Richardson and Kristine Adams-Wedemeyer from the museum told of the many events taking place. They gave us a hand out of the many types of program tours offered to students. These include General Museum tour grades 1st-12th, General Village tour for grades 1st-12th, Old Stone School tour, grades Kindergarten-8th, Living History tour for grades 1st-12th, Hands-on History Days grades 3rd-12th and History Talks grades 1st-12th. Their educational standards meet both National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies and Illinois State Standards. We are pleased to donate \$1,000.00 to their Education Fund for these programs. After the presentation, the meeting was called to order in the 4th degree and Pledge of Allegiance. The secretaries report was read and approved as presented. The treasurers report was approved as presented. Old business: the 3rd grade teacher from Alpine Academy has not notified us yet as to how many 3rd grade students she will have. President Wayne

Lyford said he would be in contact with her again. New business: Dues paying month for August was announced. Nathalie Lyford will have FAC raffle tickets for the State Grange Women's luncheon. No other new business. The next meeting will be at the Don and Pat Sanford residence on August 27. Meeting was adjourned.

## Broad Hollow Grange

Following Broad Hollow Grange's August 2nd monthly potluck, a short program took place. Since school will be starting shortly, those attending tried their luck to see if they were "smarter than a third grader" with a fact or fiction quiz. This was followed by guessing how many peanuts it takes to make a jar of peanut butter. The winner was awarded a jar of peanut butter. Several attendees gave tips on some brilliant uses for different types of tape. This was followed by pass the gift based on whether that person filled the description. The program closed with "You're a Senior Citizen if you remember when school started after Labor Day, roads were gravel, after school activities were mostly limited to sports, cars had bench seats, beverages came in returnable bottles, your left arm was the turn signal, gas was 35 cents a gallon, and kids rode bikes to school." The hall was decorated for the summer season. The next potluck and program will be September 6th, the first Friday in September.

Broad Hollow Grange's October Branson trip is full with space still available on the November 19-21st one. The November trip shows include Texas Tenors, Clay Cooper, the Petersons, the Duttons, Yakov Smirnoff, and Doug Grabriel. The package includes six shows, bus transportation, hotel, meals from Tuesday noon through Thursday noon, tips, and driver gratuity. For further information, call (618) 539-6113.

One person from Broad Hollow Grange attended Enterprise Grange's picnic and helped at Progressive Grange's Pork Chop dinner. New windows and a new door have been installed in the hall.

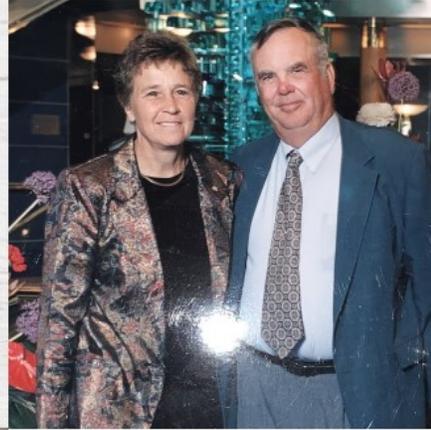
Pomona meetings have been attended with a report on activities provided.



# 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



**60** YEARS   
of marriage  
720 months of hugs  
3130 weeks of laughter  
21,915 days of patience  
525,950 hours of love  
*One Blessed Family*  
countless happy memories  
and the best is yet to come  
»»»  »»»  
*Happy 60th Anniversary*



We are excited to celebrate **Jack and Laurel Ratcliffe's 60th wedding anniversary** with a special open house event!

Date: Saturday October 26, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Flora Grange Hall - 2105 Stone Quarry Rd, Belvidere, IL 61008

Come drop by anytime during the event to share in the joy, reminisce, and toast to six decades of love and happiness!

Please RSVP by October 10, 2024 to ensure we can make the necessary arrangements. You can respond completing the online RSVP <https://forms.gle/3v24JjcbRFk99vpW7> or emailing [richard.6ratcliffe@gmail.com](mailto:richard.6ratcliffe@gmail.com).

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Warmest regards,

The Ratcliffe Family (Mike, Nick, Rick)

**Life's Too Long Not to Belong**

**Grouper** +  **NATIONAL GRANGE**  
OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

**Eligible Grange Members 65+ Get \$50**

**Grouper**  **Renew Active**  
UnitedHealthcare

The National Grange is thrilled to announce our new partnership with **Grouper**, a social fitness movement that supports healthy living through social connections.

By joining Grouper, eligible members can earn a \$50 payment for signing up and \$20 every three months for staying active in Grange community projects and gatherings.

To see if you qualify for these benefits, visit [hellogrouper.com/grange](https://hellogrouper.com/grange). For any questions, contact the Grouper Member Engagement Team at 833-445-2400 or [info@hellogrouper.com](mailto:info@hellogrouper.com).

## ISG Secretary Report - September 2024

The 153rd annual Illinois State Grange Session is almost upon us - September 13-15 at the Double-Tree by Hilton Hotel in Collinsville. I hope to see many of you there. Be sure to see me at the registration table the morning of the first day (8:30 to noon) to pick up your delegate books, meal tickets, and name tags. For those who have ordered delegate books and/or reserved meals with me and haven't paid yet, you can pay me at the registration that morning. All book and meal checks will be cashed after State Session.

Also, don't forget that GRIT (Grange Resources and Information Training) is coming up the month following State Session - Saturday, Oct. 26 in the South, and Sunday, Oct. 27 in the North. Watch the Illinois Granger for details. Every Grange should send at least one representative to one of the GRIT sessions. Important information is passed out that the Granges will need for the coming year. It's also a great time to ask any questions you have. GRIT is open to ALL Grangers. You don't have to be a Grange officer or committee member to attend.

If you have any questions or need anything, don't hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

Brian Keller, IL State Grange Secretary

brianjkeller@gmail.com

618-410-9020

## Prairie Grange Report

The Prairie Grange meeting was called to order on August 19, 2024 by president Don Ellwanger at 7:00PM.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented.

**PROPOSALS FOR MEMBERSHIP** – Prairie Grange took in 5 adults and 1 junior Granger tonight and all were welcomed to Prairie Grange.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** were given : AG – Mary Brubach reported vegetables are starting to ripen and be sure to send some of your items to State Session for the AG contest and Auction. FAC – Ann Johnson reported she has raffle tickets for sale and if you can't come to State Session be sure to send your items down with someone who is attending.

**YOUTH** – Karie Blasingame reported the Youth will be opening session on Sunday morning and she is asking that you order a t-shirt for the event asap and to let her know if you are interested in participating in the drill.

**JUNIOR** – Sara Ellwanger reported the Baked Potato Fundraiser was a huge success and the Juniors have been busy working on their projects and have been able to hold two swim outings. **PORK CHOP DINNER** – Marlene Williams reported the dinner was a success and thanked everyone who helped with the event.

**4momz2moms Consignment Sale** - Sara Ellwanger reported the event was a success. The top consigner sold over \$1000.00 worth of items. They learned a lot and know what to change for the next sale which will be September 19, 2024 (set-up), September 20<sup>th</sup> 4-7PM and September 21<sup>st</sup> from 9-4PM and help will be needed for this sale.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** – Prairie Grange presented scholarships to Sheri Bochmann, Chloe Konieczki and Sammantha Meyers to help further their educations this year. Congratulations Girls and Good Luck in School.

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT** – Prairie Grange welcomed Jonathan from Germany. He will be residing with the Bochmann/Konieczki family for the next year and will be attending Belvidere High School.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** was held and the following members will be holding these offices for the next two years.

President - Don Ellwanger

Exec. Comm - Jeremy Meyers 2027

Exec. Comm - Ruth Blasingame 2026

Exec. Comm - Lyle Lee 2025

Vice-President - Sheri Bochmann

Lecturer - Kayla Konieczki

Steward - Manny Fabela

Asst. Steward - Ann Johnson

Lady Asst. Steward - Sarah Meyers

Treasurer - Mary Brubach

Secretary - Karie Blasingame

Chaplain - Robin Kindberg

Gatekeeper - Kevin Brubach

Ceres - Heather Ellwanger

Pomona - Jennifer Tobin-Tinch

Flora - Mary Innis

Fairboard - Ruth Blasingame, Jeremy Meyers, Lyle Lee & Don Ellwanger

We need to keep Carol Buffington, Deb Langan, Jo-Ellen Coleman and family, Fidder family, John Henninger and Lyle Lee in our thoughts and prayers all are dealing with losses or health issues.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Robin Kindberg – Publicity Chairman



## Flora Grange #1762

2-year Term – Albert Q. Ebel, III  
3-year Term – Loren Due

Flora Grange met on Tuesday evening, August 13, 2024, at their Flora Grange Hall at 7 pm and the evening started with Boone County Fair president Jack Ratcliffe and First Lady Laurel Ratcliffe thanking all members of Flora Grange and members of every Grange, all fair board directors, junior fair board, superintendents, volunteers, service clubs, 4-H clubs, church groups, and the community who helped in any way make the 2024 fair a great success this year. Jack stated we had a record year of 242,072 in attendance and said it could not have been done without each and every person who came out and helped in some way.

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Fidler and roll call was taken by Secretary Laurel Ratcliffe and minutes of the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting held at our work night at the fairgrounds were approved. We had four (4) new members and Jack Ratcliffe performed the obligations to the new members.

### Reports of Committees:

**Community Service:** Lindakay Ebel reported she turned in her Community Service book on July 28<sup>th</sup> to Heather Ellwanger. The new year starts now, so she asks you to start keeping your hours as of August 1<sup>st</sup> from the fair and turning them in to her for whatever you did and for all community service work. She thanked Debbie Silvers for her help and Todd and Dona Hegge and Emalee Colver who took pictures during the year for her. **Agriculture,** Bob Scherer stated crops in our area are doing well this year, while some areas like Iowa are having a drought. Lindakay Ebel reported under Membership, welcomed the four new members this evening and all of us should get out and start recruiting. JT Ryan reported the Youth had a great time at the fair selling their sweatshirts and making money. They will be having a meeting later this month. Emalee Colver reported the two quilting groups will be meeting this weekend at the Grange Hall on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and will be quilting. All are invited to quilt or bring whatever project you may be working on.

Lindakay Ebel gave the treasurer's report and had a written copy for all in attendance and had the balances of each account, report was approved.

Election of Officers was held for a 2-year term. They are as follows:

President – Kenneth Fidler

Vice President – Marion Thornberry

Program Director – Jack Ratcliffe

Secretary – Laurel Ratcliffe

Treasurer – Lindakay Ebel

Chaplain – Donna West

Junior Grange Leader – Katie Spears

Executive Board: 1 year Term – Robert Scherer

The fair appreciation dinner will be held on Wednesday, August 28 at 6:30 pm. at the fairgrounds, building #1. The set up will be on Wednesday morning at 8 am, help in needed.

Emalee Colver collected \$52.00 in 'G' bills this evening. We sang Happy Birthday to Donna West who celebrated her birthday today. Cards were signed by members for those members who are ill, Bible was closed, and Chaplain gave closing Prayer. The meeting was closed in full form.

Jack Ratcliffe presented Ken Fidler with the trophy he won at the first Demo Derby at the Boone County Fair during the HoBo Class at 1:00 pm, in which there were ten drivers in the class, with cars 1980 and newer and Ken won 1<sup>st</sup> place, winning \$1,100.00 and a beautiful trophy. He also was a driver in the evening demo derby and placed 8<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Ken.

Refreshments were served by Thornberry's and Buzzell's following the meeting and members enjoyed fellowship together.

The September meeting will be held September 10, 2024, 7pm at the Grange Hall, serving committee is the Ken and Sharon Fidler Families. **Flora Grangers are asked to bring items for the Hoyleton Children's Home.** (such as shampoo, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloth, hairbrush, night light, bottled water, playdoh, stuffed animals, or money) These items will be taken to the Illinois State Convention along with our donation of money from Flora Grange.

Publicity, Lindakay Ebel



Third Degree; Lecturer

IT IS DELIGHTFUL TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE,  
AND MUCH MORE SO TO DIFFUSE IT.

## Gobbles from Turkey Hill

August has been very busy. We served our annual Ham and Peach dinner to around 350 people. The dinner was a success.

We lost a long-time member this month, Kenneth Joseph. Kenny was honored for 70 years of membership at our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary last April. He enjoyed the day and evening and we were blessed to have him attend. Grangers were honored to help with the family and friend meal following his service and to perform the Grange Funeral ritual for him and his family.

This week, we begin our biggest fundraiser at the Renner Stock Farm event, 100 Years of Horsepower. A four bay truck garage has been transformed into a kitchen. We moved appliances, tables, shelves, and supplies and will use Charles Treser's funnel cake trailer as well. Two local Granges plan to join us to lessen the load of work. Lots of interaction with farmers from all over the country will make it enjoyable. And thousands of examples of farm machinery and equipment will be on view. The event is held from August 29-31 and free to the public.

We won't pause for long. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, we will have a donation only spaghetti dinner. The proceeds will go directly to Charles and Sophia Treser to help with the losses they incurred due to flooding from our terrible rain event. Two lower levels of the home were filled with 2 feet of water. The water outside at the street level rose to 4 ft. They lost furniture, appliances, belongings and vehicles. Repairing the house has begun with the lower part of the drywall being removed to prevent mold buildup. Then, shortly after that, Sophie was hospitalized.

Charles has held many fundraisers for other people and organizations. He has raised money for tornado and storm victims, cancer patients, projects at the Grange for costly updates and repairs, while bringing in funds by managing the Catering and Hall Rental of the building. At his church, he was the Chairman of the Outreach Committee at Union UMC responsible for the Food Pantry and Sack Lunch program. The Food Pantry is open two days per week and normally serves 8-10 families per week. The Sack Lunch program provides an average of 200 meals per week or over 10,000 per year. He served as a Member of the Church Administrative Council for many years making decisions that impacted the effectiveness of ministries and programs. He was a member of the Scott Field Heritage Air Park Committee that planned

and created the current air park at the Shiloh entrance of Scott AFB. He served as a member of the Belle-Scott Committee while still in uniform and after retirement, which enhanced the connections between Scott and Belleville. It is one of the few such groups in the United States. He has been one of the key leaders for the Renner Farm field days over the past years. Without going farther, Charles is an active community servant and it is our turn to serve him and Sophie.

The plan is to hold a donation only meal at Turkey Hill on September 21st from 4-7. The dinner will consist of spaghetti, salad, rolls, and member made desserts.

Here's how you can help:

Come, eat and donate

Bring others

Tell others

Help us prepare and/or serve the meal

Donate a dessert

If you can't come, you can send a donation to cover the cost of what we need to provide the meal. Any extra funds from this donation will go directly to the Tresers.

Donations can be mailed to:

Turkey Hill Grange  
1375 East State Highway 15  
Belleville, IL 62220

or

Chris Bersett  
14 Harmony Dr.  
Belleville, IL 62226

or

Check the [turkeyhillgrange.org](http://turkeyhillgrange.org) website for a place to make a donation with a credit card.

Thank you in advance for any consideration you can give to this cause.



## Illinois State Grange Youth

Karie Blasingame and Marisa ODell co-directors

We are gearing up for the following upcoming events: State Session, Grit conference and National Grange Session. **If all Grange presidents could bring their jump drive that they received from the Youth department last year to State Session so we can get them ready for GRIT this year that would be lovely. If every department head could email their program to Karie before October 17<sup>th</sup>, Marisa and Karie can get those ready for distribution at GRIT, if you would like a jump drive with this year's handouts and information on it and you are not the president of your Grange please bring a jump drive labeled with your name to State Session and we will return it to you at GRIT.**

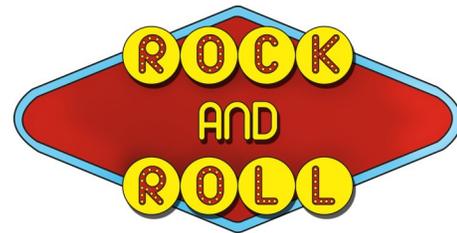
We will be announcing a new fun event each month starting in October. I hope that many of you will plan to join in the fun and entertainment.

This is a reminder that there are many different events that happen throughout the year that are open to everyone not just those in charge and not just Youth. Our leaders are all of our members, they might not always have the highest office but be those most willing to help and work with others. These events include State Grange picnic, Spring Fling, Midwest Grange Leadership Conference, State Session, Leadership days, National Grange Session, and more.

National Grange provides monthly ZOOM meetings that cover many different topics, if you can't make the time that they are on, they post them on the National Grange YouTube channel after editing. Check out what they have available, you might find a great Lecturer's program from something you missed or find out information that you knew nothing about before.

Get registered for National Session in the Quad Cities, November 11-16, 2024. There are lots of jobs that need to be done at Session and the Illinois State Grange is willing to help you attend session. For every 6 hours that a member works in one day, we will pay 1/2 of your room cost not to exceed 1 full room night per room. For instance, if 3 people are sharing a room and each work 6 hours we will only pay the amount of 1 room night, you can not move the hours to a different day and we won't pay more than the amount of the room, but we will thank you for helping us make sure that National Grange Session is the best it can be. The sign-up list will be availa-

ble after State Session, it will be online and released at the same time to all states to allow everyone to sign up to help out. You are responsible for paying the bill to the hotel and will receive reimbursement after verification of hours worked. Illinois will have forms to fill out to receive your reimbursement for your room expenses after session. Checks should be going out before the beginning of December. If you are thinking about getting your 7<sup>th</sup> degree this November, make sure that you have your 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> degree at State Session this year. You will be able to get 6<sup>th</sup> degree at National Session but there is not the opportunity to get the 5<sup>th</sup> degree there. Hope to see you there.



Check out our Facebook page for information about the Sunday morning Drill at State Session. If you wish to participate in the drill you need to order a shirt before September 5th.

We are hoping to see some 50's attire at the Saturday night Youth Banquet.





## Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

Greetings to each of you.

With school starting or about to start in many areas after a summer break, like some churches that a break from many of their activities during the summer time. I sometimes have a problem with why we want to take a break from God I don't think God takes a break from us. Please correct me if I am wrong.

I see God at work every day. As I have said before I moved my bird feeders closer to my house and I have been able to enjoy the many many birds that come to the feeder everyday. I also inherited a squirrel that thinks he owns the feeders, I think he comes from across the road in the corn field. But then I think he is also one of God's animals.

So what is one of your complaints? We need to stop and ask ourselves why do we let the little things in life worry us. Give your worries to God and He will take care of you.

I pray for each of you that God will Bless you with His love always.

We pray for those who have lost loved ones recently and pray for peace and comfort to you.

For those sending their children to school regardless of their age. We wish them great success.

The past and the future is what keeps us going, but enjoy today for tomorrow is not guaranteed.

***“Well done Good and Faithful Servants”***



Carol Buffington

1947 - 2024

Prairie Grange

Carol was a 15 year member of Prairie Grange. She loved driving the shuttle carts in the parking lot during the Boone County Fair.

Carol taught physical education in school for 35 yrs. She implemented the Bowling program for Belvidere schools. She was inducted into the Greater Rockford Bowling Hall of Fame. She was a bowling coach and she also coached softball. But her favorite sport was gambling. Carol

loved spending time with family and friends. She will be greatly missed.



Joan Ruth Fidler

1941- 2024

Flora Grange

Joan was a 70 year member of Flora Grange. She was dedicated to her family and Grange community. She prioritized community service, love for nature, and creativity. She was a past Illinois State Grange FAC Chair and AG Dept. Chair and a long time State Junior Director. She managed the Boone County Fair ticket office for 15 plus years. She was a true artist, her passions were sewing, painting, quilting, and ceramics to name a few. She tended her gardens and spent a lot of time canning. She enjoyed trying her luck at the Casino. She loved reading and sharing her knowledge with others. She wrote many skits for State Sessions, and convinced many of us to participate in them with her. She was funny and she loved to make people laugh. She was not afraid to try anything and she encouraged others to be like her. We will miss you and never forget you.



Kenneth R. Joseph

1940-2024

Turkey Hill  
Grange



Kenneth was a 70 year member of Turkey Hill Grange.

Kenneth was a U S Navy Veteran.. He was a police officer and then a deputy sheriff for over 22 years. He was a long-time baseball coach. He loved the St Louis Cardinals, watching baseball and listening to music. He especially loved watching his granddaughter Olivia play sports and that his granddaughter Jennifer joined the United States Navy. You will be missed.