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Donna Keeton, Master
Marvin Purdy, Editor
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Master's Message...

Oklahoma Leads Nation In Grange Membership Growth

Greetings,

"Our State Grange is moving forward." That's what the National Membership, Leadership Development Director said on Saturday evening at the Celebration Banquet at the National Grange Convention. We were number one in the Nation with membership increase. There were nine states all together with an increase, but we were number one!. I would like to congratulate everyone on their hard work for getting the new members.

The State Grange had elections for new officers this year, and the new officers are: Master Donna Keeton, Overseer Dee Procter, Executive Committee Members Kent McAninch,

Marvin Purdy, and Don Larmon; Lecturer Deloris Walker, Steward Billy Shufeldt, Assistant Steward Robert Bailey, Lady Assistant Steward Valerie Thomsen, Chaplain Jimmy Harrington, Treasurer Scheneista Procter, Secretary Jeannie Harrington, Gatekeeper Jimmy Monroe, Pomona Chabrice Evans, Ceres Lisa Evans, Flora Morgan Meritt.

The Directors are Membership Jerry Taylor, Grange Activities Directors Aliene Taylor and Debbie Borgstrom, Youth Director Lena Shufeldt, Junior Director (to be announced later), Legislative Director Paul Matthews assisted by Carl Shufeldt III, IT Director Brian Procter. I am looking for a Junior Director, so if anyone would like to volunteer, just let me know. I would appreciate it.

The State Grange Convention was a busy time. There were 18 resolutions and 11 of them made it out of committee and were adopted by the delegates. There were two resolutions that were sent on to the National Grange Convention and they were adopted by the National Grange Delegates.

One of the resolutions at the State Grange Convention that passed was about the National Grange Assessment of \$1.00 per member on every Grange member and when to pay the assessment. The State Grange Delegates agreed that the assessment should be paid at the end of the Second Quarter. So starting in 2010, there will be an assessment of \$1.00 to be paid at the end of the Second Quarter. Also, the Executive Committee did not vote to pay the fourth quarter dues before the State Grange Convention this year, so every Grange will have to pay their fourth quarter dues.

There were 20 Junior Grangers at the State Session this year. Thanks to Junior Director Ann Keeton for providing lots of activities for the Juniors. Our Grange Youth Directors did a fantastic job on the Fifth Degree Drill team and there were enough youth to fill every office. Thanks to both departments.

The Grange Activities Department had an increase in entries this year, and the Lecturer's Department had an increase in entries as well.

Dates To Remember

Feb. 20 - Send Grange News to Marvin Purdy, 4202 W. Doolin, Blackwell, OK 74631, phone 580 363-5171, fax, 580 363-4296.

Degree Day - Date will be announced in the next issue of the Sooner Granger.

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Master's Message

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There were nine candidates who took the Fifth and Sixth Degrees. At the National Grange Convention, there were three candidates who took the Seventh Degree, including Mitchell Nutter, Camille Krehbiel, and Timothy Keeton. Mitchell Nutter also represented Oklahoma by giving a speech that he had given at the Great Plains Youth Conference in July. Ann Keeton, Mary Krehbiel, and Kay and Yvonne Meritt also attended the National Grange Convention.

While at the National Grange Convention, there was a Great Plains Master's meeting where the State Masters elected Yvonne Meritt to be the coordinator for the National Grange Convention in 2011. There will be individual state coordinators who will be working with Yvonne Meritt, and Dee Procter will serve as our state coordinator. I hope everyone is ready to start working on this project as it will be here soon.

I am so excited about this coming year! I have a committee that is working on where the State Grange Convention will be, and I am looking for someone to host our Degree Day.

I am also trying to finish up the Proceedings book. I need reports from some of the officers, directors and any subordinate Granges who would like to have a report about their accomplishments in the book this year. I need these reports as soon as possible. Thank you for your help.

The Keeton family wishes you all Happy Holidays.

Fraternally,
Donna Keeton, Master
Oklahoma State Grange

Grange Activities

By D. Borgstrom and A. Taylor

Fellow Grangers,

We would like to thank everyone for their contest entries in this year's State Session. This was our largest year for Community Service entries, with eleven projects entered. All entries were great, and they were all winners. Two special awards were given to the youth, and to Lecturer Deloris Walker to be used for the Hearts For Hearing fund.

Winners for the contests were:

Junior Girls Craft Project - 1st Carlie Conrady.

Junior Boys Craft Project - 1st Jace Couch, 2nd Chase Monroe, 3rd Avery Couch.

Youth Girls Craft Project - 1st Camille Krehbiel

Youth Boys Craft Project - 1st Coleton Evans.

Women's Centerpiece - 1st Charbrice Evans, 2nd Donna Keeton, 3rd Aliene Taylor

Women's Items for National - 1st Cheryl Shafer, 2nd Mary Krehbiel, 3rd Aliene Taylor.

Men's Craft project - 1st Johnny Borgstrom, 2nd Marvin Purdy, 3rd Jerry Taylor.

Men's Candy Making - 1st Carl Shufeldt, 2nd Larry Shafer, 3rd Richard Volz.

Fraternally,
Debbie Borgstrom and Aliene Taylor,
State Activities Directors

**Patronize Your Own
Grange Mutual
Insurance
Association
and Save.**

**Marvin Purdy, President
Robert Bailey, Vice Pres.
Dee Procter, Secretary
Brad Keeton, Treasurer**

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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.

Junior Grange

By Ann Keeton

Hello Worthy Master, New Officer Team, Fellow Grangers, and Juniors,

The year is coming to an end, and what a wonderful year it has been. I have been so lucky to have amazing Juniors during my whole term as Junior Director. But, as one chapter is closing, another is opening in the Grange, and in my life. I first would like to congratulate all of the new officers! We have a fresh new team, and with a new team comes new ideas. I would also like to commend the old officer team on a job well done. The Grange will see change in its future, and change is an amazing thing. That being said, I am graduating from college this month. After Christmas, I'm leaving for India for 8 months, which means I will not be able to fulfill the duties as your Junior Director for another term. I have faith in the Grange, and in the Master, that they will find someone willing and able to fill my shoes.

This year at the State Session, we had a record number of Juniors involved. We had many projects for the children to do, including cork boards, and collages. I would like to thank all my helpers who transported and assisted with the projects. It was a crazy time in the Junior Room, but we made it through the weekend. I had one Junior participate in the Reading Across America program, and that was Colton Conrady. He received \$25 for his list of books read over the past year. I also received the opportunity to go to Nationals this year, and I would like to encourage more Juniors to participate in that event. I have program books available to any Juniors or parents who would

like them. It is really neat to go to the National Convention and to see all the wonderful projects and essays that the Juniors have done. It would be great to have more Oklahoma Juniors show off their creative side at National.

Once again, I would like to thank the Grange for this wonderful opportunity they gave me. Thank you for the trust and responsibility you bestowed upon me. I wish the Okla-

homa State Grange as a whole, an amazing 2010. I hope that I will be able to make it to a few Grange events in the upcoming year, but if not, the Grange is a huge part of my life, and no matter where life takes me, I will always represent and support the Grange. I love you all and you will all be missed.

Fraternally,
Ann Keeton,

Oklahoma State Junior Director

Lecturer's Lesson

By Deloris Walker

State Session is behind us and Christmas is around the corner. State Session was very good and productive. I really appreciated all the entries in the Photo Contest. The winners in Tell-A Story were 1st Mark Conrady, 2nd Cheryl Shafer, and 3rd Mary Krehbiel.

Youth winners were 1st Camille Krehbiel, 2nd Stephanie Nutter, and 3rd Chabrice Evans.

Animals, adult winners were 1st Leslie Nutter, 2nd Sheila Conrady, and 3rd Mary Krehbiel. Youth winners were 1st Chase Monroe, 2nd Mitchell Nutter, and 3rd Camille Krehbiel.

Grangers Having Fun adult winners were 1st Mary Krehbiel, 2nd Cheryl Shafer, and 3rd Larry Shafer. Youth winners were 1st Camille Krehbiel, 2nd Mitchell Nutter, and 3rd Stephanie Nutter.

Landscapes adult winners were 1st Sheila Conrady, and 2nd Larry Shafer. Youth winners were 1st Camille Krehbiel, 2nd Taylor Monroe, and 3rd Coleton Evans.

We all enjoyed the song by JackLynn Keeton, sung to "Doll" - her grandmother, Donna Keeton, for her birthday; the beautiful song Concrete Angels by Melody Shufeldt; and the reading by Larry Shafer.

I believe we exceeded the previous amount of tabs collected this year for Ronald McDonald House. Thank you to all who saved them. This will probably be an ongoing project. Please continue to save those tabs! It's such a small thing, but for a very good cause.

Our main project will be to donate to Hearts for Hearing again this year. Start saving your change and let's beat our 2009 total. A big thank you goes to Oklahoma State Grange and Grange Mutual Insurance for matching our

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Membership

By Jerry Taylor

Fellow Grangers,

I would like to thank all for the hard work you have done in the past year. During the past year our membership has grown from 1444 members to 1477 members, for a total of 33 members gained.

I would like to thank Yvonne Meritt for her work the past two years as State Master, and congratulate Donna Keeton for her election as the new State Master at the recent State Session in October.

The Granges with membership gains and awards that attended the Stat Session were:

Cherryvale #221 - 2 members gained. \$28.00.

Pleasant View #354 - 3 members gained. \$42.00.

OU #355 - 3 members gained. \$42.00.

South Coffeyville #351 - 7 members gained. \$97.00.

Blue Jacket #353 - 7 members gained. \$97.00.

Thompson #352 - 8 members gained. \$111.00

Again, I would like to thank all members for their work, and a good turn-out at State Session this year.

Fraternally yours,
Jerry Taylor
Membership Director

GRANGE YOUTH

Because Great Kids Make
Great Grange Members
and Great Citizens!

Secretaries Take Note

By Jeannie Harrington

Greetings,

Just a note to introduce myself as the new State Secretary. My name is Jeannie Harrington. My husband Jimmy and I are members of the pleasant View Grange. We are proud to serve and be an active part of the

Lecturer's Lesson

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donations for Hearts for Hearing. We had a total of \$1,108.75. Thanks to all who donated or bought chances on the two throws donated by Thompson Grange's Marie and Richard Volz. Yvonne Meritt was our Lucky, happy winner of both of the throws. Congratulations, Yvonne!

This is a good time to start taking those pictures. I'm starting a new category of the Seasons of the Year. Find some place you would like to take pictures of, and do at least 3 of the 4 seasons. (Example: a lovely pond during each of the seasons.) The other categories are 1, Celebrating a special Event, 2, Vacation Time, and 3, Grangers at Work.

Another new category this year will be pencil drawings. There will be an Adult and a Youth division.

I wish for all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Fraternally,
Deloris Walker
State Lecturer

Grange family.

My address for all correspondence is Rt. 1, Box 108, South Coffeyville, Oklahoma 74072.

Just a reminder that fourth quarter dues are payable at this time. There will also be a \$1.00 assessment that will be due the second quarter by the end of July.

I look forward to serving the Oklahoma State Grange as your newly elected secretary.

Fraternally,
Jeannie Harrington
State Secretary

Oklahoma GRANGE INFORMATION

*is only a
mouse click away...*

CHECK OUT THE

OKLAHOMA GRANGE WEB PAGE

at
<http://oklahomagrange.org>

GRANGE ACTIVITIES

Fostering Community Service,
Traditional Skills, and Recreation

Youth Report

By Billy and Lena Shufeldt

Greetings,

We hope everyone had a great time at the State Session. We would like to thank all the youth for coming. We had a great turn out. I think the best one yet!. The youth got together on Friday afternoon and went bowling for a fun afternoon. Then after the banquet Friday evening they practiced the drill. On Saturday afternoon they had a pizza party at the hotel, and on Saturday evening they put the drill on and it was awesome. Following that, they did the 5th Degree to a good turnout. Thanks to the youth for all of their hard work and for being willing to help Bill and I because without you it wouldn't have been possible. Special thanks to the drill team- you guys are great and we appreciate you all.

After Saturday evening's 5th and 6th Degree, the youth had their auction and raised \$2,065.00. Thanks to all who came to the auction and gave to the Youth. We couldn't do this without you helping the Youth out. Thanks, and a great Big thanks to Brad Keeton and to the National Representative Bruce Croucher for helping with the youth auction.

As for the National Session, we had several youth who went to represent Oklahoma. Mitchell Nutter gave his speech there. Mary Krehbiel, Ann and Tim Keeton, and Camille Krehbiel also attended,

Fraternally Submitted,
Billy and Lena Shufeldt
Oklahoma State youth Directors

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Chaplain's Corner

By Pastor Jimmy Harrington

Well, here we are at the end of 2009! I know it's hard to believe but we really are here! First of all I would like to say what an honor and privilege it is to be your new Oklahoma State Grange Chaplain. It is not a position I take lightly and I promise to do all I can to continue the great work that you have become accustomed to from every Chaplain who has preceded me.

As we enter the new year, it is my belief that we should concentrate on being all that those who started the Grange many years ago expect us to continue being. This can only be accomplished by using the most important tool we have at our disposal. UNITY! It is amazing to me that those many years ago when our Grange "Fore Fathers" began this great organization that that is about all they had. They accomplished everything they did by the one thing that bonded these people together, that being a common cause. You see, those who support a common cause set aside all personal promotion and self gratification. They believe that promoting the direction of the organization "as a whole" is the most important task set before them and they will let nothing stand in their way as they work together to accomplish their goals.

Being a pastor, I guess I think of the Grange organization and all our Grange members the same way I think of the church. Jesus, who is the head of the church gave many commands for the church to follow. He tells us, through the apostle Paul, that we are to strive to hold the bond of peace. (Ephes. 4:3-4)

(Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace [4] There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;)

Jesus also instructs us to remember that although we are one body, we all have different responsibilities, but each part is used to promote the whole. This is clearly seen in Paul's instructions to the church at Corinth. (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

(Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. [5] And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.[6] And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. [7] But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal)

(1 Cor. 12:14-20)

(For the body is not one member, but many. [15] if the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? [16] And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? [17] If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? [18] But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him [19] And if they were all one member, where were the body? [20] But now are they many members,

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Chaplain's Corner

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yet but one body.)

As we can plainly see, the Word of God instructs us in the only way we will have success, not only in life, but in all things.

Let me end by saying that I love the Grange. I love what it stands for. I love the wholesome family values that have been passed down from generation to generation and most of all I love the people.

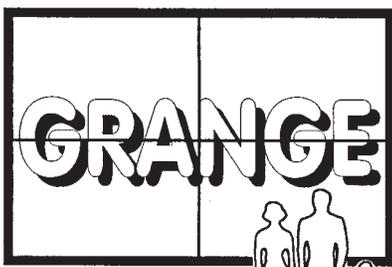
I love what Paul had to say to the people of Philippi. It is my prayer for this Grange. (Philip. 2:1-4)

(If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, [2] Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. [3] Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. [4] Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.)

It is my desire, as your Chaplain, that we fulfill, not only the agenda of the Grange, but more and most importantly, the agenda of God.

In His Service,

Pastor Jimmy Harrington
Oklahoma State Grange Chaplain



OKLAHOMA STATE GRANGE 94th ANNUAL SESSION APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

TRANSPORTATION, TAXATION, AND FISCAL POLICY TEXT MESSAGING WHILE DRIVING

WHEREAS, there has been an increase of motor vehicle accidents caused by people text messaging while driving,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Oklahoma State Grange urges Oklahoma State Legislature to pass a law to prohibit text messaging while driving.

Submitted by: Green Country Pomona #19

GRANGE LAW & GOOD OF THE ORDER YOUTH DELEGATE

WHEREAS, youth being delegates during State Session are missing opportunities to participate in youth activities and

WHEREAS, the youth not having to attend the regular session would make the Grange a youth friendly organization,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, there will no longer be a youth delegate.

Submitted by: Green Country Pomona #19

TRANSPORTATION, TAXATION, AND FISCAL POLICY FUNDING FOR STATE AND COUNTY BRIDGES

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is in the top ten States that have bridges that are in dire need of repair and replacement and the Oklahoma Legislature needs to continue to address the bridge needs in the 2010 Legislative session. This will mean to address the problems at the county level of government with more funding going to county commissioners for bridge repair and replacement,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Oklahoma State Grange urges the Oklahoma Legislature in the 2010 session to earmark additional funding for state and county bridge repair.

Submitted By; Prairie Grange #334

(Partial List of Approved Resolutions. To be Continued in next issue of the Sooner State Granger Newsletter.)

for next issue

**LEGISLATIVE, LABOR AND JUDICIARY
STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING**

WHEREAS, Oklahoma has a confusing election ballot provision that offers a straight party vote in several places on the ballot;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Oklahoma State Legislature shall adopt a new ballot provision that would eliminate the straight party vote and direct the State Election Board to construct a ballot where every office would be voted on separately.

Submitted By: Clear Creek Grange #84

