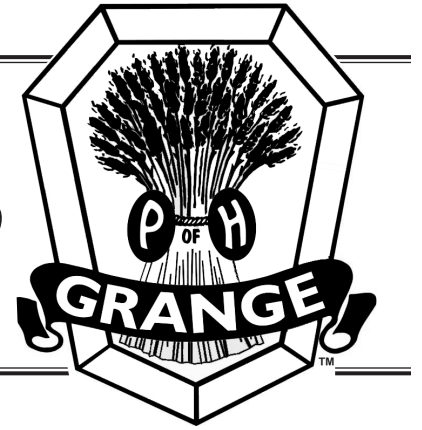

Sooner State *Granger*

July 2013



MASTER'S MESSAGE

Spring went out like a lion; and summer came in like a lamb. In May there were several tornadoes that did a lot of damage to some of our Oklahoma Towns. Moore, OK was hit hard, destroying schools and hospitals.

Oklahoma State Grange would like to get donations from our local granges to buy dictionaries for the elementary schools that were destroyed. We are also starting a Tornado Fund for Kay and Yvonne Meritt whose home got destroyed in one of the tornado's anyone who would like to donate to either or both funds, send your check to "Oklahoma State Grange" and mail to the State Secretary; designate which fund the money is going to.

We had a great turn out at our Degree Day in April. There were around 70 people present and several that took the four degrees.

In June at the Great Plains Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska we had thirty- six people attend the conference, everyone had a fantastic time.

We had six applications for the grange scholarship.

In July the National Grange Youth Department will be hosting the Four Degrees at the Kelley Farm in Minnesota. Some of our youth will be participating in the Second Degree.

At the end of July Brad and I will be attending the Texas State Grange Convention.

I would like to come to your Sub-Ordinate Grange meetings, just let me know when you will be having your meeting and I will try to attend.

There are a lot of new programs that the National Grange has for our members there is a new credit card, look at the Web site of the National Grange and you can see all the programs. Also National Grange has new brochures that you can order and have your grange name and your meeting times listed, you can hand them out at your functions; they don't cost that much.

The deadline for the Distinguished Sub-Ordinate Grange or Member is in August it would be great if we had entries for it.

It is not too early to think about the State Session that will be held in October. Start working on the resolutions. The New Farm Bill did not pass in Washington, DC this is going to affect a lot of people not only the farmers but the school lunch programs, meals on wheels and also the senior citizens centers; and a lot more programs. We need to express our concerns to our representatives in Washington.

Don't forget about the quilt block contest the information is on our web page.

Grange Activities / Community Service

By Mary Krehbiel

Summer vacation! Time to catch up on all those things I never get around to during the school year. Like cleaning out closets, painting walls, sewing. Well it seems that I never get around to some of them in the summer either. Harvest, gardening, mowing lawns, visiting with friends and vacationing are some of the things that get in the way. Oh well those are important too.

Hope you are leaving time to work on Community service books this summer. I know you are all taking part in activities that would be community service, just don't forget to take pictures, write news articles and keep track of people helping with them. I will need to receive your Community Service Books no later than September 1. This will allow time for them to be judged by a nonbiased party and for us to get certificates from National to be awarded at the State Session.

Degree Day seems so very long ago but I don't think we have had a newsletter since then so I will announce who the winners of the contests were. I was a little disappointed in participation of the contests at Degree Day. We had no Youth or Junior entries and few adult entries. In fact some people had not read the newsletter and didn't know we were even having contests! Let's encourage all our members to participate in the fun.

Men's Bar Cookies

1 st place	Richard Volz
2 nd place	Larry Shafer
3 rd place	Clayton Krehbiel

Women's Candy

1 st place	Camille Krehbiel
2 nd place	Marie Volz
3 rd place	Donna Keeton

Decorated Hats

Most Useful	Cheryl Shafer
Most Creative	Beverly Rapp
Most Beautiful	Donna Keeton

Please encourage your Youth and Juniors to participate in the contests as well as new and old

members. They do not have to attend the State meeting to enter the contests! State Grange Contests for 2013

Crafts:

Men- Homemade Christmas toy or decoration. (any medium- wood, wire, metal, etc)

Women- Homemade Christmas table Centerpiece

Youth- Homemade Christmas Tree Ornaments (enter 3) One of your three may be sent to National for the National Christmas tree. (It will not be returned)

Jr's- Homemade Christmas Tree Ornament (enter 1). It will be returned. Not sent to National.

Food:

FOR ALL AGES ---Your favorite Super Bowl Snack (Entries must have the recipe)

*** Food recipes will be used to make a 2013 State Recipe Book! You can purchase this wonderful Recipe Book full of Yummy Grange treats!!! The \$\$ money from this little book will be given as a donation to a Food pantry or other project to be determined later.

Sewing:

FOR ALL AGES--- Christmas throw, quilt or handwork... Could also be a wll hanging with quilting or cross stitch, etc. any medium... everyone can do it...

Subordinate Masters, please encourage everyone to enter our contests even those not able to attend the State meeting.

Have a safe and restful summer and hope to see all our Grange friends in the fall at our State Convention.

Sincerely,
Mary Krehbiel
Grange Activities/Community Service

Community Service Project Information Form For 2013

Submitted by: _____

What kind of activity was completed? (project name & dates) _____

Who was involved? (# of Grange members and others) _____

Describe what the activity included. (how many hours were involved?) _____

Use extra sheets, if necessary.

Why did your Grange decide to do this project? _____

Please put information in a book with pictures and forms. Copy as many as you need.

Submit by September 1, 2013 to: Mary Krehbiel

28243 CR 1060, Deer Creek, OK 74636

Phone: 580 267-3226 Cell: 580 541-7353

Greeting from the Oklahoma State Lecturer

Many of you traveled to Nebraska last month for the Leaders Conference, I am told that all who attended had a great time. The bus was full of happy Oklahoma Grangers. I am sorry that I was unable to attend but I was attending to other matters. On May 31 at 6:20 p.m. our little farm and home was hit by an EF5 tornado which was 2.6 miles wide. Essentially we took a direct hit in the center of the tornado. We have lost everything. Our home, shop, hobby building, 2 large barns and one small barn were all destroyed. Our fences are all torn up. We saved several boxes of stuff. That is the best way to describe it. Now that I have time to sort about 50% is discarded because of mold and mildew. But we are resilient. I want to express a big thank you to all who have offered support and prayers. Thank you to the Oklahoma State Grange for loaning the new enclosed trailer for use. It has been really helpful as we can leave items at the house while cleaning up but then secure them for the night. Also thank you to the many Grangers and Granges who have sent cards of well wishes and monetary gifts. It has been unbelievable to the out pouring of love by the hundreds of volunteers. We have had volunteers from all of the United States and Costa Rica. I returned to work July 1 but the work is not done, hopefully today a group will come to demolish the house. I have the stakes place for the new house and drawing up the plans. We are currently residing in Kris' house which he had just purchased the week before the tornado so we do have a roof over our heads not too far the house on 15th street, so we have the same mail carrier so no need to change the address. "Thank you" is such a simple phrase but we could make it through the life event without the strong circle of family and friends.

Now for the business at hand, photo contest time is here. The rules for the contest are as follows:

1. This contest is open to both Grange members and non-members. Non-members must be sponsored by a subordinate Grange.
2. The photographer must select the class for his/her entry.

3. Participants may enter all classes using separate prints.
4. Participants may have more than one entry per class.
5. Entries must be received by noon on Friday of state session.
6. Photos must have been taken by the entrant.
7. NEW*** Photos must be matted with a minimum 1" on all sides and maximum 2 ½".
8. NEW*** Photos must be a minimum size of 5"x7" and a maximum size of 11"x14", this does not include matt.
9. Name of entrant and Grange number must be on a label on the back of matt.

Ages groups will be:

Adult
Youth & young adults 14-35
Junior 5 (or younger) – 13

Classes:

- A. Scenic photos
- B. Animals, birds and insects and bugs
- C. People
- D. Agriculture and Farming
- E. Celebrations

If you are unable to attend state session please mail photos to me by October 1, to;

Yvonne Meritt,
20545 SW 15th St.
Union City, OK 73090.

Please include a return envelope with an appropriate address for returning the photo.

Fraternally submitted,
Yvonne Meritt
Oklahoma State Grange Lecturer

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Terry Stolezing

It's not uncommon to be stuck in a rut. We've all been there. We all know how it feels to get up, get dressed, go to work, come home and go to bed only to do it all over again the next day. And the next day. And the next day.

Routine isn't necessarily a bad thing but it shouldn't be at the expense of your happiness or your relationships with others.

Where a routine can be bad is when you are stuck in the same one for extended periods of times. You may find yourself saying things like I wish I had a better relationship with my brother, or I wish we had more spontaneity in our marriage. So how do you solve this? How do you break out of these ruts? How do you get your wish granted? Simple. Don't wish your life away. Do something.

The only way to get out of a rut, as difficult as it may seem, is to actually do something. Take control of the situation and make something happen.

If you want a better relationship with someone ask yourself "what am I doing to make this relationship better?" If the answer is not much, then you have plenty to work with.

Pick up the phone, compose an email, ask them to coffee or out for dinner. You shouldn't wait for the other person to approach you. Get out there and take the first step. For all you know the other person may be quite content with the way your relationship is right now. If that's the case they may never approach you wanting to make a change.

Simply put: If something isn't working for you, then you should do something about it.

Similarly, spontaneity doesn't just happen. Somebody has to make it happen. But isn't planned spontaneity a contradiction? Maybe. But you could be waiting an awfully long time for your wife to spring a romantic evening on you or your husband to plan a weekend away. Instead, if there

is something that seems fun or something you want to try, do it yourself right out of the blue.

There are no rules for how you live your life, really. It would be unfortunate if you lived most of your life wishing for it to be a certain way, when you likely had the power to create it all along. Don't wish your life away. It is short and fleeting.

Think of what it is you want, what you're wishing for and find out how you can make it a reality.

- Write out what you wish to be different right now. Is it a relationship, a situation, a job or a less than endearing quality?
- If you were granted your wish what would the ideal situation look like?
- What is one thing you can do today to get closer to your ideal? Remember baby steps are key.
- What resources do you need to make it happen?
- Decide how you're going to get these resources. (Library, online, stores, books, magazines etc.)
- Last step DO IT.

The last step is what a lot of people have the most trouble with. We often get stuck in the planning phase that we forget to actually do it and more often we're scared to do it. Give yourself a break. Don't be so hard on yourself.

To improve a relationship or a situation you need courage, you may need to swallow some pride and you should really listen to what others have to say about what they really need.

If you're not living the life you want or need you can change it. The next time you hear yourself say "I wish ..." stop yourself right there and ask yourself: "What little thing can I do right now to start making it a reality?"

Legislative Update

Greetings,

This is a brief session wrap of the Oklahoma Legislature,

In May the legislative leaders and Governor Fallin agreed to a \$7.1 billion fiscal year for 2014.

SB 1062 created the Administrative Workers Compensation Act. The act creates a new Title 85A which establishes an administrative workers compensation system.

HB 1361 requires a parent entitled to notice and consent for an abortion by a non-emancipated minor to provide to the physician a copy of a government-issued proof of identification and written documentation that proves that the he or she is the lawful parent of the pregnant female. Also HB 1588 addresses the issue further.

HB 1923 creates an Emergency Drought Relief Fund. It allows for the transfer of \$3 million from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to this newly established fund. This money will be made available to qualified state agencies.

HB 1999 The horse slaughter bill. It is unlawful for any person to sell, offer or exhibit for sale, or have in his or her possession with the intent to sell, any quantity of horsemeat for human consumption in Oklahoma.

HB 1638 Creates the Oklahoma Agritourism Activates Liability Limitations Act. If an agritourism professional and whose agritourism activity is registered with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry is not liable for injury to or death of a participant resulting from the inherent risks of agritourism activities, as long as specified warnings are posted as required, unless the said professional commits an act or omission that constitutes negligence of disregard for the safety of the participants.

SB 0652 gives a definition for driver license and changes reference to restricted driver license to commercial learner permit. It provides such learner permit be issued for a period of 180 days which may be renewed one time for an additional 180 days. Also

the various fees have be changed according to the class permit.

HB 1242 passes and allows Oklahoma judges both active and retired, to carry a gun anywhere in the state, including schools and state buildings.

HB 1622 gave private schools ability to permit licensed gun owners to carry a handgun, open or concealed on the private school property.

SB 0173 makes it clear that any incident resulting in the discharged of a firearm on the business owner property cannot be held liable which a lawsuit may be filed.

Once again it has been an interesting session. These are just a few of the bills which I thought you might be interested in the outcomes. As always you may find the final bills on file on the Secretary of State website.

Fraternally,
Yvonne Meritt
Oklahoma State Grange
Legislative Director

Fellow Grangers:

Well , I guess Summer is upon us. I hope it will not be quite as warm as last year. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims of this past Spring who were impacted by the Oklahoma storms. Special thoughts go to longtime members of the Grange, Kay and Yvonne Meritt who lost their house in the storms.

On a lighter note, it looks as though we probably will reach the goal of twenty five per cent increase in membership for the year. Although not all reporting is in, we have heard of some Granges reaching in upwards of fifty to one hundred per cent increase for the year. As always, we thank everyone for all the work to increase membership.

Carl Shufeldt, Jerry Taylor,
Membership Directors

Youth Report

Hello everyone, well to start off with our Great Plains Youth Conference in Nebraska was great, we rented Red Carpet bus thanks to Ok State Grange for that. This made our trip more enjoyable. Well except for the water we had to encounter. Some of us got a little wet going up and coming home I think was worse coming home. We had 29 Youth, and adults go with us on the bus. There was also 7 who drove making our total 36. I would like to say a great big THANK YOU to you all. I also would like to tell my youth how proud we are of all of you for your participation during the Sat. night event thanks to you all for stepping up and being a part of the Impromptu, you kids never cease to amaze me. I would like to let all the youth know that we are going to be serving dinner at the Oklahoma State Session in Oct. so I will need you all to bring a white shirt long sleeve with a collar and black slacks please. This is being done instead of our Auction to raise our money. So please I will need everyone to remember to bring their Shirt and Slacks. I hope to see everyone there.

Oklahoma State Grange Youth Directors
Billy and Lena Shufeldt.

Hello Junior Grangers

We had a fun time at the Great Plains conference in Nebraska. We made crafts and played several games. We had six juniors that attended the conference and they all seemed to have a great time. We even had a junior perform in the talent contest. Our state had the most juniors in attendance way to go juniors and parents for letting them go.

Well state session will be here before we realize it and wow how the time flies. I have planned many activities for us to do so come prepared to have some fun. You might bring some old clothes just in case we get a little messy. I will have more information about state session in the next issue. I hope everyone is having a safe summer and enjoy what is left of it before school starts back.

Fraternally submitted,

Scheneista Procter,
State Junior Director

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

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.

Dates To Remember

August 23, 2013

Next due date on articles, e-mail to
donnakeeton5@yahoo.com

September 14, 2013

Officer's Practice at
South Coffeyville, Oklahoma
12:00 noon

October 18-20, 2013

Oklahoma State Convention
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
Clarion Inn

November 12-16, 2013

National Grange Convention
New Hampshire

Sooner State Granger
Brad Keeton Editor, Donna Keeton Master
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South Coffeyville, OK 74072

