

Sooner State Granger

Master Message—Billy Shufeldt OK State Grange President



Greetings Oklahoma Grangers and all Grangers across this great country of ours. The past few months has really flown by very quickly. I hope everyone is doing fine and have a great Holiday Season.

Since our last paper Welina and I traveled to Colorado Spring CO. and attended the Colorado State Grange Convention. While there Welina and I got to see several of the natural attractions around the area. Welina and I also joined in on the festivities of the State Session. Everyone there was nice and social to us, and we got to know most of the Grangers while we were there. Welina did her duties as National Grange Flora and I installed the new State Officers that was elected. The whole trip was very fun and memorable for both of us, and we would like to thank the Colorado State Grange and their State Master Gary Wardle for inviting us.

The 107th Annual Oklahoma State Grange Convention was back in Claremore OK at the Claremore Conference Center / Holiday Inn Express located in Claremore OK on October 14th, 15th & 16th, 2022.

We had 85 + Oklahoma Grange members attend the convention along with our National Grange representatives is Cindy and Harry Greer from Colorado. Harry and Cindy jumped in and helped with every aspect of the convention, all their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The Friday night Celebration Banquet theme was

“Fiesta”, with a great number of our members dressing up in various outfits, it was awesome to see all the participation.

After dinner was over, I began by announcing the 2022/2023 scholarship recipients, they were Hayden Babb - Bluejacket # 353, Charli Moore - South Coffeyville # 351, Christopher Thomsen - Thompson # 352, Jason Foley Bluejacket # 353, and Tate Ward - Prairie # 334.

Jason Foley - Bluejacket # 353 was the Brad Keeton Memorial Scholarship recipient for 2022 and Charli Moore - South Coffeyville # 351 was the Marvin Purdy Memorial Scholarship recipient for 2022.

Grange Activities director Lisa Evans gave out the Grange Activities awards for the various photo and crafts contests.

Yvonne Meritt stepped in for Lecturer Donna Keeton and gave out the Lecturer contest awards for various photo and short story categories.

Junior Director, Scheneista Proctor gave out awards to her Juniors that attended her work shops.

On Saturday, Oct 15th, 2022, we only had one office to elect and that was for Executive Board member, Richard Volz was reelected.

On Saturday evening we usually put on the 5th and 6th Degrees, but unfortunately, we did not have any candidates to take the Degree work, so we cancelled that and had our Memorial Service instead.



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Overall, I think we had a good Convention with great food and comradery, and everyone had a great time.

The National Grange Convention this year was held at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, Nevada on November 15 -19, 2022. Welina and I along with Justin, Kim, Travis, and Landon Knight all attended the Convention. Lena and I attended several committee meetings while we were there and was part of the main Convention from Tuesday to Friday. There were several changes decided on during the meeting that I will discuss with everyone later.

Travis Knight was on the Youth Officer Team and held the position of Assistant Steward, Travis and his Lady Assistant Steward lead the other Officers in a spectacular drill, Welina and I were very proud. Justin Knight helped with several Youth projects and Kim and Landon Knight joined in with the Junior activities.

We all had a great time but were glad to come home.

Our annual Degree Day will be held on April 1st, 2023, beginning at 10:00 am at the City Central building located at 400 E. Central Ave. Ponca City OK. 74601 hosted by the Cherryville # 221. To all our Subordinate Granges, please bring your members that want to go through the Degree work. I would like to ask that all State Officers and Directors do your best to be there. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

To all the 2022 - 2023 Scholarship recipients, an Official transcript of the students grades for the 2022 fall semester is required. It must come from the College Registrar's office or Trade School office via email or USPS and must be sent direct-

ly from them to the State Master by February 1st, to get the 2023 spring portion of your scholarship.

To all the Oklahoma State Grange 2023 - 2024 scholarship applicants, your application will be due by March 31st, 2023. Please see Application, Rules, and Responsibilities for instructions. You can get the Application out of this paper or contact me, and I will email you a copy or look on our website. Your application needs to be filled out, including your Subordinate Grange Master's signature. The Executive Board has voted to go back to our 2019 version of the Scholarship application and rules so the Applicants will need to attend one State Grange function along with attending the State Convention in order to be eligible for the scholarship.

If anyone needs any help from Oklahoma State Grange Secretary Jeannie Harrington, you can reach her at email: jeannieharrington@rocketmail.com or mail to 4253 NS 406 Road, Wann, OK 74083 or phone number main 918-559-9507.

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 soonerstategranger@gmail.com.

If anyone needs anything from me, please fill free to contact me anytime.

_Fraternally Submitted

Master Billy D. Shufeldt

6399 NS 413 RD South Coffeyville OK 74072,
Phone 918-842-0242, email:
bshufeldt.okgrange@gmail.com

SECRETARIES TAKE NOTES

Jeannie Harrington, State Secretary

I pray everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a blessed and joyous Christmas.

The 107th Oklahoma State Session went well and it was great to fellowship with everyone again. Degree Day will be hosted by Cherryvale Grange and the date and place have not been decided. It will be announced when it is finalized.

"Thank you" to all who have turned in your reports for the Proceedings Book. If you haven't, it is not too late. Please send it as soon as possible. We would like to have a complete book for

the record. Email to: jeannieharrington@rocketmail.com.

My address is: 4253 NS 406 Road, Wann, OK 74083 or you can also send mail to PO Box 716, South Coffeyville, OK 74072. My phone number is 918-559-9507.

If I can help you or you have any questions please call or email.

I truly appreciate my fellow grange secretaries and how you take care of the dues in a timely manner. You all are great to work with and I feel richly blessed. You make my job as State Secretary enjoyable.

Financial Information

Number of 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 transcript if you are already going to college.
2. A 500-word essay about “What is your favorite Grange memory?” or “Where Do You See Yourself in Five Years?”

This information must be received by the state Master by March 31 or it will not be considered.

Mail completed application to: Oklahoma State Grange, Master, Billy Shufeldt

LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT

Donna Keeton, State Lecturer

This is the first time in a long time that I have missed a State Convention.

I would like to thank Yvonne Meritt for taking over my Lecturers station during the meeting.

I would also like to thank Ann, my daughter for helping set up the contests.

The National Representatives Cindy and Harry Greer were our judges, thank you for judging the contests.

There were 53 entries this year, but we did not have any talent contestants. I hope

Next year will be a better year for the talent show.

The following is the contests and the winners of the contests:

Photography:

Degree Day

0 to 4 years

1st place Coty Jean Allen

10 to 14 years

1st place Keykeigh Keeton

Adult

1st place Donna Keeton

2nd place Martha Shufeldt

3rd place Mary Krehbeil

Tulsa Zoo

0 to 4 years

1st place Coty Jean Allen

10 to 14 years

1st place Landon Knight

2nd place Keykeigh Keeton

Adults

1st place Welina Shufeldt

2nd place Melody Finn

3rd place Barbara Kuehn

Summer Fun

0 to 4 years

1st place Coty Jean Allen

10 to 14 years

1st place Faith Ryan

2nd place Keykeigh Keeton

3rd Gabriel Nutter

Adult

1st place Coty Allen

2nd place Steve Nutter

3rd place Grant Ryan

Tell A Story

Adult

1st place Mary Krehbeil

2nd place Leslie Nutter

Water Colors

10 to 14 years

1st place Faith Ryan

Pencil Drawings

5 to 9 years

1st place Gabriel Nutter

10 to 14 years

1st place Elijah Nutter

2nd place Keykeigh Keeton

Adults

1st place Leslie Nutter

Continued on page 6



Scheneista Procter

State Junior Director

Hello Junior Grangers,
I hope everyone enjoyed themselves at this year's state session. The junior grangers learned how to work together and build a free standing structure that a ball would go through and we did some art projects. We had seven Juniors and we had a wonderful time playing games and just spending time together and getting to know one another. We also worked on a team building project where the juniors had to build and create a free standing structure. Then, the youth judged

which team had the best structure and that the ball made it throughout the structure. The first place winners were as follows: James Procter, Landon Knight, Kayci Evans. The second place winners were Kortney Evans, Josiah Procter, Kaden Evans and Cooper Evans. We were very proud of how the juniors worked together as teams to figure out how to build their structures and they all did a great job.

We will be making plans for Degree Day this year and hope that everyone will be able to join in on the fun. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We can't wait to see everyone at Degree Day!

Fraternally submitted,
Scheneista Procter
State Junior Director
Committee members
Audrey Bowers
Debbie Borgstrom
Kim Knight

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Membership Directors

Carl Shufeldt and Jerry Taylor

Dear Fellow Grangers

We hope everyone is doing well as winter has arrived. The third quarter had a slight increase in

membership. There were 8 Granges that had increase this quarter. Eleven had decreases or remained the same. We increases to 5420 members which was a net increase of 8 members. We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and happy New Year. Please remember the reason for the season over the Christmas holidays.

Continued from Lecturer's Report page 5

Read a Book

10 to 14 years

1st place Faith Ryan

Adults

1st place Leslie Ryan

2nd place Ryan Foley

3rd place Ryan Foley

Thank you to everyone who entered the contests, the new contests will be listed in the next newsletter.

Degree Day

April 1st, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

City Central building
400 E. Central Ave.
Ponca City OK. 74601

Hosted by the Cherryville
Grange #221

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Terry Stoelzing, Legislative Director

Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

On August 16, 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 into law, immediately activating the Residential Clean Energy Credit for solar, battery storage, and more. Also known as the Investment Tax Credit (ITC), this solar incentive was at 26% in 2022 and scheduled to step down to 22% in 2023 before going away entirely for residential solar in 2024. However, with the IRA in effect, the tax credit is back to 30% until 2032 and applies retroactively to systems installed in 2022. The Residential Clean Energy Credit (formerly known as the ITC) is a tax credit worth 30% of the gross cost your solar project (parts, labor – the whole chalupa) with no maximum incentive amount. Even though it's commonly known as the solar tax credit, the Residential Clean Energy Credit also applies to battery storage, wind, geothermal heat pump, and fuel cell expenditures. As a nonrefundable credit, the solar tax credit can only be used to reduce tax liability. It is *not* a check with the subject line "Thanks for Going Solar". The IRS hasn't announced new rules on this yet, but in the past the federal solar tax credit could be carried over for as many years as the incentive was active. The Residential Clean Energy Credit is active until 2034, so if you install in 2022, you'll likely have plenty of time to use it over several tax years.

This legislation also provides a significant tax credit for the purchase of qualifying wood and pellet stoves that are highly energy efficient. For the remainder of 2022, get a 26% credit of the full purchase and installation amount. Starting in 2023,

the tax credit percentage will decrease to 22%. Costs for labor, piping, wiring, chimney system, floor protection, and (of course) the appliance itself can all be counted towards the tax credit. To qualify for the tax credit, a stove must have a High Heat Value (HHV) of 75% efficiency or greater. The Environmental Protection Agency has a database of wood stoves that you can use to verify which stoves meet this standard.

If you increase the energy efficiency of your home, you may be eligible for federal energy efficiency tax credits. These credits have been extended through December 31, 2032. If you add to your home's insulation before December 31, 2022, you can receive a tax credit of 10% of the material cost up to \$500. Starting January 1, 2023, the tax credit has been increased to 30% of the insulation and air sealing material costs up to \$1,200. Credit is available on a yearly basis. These energy efficiency tax credits are for existing homes (not new construction or rentals) and only for your primary residence.

From USDA and Rural Development. USDA Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP) grants cover up to 25% of total solar project costs for eligible businesses. If you operate a small business in a rural area, or a farm in any area, you likely qualify for the grant. The U.S. Department of Agriculture helps farmers, ranchers and homeowners in rural areas -- population under 20,000 -- with grants to buy and install solar, wind and other renewable energy systems. While most of the USDA programs are in rural farming zones, there are areas closer to urban zone that are deemed revitalization zones. The grants can be used to pay up to 25 percent of a project's cost, up to a maximum of \$500,000.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Shelia Shafer Conrady State Chaplain

Tis the Season of Giving, I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and is ready to start the new year off making 2023 your Grange year of giving. I Challenged all Granges to think of Community Service projects they could do to fill the needs in their communities during my memorial and church service at the state session. Now is the time to plan for the year maybe have a theme in January "The year of Giving" or February "Share the love event." Make a plan for events or causes you want to champion this year as an individu-

al or local or even state Grange. I love that at regional and National Grange there is almost always a community service project set up, but it is the small things local Granges and individual Grangers do every day that make the difference in communities across America. Plan to do a September Fall into Giving and have your members share what they did as individuals and with their church or school organizations that all counts if a Granger was there. Have your secretary take notes and you have most of your community service book done. Now, turn it in at state session and share how your Grange is making a difference. HAPPY New Year Let's make 2023 the Grange Year of Giving .

Sooner State Granger
Oklahoma State Grange
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Dates to Remember

Feb. 1 Scholarship recipients grades are due to be reported to State Master

March 1 Newsletter articles due to Editor

March 31 Scholarship applications due to State Master

April 1 10:00 a.m. Degree Day, City Central building 400 E. Central Ave. Ponca City OK.

June 1 Newsletter articles due to Editor

Sept 1 Newsletter articles due

Sept 1 Community Service Projects Due

135 E, Canadian Ave.

Vinita, OK 74301

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