



ILLINOIS GRANGER

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



March 2025 Vol 5 No 3

Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms



The weather was rainy in California when I arrived. Thanks to Joe Stefeno-ni, CA State Grange President for picking up Lana and I from Oakland Air-port. The National Grange Leader's Conference was held at Rohnert Park, CA. Thanks to California State Grange, Idaho State Grange and Washington State Grange for their hospitality. There were great workshops to add to the Toolbox Series from last year. It was made clear that we need to make sure that our Grange events and fundraisers were advertised and some ideas of how to make that happen. We learned ways to be prepared for a disaster. We learned the reason to make sure the IRS tax forms are completed in a timely manner. President Chris led a discussion on her goals and ideas for the Granges and Grangers. Chairman Watson discussed Grange Advocacy Committee and what we all need to know about advocacy in the Grange. We discussed Project Sustenance., what Granges need to work on to spread the word. Some of the information was a grim fact of

the membership of many state Granges and National Grange. I hope to share some of the information with you all during leadership meetings in March – I hope. Maybe March 22 and 23, or April 5 and 6, one day north one day south. More information will be forthcoming as soon as I have checked dates and locations. I am thinking maybe 11:00 AM – 3:30 PM.

The State Grange Executive Committee will be meeting March 3 via Zoom. We will be discussing Scholarship applications and State Session. State Session will be a joint session with Wisconsin State Grange. Since we moved ISG session to a week later we fell on the week-end WI usually has their meeting, and since we will be in northern IL it was decided to hold a joint meeting. Deb Vine, WI State Grange, and I are working together to have a schedule all will want to attend from WI and IL.

Exciting plans are being made for filming the 7th degree this spring in Boone County. Grangers from across the country will be converging to this event. This video will be used for 2025 Session and training purposes. It will be professionally done. Continued on Page 2

Calendar of Grange Events

2025

- 4th Tuesday Youth Game Night ZOOM
- 3/15 Emerald Mound Big Breakfast 8-10 am
- 3/14 Spring Fling Game and Movie Night
- 3/15 Spring Fling day—theme Western
- 3/15 Murder Mystery Dinner BoCoCommGrangehall
- 3/28-29 Filming of the 7th Degree BHS PAC
- 4/6 Turkey Hill Chicken Dinner
- 4/12 Prairie Grange Consignment Auction
- 4/19 Emerald Mound Big Breakfast 8-10 am
- 4/26 Boone County Pomona Open House

- 5/2-3 4Momz2Momz Prairie Consignment Sale
- 5/31 **State Grange Picnic**—Boone County Fairgrounds
- 7/22-27 **Grange Revival**—Torrey Utah
- 8/5-10 Boone County Fair
- 8/10 Turkey Hill Ham & Peach Dinner
- 9/5-6 **4Momz2Momz Prairie Consignment Sale**
- 9/19-21 **State Session at Boone County Fairgrounds**
- 11/8-16 **National Grange Cruise**

Ruth Blasingame 815-299-7884
illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com
8711 Deer Run Drive Belvidere, IL 61008

Now is the time to review the IL Grange Contests/ Programs that were distributed at GRIT conferences. Make plans at your next Grange meeting to have a Strong Grange year. Set your Grange schedule, have it available at all your fundraisers, post it in your hall, or meeting place, post it on Facebook.

The National Grange websites, main, Junior and Youth, are being updated. So, if you go to one of the websites and nothing works, please try again later. Check National Grange website for current and upcoming programs and projects that we can all participate in.

Keep your Grangers Inspired and active.

Lynette

Happy New Year 2025!

Illinois State Grange Secretary Report

Thank you to everyone who applied for a 2025 Illinois State Grange Scholarship! The Executive Committee will be reviewing the applications and will make their decisions at their regular meeting on March 3. Winners will be notified shortly after that date. Thanks also to those who took the time to write recommendation letters for the various candidates. It can sometimes be a bit daunting to decide what to write, but we appreciate your participation in the process.

I've received some helpful feedback about the Quarterly Report form used by the Subordinate Grange secretaries, which has undergone several revisions recently. Using those suggestions, I will be tweaking the form a bit more to help make it clearer and easier to use.

Don't hesitate to keep the comments and suggestions coming. They're always welcome!

Fraternally,
Brian Keller, Illinois State Grange Secretary
brianjkeller@gmail.com
618-410-9020

Guilford Hope Grange #6

Guilford Hope Grange met Feb. 25, at Wayne & Nancy Lyford's home for a noon potluck dinner - 8 members & 1 guest present.

We remembered the absent members - Don & Pat Sanford, Carrie Meyer & Ernie Carlson & Jerry Hart who were ill and Lindakay Ebel recovering from sur-

gery. Meeting was opened in the 4th degree, secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

Communications - Shelter Care about a luncheon May 8, thank you notes from Rock House Kids and Friends of the Children.

We collected G bills, discussed membership requirements, and set our next meeting for March 25 at Wheelers. Our county Deputy, Vivian Johnson read an old article she had found "Fight with the Tramp" and shared a couple jokes. Bev Smith, State Grange Historian, showed us some of the Grange memorabilia she has found recently on Ebay and some pictures she got from Union Grange. Martha Byrnes told us about President Grant, his home in Galena & other facts. The meeting was adjourned.

Nathalie Lyford, secretary

The Prairie Grange #1832

Prairie Grange met on Mon Feb 24 for their annual dues paying potluck. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all. A short business meeting followed.

We discussed raising our yearly dues. This passed and we will see this raise in 2026.

We took in 5 new Subordinate members and 2 Juniors.

We had thank you notes from Lyle Lee for all the cards and calls, thoughts and prayers after his broken leg. Jennifer Tobin-Tinch thanked us for all the cards, thoughts and prayers for her surgery. Glad to see they were both up and around and able to come to our meeting.

Prairie Grange Consignment Auction will be Saturday April 12, 2025. We need people to sign up to help.

National Grange will be filming the 7th degree at the BHS Performing Arts Center on Mar 28 and 29. Some volunteers will be needed. Contact Karie 815-299-0313 if you are interested in hosting someone in your home or helping with the costumes. Prairie voted to provide a meal on Fri Mar 28 for all those involved with this project.

We are all invited to the ISG Youth Game Night. Cost is \$5/team of up to 5 people. Prizes will be awarded, theme is Disney trivia.

Serving committee for March will be Ellwanger and Johnson families.

Robin Kindberg— publicity

Flora Grange #1762

Flora Grange members gathered for a potluck supper with a Valentine theme at the Flora Grange Hall on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 6:30 pm. Sharon Miller gave the dinner prayer. Grange members enjoyed all the delicious food prepared by fellow Grange members, especially the beautiful, decorated Valentine food and cakes.

President Ken C. Fidder opened the meeting, followed by the Pledge and salutation. Secretary Laurel Ratcliffe took roll call of officers, and minutes of January 14th, 2025 were approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Lindakay Ebel stated she has forms for all who need a form this evening, Lindakay thanked those members who brought in forms on which projects were completed. She stated that everyone must be working on some project of some kind during the winter months. We just need to get them down on paper. AGRICULTURE: Dan Burow reported on the 'egg prices' that are way out of sight. 20 million chickens have died and there are egg producers that have quit due to loss of their flocks and do not intend to start over.

FAIR BOARD: Todd Hegge reported the pony barn is almost finished, looking great; tickets are available for entertainment for the 2025 fair year. This year we will have the lumberjack show, dog show and many others, new and some returning acts.

FARMLAND PROTECTION: Jack Ratcliffe stated this group will be meeting on Thursday evening, all are invited to attend their meetings, great information.

MEMBERSHIP: Lindakay Ebel announced she is so pleased with Flora Grange, again this evening we welcomed another new member. July 2024 started a new Grange year, and we have had new Grange members at each Grange meeting, total of 12 members since July. Good job Flora, SO proud of you.

QUILTING: Emalee Colver stated there will be quilting this weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday for anyone that is interested, held at our Grange Hall, weather permitting.

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Jack Ratcliffe stated we just filled up our propane tanks, good for the winter months.

CORRESPONDENCE: Secretary Laurel Ratcliffe read the thank you notes Flora Grange received this month from various people.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lindakay Ebel had written copies of the January 2025 report for all debits and credits and balances for each account. She questioned if we

wanted to spend our 2024 'G' bills on something special or whether we just wanted her to continue to add the "G" bills for 2025 on to them.

Scooter's At the Fair: Jack Ratcliffe stated they were talking about getting 30 scooters to rent out at the 2025 Boone County Fair and having the public rent them out. They would need someone to take over this project during the fair, check them in and out each day, and make sure the people were capable of running them, and could handle them. Would Flora Grange be interested in taking on this project if the fair board approves this? Lindakay Ebel made a motion that Jack finds more out about this project and brings back the information. There was a lot of discussion on this.

Emalee Colver asked our new members if they have anyone in their family who served in the military that should receive a Quilt of Valor or have a special friend, they might know that should receive one. If so, contact Emalee.

Program: Our program chairman, Jack Ratcliffe handed out each person in attendance (4) little candy Valentine hearts with words on them. He then asked people to number off, 1,2,3,4. They were then to get in groups, the ones all together, the two's all together, the three's together and the fours. Each group was to make up a sentence with what was written on the heart candies. They did, some were very interesting. Then the captain of each group got together, and the 4 captains made up a story. A lot of fun for all. Jack also had Valentine's Day word search for all in attendance.

Birthdays and anniversaries were announced for the month and those who are sick or to have surgery this month were asked to be kept in prayers, including Jerry Hart, Sheri Cosman, Sharon Fidder, Donna West, Lindakay Ebel, and Myrna Hodgson.

Lindakay Ebel, Publicity.

Broad Hollow Grange

Broad Hollow Grange and friends gathered on Friday, February 7th, for the month's first Friday potluck. The hall was decorated for Valentine's Day in red and pink. The program for the evening included highlighting the main holidays for February. With Valentine's Day celebrated in February, couples shared how they met. A quiz on February was held. Some fun facts on the month was shared. Everyone participated in listing as many Presidents as they could in an allotted time for President's Day. The winner received a foil heart door hangar. A closing thought ended the program for the evening. 3

Gobbles from Turkey Hill

Our January meeting was preceded by a great pot-luck dinner for our dues-paying meeting. John and Stacy Rutledge prepared pork sausage, hash potato casserole and French fries. Members brought side dishes. We enjoying getting together with our fellow Granges and getting out again after a big snowfall.

Many of our members helped with a big day of dinners on January 29. We served lunch and dinner for the St. Clair Farm Service before training sessions.

Our Community Service Team offered a day to write Valentines for a "Valentines for Veterans" program. Grangers came to send write thankful messages to veterans in care centers across the area and state.

Our Trivia Contest held on February 8th was a fun night. We had 13 tables of contestants and held a Silent Auction.

The next event will be a Jigsaw Puzzle contest. Teams will compete to be the first team to complete the 500-piece puzzle. It will be held on March 8. Call Chris at 618-444-3657 for info.

Our February meeting fell on Valentine's Day. Program Director Lynne Edwards presented a video on the history of Valentine cards. Mardy Eisloeffel brought his family's collection of vintage Valentines for us to see. It was a wonderful display. Other members also added cards to the display.

We are getting geared up for our annual Chicken Dinner on April 6th.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

By Beverly Smith, Historian

We sure have been experiencing some very frigid temperatures here in Northern Illinois. So, you know what that means. Beverly gets the Grange Research "bug".

I researched Trask Bridge Picnic again and printed a few more articles to add to my notebook. Then I checked Ebay again. So far, a couple items have arrived. A 1939 Illinois State Grange Roster. I happened to check my inventory and it was one I did not have. The next item is a book called: Rich Harvest: A History of the Grange, 1867-1900. It is a hard cover book, signed by the author D. Sven Nordin. It was printed in 1974. The paper cover has pictures of all the seven founders. I have never seen this book before. I had to add it to my Grange book collection. I have a few more items to come, so I will write about them next time.

I am working on the Grange Halls book. I have decided to arrange them by county so it will be easier to add to. I used mapquest satellite view to check a couple former Grange hall sites. Some buildings are still there, some are not. I found township office buildings, commercial buildings, churches, homes, travel agency, and a fire station, just to name a few.

On February 15 I was invited to Union Grange meeting. I presented a Grange historical program. I shared the two scrapbooks of their Grange, thanks to Sally, Darl and Vivian for their photos and items.

Ron Erbe showed us the 1961-62-63 Winnebago County Plat Book, which Union Grange sponsored to have printed up which platted out all the townships back in the day. I have the 1957 book but not this one. Then he surprised me and said I could have this one, he has more of them! I loved getting a piece of Grange history I didn't plan on!! Then I asked Terry about a photo of bowlers back in the 70's. He recognized the one guy but we couldn't think of his name. But a day later Terry's great memory came up with the name. I also racked my brain for the name too, and came up with it after clue of the wife's name! Thanks to Union Grange for the very fun time!

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**Saturday April
26th 2025**

**Grange
OpenHouse**
10:00AM - 2:00 PM

Have you ever wondered what the Grange is? Now is your chance to find out.

GET INVOLVED, VOLUNTEER, BECOME A
GRANGE MEMBER.

Community Service,
Family-Oriented,
Personal Growth, A
Legislative Voice,
Fellowship & Friendship
Meet Different Granges from
around Boone County.

At the Boone County Community Grange Hall

More information : ☎ (815) 914-7411

Community Service Project for Boone County Pomona Spring 2025

Calling all Quilters,Knitters,Crocheters, etc. we are helping with the all-woman UP-Honor Flight. They are looking for red/white/blue lap robes. They can be crochet, knit, fleece or quilted. Must be all cotton 45x60. **April 17th** is the deadline. Please email me with any questions marisa.odell.eq@gmail.com



UP-HONOR FLIGHT

**BOONE COUNTY POMONA GRANGE
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT**

**HELP US MAKE SOME LAP
ROBES FOR THIS ALL-WOMAN
FLIGHT.**



**LAP ROBES SHOULD BE RED/WHITE/BLUE AND ALL COTTON
45X60 CAN BE FLEECE, CROCHET, KNIT, OR QUILTED
AND DUE TO ME BY APRIL 17TH**

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL ME MARISA.ODELLE.EQ@GMAIL.COM



National Grange 7th Degree

The Granges of Northern Illinois have the distinct honor of hosting the filming of the Seventh Degree of the National Grange this March. March 28th and 29th we will be practicing and getting ready at the Boone County Community Grange Hall. The degree will be filmed at the Performing Arts Center at Belvidere High School. A videographer from Minnesota will be here to preserve the degree in full form while the costumes are still able to be used.

Roger Bostwick, the High Priest of Demeter is putting together his team of members who will be in the film. We are looking for a few people from this area to help out. We need 4 Trumpet Girls and 4 Marching Candi-

dates. If you are willing to help please let me know and I will let you know more details as they become available.

I am also looking for volunteers to help host the Grangers from across the country. To keep the costs down a little bit, it would be nice if any members would be willing to open their guest room to a single person or a couple who is helping create this piece of Grange history.

We will gather at the Grange Hall on March 27th and coordinate who will be staying with each volunteer home. We will need to iron all of the costumes which means we will need volunteers to bring ironing boards and irons to the Grange Hall to prepare for the weekend.

It would be nice if we could have Granges volunteer to help feed those working. We have access to the kitchen in the Grange Hall on the 27th and 28th but will need to use the Administration Building on the 29th as the Grange Hall has an outside rental.

If you would like to help with any of these options, please contact Karie Blasingame 815-299-0313 or kblasingame77@gmail.com.

If you are willing to open up your home, please answer these questions so we can put the best people together.

Is your guest room on the main level or do you need to climb stairs?

Will your guest have a private bathroom or share with someone else?

Do you have 1 guest bed or more than 1?

Are you willing to host 1 or more people in your home from March 27- March 30th?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Karie Blasingame

Illinois State Grange Vice-president



Pomona Grange Giving Tree Holiday Season 2024/2025

A big Thank You to everyone who donated to our Giving tree this holiday season. We were able to donate the items to Washington Academy school and to B1 Pantry. In total we had 198 items.

64 Adult gloves

71 Adult Hats

9 Adult scarves

20 Kid gloves

25 Kid hats

2 kid scarves

3 complete adult sets meaning the hat, scarf and gloves

1 set of adult slippers

3 ear warmers

Thank you to

Beaver Valley Grange members

County Line Grange members

The Prairie Grange members

A community member who saw our post on Facebook who wished to be anonymous.

If I missed you please reach out to me so I can add your name in. Thank you to everyone who gave and shared our Grange Spirit by giving.



Illinois State Grange Youth

Howdy Fellow Grangers,

We are busy getting ready for our Murder Mystery Dinner and Spring Fling March 14-15th at the Boone County Community Grange Hall in Belvidere. I hope everyone is planning on attending either all day Saturday or even just coming for dinner. Dinner will be provided by County Line Grange. A big Yee Haw and Thank you to County Line for always being a BIG supporter of the Youth. We are taking donations to help offset the cost of holding this event.

Dinner will be at 5 PM on March 15th. If you are willing to be a part of the story, please reach out to either myself or Karie. We are getting ready to start handing parts to this mystery.

Stay tuned to our Facebook page for the Itinerary. If you are planning on attending Friday night and or the workshops Saturday it will be \$25.00

We are also running a Flower Fundraiser this year. Starting now until the end of March. Money is due upon ordering. Please see either myself or Karie to order and we will get you on the list.

Fraternally Submitted

Co-Youth Directors

Marisa O'Dell and Karie Blasingame



Roden's
Elegant Gardens

10" Calibrachoa (Million Bells)
Hanging Basket
C10 - \$25.00
(sun)

10" Wave Petunia
Hanging Basket
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**-The perfect gift for that special person-
Flowers will arrive in time for Mother's Day!
Thank You For Your Support**



10" New Guinea
Hanging Basket
NG10 - \$25.00
(shade)

10" Geranium
Hanging Basket
G10 - \$25.00
(sun)

www.rodenselegantgardens.com



Roden's
Elegant Gardens

12" Combo Hanging Basket
Beautiful combination of multi colors of
flowers and varieties
CH- \$35.00



12" Combo Planter
Beautiful combination of multi colors of
flowers and varieties
CP - \$35.00



Assorted 6 pk Succulents
4" pots assorted varieties
AS6 - \$30.00



12" Combo Succulent Planter
Combination of assorted succulents
CSP - \$35.00

Moss Succulent Shoe
Assorted succulents in a
unique container
Approx. 10" x 5"
MSS - \$28.00



Moss Succulent Purse
Assorted succulents in a unique
container
Approx. 9" x 3" x 8"
MSP - \$28.00

www.rodenselegantgardens.com

COMMUNITY GRANGE
HALL

SPRING FLING

March 14-15 2025

FELLOWSHIP, MOVIE NIGHT,
GAMES, WORKSHOPS, DIAMOND
ART, AND MYSTERY DINNER

RSVP
Marisa.odell.eq@gmail.com



Chaplain's Corner Heather Ellwanger

Charlotte Mehrtens

Illinois State Grange Community Service Director

I sit here in a nice warm house with the snow on the ground and the temperature 10 degrees in the late afternoon with a wind chill of 4 below zero. This has been a harsh winter for the United States. We all forget about winters like these when we are blessed with mild winters.

I have been blessed to be able to watch the many, many different kinds of birds that come to the feeders and eat. They learn to fight each other for their space and sometimes become downright mean.

I'm blessed to have my eyesight to see and enjoy them. But I also think about our lives and those around the world. The wars going on in other countries, the unrest even in our country. What does it take to bring peace to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. To the unbeliever my grandfather would tell me that there would never be peace as long as there was some one that didn't believe in God.

Let us continue to believe in God and hopefully we can find love and peace among us.

We send prayers for peace and love for those who have lost everything in floods, fires and storms. Let's not be like the many different colored birds at the feeders let us share with each other.

Blessings to each of you.

Illinois State Grange Community Service

Grangers,

I hope that you all are well. I just wanted to remind you that it is time to start collecting items for our State Community Service project the HAVEN NETWORK. At GRIT I gave all the Granges the information and a list of things that the Haven needs to help these grieving parents.

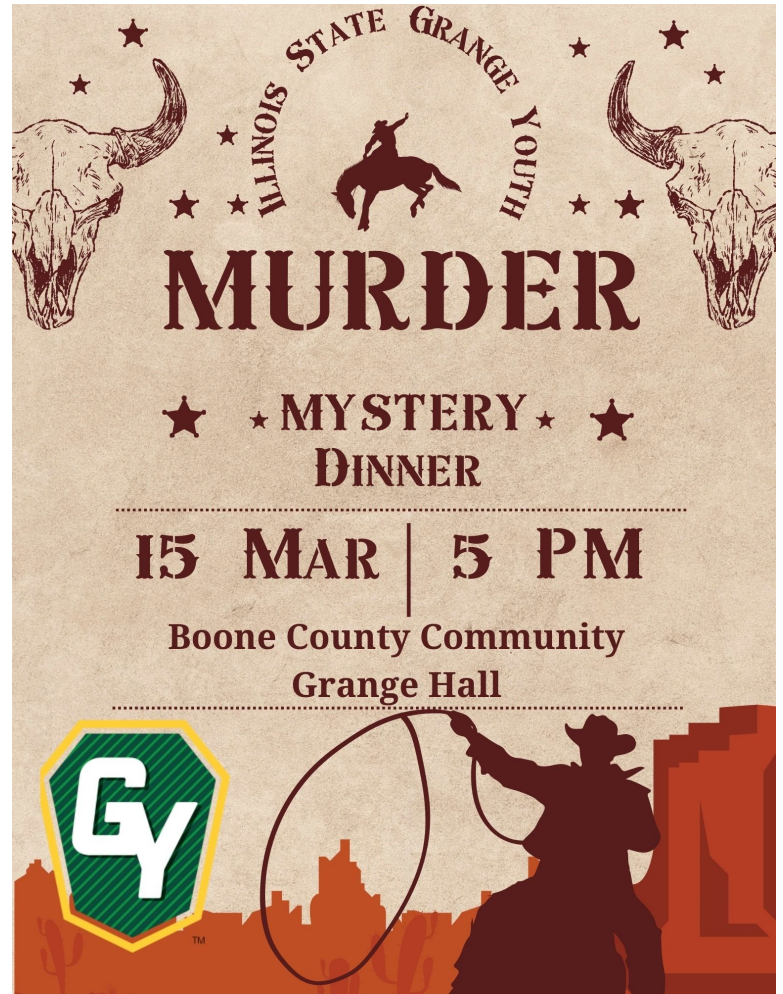
I also wanted to let all of the Granges know that due to the National Grange being on a cruise this year, all of the books and information will have to be submitted electronically to me by Aug 1, 2025.

Send everything to this email address:

CommunityILService@gmail.com

If you have any questions please call me or email me at the above address.

Fraternally,



Lecturer, Third Degree

AN HONEST MAN IS THE NOBLEST WORK OF GOD.