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Yvonne Meritt, Master
Marvin Purdy, Editor
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Master's Message...

Our Grange Vision and Mission

Well, it has been a very cold winter I must say. I hope all have stayed warm. On January 26 we held an Officers and Directors Day in Tulsa at the Southern Hills Marriott. It was a very successful day. We had a full agenda and accomplished a lot. One item was to write a vision and mission statement. Look for the vision and mission statement located in this paper. I was very pleased with the out come. We also discussed the up coming 2011 National Grange Convention which will be hosted by

the Great Plains states.

We are still working out the details for state session. We are still trying to locate a facility. But I am hopeful that we will soon have a location for our state session. Look for details in our next newsletter.

Degree Day is set for March 29, at 10:00 a.m. at the Red Cross Building located at 1313 W. Ferguson in Blackwell, Oklahoma. This will be a fun gathering. Cherryvale Grange will be our host and I know lunch is going to be very good. Degree Day is a day that we do the first four degree of the Grange Ritual work. If it has been a while since you have seen the degrees it is a good time to revisit these lessons of the Grange. All Grangers are welcome. We always have a lot of fun. Be sure and look at the Grange activities sections as I know our co-directors have planned some wonderful activities for the day.

Next on the calendar is the Corn State Lecturers Conference. I know the Lecturer's Committee is planning an exciting weekend in a very fun place. Look for details in the Lecturer section of the paper. The Executive Committee voted to pay

for lodging expenses for those from Oklahoma who want to attend. Oklahomans will be responsible for only a \$25.00 registration fee. What a bargain.

June 30 is the deadline for Scholarship Applications. This is an excellent opportunity to help with educational expenses. Remember any Grange member who has met all of the requirements listed in the application is eligible. Please mail all applications to me.

Please pray for our dear State Lecturer Deloris Walker. She was hospitalized recently and has a big challenge ahead of her. I am sure she would like a note of cheer from time to time.

Kay and I just got back from the Masters Meeting which was held in Irving, Texas. It was a very productive meeting and we came away revitalized.

You may even see your State Master on You Tube if the camera did not break. We need to look at the National Grange priorities and see if the Oklahoma State Grange wishes to adopt the same priorities.

Feb. 19 we were honored with

Continued on page 2

Dates To Remember

March 29 - Degree Day at Blackwell OK Red Cross Building.

April 18-20 - Corn State Lecturers Conference, Branson Missouri Ramada Resort and Conference Center, 1700 W. Highway 76.

June 1 - **Send Grange News** to Marvin Purdy, 4202 W. Doolin, Blackwell, OK 74631, phone 580 363-5171, fax, 580 363-4296.

June 30, 2008 - Scholarship Applications due. Turn in to State Master.

Master's Message

Continued

Continued from page 1

a visit from Rusty Hunt the new Leadership Director of the National Grange. We had dinner in Guthrie, OK with the State Membership Director Mike McCann. We discussed opportunities within the Grange Leadership Program that Rusty is willing to assist Oklahoma with in the near future. As these plans are developed I will keep you informed.

Hope to see you Degree Day,

Fraternally yours,
Yvonne Meritt
State Master
20545 SW 15
Union City, OK 73090
405.262.3354
Meritt73@gmail.com

Youth Dept

By Billy and Lena Shufeldt

Degree Day is closing in on us fast. It will be on March 29th in Blackwell at the Red Cross Center. Any youth and the young at heart interested in being in the speech contest or sign-a-song at the Great Plains Youth Conference in Nebraska on July 10th will need to fill out an entry form. If you would like to practice in front of someone during Degree day, come prepared to give your speech and or sign-a-song. We hope to see all there. We are looking forward to a fun filled year.

Fraternally,
Billy and Lena Shufeldt
State Youth Directors

Oregon Native Elected New Master of the National Grange



Ed Luttrell, a native of Sandy Oregon, was elected the 22nd Master (President) of the National Grange in November of 2007. A second generation Granger, he is the immediate past Leadership/Membership Development Director for the National Grange. He is also an immediate-past Trustee on the Oregon State Grange Foundation having been the President of the board for six years.

Ed grew up on a small farm outside of Portland and has worked in agriculture, automotive services, and publishing. He and Celia, his wife of 27 years, have three grown children: Ben, Jacob, and Charlotte. They are members of the Boring-Damascus Grange #260 and Clackamas Pomona Grange.

Ed has extensive Grange experience including Oregon State Master from 1996-2000, when he also served as a lobbyist for the Grange. His Grange accomplishments started in 1978 when he was named Oregon State Outstanding Young Granger. He served on the Oregon State Membership Committee from 1986 to 1988 and was Oregon State Gatekeeper from 1988 to 1992. He and Celia were Oregon State Grange Outstanding Young Couple in 1989. Ed served as State Youth Director from 1990 to 1992 and as Editor of the Oregon Grange Bulletin from 1992 to 1996.

In the past, he has served on the boards of the Oregon Lands Coalition, Grange Mutual Insurance Company, and Timberland States Insurance Company. He is also a current member of the Pacific Wonderland Region W.P.C. Club.

Ed's vision for the Grange is to strengthen the partnership between the State and National levels of the organization in order to aid the Community Granges in achieving their goals and promoting growth.



Degree Day

March 29, 2008 10:00 a.m.
American Red Cross Building
1313 W. Furgeson
Blackwell, OK
Hosted by Cherryvale Grange #221

*All Grangers are invited to enjoy fun,
fellowship, food and door prizes!*

Greetings,

Membership is something that should be on all our minds as Grange members. Think to yourself for a minute, why do I belong to the Grange?

There can be as many answers as there are people asking the question. The

next question should be, Do you enjoy your Grange membership and want to keep enjoying it?

If so, without increasing membership, you eventually won't have a Grange in which to belong. That's why it is so imperative for each of us collectively and individually to make sure our own Grange is increasing its membership so the fun can continue, not only for you, but for future generations.

And think about this: many membership projects can also double as community service projects as well.

Last night, I along with State Master Yvonne Meritt, met with the new National Membership Director Rusty Hunt from Washington State. (For those of you who might know them, his parents are Terry and Mary Hunt). He had several ideas that sounded like they had potential for Oklahoma, and we'll be bringing those to you in the coming months. In the meantime, here is a possibility for growth that could be easily overlooked: The Junior Program.

Do you want membership growth that includes families? The statistics show that if you want family growth in your Grange you must get involved with the children of the families you want as members. The Grange program that focuses on children is the Junior program. Become familiar with what the National and State Granges have for children.

Check with your local elementary

schools. Find out what the teachers and administration think are missing from their programs. Consider filling some of those needs with your Grange members.

as they learn to read?

Have your Grange make a commitment to the school to fill at least one need. Then let the school and parents know about the opportunities that Junior Grange membership gives to their children. This will set the stage for those parents who care to ask about your Grange.

Does the school need people to read to children? Are chaperones needed for field trips? Are budget restrictions reducing opportunities for exposure to arts, music, theater, or other areas? Does each child in a class need their own personal book

Fill needs in your community through your Grange and watch he impossible happen!

Fraternally,
Mike McCann

State Membership Director

Membership

By Mike McCann

Lecturer's Lesson

By Deloris Walker

The new year is well under way. February is already gone, and that tells me we need to start thinking about State Session. It's never too early to start taking pictures.

April is Grange Month. Each Grange is encouraged to set up a display (in a business if possible) celebrating and promoting the Grange. In your display, you should have the Grange Emblem, name and number of the Grange and name and phone number of the contact person. Take pictures and bring to State Session along with a description. There is a report form to send to National.

The Corn State Lecturer's Conference is set for April 18-20 in Branson, Missouri. Rooms will be provided for Oklahoma members. There is a \$25 registration fee for each Oklahoma person attending, the other \$30 will be paid for by the Oklahoma State Grange. You need to have your fee and form returned to Donna Keeton by April 1t. We will be making the reservations for our Oklahoma members since the state is paying for the hotel rooms.

One of my projects for this year is collecting aluminum can tabs. Please collect and bring them to State Session. They will be given to the Ronald McDonald House. Please place them in a plastic zip-lock bag.

Another project for 2008 is Dogs for the Deaf. All Grangers are urged to collect money to donate to this project. If you save your change, please cash it to bring to state. Hopefully we can do as well for this project as we did for Happy Hands in 2007.

In the next newsletter, look for the contests for the State Session.

Fraternally Submitted,
Deloris Walker
Oklahoma State Lecturer

Junior Grange

By Ann Keeton

Greetings Junior Grangers,

I hope you have had Happy Holidays since our last letter!

Degree day is quickly approaching and I hope everyone is looking forward to attending! The date is set for March 29th. The location is Blackwell, OK., and activities will begin at 10 am.

I have many plans for the Junior Grange on this day. We will begin our day with a program new to the Oklahoma Junior Grange. It is formally known as the Merit Badge Program. But as Oklahomans, we are going to add a little spice to it. We will call it "Team Up and Discover Adventure". I will explain

more about it at Degree Day.

Then, to get our adrenaline pumping, we will have our Jump-a-thon for the Kelly Farm. Next, don't forget your favorite book, because we will be reading our favorite book to the group.

After our book readings, we will present our speeches. If you would like help you are more than welcome to contact me at any time. I'm also sure your teachers at school would be thrilled with the idea of helping write a speech. (And remember, it can be about any topic you would like).

All business aside, we will also be doing a couple of arts and crafts projects, and having an Easter Egg Hunt! So please do not forget your baskets.

As you can tell from above, we will be having a full day of activity, so I hope that you will all attend! If for some reason you can't attend, and would like to participate in any of the programs, contact me and I will be more than happy to send you information.

Don't forget the contest! Bring your Egg Carton project - take an empty egg carton and turn it into whatever you desire.

The Best Egg Carton projects will win cash prizes! Once again, if there are any questions or concerns, my e-mail is annmariekeeton@yahoo.com And I recently got a new phone number: (918) 373-2281

Sincerely,

Ann Keeton

State Junior Director

Chaplain's Corner

By Sheila Conrady

LENT

It's not the stuff your socks leave between your toes, it's the Season. So here is my take on it...

L is for the spring of new Life we await, filled with fluffy baby chicks, little lambs, tulips, green lawns, white lilies, butterflies, and children in Easter Clothes. Perhaps this Spring of New Life prepares our hearts for God's blessing to accept His Son.

E is for the Events which we have been through in the past year; like the harsh cold and flu season, the obituary page that has become pages, and the Seasonal Affective Disorder, in which after all these winter storms and dreary days, we are all now firm believers.. These Events try our faith, but if we let them , they can draw us closer to our Savior.

N is for the New Life of renewed faith and a closer walk with our Savior, when we celebrate Easter and our Father's love for us as He sent Christ to the cross. I hope all of us experience a renewal of Christ's love for us this Easter.

T is for Time. Not just time for an hour of Church on Easter Sunday, or an afternoon of ham and scalloped potatoes at Grandma's house. A time for prayer, fasting or the giving up of things for some, and for all, a time to prepare our hearts and souls to receive Christ's gift of eternal life.

May your health, and especially your spirit be renewed this Easter Season.

Sheila Conrady
State Chaplain

Grange Activities

By D. Borgstrom and A. Taylor

Degree Day this year will be in Blackwell at the American Red Cross Building on March 29th at 10 am.

At Degree Day, hosted by Cheryvale Grange 349, the activities for adult women will be:

Flower Arrangement:

Silk Flowers

1st Prize \$25.00

2nd Prize \$15.00

3rd Prize \$10.00

Fresh Flowers

1st Prize \$25.00

2nd Prize \$15.00

3rd Prize \$10.00

For men, the activities will be:

Flower Planter

1st Prize \$25.00

2nd Prize \$15.00

3rd Prize \$10.00

Wind Chimes

1st Prize \$25.00

2nd Prize \$15.00

3rd Prize \$10.00

We hope to see you at Degree Day, and are looking for new ideas for the State Session. Any ideas will be welcomed. We look forward to hearing from you. May God bless you and your family.

Faternally,
Debbie Borgstrom and
Aliene Taylor
State Activities Directors

GRANGE ACTIVITIES

Fostering
Community Service,
Traditional Skills,
and Recreation

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.

I have been busy getting the Journal of Proceedings ready for the printers. I am also working on a new state roster. I would like for every Subordinate Grange to send me the names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of all their officers and directors. I would like to have the information no later than March 20, 2008 so that I can have

the roster done by Degree Day.

I will not be able to come to Degree Day this year, but I will have the Quarterly Report forms there if you need them.

It is not too early to be thinking about 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 that can be given out each year. The Scholarship application is due at the end of June. I hope to see new applicants.

Oklahoma State Grange Vision Statement

*The Oklahoma State Grange Vision is to
Defend Family Farms, Help Sustain
Rural Communities and Protect Our
State's Rich Rural Cultural Heritage.*

Oklahoma State Grange Mission Statement

*The Oklahoma State Grange members
are committed to family and fellowship.
We promote family values, leadership,
and we strive to improve our
communities through cooperative efforts.
We promote legislative action to protect
our rural communities moving
into the future.*

Corn State Lecturer's Conference Slated for April 18-20 In Branson, Mo.

The 2008 Corn State Lecturer's Conference will be held April 18-20 at the Ramada Resort and Conference Center, 1700 W. Highway 76 in Branson Missouri. Their phone is 417 334-1000.

Registration fee is \$25.00, payable to the Oklahoma State Grange. Your registration fee and the form (below) should be sent no later than April 1 to Donna Keeton, Rt. 1 Box 106, South Coffeyville, OK 74072. Phone 918 929-7402 or FAX 918 929-3303.

The plan for this year's conference is to have a fun and relaxing time. Oklahoma State Grange once again has given members a chance to be active by making your registration fee only \$25.00

This includes hotel stay for Friday and Saturday night, meals for the weekend, starting from Friday night to Sunday morning. There is a Branson show that is also included for Saturday night. I am sure the workshops will be fun and interesting for

all who come and the fellowship we will have will be priceless. If you have any questions or need more information you can contact Donna Keeton or check out the website at oklahomagrange.org.

Event Schedule:

Friday

7:00 pm Registration.Sandwich bar and snacks.

8-10 pm Get acquainted, fellowship.

Saturday

8:00 - 8:45 am Breakfast

9:00 am Workshop 1

9:45 am Break

10:00 am Workshop 2

10:45 am Break

11:00 am Workshop 3

11:45 - 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00-5:00 pm Free Time

5:00-7:00 pm Branson Dinner and Show.

Sunday

8:00-9:00 am Breakfast

9:30-10:00 am Closing

Corn State Lecturer's Conference Registration Form:

Name: _____ Fee _____

Name _____ Fee _____

Name _____ Fee _____

Name _____ Fee _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Mail by April 1 to Donna Keeton,
Rt 1 Box 106, South Coffeyville, OK 74072

Oklahoma
GRANGE
INFORMATION
*is only a
mouse click away...*
CHECK OUT THE
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GRANGE
WEB PAGE
at
<http://oklahomagrange.org>

OKLAHOMA

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**Patronize Your Own
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Marvin Purdy, President, Robert Bailey, Vice President,
Mike McCann, Secretary, Brad Keeton, Treasurer

Oklahoma State Grange Opportunities For Higher Education Scholarship Program

Up to six scholarships will be awarded for educational expenses at an accredited post-secondary educational institute of the recipient's choice.

Upon selection by the scholarship committee, Full time students (12 or more hours per semester) will be awarded a \$1,300.00 scholarship (\$650 per semester). Part-time students (minimum of 6 hours per semester) will be awarded a \$650.00 scholarship (\$325.00 per semester). Non-traditional students (students returning to school after a period of at least 5 years out of school) taking less than six hours will be eligible for \$325.00. (\$162.50 per semester).

In the event that there are not six recipients applying for the scholarships, the scholarship committee could increase the amount to be awarded at their discretion, not to exceed a total of \$3,000.00 per year for one recipient.

Eligibility:

The applicant must: Be a citizen of the United States of America. Be a High School graduate or senior at the time of the scholarship selection. Be an active Fifth Degree member in good standing (current dues paid) of an Oklahoma Subordinate Grange for one year by the application deadline (June 30). To be considered an Active Member, the Applicant must attend Degree Day and State Session before applying. Previous winners of the scholarships will continue to be eligible for future selection, but must re-apply and will be judged on an equal basis with other applicants.

Selection Process:

Applications will be evaluated and recipients will be selected by a scholarship committee consisting of the State Master and four members appointed by the Master. Any member of the selected committee, including the Master, with immediate family applying for the scholarship will be disqualified and a re-appointment made. All qualified applicants will be given equal consideration. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of Grange participation, demonstrated leadership, financial need, and potential to succeed. Applicants will submit an application and a 500 word essay to the State Master by June 30. A personal interview may be required for a final decision. Winners will be notified by July 30 and published in the Sooner State Granger.

Responsibilities:

It shall be the sole responsibility of the applicant to provide the completed application and necessary information to the State Master by the stated deadlines. All recipients must enter school the fall term following selection. Payment of the first half of the scholarship will be contingent on proof of acceptance and enroll-

ment of the student at an accredited school by official statement from the Registrar's office. Proof of enrollment must be received by the State Master by September 1. Payment of the second half of the scholarship is contingent upon the recipient giving an acceptance speech at the state banquet in October. At this time, pictures will be taken of the recipients for publication in the Sooner State Granger. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the scholarship committee in the event of medical emergency or circumstance beyond the recipient's control. The second half of the scholarship money will be transferred for the second term if a minimum 2.6 GPA has been achieved for the first semester. An official copy of the student's grades must be sent to the State Master by February 1, or the scholarship will be forfeited.

If for any reason the student cannot accept or becomes ineligible for this award, other applicants will be considered for the unused money.

An official application form is printed on the next page. Applicants may use additional sheets of paper to provide complete information if necessary.

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Oklahoma State Grange Opportunities For Higher Education
Scholarship Application

Please print or type

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

First Name _____ MI _____ Last _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____ Social Security No _____

EDUCATION:

Education completed to date: _____

Please describe your educational and career goals; _____

ACTIVITIES AND HONORS:

List Grange activities and honors: _____

List school activities and honors: _____

List community involvement _____

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Dependents in family _____

Number of other family members currently attending post-secondary school: _____

Please describe your family's financial situation and the need for additional assistance for your education:

I would like to be considered for a Grange Educational Scholarship and certify that all information in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date: _____ Signature of applicant: _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian (if applicant is under 18): _____

I certify that _____ is a 4th Degree member in good standing of _____ Grange No. _____ and deserving of consideration for a scholarship.

Date: _____ Signature of Subordinate Master _____

I certify that _____ is a 5th Degree member in good standing of _____ Grange No. _____ and deserving of consideration for a scholarship.

Date: _____ Signature of State Secretary _____

This signed application must be accompanied by: 1) A certified copy of the applicant's current grade transcript. 2) A 500 word essay about the history of the Grange or what the Grange means to the applicant. This information must be received by the State Master by June 30, or it will not be considered. Mail completed application to Yvonne Meritt, State Master, 20545 SW 15, Union City, OK 73090.