



# Illinois Granger

Volume 102

December 2018

No. 10

*In essentials... Unity  
In non-essentials... Liberty  
In all things... Charity*



*Lynette Schaeffer President Illinois State Grange*

## Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

Don and I were delegates from IL at National Grange Session in Stowe, Vermont, November 13 – 17, 2018. The 152nd National Grange session was a memorable session. This was the first National Session that I served as a National Officer for the whole event. It was a proud moment when I marched in as member of the Executive Committee. This is a very sad session. Master of California State Grange, Ed Kowski, passed to life eternal, after he and his wife, Cynthia arrived in Vermont. The session was clouded in grief for our Brother Ed. He was a great Granger and “well skilled in the noble precepts of our Order.” I was proud to call him friend.

I served on the Agriculture committee with 25 resolutions, and Don served on the Conservation committee with 9 resolutions. Karie Blasingame, served as a Communication Fellow and was trying to absorb everything she could for next year, she is chair of the 2019 host committee. Karie was working hard every time I saw her. Julie Heberer, Jane Helms and Janet Plote also participated in many of the session events. Renee O'Dell, Amy (Paulson) Herstek, and Jerry Paulson attended the Distinguished Grange and Legacy Award recognition event. Don and I were glad to have them there to share in the 152nd National Grange Session.

Prior to session we joined other delegates for the Chris Tour. With Chris, National Grange Lecturer, and Duane Hamp, Wayne and Debbie

Campbell, PA, and Judy Sherrod, TN, we visited Montreal, Canada, Montpelier, VT, and several great stops along the way. We saw the largest zipper. Ceres was missing from the Capitol Building, but we find found Ceres (Chocolate) on a stick to help raise funds to repair her. We checked out the VonTrapp home. Don got to go on the host region tour to Ben and Jerry's ice cream, Cabot Cheese and several other delights. Great tours, thanks Chris and the host region for the tours.

The Executive committee had a meeting before the actual session start of session. And as Executive Committee member I hosted the one Legislative Luncheon during session.

Worthy Master Huber presented Master's Address, she mentioned the theme for the upcoming year and Grange Month. Grange Heroes for our Hometowns. She mentioned the Good Day magazine, and her wish that everyone will subscribe.

I withdrew one of IL resolutions and the other was added as policy statement.

Distinguish Granges were awarded; Turkey Hill Grange received the award from National

Grange. Julie Heberer and Jane Helms received the presentation for Turkey Hill. I am proud and hope that more will complete the form next year. There is a new program that all Granges will be able to complete. Watch for information at the upcoming IL Leader's conferences.

I was proud that we had several families mentioned and represented for the Legacy families, Paulson,

Summer (Wade), Guth (Wade), Stutz (Helms), Heberer/Helms (Heberer), and Zerban (Schaeffer). They will be recognized at 148th State Session.

Plans are being made for leadership training for anyone and everyone interested in the topics. The training events will be held after the February 15-17, 2018 Master's Conference, in Wichita, KS. Not sure where or exactly when - any ideas or offers?? It would be at least 3 hour meeting – any ideas of what you want to learn about?? Karie and I will be deciding that soon. My next article will have the information. When details are finalized information will be shared via email, Facebook and USPS mail. There may be a fee for the Leadership meeting to cover the cost of copying materials, and probably for lunch. So watch your email, Facebook and USPS mail.

I think this will be enough for now – I'll share more in the next report in February.

Don and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

*Lynette*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Feb 7 – State Session Planning Meeting – Admin Bldg**

**Apr 7 – Flora Grange Roast Beef Dinner**

**May 18-20 – Grange Camping Adventure**

**May 19 – 3rd Annual Statewide Grange Picnic**

**July 23-28 – Grange Revival**

**Aug 6-11 – Boone County Fair**

**Sept 13-15 – Illinois State Grange Session – Belvidere**

**Nov 17 – Flora Grange Roast Beef Dinner**

Please send me any important dates for your Grange.

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DEKALB, IL 60115  
PERMIT NO. 321

# News from County Line Grange

Our regular meeting was held Nov.14th. Thanks to our hosts for the evening, Marie, Noah and Linda.

Committee reports were given and upcoming events were discussed. Tim reported that the farmers were having a tough time getting the fields cut due to wet spots in the fields.

Marie and Linda reported on their community service at the Salvation Army. Marie reported that 156 food baskets were given out at the monthly food distribution for November. Linda has been signing families up for the decorated trees and the IOU Club shopping trips for children. County Line donated \$200 for the Salvation Army toy drive. We will be Ringing the Bell at Shopko Dec.1st.

Ruth asked everyone to bring donations to trim the tree Dec.5th. Monetary donations were taken up for an Aldi gift card for our assigned family.

We will be selling food downstairs at the Community Building. We will have BBQs, hotdogs, chips, chili, water and pop.

Nine of our members attended the Pomona meeting. Our attendees were Noah, Linda, Ruth, JoEllen, Anna, John, Tamra, Sandy and Butch.

Sandy, Linda and Ruth attended the planning meeting for the 2019 State Grange Session. County Line will be in charge of having the Reed Schoolhouse and the Grange Museums open during the session. We will be looking for volunteers.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and had many, many blessings to be thankful for.

Submitted by Linda Mullins and Ruth Brodeske.

## Troy Grove Grange

Troy Grove Grange held no November meeting due to illness. We want to have an early December meeting. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Grangers everywhere from Troy Grove Grangers.

Submitted by Ethel Bauer

## Boone County Pomona

Boone County Pomona was opened in the 5th degree by Master Ruth Blasingame on November 7th 2018 at the Boone County Community Grange Hall. Committee reports were given. Community Service Chairman Jerry Paulson is asking all Pomona members to bring diapers and wipes to the January 2nd meeting to be donated to the newly organized Boone County Baby Bank. Subordinate Grange reports were given.

Beaver Valley- Paulson family are headed to National Grange session in Vermont to receive the Grange Legacy Family Award.

Big Thunder- Prayers go out to the Geske family. Storage is in for 2018.

Capron- No Report

County Line- Members are ringing the bell for Salvation Army and are preparing and serving food at Hometown Christmas. They are also donating a subscription of the Good Day Grange Magazine to the local library.

Flora- Members were saddened by the loss of Worthy Sister Rogene LittleJohn. They are serving a roast beef dinner on November 11th 2018 at the Flora Grange Hall. As well as participating in the Hometown Christmas events and also served food for the local Habitat for Humanity Project.

Leeroy- Will be sponsoring a tree at Hometown Christmas and are working on refurbishing a local cemetery.

Prairie- Members labeled and distributed over 800 dictionaries to local 3rd graders. They are ringing the bell for Salvation Army on December 1st at Countryside Pacemaker. And they will be participating with a float in the Hometown Christmas Parade.

A motion was made and seconded to donate \$50 to the Illinois State Scholarship Fund in honor of Sister Rogene LittleJohn. The Election of fair board officers was held and the officers are as follows: President Lyle Lee, Vice-President Jack Ratcliffe, Treasurer Paul Zeien and Secretary Susan Banks. They will hold these offices for the next two years.

Several anniversaries and birthdays for the month of November were announced. A planning meeting for the 2019 State Session will be held on November 15th at 7pm at the Boone County Fair Administration Office. Boone and Winnebago Counties will be hosting the 2019 state session. Boone County Pomona Grange's next meeting will be January 2nd at 6:30pm. This will be the dues paying soup and chili supper served by Flora Grange.

The meeting was closed in full form and was adjourned at 8:30pm. Refreshments and fellowship followed

Fraternally submitted

Karrie Kindberg

Boone County Pomona Publicity Chairman

## News From Hopewell Grange

By Janice David

It has been a busy fall season here at Hopewell. We enjoyed our annual wiener roast, made repairs to the front of the hall, and hosted Grangers from around the state at a GRIT session.

Then it was "all hands on deck" as we prepared for our major fundraiser, our pancake and sausage supper and bake sale. We were blessed with mild, dry weather on October 25, the night of our supper. We also were blessed with a number of family and friends who helped as volunteers, and, of course, the high school students who help us in the dining room. Our guests really seem to enjoy having them, and we truly need their help.

Just a few weeks after our supper, we were saddened to learn that a massive fire completely destroyed the meat plant that supplies and cooks our sausage. The owners hope to relocate and rebuild. What this will mean for us is undetermined at this time.

On October 27 we held a fall Craft and Vendor Fair at the hall that attracted a good number of participants and shoppers. Again, we had good weather. Carrie Fisher scheduled a fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings in East Peoria for October 29 and our members supported that event.

Then November brought an early taste of winter and a break in our building repair efforts. We moved our November meeting by a week to allow for the observance of Veterans Day. Most of the meeting time was consumed by a review of how the pancake and sausage supper could be improved.

As we move into December, we will again handle the Salvation Army bell ringing at Kroger's in Washington on December 1, the Juniors will visit the Supportive Living center in Washington, and we will meet on December 10 for our business meeting, Christmas cookies, and a kitchen towel shower for the hall. From our Grange to yours, we send our best wishes for the holidays.

## Turkey Hill Grange

Submitted by Mardy Eisloeffel

Turkey Hill Grange members have been busy this fall! Our traditional big fall fundraiser, the Wonderful Wurstmarkt (only the best of the wurst!), happened on Sunday, October 28. It took us two days of work, but 55+ members served 756 meals in just three hours! On Saturday prep day the American Heritage Girls descended on a (small) pickup truck full of pumpkins and transformed them into a motley crew of Jack-o-lanterns which were used to decorate the hall, upstairs and down. This has become a much-anticipated annual event for the girls. (During the last hour of the meal the Jacks and Jill-o-lanterns were offered for sale to diners, which raised \$100.) After the dinner was over we provided food to the Violence Prevention Center as part of our Community Service Project.

Then, on October 31, THG hosted a news conference to highlight a drug disposal program. State Grange Master Lynette Schaefer moderated the event, which featured multiple speakers from various groups including law enforcement, pharmacists, and government. State Representatives Jay Hoffman and Katie Stuart participated.

At our November 9 meeting THG drew over 60 members and guests. How did we get them to come? The never-fail, sure-fire Potluck Dinner, of course, followed by a guided photo tour of Brazil and Argentina. THG member Fred Helms narrated his trip as a representative of the Illinois Farm Bureau to South America and discussed the present state of agriculture there. Following the tour THG welcomed two new adult members and a 1+ member as well in our regular meeting.

We have been preparing for our annual

### ILLINOIS GRANGER

IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY by

ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE

8711 Deer Run Drive,

Belvidere, IL 61008

Periodicals Postage paid at DeKalb, IL

Postmaster: Please send address

changes to:

The Illinois Granger,

8711 Deer Run Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008

Lynette Schaeffer, Editor

10041 Rieder Rd.

Lebanon, IL 62254

RUTH BLASINGAME,

News Editor

8711 Deer Run Dr.,

Belvidere, IL 61008

815-299-7884

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEWS AND

PICTURES: 4th Thursday OF EACH MONTH

Please send all news and

pictures to:

RUTH BLASINGAME

8711 Deer Run Drive

Belvidere, IL 61008

[illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com](mailto:illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com)

DONATIONS: \$10.00 PER YEAR

For correction of addresses mail

to: The Illinois Granger

8711 Deer Run Drive

Belvidere, IL 61008



Christmas Party, which will happen on December 8. There will be a cookie exchange at 5:30, followed by the party at 6:00. Grangers and their family and friends are all invited to come (and bring snacks) to this gala affair, which will feature entertainment by Grange members and American Heritage Girls. Of course, Santa Claus will make an appearance and, with the help of some of his elves, present early gifts to good little girls and boys.

Here's wishing all the readers of The Illinois Granger the Merriest of Christmases and the Happiest of New Years from our place deep in the heart of southwest Illinois! Come and visit us!

## Prairie Grange News

Our November meeting was the smallest I have ever been to! But, we accomplished a lot of business. We will be giving our Junior Grange \$500 to shop for items for the Salvation Army Christmas Food Baskets, then some of us will help them with their float for the Christmas parade and ride on it with them. At Nifty Needles we helped the Juniors make their Gingerbread costumes for the parade.

We rang the Bell for the Salvation Army at the Poplar Grove Countryside Market on December 1.

We delivered over 800 dictionaries to all the third graders in Boone County and many third grade classes at parochial schools in Rockford.

Many of us attended the open house for our fellow Prairie Grangers Al and Darlene Henninger for their 70th Wedding Anniversary.

We are making a donation to the Grange Memorial Scholarship fund in memory of Rogene Littlejohn, a donation to the Pony Barn Complex in memory of Marilyn Turner and a donation to ACS Relay for Life in memory of Will Geske.

We took in one new member.

Our members are actively working on the 2019 State Session Planning committee.

Our December meeting will be a potluck with meat provided by the Grange. We have a gift exchange game and the Juniors also receive gifts from the Grange.

Prairie Grangers would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## News from Flora Grange

*By Lindakay Ebel*

Thirty-three members attended the Flora Grange meeting on November 13th, 2018, opened by Master Al Ebel, followed by Pledge to American Flag, Grange Salutation, followed by Chaplain Donna West and Master Ebel draping the charter for Rogene Littlejohn. Joan Fidler had an opening song, 'When Johnny Comes Marching Home', Homecoming Day, June 12, 1919.

Reports were given by various committee chairs, and Master Ebel thanked JoAnn Wienrank for serving as chairman of the quilting group for many years, Emalee Colver will take over after the first of the year.

Deb Silver reported she received the new packet for the family activities from GRIT workshop; Roger Miller reported most of the farmers have their crops out of the fields, however, it was noted, the elevators are still crowded with semi's coming in, so there is still crops to be harvested at this time.

Roger Miller reported at the Pomona Grange meeting on November 7th, fair board officers

were elected; Lyle Lee was re-elected as president, Jack Ratcliffe as vice-president, Paul Zeien as treasurer, however, the fair board has a new secretary, Sue Banks. Everyone thanked Laurel Ratcliffe for serving as secretary and for doing such an outstanding job; and Jack Ratcliffe stated at a special fair board meeting there was discussion on the fair board purchasing addition land.

Emalee Colver reported several members assisted her in serving a meal to the Habitat for Humanity on October 20th. Emalee also reported on the GRIT workshop held at Hopewell Grange on October 20th and had some handouts for various committee chairs.

Jack Ratcliffe reported we served some 138 meals, plus some 38 carry-outs, plus Grange workers at our fall roast beef dinner. Any Veteran that attended was given \$5 off their dinner. Jack stated the dinner dates for 2019 may have to be changed, due to Palm Sunday in the Spring and Veterans Day in the Fall. It was decided to change dates to April 7th and November 17, 2019. Jack Ratcliffe also brought to our attention the food stand for the Dog Show, July 18-21, 2019. Motion was made we again serve the food, details to be worked out at a later date.

Master Ebel reminded members of the open house of Al and Darlene Henninger's 70th wedding anniversary on Saturday, November 17th at the Grange Hall at the fairgrounds.

Roger Miller reported we will be ringing the bell at the PNC Bank in Belvidere on Saturday, November 24th and Dec. 1st and a sign-up sheet was passed around.

Vince purchased a Christmas tree for a family and Vince and Kathee and the Junior's will again be decorating a store window and be a part of the Hometown Christmas. Jack Ratcliffe had a name of a needy family that we can purchase gifts for this year to make their holiday a little brighter.

Kathee Frazer and the Juniors showed us what they are working on this evening and for the Christmas window in Belvidere. Joan Fidler had a Veteran's Day program and recognized all the Veteran's in attendance and thanked them for serving, and talked about each war, beginning with WW I.

Emalee Colver collected \$42.00 in 'G' bills; the first \$100 to be sent to help with the cost of the repair of the heating and cooling system at the National Grange headquarters and the remaining bills would be contributed to the hosting of the

**Merry Christmas** December, 2018 3  
National Grange in 2019. Donna West gave the chaplain's report and birthdays for the month of November were announced; Joan Fidler, Gene West, Todd Hegge, Lindakay

Ebel and Laurel Ratcliffe, and we sang Happy Birthday to the birthday Grangers.

Meeting was closed, and refreshments were served, and fellowship was enjoyed.

December Christmas party Tuesday, December 11th, 6:30 pm. Meat to be furnished, Grangers bring a hot and cold dish to share. Serving committee: Jack and Laurel Ratcliffe, Tom Ratcliffe and Domenica Roehrborn. Grangers are asked to bring fresh fruit or cookies for the shut-in and elderly trays.

## Emerald Mound Grange

– November, 2018

We participated in the Lebanon Fall Festival with a fundraising table serving biscuits and gravy and egg casserole.

We participated in a community service project raising funds for research for a cure or Alzheimer disease. The project netted over \$600.

We donated food and cash to a local food pantry.

We donated school supplies to Chapter One Project.

We lost a long time member, Joe Seigel, in September. A Grange service was conducted with Grangers from the eight sister Granges in the county attending. We draped our charter in his memory at our October meeting. A cash donation was made to the Kelly Farm in Joe's memory.

Repairs were made to our upstairs ceiling, replacing some fallen tiles.

We will host our Fall Quarter Auction fundraiser on November 10.

We will host a Magic Show on November 11 – fun for all ages.

We will participate in a Lebanon Chamber of Commerce "Victorian Holidays" on November 16 and 17. This is a fundraiser for us and a really good time to interface with local citizens and hopefully add to our membership.

Charles Treser, Secretary





# Membership

By Lindakay Ebel, ISG Chairman

Webster’s Dictionary says membership is ‘the state of being, or status as, a member’, ‘member of an organization’ or ‘being a part of a special group’. Membership means different things to different Grangers.

During this past month, I had time to think and found a completely different look at our Grange membership, as I am sure many of you have had over the years when you may have been in the same or a similar situation.

Al and I had planned to attend the GRIT workshop, Al had his new 2019 Ag information for ISG session with the contest entry form and I had some new ideas for the 2019 year for membership, however, the day before, I ended up in ER and had a six day stay in the hospital.

When I was discharged and came home, I was still very ill, weak and so cold, day and night. A very special lady, took the time, and out of love, made me a beautiful rag quilt to keep me warm.

# Beaver Valley Grange News

Beaver Valley Grange met at the Boone County Community, Beaver Valley, Grange Hall with 9 members in attendance. For a Pomona Grange Community Service Project we are going to collect diapers for the BabyBank. Starting with the January meeting everyone from all Granges, should bring diapers to donate. Beaver Valley will monitor the collection and put a collection box, or maybe a crib, out to collect the diapers. So if you can bring a donation to each meeting of the year that would be awesome! Our December meeting will be our Christmas program and will be in the home of Susan Banks at 6:30. This will be a potluck and we will also plan to wrap presents bought for our Salvation Army family. We had discussion on the Quilt for Valor; plans for Trivia night are for March 16th with details to follow; and discussions on fundraisers.

Dayle Paulson, Publicity Chair

# How To Safely Dispose Of Unused Opioids And Other Prescription Medications

Far too often, opioid addiction begins right at home with the misuse of prescription medicines. You can help prevent addiction in your communities by using one of the following methods to safely dispose of them:

**Visit a Local Take-Back Location**

A number of local pharmacies in Illinois have programs that collect old and unwanted prescription drugs.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has additional resources. Go to the DEA’s website and type in your zip code to locate more options: <http://bit.ly/2eNpAZ5>.

**Use Drop Boxes**

You can dispose of unused medications at your local drop box locations that are often available at law enforcement agency offices across the state. To find the nearest drop box, contact the Illinois EPA at (217) 782-3397 on weekdays between 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



## Partnering to Address the Opioid Epidemic

The Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI) of Illinois is a broad-based alliance of local, state and national organizations committed to ending the opioid crisis in the state. RALI Illinois brings together organizations that focus on drug prevention, consumer protection, health care, law enforcement, veterans and more.

RALI Illinois’ first collective effort will focus on safe disposal of unused prescription medicines and the warning signs of addiction. The partnership will also spotlight and engage on a range of solutions, including prevention, treatment and recovery services.

For more information: [Heidi Frederickson, info@rali-il.org](mailto:Heidi.Frederickson@rali-il.org)





## Make Use of Household Items

You can also use cat litter or old coffee grounds to dispose of old medications. Mix your drugs with either of these household products, seal them in an airtight container and throw it into the garbage. If you use this method, please first call the Illinois EPA to ensure your drugs can be disposed of this way as some medicines may require a different approach. You can reach the Illinois EPA at (217) 782-3397.

## Use a Drug Disposal Kit

Drug disposal pouches are another method you can use to safely discard your old and unused drugs. Simply put your pills into the pouch, add water, seal and throw the pouch away in the garbage. The water reacts with chemicals in the pouch to nullify any active ingredients in your medicine.

Let's work together to ensure our communities are safe from prescription drug misuse.

***In 2016, nearly 64,000 Americans died from drug overdoses – including from illicit medications and prescription opioids.***

***Two-thirds of individuals who use heroin began misusing prescription***



***General Arthur Dean, President and CEO of CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) speaking with Representatives Jay Hoffman and Katie Stuart prior to the RALI Launch at the Turkey Hill Grange.***



***Lynette Schaeffer, President of the Illinois State Grange, welcoming everyone and kicking off the event.***

## Happy December, Grangers!

This is such a busy time of the year, full of traditions in the community, school, church, and Grange. I wish you all happiness and treasured time with family and loved ones.

Amid all the activities of December, it's also a good time to start thinking and planning for Grange activities for the new year. I've been busy exploring the National Grange website ([www.nationalgrange.org](http://www.nationalgrange.org)), discovering all sorts of valuable resources that local Granges can benefit from. If you have not made a practice of accessing the website and reading the various newsletters and program descriptions, I really encourage you to do so. If you feel in any way stuck in programming for your Grange, you will find many valuable ideas there.

In particular, I'd like to draw your attention to the Patriot's Program if you don't know about it. This is an initiative of the National Grange that recognizes the service of our veterans. In 2013 materials for World War II veterans were made available, and now there are materials to honor

Korean War veterans. We've just passed the 65th anniversary of the cease fire in Korea. Each year that passes brings us closer to the end of our opportunity to honor these heroes that served during that conflict.

The Korean War Veteran CD is complete and you can get your free copy now. The CD includes a power point presentation on the Korean War, a video and notes on the National Korean War Memorial, and pdfs of firsthand accounts of events in the Korean War.

I have not yet had a chance to see the materials personally, but I have ordered a copy and are eagerly anticipating their arrival. I am sure they are full of useful resources that could form the basis for a great community event. There are special certificates for veterans who are Grange members, but wouldn't it be a great opportunity to reach out to your communities by inviting Korean War Veterans to a program honoring their service for Grangers and non-Grangers alike.

The certificates used to recognize your Korean War vet, can be ordered from the National Grange. To request the certificate, please make sure to include the following information: name of the veteran, name of Grange they belong to or who is giving it out, the name of the local master and lecturer, the city and town the Grange/Veteran is located in and a shipping address. There is no cost to you or your Grange for program material or the certificates. This program is sponsored by Potomac Grange #1.

Also, if you missed out on the program information for WWII, it is still available. Contact the National Grange at [info@nationalgrange.org](mailto:info@nationalgrange.org) or call at 888-4-GRANGE for more information.

Fraternally,  
Ethan Edwards, State Lecturer



*American Values.  
Hometown Roots.*





## Youth Dept/State Grange Activities

Make sure you get your reservations in for Our Camping Adventure in May! We will be camping at the KOA in Rochester, IL just south of Springfield, May 17-19, 2019. On May 18th at 1 p.m. we will be having the Statewide Illinois State Grange picnic at the KOA Campground in Rochester Illinois. I need your reservations and a deposit as soon as you have it. The list for deposits will be on the Illinois State Grange Website by the end of December. Public Speaking, Sign-a-Song and a drill competition will be held. Remember we are outside, but I will rent a pavilion in case of rain, which will be near the lakefront. New this year, various areas of the Grange have come together for the same purpose; membership, Junior, community service and Youth are all participating in one Grange challenge, we would like to see your Grange Hero capes out working in the community. Let's see the Grange Heroes at work. Check out the National Grange website for details on how to discuss being a Grange Hero! Many different rules apply for copyright reasons. More details will be coming to each Grange about this Grange month program. I am looking for volunteers for National Grange Session in 2019. Session runs from November 3-9, 2019. I will be arriving on the first with my planning committee and a few volunteers. The bulk of the volunteers need to be in Minnesota from the 3rd to the 9th. If there is an area you would like to volunteer in, please let me know in writing so I can't forget. Different areas include:

- Transportation/Airport Greeter/Bus Guide begins November 2nd
- Set up Showcase Room, sit in Showcase room(begins November 6th)
- Junior help and setup (begins November 7th)
- Youth help and setup (begins November 6th)
- 6th degree setup and tear down November 9th
- Registration with Emalee Colver begins November 3rd setup on the 2nd
- Food and help for our day in the Hospitality Room coordinating with Elaine and Gary Hecathorn
- Help with printing and setting up Production Room(begins November 3 possibly 2nd)
- Deputies to check at the meeting room door
- Help setting up/tearing down the Mercantile store begins November 6th
- Host Office help begins November 3rd set up on the 2nd
- General help getting people settled in their room.
- And possibly more

The Executive Committee of the Illinois State Grange will be deciding this month what we will offer to encourage our members to volunteer at National Session. We will let you know what that is. With session being so close we urge all members to attend, it helps if you volunteer at the same time. Get your 7th degree if you haven't already, tour the Kelley farm, see the Mall of America. Lots to do in Minnesota!

## Melinda (Mindy) Schiefer

*ISG Junior Director*

National Grange session is over and the new program guide has been released. It is going to be a FUN year!! I LOVE IT!! Make sure to read upcoming articles, and check our state's website, [www.illinoisstategrange.org](http://www.illinoisstategrange.org), as I combine it with activities over the next year. Lillian Sharpe,

pen pal to our own Hopewell Junior Granger Katie Renken, was named Honorary National Ambassador. Lillian was recently diagnosed with Leukemia which means hospital stays and treatments over the next 2 ½ years. Her local Subordinate Grange is collecting "L" bills for the family, and I would like to ask members to do the same. I am also looking for ideas on a fundraiser we can do state-wide in which the money will be donated to St. Jude's HEROES, in Lillian's name. Thoughts that have popped in my head are—Finding Nemo and "Just keep swimming". At the state level, we are bringing back Junior royalty. Our prince and princess will be age 11-14, with court members being ages 8-10 and 5-7. Requirements will include attendance, making projects, and a short writing assignment. Watch your mail for final information. Please check with me to make sure I have your right contact information. Contest and other information was handed out at GRIT. If you did not receive, and would like to, send me your contact information to be included in future mailings. Thank you to Hopewell Grange for volunteering to host a day in central region on March 23. And to Flora Grange for being our north host on March 16. I still need a host for camp in the south, this will be an overnight event. Different activities will be planned for each so please mark your calendars and try to attend.

## Illinois Granger Donations

Donations have started to come in for this years Illinois Granger. At the GRIT Conference I received \$20 from Earl David. I received a nice letter from Melvin Wagner. He donated \$10 for his paper and \$10 for his 98 year old friend Wilmer Steinheimer who enjoys reading the paper every month. Thank you!!! Donations can be sent to me at: 8711 Deer Run Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008. Ruth Blasingame Editor







# Prairie Junior Grange

*Jennifer Tobin-Tinch*

Prairie Junior Grange would like to express their sympathies to the Geske family, at the passing of Lila and Nora's father Will. A token of love was given to them from their fellow Junior Granger's.

Prairie Junior Grange will be participating in several Christmas related activities in December. We will be ringing the Salvation Army bell on the 1st, grocery shopping for the Salvation Army Christmas food and gift drive on the 5th, and we will have a float in the Belvidere Hometown Christmas Parade on the 7th. We are also collecting cookies to be given to Vets in our area.

We are looking forward to the upcoming New Year!





# Agriculture Legislative Policies

As promised, here are the current legislative policies that have been established over the years by the delegates to the annual Illinois State Grange Convention. Should any of you know of any additional issues not included or of those that are no longer active as they have been overcome by events, etc. Please let me, DLDONLEY@AOL.COM know. Other area policies will follow in the ensuing months. Thanks

## Policy Statement

The Illinois State Grange is an organization that promotes agriculture. We support family farms and rural communities as well as all US residents. American agriculture is under great pressure from foreign competitors as well as weather, pests, and other natural occurrences. We believe that domestic markets, foreign markets, and alternative uses for farm products are essential for the economic health of American agriculture, family farms, rural communities and all US residents.

The United States requirement for energy continues to grow. Farm products offer an alternative to oil dependence to meet the ever-increasing requirements. The use of farm products as an alternative fuel source will be a major boost to agriculture and must grow. The Illinois State Grange supports legislation that encourages the development and use of farm products to satisfy some of our needs for energy.

Farmers’ markets are an excellent opportunity to increase profit margins for farmers by creating an environment for them to market their produce directly to the consumer. These markets also provide the consumer farm-fresh products and permits the consumer to learn how the products were produced.

The Illinois State Grange believes that every person should be concerned about agriculture and the agriculture products they consume. Everyone is entitled to a safe food supply, properly marked so consumers may make an enlightened decision before making a purchase.

## Illinois State Grange supports:

1. The National Grange supporting continued development and use of Bio Diesel, Oxy-Diesel and Ethanol as alternative fuels and the continued use of the blenders tax credits at the state and federal level.
2. U.S. businesses to make purchases of U.S. produced items, agricultural products, etc.
3. National Grange urging our government to treat rural citizens as well as they do people in other countries in cases of disasters by giving direct payments as well as low interest loans.
4. Illinois Legislature to use its influence to convince the EPA to develop acceptable control measures. (Do not know what are acceptable measures, and what is requested.)
5. National Grange supporting legislation for stricter enforcement of present laws to control the pollution of all livestock farms.
6. National Grange to support labeling of egg cartons with food safety warnings,
7. National Grange support legislation to combat salmonella contamination to the egg before it reaches the customer.
8. The farmer being paid a fair price for his product.
9. National Grange urging Congress to allocate more funding to the F. D. A. specifically for more inspections of imported food.
10. National Grange urging for stronger enforcement of our nation’s food stamp program guidelines. (I am not sure what this means and from my experience it has been done)
11. National Grange to lobby for stricter enforcement of inspection standards by the Food and Drug Administration “To require that all countries exporting foods to the U. S. adopt safe food handling practices for fruits, vegetables, fish and processed foods”.
12. National Grange to support legislation to insure tax breaks for farmers, and more fair pricing of farm commodities in the U. S.
13. State legislature to mandate all state, county and township road departments control noxious weeds.
14. Illinois Centennial or Sesquicentennial Farm Designation.
15. Grange members and other beef producers to vote for the re-instatement of the IL Beef Voluntary Checkoff.”
16. Illinois legislature to include solar farms in the IL Dept of Ag Mitigation Statute
17. Preserving and protecting farmland at all levels of government.
18. Stricter enforcement of the laws protecting our environment and waste products: animal, human, etc.
19. Continued use of the blender’s tax credits at the State and National levels.

# Chaplain’s Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

For Behold I Bring Tidings of Great Joy This Christmas Season  
Did you know this?  
The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ,  
Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments,  
Three French hens stand for faith, hope, and love,  
Four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John,  
The five golden rings recall the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament,

The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation,

Seven swans a – swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit – Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contributions, Leadership and Mercy,

The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes,

Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit—Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and self-control,

The ten lords a-leaping are the ten commandments,

The eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples,  
The twelve drummers drumming symbolizes the twelve points of belief in the Apostles’ Creed.

Merry Christ(mas) because Christmas is not without Christ.  
As we close out this year of 2018 let us remember those we have lost during this year and keep them always in our hearts. We also truly rejoice



*Well Done, Good and Faithful Servants*

## Obituaries

William M. Geske 1973-2018 - Big Thunder Grange  
Marilyn Turner 1930-2018 - Prairie Grange

## Family Activities Update

Jennifer Tobin-Tinch

Greetings from the snowy north! I hope that you noticed and made note of the changes made to the FAC contests in last month’s Granger. I will run all the contests again in a future edition of the Granger. Please start making projects and setting them aside to enter in September! I’m hoping for more projects than ever and truly believe that there is at least one entry for EVERY Granger, no matter their age or if you’re male or female. Get creative!! From my family to yours, have a blessed Christmas and New Year!



*American Values.*

*Hometown Roots.*