

# Sooner State Granger



## *Master Message—Billy Shufeldt OK State Grange President*

Hello again fellow Oklahoma State Grangers and all of our brother and sister Grangers across our great Nation. I hope all your families are blessed and doing well and staying healthy. My family is doing great and everyone is healthy and well.

As you all know our annual Degree Day and Great Plains Regional Conference was cancelled earlier this year, but we still are planning to have our State Session in October unless we have another setback. I know as Grangers we all have tried to help our neighbors and communities thru volunteering with food drives, picking up items from the store for our elders or just making a phone call to check on someone, etc. In just doing simple acts of kindness can change a person's outlook on life and give them hope for the future.

Our 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Oklahoma State Grange Convention will be held on **Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 beginning at 9:00 am**. There is a revised registration form for the Convention that will be held again in Claremore OK at the Holiday Inn Express and Claremore Convention Center in this issue of the Oklahoma State Granger.

There will be no Registration fee this year. Please fill out your registration forms and send them to me ASAP, because I need to know how many people will be attending and who all the

Delegates are, and so I can get information to each of them concerning the meeting.

This year we are having to do things a lot different than ever before. This year we will only have a one-day meeting with only State Officers and Delegates attending. **The meeting room will be setup to promote social distancing.**

Will not be letting any Juniors, Youth or guests attend the meeting or in the building. We will not have any contests at the State Session this year. And the Scholarship recipients will not be required to show up at the meeting to give an acceptance speech.

**Resolutions are due October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**, Please send them to Oklahoma State Grange Secretary Jeannie Harrington at email: [jeannieharrington@rocketmail.com](mailto:jeannieharrington@rocketmail.com) or mail to Rt. 1 Box 250 Wann, OK 74083, phone number 918-559-9507.

Along with the meeting we will be having our annual Grange Mutual Insurance meeting as usual just after lunch. To attend the meeting, you will need to fill out the registration form and send it to me ASAP so we will know you are coming and so we will have an accurate count on how many people will be attending. Those of you that are coming just for the Insurance meeting need to show up at the Claremore Convention Center by 12 pm or just before. We will be providing lunch for everyone that registers. Once the Insurance meeting is over all but State Officers and Delegates will be asked to leave the Convention Center. (continued next page)



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(Master Message continued)

If anyone would like to post anything on our State website please fill free to contact Yvonne Meritt at 405-262-3354 or email her at [soonerstate-granger@gmail.com](mailto:soonerstate-granger@gmail.com).

I look forward to seeing everyone that can attend and hopefully next year, we will be back to normal.

Fraternally Submitted

Master Billy D. Shufeldt

R.R. 1 Box 342-14

South Coffeyville OK 74072,  
Phone 918-842-0242,

email:

[bshufeldt.okgrange@gmail.com](mailto:bshufeldt.okgrange@gmail.com)

## SECRETARIES TAKE NOTE

### State Secretary, Jeannie Harrington

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well, in good health and staying safe.

This year, as in the past, the Oklahoma State Session will be at the Holiday Inn Express in Claremore, OK, October 17, 2020. It will be a one-day session due to safety restrictions of Covid 19. No youth, children or guests will be allowed to participate.

With that in mind, I am needing each Grange to send in your RESOLUTIONS and GRANGE, OFFICER AND DIRECTOR REPORTS by OCTOBER 1st. I need each Grange to send a list of your OFFICERS. I will be needing the names of the DELEGATES from each Grange. Do not forget the third quarter dues will need to be paid before State Session.

If you have had any deaths of Grange members, I would like for you to send me those names. These will be read and honored during the Memorial Service at State Session 2021, when we are all together again.

If you would like to send your reports by email, please send them to:

[jeannieharrington@rocketmail.com](mailto:jeannieharrington@rocketmail.com).

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

### Membership Directors

Carl Shufeldt & Jerry Taylor

Fellow Grangers

Hope this finds everyone well during these trying times. 2020 has been a strange year. This also includes the Oklahoma State Grange. For the first time in many years the Grange has a loss in membership. Last year we had 5800 members compared to 5312 this year. That being said we still had 6 subordinate Granges with gains. We will get through this so everyone keep a positive attitude and we will start regaining those members. Remember one of the perks for being a Grange member is the affordable homeowner insurance so if you or anyone you know needs insurance you can go by our corporate office at 135 E Canadian Ave in Vinita or call 800-871-2479. You can also contact the solicitor for your subordinate grange and He or She will be glad to help you. Be safe and God bless.



### State Junior Director Scheneista Procter

Dear Junior Grangers,

We hope everyone is staying healthy and safe during this pandemic. School has started back for some of us and you are either in person or virtual, but hopefully you are having a good school year so far. We hate to inform you all, but the juniors will not be attending the state session this year due to the current circumstances of Covid19. We hope that all of you will stay active the best you can with your own subordinate grange. We really miss getting to see all of you, but this will soon pass. We just wanted to let you know that we are thinking of you and hoping that all of you are staying safe.

## GRANGE ACTIVITIES

Lisa Evans

Grange Activities Director

I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. I want to thank all Granges that submitted the community books. It is nice to see all the good work the Granges are doing in the community. I always look forward to the Grange State session and will miss seeing all the activities entered in the contest. I know during these times we are all looking for fun activities that we can do with our families and stay safe. I have included three of Oklahoma's beautiful state parks where families can spend time in the outdoors.



Chickasaw National Park



Red Rock Canyon National Park

Robbers Cave State Park

## LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT

Terry Stoelzing

State Lecturer

**Due to COVID-19 all contest are canceled.**

### **Fall Gardening Suggestions for Growing a Greenhouse Garden**

Are you interested in having extended seasons and potentially gardening year-round with a greenhouse garden? Building a greenhouse or high tunnel can give you this option, but it's also important you understand how to use these structures properly. Although it's like basic gardening, there are a few extra things you must consider with a greenhouse garden.

- 1. Proper Location is Key:** Placing your greenhouse where it will get the most sun is the best location. Ideally, the greenhouse should be south facing.
- 2. Raised beds or Inground?** Gardening in beds or containers in a greenhouse is less labor intensive. Growing root crops in containers or raised beds is better where the soil is much looser.
- 3. Watch the Temperatures:** The biggest differ-

ence between gardening outdoors and in a greenhouse is the temperature and humidity. You must keep an eye on these factors regularly or your plants won't thrive.

**4. Pests? In a Greenhouse?** Many people assume when they plant in a greenhouse, they don't need to worry about pests. Although pests seem to have a harder time locating your plants inside a greenhouse, they will still find them.

**5. Provide Basic Needs:** When growing crops in a greenhouse, you must provide their basic needs. It's important to water your crops deeply and regularly as you would if they were planted anywhere else. Your greenhouse garden should be fertilized approximately once per month to make sure they have all the necessary nutrients to thrive. It's also important to understand plant pollination. Bees usually find their way inside a greenhouse, but make sure (if you don't see bees) you take it upon yourself to pollinate by hand.

**6. Think Before You Plant:** Plant varieties which will thrive in this setting is important to finding success with this style of gardening.



**LeeAnn Bailey**  
Youth and Young Couple Director

Greetings Oklahoma Youth and Young Adults:

The year 2020 has been a very challenging year for so many of you. Last school year was interrupted, our summer was interrupted, and now that school is back in session, I know many of you are being met head on with many more challenges and struggles. However, you are not alone. These same struggles are being felt all over the state, country, and world. Adults both young and old are also dealing with struggles, challenges, and stress. The best thing we can do is be there for one another. Call, text, or DM people to check on them. Reach out to someone yourself if you are having difficulty. COVID-19 has not been kind to anyone this year so it is up to us to be purposeful in what we do and show love and kindness to everyone. I'd be lying if I said I handled all the changes well. I have experienced a lot of emotions through this all, but I know if we all do our part things will eventually get better.

As most of you already know, State Session this

year will be limited to only state officers and delegates. No Juniors or Youth will be allowed at the meeting and they have reduced it down to fit into one day. I will miss seeing you all there, but it's far more important to keep everyone safe and healthy.

As for National Sessions, the same changes have occurred. National Officers and Delegates will attend, but no one else will be allowed to attend. The extra activities such as Evening of Excellence, Youth and Juniors Public Speaking, and Sign-a-Song will be held virtually. They will not have/exemplify the Seventh Degree this year.

Plans for next year are moving forward at this time, but I know things can change on a day by day basis. **Oklahoma is scheduled to host the Great Plains Regional Conference this coming June 2021.** We will be making plans for that and will be working with Mandy, National Grange Youth and Young Adults Director. As we get things planned I will be in contact with you all as well as publish information in the newsletter.

Be safe and healthy and reach to those in need or reach out if you need help. We are all in this together.

All my best and hugs to you all,  
LeeAnn

**NATIONAL GRANGE COMMUNITY SERVICE**

As the National Grange Community Service Director I am proud of the work Oklahoma Grangers have done in your communities during the Covid 19 crisis. Granges and Grangers have stepped up to the plate and have done some amazing things. Grangers throughout the country have made thousands of facemasks which have been and still are being distributed in their communities. Granges have started or supplied food giveaways or supplied meals for those on the front lines. These are only a few of the community service projects that have been done.

On the National Grange level, we would like to gather information on what you or your Grange has done during this crisis. Our National President, Legislative Director and Communications Director can use this information when they meet with other Leaders of National Organizations, Legislators or for press releases. I real-

ize Grangers do not like to brag about what we do but now is the time. I have prepared a form that you can use to report what your Grange has done. It can also be used to let me know about individual Grangers who have gone above and beyond.

The form is on the NG website, will be distributed to the Granges or you can contact me directly and I will make sure you get one. The form can be completed and returned to me as soon as possible. They can also be completed as you finish a project that is planned for the future.

Mail to: 1608 Culbertson Ave Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
phone # 609 820 6239 Emailed: [communityservice@nationalgrange.org](mailto:communityservice@nationalgrange.org)

Fraternally

Pete Pompper

National Grange Community Service Director



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

**Terry Stoelzing**

**Legislative director**

Oklahoma 2020 Election is almost here!

The general election will be held in the U.S. state of Oklahoma on November 3, 2020. **Notice:** Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency that has been extended by the Governor, new absentee voting options will be valid for the November 3 Election.

**2020 State Questions**

The following State Questions have qualified for the ballot. The Governor has set State Questions 805 and 814 for a vote on the Nov. 3 General Election ballot.

Complete State Questions and information can be found on the Secretary of State's search page.

**Oklahoma State Question 805, Criminal History in Sentencing and Sentence Modification Initiative**

This measure seeks to add a new Article II-A to the Oklahoma Constitution. This new Article A excepts and does not apply to persons who have ever been convicted of a violent felony. It would prohibit the use of a former felony conviction to increase the statutorily allowable base range of punishment for a person subsequently convicted of a felony. Individuals who are currently incarcerated for felony sentences that were enhanced based on one or more former felony convictions, and whose sentences are greater than the maximum sentence that may currently be imposed for such felonies, may seek sentence modification in court.

**Oklahoma State Question 814, Decrease Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund Deposits and Fund Medicaid Program Amendment**

This measure amends Section 40 of Article 10 of

the Oklahoma Constitution. It modifies the amount of the annual tobacco settlement payments to the state to be deposited into the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund. It modifies the amount of the annual tobacco settlement payments to the state to be deposited into the Tobacco Settlement Fund for appropriation by the Oklahoma Legislature.

**Oklahoma State Question 812, Marijuana Decriminalization Initiative**

The initiative would decriminalize certain offenses related to marijuana and require the immediate release from jail of any offenders of such offenses

**Oklahoma State Question 807, Marijuana Legalization Initiative**

This measure adds a new article to the Constitution, which would generally legalize, regulate and tax marijuana for persons aged 21+ under state law (but not alter the rights of medical marijuana licensees). Specifically, it protects the personal use of marijuana for those 21+, while establishing quantity limits, safety standards, and other restrictions. It maintains prohibitions on impaired driving and distribution to, or use by, those under 21.

**Oklahoma State Question 813, Marijuana Legalization Initiative**

The initiative would legalize and regulate marijuana for persons 18 years old and older and impose a 25% excise tax on marijuana sales.

Fellow grangers need to educate yourselves on the questions before voting.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**Yvonne Meritt, State Chaplain**

Halloween is just around the corner. Should we as Christians celebrate this holiday. Let me give some insight to the holiday. *Halloween* is a name that means nothing by itself. It is a contraction of "All Hallows Eve," and it designates the vigil of All Hallows Day, more commonly known today as All Saints Day. *Hallow*, as a noun, is an old English word for saint. As a verb, *hallow* means to make something holy or to honor it as holy. Both the feast of All Saints Day (November 1) and its vigil (October 31) have been celebrated since the ear-

ly eighth century when they were instituted by Pope Gregory III in Rome. On the All Hallows Eve children would dress as their favorite patron saint. This is where the costumes come into play. A century later, the feast and its vigil were extended to the Church at large by Pope Gregory IV. Today, All Saints Day is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics. So just like Christmas is becoming commercialized so has Halloween. Would you even consider not celebrating Christmas because of the commercialization?

So let's once again remember the origin of this religious holiday and remember the saints.

**OKLAHOMA STATE GRANGE  
CONVENTION  
105th ANNUAL SESSION  
OCTOBER 17, 2020**

Registration Form (for everyone that will be attending) (No Children allowed)

**Holiday Inn Express  
1400 Country Club Rd  
Claremore, OK 74017  
(918)283-4877**

**Grange Name and #** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **(Circle appropriate title)**  
State Officer Delegate

Name \_\_\_\_\_ State Officer Delegate

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**(Coming for the Annual Grange Insurance Meeting only):**

**105<sup>th</sup> Annual Oklahoma State Grange Session will begin at 9:00 am, Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.  
Will take care of all business by late afternoon. Grange Mutual Insurance meeting will be after lunch as usual.**

**Rooms only for Delegate's and Officer's that fill they need a room to be on time for State Session meeting only.**

(This is a non-smoking hotel)  
Oklahoma State Grange will pay for the Hotel rooms that are needed.  
Please  type of room needed.

Double   or King   or Handicap   Friday  Only

Saturday Luncheon: We will be having a catered box lunch.  
Adults # \_\_\_\_\_

Please list food allergies \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$0.00**

**Please send registration form to:**  
Billy Shufeldt  
RT. 1 Box 342-14  
South Coffeyville, Ok 74072

**State Master will make all room reservations. \_\_\_\_\_ (No later than September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020)**

**Oklahoma State Grange takes care of only one room per Subordinate Grange.**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Members  
Corner**

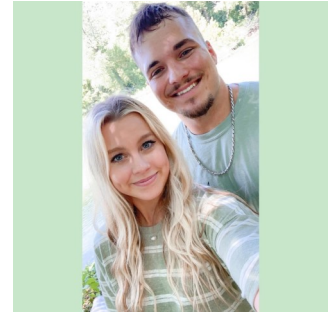


**Ann Keeton & Coty Allen** became engaged on August 29, 2020 in Kellyville. Their parent were present when he popped the question. No date has been set for the wedding. Ann is a member of Thompson Grange.



**Katelyn Bailey & Ronald Smith** were united in marriage on July 25, 2020 at The Reserve at Emerald falls, Broken Arrow. They currently live in Stillwater and are finishing their college education.

They are both members of South Coffeyville.



**Sarah Ward & Johnson Miller** became engaged on August 8th, 2020 in Redding's Mill, Missouri, where they had their first date. They have set their date for January 31, 2021 in Stillwater where they first met.

Sarah is a member of Prairie Grange.

Oklahoma Grange Mutual Insurance

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Sooner State Granger  
Oklahoma State Grange  
Kay and Yvonne Meritt  
Co-Editors  
20545 SW 15th  
Union City, OK 73090

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## Dates to Remember

Sept 15 Sessions Registration Due

Oct. 17 9:00 a.m. State Session  
Claremore Conference Center,  
Claremore Oklahoma

Hotel accommodations Holiday Inn  
Express

Dec. 1 Articles due for Sooner State

## Oklahoma Grange Mutual Insurance Association of Oklahoma

In accordance with the provisions of the By-laws of the Association, you are hereby notified that the Regular Annual Meeting of the membership will be held at:

Holiday Inn Express  
1400 Country Club Rd, Claremore, OK  
74017

The following members have been nominated for 3 year term on the Board of Directors: Two will be selected.

2020 Annual Meeting Election

Dee Procter  
Mark Evans

### Agenda:

12-12:30pm Lunch  
12:30pm Call to order  
Declaration of quorum  
Welcome  
Registration closes  
Report of Secretary  
Report of Treasurer  
Adjournment