



Published Quarterly
Yvonne Meritt, Master
Marvin Purdy, Editor
March, 2009

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

Master's Message...

Degree Day In Wann, Ok Is Next Big Event On This Year's Grange Agenda

Greetings to all Grangers,

Kay and I returned this past week from the annual Masters Conference, which was held in Bentonville, Arkansas. I must say it was a very informative and productive weekend. Several fellow Oklahoma Grangers accompanied us to do a membership promotion workshop with the highlight of the National Grange Master and a team visiting Zion Oak Grange in Arkansas to revitalize the Grange. Kay was assigned to a team that went to Pea Ridge and I went with a team that went to Eureka Springs to scout the possibilities for Grange organization. Dream the possibilities.

Following the membership devel-

Dates To Remember

March 21 - Degree Day. Community Center, Wann, Ok.

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

October - State Grange Session.

opment portion of the agenda we learned more about communication technologies such as You tube, Podcast and Team speak. Jennifer and Molly have taken our National office into the communication world of our young people, today. We also heard from our Legislative Director Leroy Watson, who also gave highlights of his department.

We also had a media training workshop, which was outstanding. At the conclusion of the weekend we had a question and answer session with the executive committee.

Degree Day

Mark your calendar and plan to attend Degree Day. Green Country Pomona will be hosting at the Wann Community Center in Wann, Oklahoma on March 21 at 10:00 a.m. It will be a day of fellowship and fun.

Lecturers Conference

April 17, 18 and 19 in Dallas, TX for details contact State Lecturer Deloris Walker.

State Session

This year's State Session will be held on Oct. 16, 17, and 18th at the Old Santa Fe Depot in downtown Guthrie. I will be making all room reservation at the Sleep Inn located just off of Interstate 35. I will be mailing reservation forms to the Master of each subordinate Grange in late August. I do hope all who are interested will attend. This is a great opportunity be active in the policy development at the grassroots level.

Scholarship Applications

Applications for the Grange Scholarship should be mailed to me by June 30. Please review the enclosed application for details of all the requirements for the scholarship.

Revitalization and Grange Growth

Last November I put my name on the dotted line to organize 6 Granges during this year. You may say that I am crazy. But I am dreaming big. Will we accomplish this goal? I

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Master's Message

Continued

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am not sure. But look where we will be even if we only reach half of our goal. I will be more than willing to come to your Grange to assist in the revitalization. It only takes 13 willing people whom 4 must be women to organize a Grange. We have a team in Oklahoma which has been trained by our National Membership Director Rusty Hunt. If more members wish to be trained we have three Grange Growth Summits in the near future if you want to attend. In March it will be in Texas, in April it will be in Nebraska and in June the GGS will be in Iowa.

Fraternally,
Yvonne Meritt
State Master

What Does Your Grange Membership Buy?

Listed below are the various programs which are available to you as a Grange member.

American Income Life

All National Grange members in good standing will receive a \$2,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit (AD&D) provided by American Income Life Insurance Company at no cost to Grange members.

American Income Life provides other benefits as well and if you would like to know about them please contact Larry Lozano at American

Continued on next page

Dig the Digest

by State Master Yvonne Meritt

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

4.14.1 A copy of all official communications sent to any Grange or Grange member within the jurisdiction of a State Grange by the Officers, Directors, or employees of the National Grange, shall be sent to the Master of the State Grange having jurisdiction:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I now declare April 2009 as Grange Month!

The theme for Grange Month is Opportunity Knocks, and it is so appropriate! We are 142 years young and taking advantage of the opportunities that today's world gives us. Our history and experience allows each Grange to find an important niche in every community. Grange Month is a chance to celebrate our relevance in today's society. Developing people into leaders and benefiting our communities is just part of what we do.

To celebrate the month, I am encouraging all Granges to organize an open house or similar program to invite the public into your hall. Use this opportunity to showcase the things you are proud of and to share your plans for the future. Open house programs are an excellent way to begin building good relationships with the community your Grange serves.

To give your community more reasons to attend your event, I suggest that you present an award to an outstanding community citizen. Create an application and a flyer announcing that your Grange is accepting applications and display them in public places. In addition, make your community newspaper aware of your plans and ask them to print an announcement. Then don't forget to ask them to come and cover the award ceremony.

In this packet we have supplied everything you need to make your Grange Month celebration a success! Award applications, media resources, order forms, posters... it's all here and ready for your use. We have also included other materials that can be useful to your Grange. This includes a free Medicare DVD to educate your members about Medicare Part-D. One of the most pressing issues facing our rural communities today is providing adequate health care, and especially prescription drug coverage, to our rural seniors.

Don't hesitate! The opportunity to reach out to the citizens of your community is now. There are citizens in every community that want to make an impact on the world around them. This upcoming April, and all through the rest of the year, we must open the door of opportunity in our community. Happy Grange Month!

Fraternally,
Edward L. Luttrell
National Master

What Does Your Grange Membership Buy?

Continued from page 2
Income Life at 408-410-7811.

Beltone

As a Grange member you will receive:

15% off the purchase of over 70 models of hearing aids.

Free hearing screening, a 10-step evaluation process.

Enrollment in the BelCare™ Member Satisfaction plan.

Enrollment in the Lifetime Care program.

Warranty and lost, stolen, or damaged protection coverage.

The convenience of over 1,400 Beltone providers throughout the United States

For further information or to locate a Beltone provider, please call 1-800-BELTONE (1-800-235-8663).

Choice Hotels

Grange members save 20% at over 4,000 Comfort Inns, Comfort Suites, Quality, Sleep Inns, Clarion, MainStay Suites, EconoLodge, and Rodeway Inn hotels worldwide.

Free Choice privileges membership – the fastest way to free stays.

Free deluxe continental breakfasts available at over 2,600 locations.

Children 18 and under stay free when sharing a room with a parent or guardian.

To make reservations, please call 1-800-258-2847 and provide the ID #T00211660.

Club Quarters

If your travels take you to Chicago, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, or Washington, D.C., you can stay at Club Quarters Hotels with a special discount for Grange members. Just

call 212-575-0006, say you are a Grange member, and enjoy your savings.

Hertz

As a Grange member, you will receive discounted rates, as well as other promotional offers including a one-class car upgrade, \$10 off a weekly rental, or \$15 off a weekend rental.

To make reservations, please visit the Hertz website, www.hertz.com, or call 1-800-654-2200. The Grange CDP# is 1516203.

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will provide Grange members with valuable information on how to become proactive about their health and their family's health by offering a way to get high-quality health screenings that are accurate, convenient, and inexpensive.

They do this by bringing their screening procedures to your community. Each test takes only a few minutes and is noninvasive. A board-certified physician, licensed in your state, evaluates the results and you receive a report by mail within three weeks.

Grange members can take advantage of a four package screening that consists of Stroke, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm Package, for \$135 specially priced for National Grange members. You may also add the Osteoporosis Screening to the package for only \$10.

For more information or to schedule a screening, call Life Line Screening toll-free at: 1-866-204-9860 or visit their website at www.LifeLineScreening.com/Grange and enter your zip code to sign up.

National Grange Credit Card

WorldPoints National Grange Visa Credit Card – The Most Rewarding Card of All

Earn points and “get what you want” cash, along with travel, merchandise, and gift certificates. Only the World-Points card gives you the freedom to choose so much, so easily and with no annual fee. Simply call 1-866-438-6262 (TYY users 1-800-833-6262) to apply. Be sure to mention priority code FAAR2N. Earn one point for every \$1 in purchases. Redeem WorldPoints for travel, merchandise, and unlimited cash rewards—now with easy online redemption. Access your secure account online, use the electronic bill payment service, or speak to a personal customer assistant 24/7

Pre-Paid Legal Services

Pre-Paid Legal Services will allow members to buy prepaid legal services and/or Identity Theft Protection. Pre-paid offers various plans that include: legal consultation and advice, letters and calls made on your behalf for any subject matter, contract and document review, will preparation, minor and/or major legal expenses, and IRS audit legal services. Under these plans both the member and their spouse are covered along with their minor children. The Identity Theft Protection includes monitoring your credit report at all three agencies and identity restoration. Plans from Pre-Paid Legal vary between \$16.00 and \$37.00 (a month) plus a \$10 one time enrollment fee. If you would like to learn more about Pre-Paid Legal (PPL) or enroll please visit our website at www.prepaid.com/hub/thenationalgrange or call Tony Lamm at Pre-Paid Legal, 916-995-2697.

Lecturer's Lesson

By Deloris Walker

The year 2009 is well under way. We almost have two months behind us. Hopefully, Spring will be here soon.

It's never too early to start taking pictures for the State Session photo contest. As usual we will have Tell-A-Story Category with 2 or more pictures in a sequence, telling a story.) Other categories are: Grangers Having Fun, Animals, and Landscapes. Only one entry per category per person. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

Now is also the time to be thinking about the talent show for State Session. (vocal, instrumental, skit, or whatever). There is a 6 minute time limit. The best of show will represent Oklahoma at the National Grange Convention.

Our project for this year is Hearts for Hearing. This is an organization in Oklahoma. Save your change or make donations. We will be collecting this in October at State Session. I hope to do as well as we did for Dogs for the Deaf.

We are also saving can tabs again this year to help Ronald McDonald House, so save those tabs!

The Corn State Lecturer's Conference will be held April 17-19 in Dallas, TX. It will be at the Ramada Inn - Love Field. If flying, fly to
Continued on next page

Thank You For Donations to the Tyson Food Issue

Sunset Grange	\$100.00
Yvonne and Kay Meritt	\$250.00

Chaplain's Corner

By Sheila Conrady

Lent - A daily lesson in tough times!

As we prepare for Lent, the season of reflecting on God's sacrifice before we celebrate the resurrection Easter Sunday and our gift of eternal life in Christ, I thought about what Lent means to us in these difficult economic times.

Lent is typically observed in the Christian faith by giving up something difficult or particularly enjoyed by the individual between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. The idea is to help draw the person closer to God and help them better understand the sacrifice of God in sending His Son to die on the cross. Also Christ's suffering on the cross for us. People often give up their "Coke" or "Coffee" and "no meat on Fridays" for Catholics.

Lent often focused on individual willpower unlike Christmas focus on giving to others. Perhaps in these times of layoffs, increased cost of living and the economic uncertainty, it is a good time to think of others as we think about what we can give up. Maybe the troubles have not hit home yet for your family. "Praise God!" But, From Ponca City where Conoco announced the movement or elimination of 750 jobs this week, I am starting to feel it.

Some simple ideas that combine the Lenten tradition but add things to giving to someone else with what we do without.

Give up eating out and brown bag it. Give the approximate savings (\$5.00 a meal) to a food bank or soup kitchen.

If you give up your TV show or Friday night movie, give your family or community the gift of your time by playing board games at home or leading a bible study at a nursing home.

Forget the new spring wardrobe. Clean out your closet and drawers and give unused items to a homeless shelter.

You get the point. If we are going to give something up, lets see if we can give something to others. Even if it is just putting it in savings for the unknown, it may give you and yours peace of mind. Let's bring as much meaning into this season of sacrifice and make it a season of giving and service to others.

Yours Fraternaly,
Sheila Conrady
State Chaplain

Membership

By Jerry Taylor

Hello Fellow Grangers

I hope this finds everyone well and in good health. We just returned from attending the National Masters Conference in Bentonville Arkansas. on Feb. 13th and 14th. It was a very learning and educational experience. We divided into groups and scouted the surrounding communities to see if a Grange would be feasible for the area. Although many had never heard of us, most were very receptive. One group had a revitalization of the only Grange left in Arkansas.

At one time Arkansas had over 600 Granges, but have all died but one. We are trying to help that state to get up and going again. Don't let this happen to our state. If anyone needs anything, or has any suggestions on gaining members please let me know.

Fraternally,
Jerry Taylor
Membership Director

Lecturer's Lesson

Continued

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Love Field). The Executive Committee voted to pay for the hotel rooms and there will be a deposit fee of \$30 that needs to be sent to me by March 13, with your t-shirt size. I need to know as soon as possible how many are going to the conference so I can let the Texas Lecturer Lori Wuest know how many people to expect from Oklahoma.

Fraternally,
Deloris Walker
State Lecturer

Junior Grange

By Ann Keeton

Hello again Junior Grangers,

I hope you are all having a wonderful year at your local schools. But more importantly I hope you all are planning on attending Degree Day coming up on March 21st. I have some big plans. I would like each child who is attending to get 10 donations for our jump-a-thon. The size of the donation is not important. Make sure you write the name and address of the person who made the donation.

To the Grangers reading this, if you would like to make a donation to the jump-a-thon, you can either mail the donation to me at: Rt.1 Box 106 South Coffeyville, OK 74072 or you can hand deliver it at Degree Day. The money donated for our jump-a-thon will go towards The Kelley Farm.

Also I would like to remind all the juniors to continue writing down the titles and page numbers of all the books you have been reading for Reading Across America. I hope to have some great prizes for this contest this year.

We also have two contests for juniors for Degree Day. The first contest is a poetry contest. The subject and length of the poem is up to you. The other contest we are going to have is a collage. Find pictures out of newspapers, or old magazines(make sure your parents say it's okay), or whatever you can put together, and on a piece of poster board make the best piece of art that you can think of. I can't wait to see you all at Degree Day!!!

Sincerely,
Junior Director
Ann Keeton

OKLAHOMA

**GRANGE
MUTUAL
INSURANCE**

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,
Dee Proctor, Secretary, Brad Keeton, Treasurer

Grange Activities

By Debbie Borgstrom
and Aliene Taylor

Fellow Grangers,

It comes time once again for Degree Day. There will be a contest for your favorite dessert. It will be judged, and then we get to eat it! A certificate and ribbon will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. There will be fun for all.

The State Session will be in Guthrie this year. It's time to start thinking about your projects. The projects this year are:

Juniors Girls - Craft Project of your choice. \$25.00 \$15.00 \$10.00 for 1st 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Junior Boys - Craft Project of your choice. \$25.00 \$15.00 \$10.00 for 1st 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Youth Girls - Craft Project of your choice with instructions on how to make it. \$25.00 \$15.00 \$10.00 for 1st 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Youth Boys - Craft Project of your choice with instructions on how to make it. \$25.00 \$15.00 \$10.00 for 1st 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Women - Table centerpiece for State Session. \$25.00 \$15.00 \$10.00 for 1st 2nd and 3rd respectively. Items to be put in bags for National Session. \$25.00 \$15.00 \$10.00 for 1st 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Men - Wood Craft of your choice \$25.00 \$15.00 \$10.00 for 1st 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Home Made Candy - \$25.00 \$15.00 \$10.00 for 1st 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Fraternally,
Debbie Borgstrom
Aliene Taylor
Activities Directors

Secretaries Take Note

By Donna Keeton

I am working on a new State Grange Roster. I would like to thank all the Subordinate Granges who have sent back that form for the new roster that I sent to them in January. I would like the Granges that have not sent it back to me to please do so as soon as possible so that I can print out the new edition. It has been several years since the last one was printed. If you did not receive a form, all I am asking for is the Master, Overseer, Lecturer, and Secretary's name, address, phone number and email address if they have one, along with the date and time of your meetings.

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Great Plains Regional Youth Conference

This Conference will be in Broken Arrow, at the Clarion Hotel from July 17-19, with lots of activities including a shoot out at Laser Quest. Cost for the weekend will be \$45 per person, 4 to a room and includes housing, tours and meals. Call for rates for fewer to a room. Application deadline is June 30, if you miss it, a \$25 fee will be added if a room is even available. Send form to Bill & Lena Shufeldt, Rt 1 Box 342-14, South Coffeyville, OK 74072. Make checks payable to Oklahoma State Grange Youth.

Great Plains Regional Youth Conference Registration / Medical Form

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

In the event of an emergency, please contact (include phone numbers)

1. _____

2. _____

My Insurance carrier is: _____

(Please include the name of your insurance company and send your card, or a copy with your child).

Known Allergies _____

Medical Conditions _____

I have included my registration

Number of people staying in your room _____

Parental Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment

(All participants under 18 MUST have completed form)

I hereby give my legal consent and authorize any representative of the Oklahoma State Grange / Great Plains Regional Conference to authorize emergency medical treatment including any necessary surgery or hospitalization, for my above named child, for any injury or illness of any emergency nature he/she incurred while participating in the tours or activities noted above by any physician or dentist licensed and any hospital. This consent is for _____, while attending the Great Plains Regional Youth Conference in Broken Arrow, July 17-19, 2009.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

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 enrollment 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.

Take Note

Continued

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Degree Day will be March 21, 2009 at the Wann Community Center in Wann, OK. It will start at 10 am, and is hosted by Green Country Pomona #19. I know that there will be lots of fun, fellowship and food at Degree Day. that's what the Grange is all about!

It is not too early to be thinking about the Grange Scholarship. Remember you have to attend Degree Day and take the first four degrees and take the fifth degree at the State Session in October to be eligible for the Grange Scholarship. There are six scholarships that can be given out each year. The Scholarship application is due at the end of June, and I hope to see many new scholarship applicants! Instructions and form are on pages 7 and 8.

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.