

Sooner State Granger



Published Quarterly
Mike McCann, Master
Marvin Purdy, Editor
March 2007

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 122
Tonkawa, Okla. 74653

Master's Message...

Tulsa To Host 2011 National Session

Fellow Grangers, as I write this, I'm in the Denver airport on my way home from the National President's meeting. While there, it was announced that the Board of Directors has chosen Tulsa, Oklahoma as the site for the 2011 National Convention. This will truly be a monumental time for us as this will be the first time in the 140 year history of the National Grange that we have been chosen to host the National Session. We now have our work cut out for us as we will need to form the necessary committees to properly plan the convention.

Dates To Remember

March 31, 2007 -Degree Day 10:30 am, at the Colcord Community Center

June 30, 2007 - Scholarship Applications due. Turn in to State Master.

Send Grange News to Marvin Purdy, 4202 W. Doolin, Blackwell, OK 74631, phone 580 363-5171, fax, 580 363-4296.

Fortunately, we aren't totally alone in hosting the session because this meeting will be a joint effort with the other states in the Great Plains. I am expecting some information from the National office regarding just what our responsibilities will be, but before the convention closes, each Grange member will probably be called upon to help in some way.

I anticipate a "Meeting of the Presidents" will be held probably at the Great Plains Youth Conference. You can expect to hear more about this later, but for now, keep the dates of November 10-20, 2011 open on your calendar.

While on the subject of National Convention, it was also announced that the Western states hosting this year's session will have several Christmas trees to be given to charity. They are asking for each state to provide at least 10 handmade ornaments to be placed on the trees. I know this is an early announcement, but for those of you who are crafty, you will have plenty of time to make your ornament(s). These can be a community Grange project or a way for non-Grangers to contribute to others less fortunate.

On a more local level, be sure to read the contest announcement elsewhere in this issue. Mark your calendars now for Degree Day. It will be March 31, 2007 at the Community Center in Colcord. We will start promptly at 10:30 so if you want to visit, be there early. As a reminder, attendance at a Degree Day is a requirement for those planning to apply for the scholarship. Speaking of the scholarship, the applications are due to me by June 30, 2007. If you need an application, let me know and I'll get one to you.

As per the requests at the last State Session, I have contacted the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitor's Bureau regarding a location for this year's meeting. I have yet to hear back from them. I hope to have an announcement by Degree Day.

One item that was discussed at the President's meeting was the lack of press releases from National in our local and regional papers. If you would like to have the releases sent from National to your local paper, provide me with their contact information and I'll forward it to National.

(Continued on page 2)

Secretaries Take Note

By Donna Keeton

It looks like we are going to have a long winter. I hope everyone is doing okay and did not get too much damage from the ice storms.

It is a sad duty to inform everyone that our State Pomona Jerre Price was in a car accident and was killed. We will all miss her very much; she was a very giving, talented and loving person.

I have been busy getting the Journal of Proceedings ready for the printers. I am looking forward in seeing everyone at Degree Day. If you need any forms let me know and I will send

them to you or I will bring them to Degree Day and you can pick them up there.

It is not too early on thinking about the Grange Scholarship. Remember you have to come to the Degree Day and be a Fifth Degree member to be eligible for the Grange Scholarship. To become a Fifth Degree member you have to take the Fifth Degree at the State Session in October. There

are six scholarships than can be given out each year. The scholarship application is due at the end of June. I hope to see new scholarship applicants.

Don't forget if you had come to the State Session in October you will get your fourth quarter free and all you will have to pay is for your new members' fees.

Fraternally,
Donna Keeton

Master's Message

Continued

(Continued from page 1)

I was extremely saddened to learn of the tragic death of State Pomona Jerre Price. She was a joy to be around and will be sorely missed.

The other upcoming activities of the other officers and directors are in their articles elsewhere in this issue.

A new benefit of having Grange insurance is on the way. We will soon be printing signs offering up to \$1000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those committing felonies against the policyholder. If you want one, just contact me or your insurance agent.

I hope the coming Spring with the Earth renewing its life will be an inspiration for each of us to stop and appreciate the beauty God gives us each year.

Fraternally,
Mike McCann

Jerre Price

October 14, 1931 - January 22, 2007

Jerre Price has been a Granger for a long time and if it wasn't for Jerre, Big Cabin Grange would not be where it is today. Jerre was a person who was always busy and great with encouragement and it improved not only our local Grange but even our State Grange. Jerre held the position of Pomona at the State level of Grange. She took her part seriously during our degrees and always did a great job; she represented her position, and her community with the highest integrity.

Jerre was a big supporter of the American Cancer Society, if anyone would like to donate on her behalf, here is the address:

American Cancer Society, Heartland Division, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., Kansas City, MO 64105

"O Lord, I am always with you, you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel and afterward you will take me into glory. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. It is good to be near God"-*Psalm 73:23-24, 28*

Father God, we know that with you is peace and quiet rest, and to this place we would retreat from our sorrows and cares. While we may not escape the pains of this world, we can be assured that with you and in you we can be relieved of our anguish and grief.

While we may not understand why those who are dear to us are taken away from us, we can place our sorrow on your kind and understanding heart. Someday we will understand why we are led down certain pathways, but until that day dawns, keep us near to your loving heart.

We offer our memories of Jerre Price as a tribute to her life. Hear our prayer on behalf of our great fraternity, that all those who have gone before us will not have lived in vain, but that we will rise up stronger because of their devotion and duty. Amen

Fraternally,
Dee Procter

Membership

By Brad Keeton

I hope everyone is surviving the winter. Valentine's Day has come and the ground hog didn't see his shadow - seems like he did though. Been a long, snowy and icy winter so far. I just want to remind you that the Grange year is coming to an end fast. June 30th is just four months away. Several Granges look positive for growth in membership, let's continue to work for an increase. Holding a positive attitude helps the most in accomplishing a growth in membership, working together, having good tools and programs to be available to our membership helps in getting new members. A lot of times, just getting off your hands and doing anything to publicly show that there is a Grange in the community will get several questions about the Grange. This will

give an opening to tell others about our organization. Attend activities that State Grange has to offer helps to get new ideas and you should get positive things to take back to your local Grange.

Degree Day will be held in Colcord, Oklahoma this year, let's try and attend. I know that Don and Jennifer Larmon and all the Union Grangers are great hosts. April every year Grange week is held, do something special in your community to celebrate having a Grange. Need someone to come to your Grange meeting? Just ask. Hope that Granges will get the Grange name in front of their communities and look forward to seeing you at the upcoming activities.

Fraternally,
Brad Keeton

Membership Tip of the Month

Share a Common Cause

To attract potential new members to your Grange you need to find a common cause with them. A powerful cause is one that a person is passionate about and wants to have an impact on. There are a number of ways to find that common cause.

Take the time to talk to potential members and find out what they are interested in. What issues gets them wound up? What activity do they talk about regularly? When you discover what issue or activity stirs their passion, that's the time to share what your Grange does on their cause. If your Grange doesn't deal with their issue, then go to your next meeting and ask how the members feel about that subject.

Maybe the potential member can come explain the issue or case to the membership? What does your Grange do that impacts people directly? How are you meeting the needs of members and potential members? The more your Grange does that has members working for the benefit of others, the greater the possibility that you will find others that care about the same cause. You can partner with other groups or even with individuals to improve what you can accomplish.

When you share a common cause between potential members at your Grange, growth will happen!

Lecturer's Lesson

By Yvonne Meritt

Please mark your calendars now for the Lecturer's Conference for June 1, 2, and 3, 2007. Nebraska will be hosting the conference. I hope you will plan to attend. At the time of publication I do not have the details about the conference; however, I will most likely have details that I will share at Degree Day. Also, remember you do not need to be the Lecturer of your Grange to attend; rather just attend to enjoy the Grange fellowship.

Tips for Lecturers

You should plan your program for the year. You can have several Grange members to assist you in planning the year's program. Here is a list of program suggestions for the following months:

April - Preparedness month, make a family plan for disaster

May - Future Planning (College to Retirement)

June - History of the American Flag
July - Celebrating our Nation's Birthday

Aug - Back to School

Sept- How to write resolutions

Oct - Getting ready for all those contests

Nov - Thanksgiving

Dec - Your favorite Christmas

When you do roll call you can ask those who attend to do various things that tie to the program for the day. You can have people give a favorite story or event. Then during the program you can do a reading, skit or invite someone from the community to assist you. The program should be about 20-30 minutes.

Now is the time to start taking those pictures for the State Session Photo

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Chaplain's Corner

By Andrea Buffington

Givers Always Have Enough

Martha faced the daunting challenge of providing for her family throughout the Great Depression. "With my first child," she said, "the hard times had really just begun. By the time my third child was born, we were in the thick of the Depression." Martha recalls a day when all she and her two year old son had to eat for the whole day was one egg. "Of course I gave it to him," she says, "And I was pregnant at the time, too." Another time, she recalls, "all we had to eat for the two weeks around Christmas was the leftover sandwiches that the Lutheran ladies brought over after their luncheons at the church.

"Although there was very little at the time," she attests, "we never went without, thanks to the generosity of others. All of us shared whatever we

had." Now ninety-one, Martha says that she lives by something her father told her when she was a young woman: "God cannot give to you unless you're giving to others." Now living only on her retirement and social security, Martha says she's somehow able to give more to charity than she ever has in her life. "Giving heals us and blesses us," she asserts. "Having known the generosity of others and having survived at times just because of it, I thank God that I now have the

opportunity to give back." Pausing, she laughs, "I guess that's why He's kept me alive so long!"

God makes sure that a cheerful giver's well never runs dry.

"Give, and it will be given to you.

A good measure, pressed down
Shaken together and running over,
Will be poured into your lap." -

LUKE 6:38

Andrea Buffington

Lecturer's Lesson

By Yvonne Meritt

(Continued from page 3)

Contest. Also, with all the State Centennial activities I will expect to see lots of pictures in the category of Oklahoma Centennial.

Tell a story (2 or more pictures in a sequence which are telling a story)

Close ups (plants or persons)

Remembering Oklahoma History (Old photos)

Oklahoma Centennial (Activities pertaining to Oklahoma's Centennial)

See you at Degree Day

Yvonne Meritt

Oklahoma Grange MUTUAL INSURANCE Association

Organized through the cooperative efforts of Oklahoma Grange members. Property Insurance coverage written for Oklahoma Grange members exclusively. Provides the greatest insurance coverage at the lowest possible cost.

Patronize Your Own
Grange Mutual Insurance Association
and Save

Marvin Purdy, President, Robert Bailey, Vice President,
Mike McCann, Secretary, Brad Keeton, Treasurer

Oklahoma Grange Activities

by Deloris Walker and Donna Keeton, Directors

Greetings from your new Co-Directors. We are excited about this new venture. We hope to have a lot of participation in all the categories at State Session in October.

Degree Day is March 31st in Colcord, hosted by Union Grange. We will have a contest of our favorite dessert, to be judged by everyone.

The most pressing item is to have your Community Service forms completed and sent to us by July 31st, as they are due to National before September 1, 2007. Please note the form in this issue.

Activities for 2007 State Session
Deaf

We challenge all Granges and Pomonas to collect pennies for the deaf, which will be given to Happy Hands. Bring them to State Session to be counted. (It would be helpful if you had a count.) Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Start Saving!

Homeless/Needy

Another contest for everyone, Juniors to Adults, will be making Christmas ornaments. Due to this being Oklahoma's birthday, our theme is Oklahoma Ornaments. We will use these to decorate a tree to be give to a homeless shelter or a needy family. Please bring your suggestions and we will enter them in a drawing for the tree. If enough ornaments are brought we could possibly give away two trees. First, Second and Third place honors will be awarded.

Handwork

Men:

Birdhouse or birdfeeder (Decorative or for outside use. You may enter one or all categories.)

Ladies:

Crocheted, knitted, quilted or needlepoint/cross stitched items (May enter one or all categories.)

Youth and Juniors:

Stuffed toy or animal. (Age division 5-7, 8-10, 11-14, 15-24)

Age 4 and Under:

Any beaded item (bracelet, necklace, etc.)

Foods (Bring recipes for your entry)

Men:

Homemade candy

Ladies:

Apple Pie (If donating to youth auction make one dish not to be returned.)

Youth and Juniors:

Favorite Cookies (Need to bring 14-16. Age divisions 5-7, 8-10, 11-14, 15-24)

Age 4 and Under:

Trail Mix (1-2 cups in zip-lock bag)

Awards:

Prizes or certificates of participation will be given to all that enter the competitions. Start building and sewing. Good luck!

Please Note:

All entries are due by 12 noon Friday (first day) of State Session. If you are unable to attend the Session, please send your entry with a representative of your local Grange. Please attach your name, address and phone number to your entry so it can be returned to you. There will be a label provided for you to fill out for your item upon entering it. Any item may be donated for the Youth Auction.

Community Service Information Form

Grange Name and Number _____

Submitted by (Name(s)) _____

What kind of activity was completed? _____

Who was involved? (Adults, Youth, Children, etc.) _____

Number Grange members: _____ Number non-Grange members: _____

Briefly describe what the activity included. _____

Who was helped by the community service and in what way? _____

How long did it take (How many hours, days, month, etc.) _____

Was the activity publicized? ____ If so, how? _____

Why did your Grange decide to do this particular project? _____

Please submit to Activities Director by August 15, 2007

Donna Keeton

Rt.. 1 Box 106, South Coffeyville, OK 74072, Phone 918-929-7402, email: donnakeeton5@yahoo.com

Youth Report

By Dee & Scheneista Proctor

It has been a cold and slick winter so far, we hope everyone kept warm during the ice storm. Degree Day is right around the corner and just like every year it will sneak up on us, so we hope you are planning now to meet in Colcord. At Colcord we will have a public speaking contest that will prepare us for the Great Plains Youth Conference. There will be three categories this year along with three age divisions: 13-19, 20-29, 30+ years of age.

Category A: Prepared speech

Contestant's choice of topic, time minimum is 4 minutes and time maximum is 7 minutes.

Category B: Elevator speech

You've met someone in a elevator or been stopped in a restaurant and asked "What is the Grange?" Your task is to explain what the Grange is to this person in 90 seconds.

Category C: Impromptu speech

An impromptu speech is delivered without preparation or thought ahead of time. No note cards are used and topics are generally random.

We will be giving cash prizes of \$20 for 1st, \$15 for 2nd, \$10 for 3rd and the winner of each category and division will get the chance to compete at the Great Plains Youth Conference held in Kansas July 20-22, 2007. We should have more details about the Youth Conference at Degree Day so come out and participate in the fun at Colcord.

Directions to

Colcord Community Center

Go to intersection US HWY 59 and St. HWY 116 approximately 18 miles south of Jay, Ok. You will go east on 116 for 5 miles. You will be downtown Colcord. I will put up balloons, where you will turn right. In one block you will see the Community Center, go through the intersection, it's on your left.

Junior Grange

By Martha Schufeldt

I can't wait until Spring, this has been a cold and icy winter. I hope that everyone can attend the Degree Day in March, there will be exciting things to do. There will be a Jump-A-Thon at the Degree Day, so all the Juniors start getting your sponsors for the Jump-A-Thon. The money that you raise will go to the Kelly Farm to help feed their animals. This year the National Grange Junior Theme is "A Healthier You". So I thought this would be a good start in getting healthier. The jump ropes will be provided but if you have a favorite feel free to bring it to Degree Day.

There will be a form in this newsletter for your sponsors. You can ask for a donation or have them give you money for each jump.

There also will be crafts going on at the Degree Day. We won't be doing a Easter Egg hunt this year because of the Jump-A-Thon, but there will be a contest. The contest is to make a poster out of small poster board; the theme is "A Healthier You." Good luck and use your talents and imagination.

See you at Degree Day and don't forget to bring your tennis shoes and exercise clothes for the Jump-A-Thon.

Martha Schufeldt

JUMP-A-THON SPONSORS - Make Extra Copies If You Need More Spaces:

Your Name _____ Grange _____

Sponsor: _____

Donation: _____

or Jumps _____ Amt.

Paid: _____

Sponsor: _____

Donation: _____

WIN \$100

Grange Mutual Insurance is sponsoring a contest for a new logo. The logo can be any style the entrant chooses and may use all or part of the name or leave it out. The contest begins immediately and all entries must be received by May 1, 2007. Anyone may enter and the winner will be announced in the next issue of the Sooner State Granger. All entries will become the property of Grange Mutual Insurance Association and will not be returned. All entries must be sent to Grange Mutual at 22751 W. North Ave., Lamont, OK 74643. They can be faxed to 800-871-2479 or e-mailed to mjm32@tonkawaok.net.