

Sooner State Granger



Master Message—Billy Shufeldt OK State Grange President

Hello again to all Oklahoma Grangers and all of our fellow Grangers across the country. My wish for everyone this year is for everyone to be happy and healthy and to be able to enjoy our lives among our family and friends and not be afraid of

meeting new people and that this pandemic ends very soon.

Since the beginning of this new year the weather has been very challenging from unseasonable highs to blistering cold. All this last week most of us in Oklahoma has had to keep our faucets dripping at night and fight the drifting snow. I hope you all have persevered through all of this harsh weather. And I would like for everyone to pray for all of our fellow Grangers that are or have been ill, that they recover quickly and completely.

To all of the Oklahoma State Grange 2021 - 2022 scholarship applicants, your application will be due by March 31st, 2021. 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.

This year's annual Degree Day that was supposed to be held on March 27th, 2021 will have to be cancelled again due to COVID-19 concerns. If things get better, we will try to have it latter in the

year. Please let all of your Grange members know about the cancellation.

The **Great Plains Regional Conference** is still scheduled to be held on **June 11th, 12th & 13th, 2021 at the Claremore Conference Center and Holiday Inn Express located at 1400 Country Club Road, Claremore, OK 74017.**

All Registration Fees are being waived for all Grangers that want to attend. For all Oklahoma Grange members that want to attend the Conference all I need from you is a registration filled out for each person that is coming. The Oklahoma State Grange will take care of your rooms and meals. All Junior Grangers will room with their parents unless otherwise arranged. Also, I will make the Hotel reservation for all Oklahoma Grangers. I hope everyone will be able to attend.

I am saddened to inform you that Past Master Brad Keeton passed away on February 13th, 2021.

Brad was an active Granger for over Forty years, he served and represented the Grange with Faith in God, he nurtured Hope, dispensed Charity and was noted for Fidelity. Brad was a true asset to the Grange and his Community and he will be missed.

If anyone needs any help from Oklahoma State Grange Secretary Jeannie Harrington you can reach her at email: jeannieharrington@rocketmail.com or mail to Rt. 1 Box 250 Wann, OK 74083 or phone number 918-559-9507.



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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.

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

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



Scheneista Procter, State Junior Director

Hello Junior Grangers,

We hope everyone is staying safe and warm. We have an eventful year with all the Covid stuff and not allowing us to meet. We are hopeful that the Covid stuff will get better and we can return to some normalcy. We are staying positive through all of this and are hopeful that we will get to meet again real soon. We do have some plans for degree day, unless we find out that we can't attend do to Covid. We hope to get to see all of you on degree day, but if we don't do to Covid. We don't want you to get discouraged, because it is only for all of our safety. We do believe it will all eventually return back to some normalcy. We just have to be patient and positive through this tough time. We hope school is going great for everyone, whether you are virtual or in person. The time flies by so fast, it's hard to believe it's almost Spring break time. Well, we hope everyone continues to stay healthy, safe, and warm. We hope to see you real soon!

Fraternally submitted,
Scheneista Procter
State Junior Director
Audrey Bowers
PJ Director



LeeAnn Bailey
Youth and Young Couple Director
lbailey5416@gmail.com

Greetings Youth and Young Adults,

As I stated in the last newsletter, I don't have much to report or tell you.

Degree Day is supposed to be the end of March in South Coffeyville, OK. I will let you know by way of Facebook if anything changes.

The 2021 Great Plains Conference is scheduled to be in Claremore. If that changes I will let you know on Facebook as well.

If you plan to apply for the 2021-2022 Oklahoma State Grange Scholarship, the application and additional application documents are due to Billy Shufeldt by 03/31/2021. They can be mailed USPS to RR 1 Box 342-14, South Coffeyville, OK 74072. If you have any questions, please feel free to call, email, or text either of us. Billy Shufeldt's number is 918-842-0242 and mine is 918-331-5416. Billy's email address is bshufeldt.okgrange@gmail.com.

Again as information is made available regarding future activities I will post on our Facebook Page and send messages in our group message.

Stay safe and healthy

GRANGE ACTIVITIES

Lisa Evans

Grange Activities Director

I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. We hope things will be back to normal by October and we will be able to have our State Session. If anyone has any ideas on contest for any of the categories for men, women, youth, and juniors for the state session I welcome the input. Please call or email me, you can reach me at mevans0908@junct.com or 918-570-9269. I will include the list of contest in the next newsletter.

I hope to see everyone at State Session

Memorial Notice for Past State Master/President



Brad Anthony Keeton
Past National Delegate (1993-1999)
Past National Delegate (2009-2014)
Sunrise: November 16, 1956
Sunset: February 13, 2021

Brad Anthony Keeton, Past National Delegate 64, of rural South Coffeyville, Oklahoma, passed away Saturday, February 13, 2021, at his home.

Brad and his twin brother Bern were born November 16, 1956, in Coffeyville, Kansas, to Clarence T. and Faye Elector (Miller) Keeton. Brad went to many schools growing up, including the Thompson One Room School House, Edna Elementary, South Coffeyville Middle School and graduated from Lenapah High School in 1975. While in High School he played Basketball and was President of the Lenapah FFA.

On June 14, 1980, he married his best friend Donna Loraine Shufeldt at the Pleasant View First Church of God in Rural South Coffeyville, Oklahoma and made their home in rural South Coffeyville, where he farmed and ranched with his family.

He was a baptized believer and every Sunday you could find him at Pleasant View First Church of God and the First Nazarene Church of Vinita, Oklahoma where he served faithfully on the Church Board and always provided encouraging words of God and always shared the best blessings. Brad and Donna were very active in the community. They played in a Bowling League in Coffeyville, KS, he played in a Softball League, and many days you could find him in a pickup game of basketball or playing cards with friends. Once he had children, you could find Brad coaching Little League basketball, baseball, and softball fostering children's passion of sports. His philanthropy never stopped, serving on many different boards throughout Nowata County including Nowata County Conservation Board, Nowata County Fair Board, Rural Water District Board #7, Grange Mutual Insurance Board, and Thompson School Reunion Committee. He was also active in the Native American Fellowship Inc., of South Coffeyville.

In 1980, Brad joined the Oklahoma State

Grange, where he served many different offices with the most prestigious being the President from 1993 to 1999. During his servanthood with the Grange he started many different Granges throughout the State of Oklahoma and Arkansas. He traveled frequently to the National Session and has made many lifelong friends all over the Country. Brad received Granger of the Year in 2014. He enjoyed debating Legislative Issues, encouraging the growth of the Youth, and most of all the feeling of family and fellowship that the Grange had to offer.

Brad is survived by his wife of 40 years, Donna Loraine (Shufeldt) Keeton of South Coffeyville, Oklahoma, his mother Faye Elector (Miller) Keeton of Blue Jacket, Oklahoma, his three children and their spouses: Matthew James Keeton and Sandra Blake of Neosho, Missouri; Ann Marie (Keeton) and Coty Allen of Kellyville, Oklahoma; and Timothy Tyler and Loyce (Chintsanya) Keeton of South Coffeyville, Oklahoma. He is survived by his siblings: Floyd (Dewight) Keeton of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; Mark Keeton of South Coffeyville, Oklahoma; Bern Keeton of Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Betsy (Keeton) Duesi of Blue Jacket, Oklahoma. He is survived by three granddaughters JackLynn, Keykeigh, Inara and two soon-to-be new grandchildren, as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins, which will miss him dearly. He was preceded in death by his father Clarence T. Keeton, a brother Troy Norman Keeton, and sister-in-law Deanna Lea Keeton.

A grave side service was be held at the Keeton Cemetery located in Rural South Coffeyville Oklahoma with Priest Archon of The National Grange Roger A. Bostwick and First Lady of Kansas Melanie Bostwick exemplifying the Grange Burial Service followed with a closing by Pastor David Stevens.

The family requests in lieu of flowers a memorial contribution be made to the Oklahoma State Grange Scholarship Fund: contributions may be left with the funeral home, or mailed c/o Billy Shufeldt Rt.1 Box 342-14 South Coffeyville, OK 74072.

Cards and condolences may be sent to:
Donna Keeton
Route 1 box 106
South Coffeyville, OK 74072



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SECRETARIES TAKE NOTES

Jeannie Harrington

State Secretary

Spring is just around the corner and I for one am MORE than ready!!!

March 14th it will be time to "Spring forward". Don't forget that Scholarship applications are due to the State Master, March 31st.

Great Plains Conference in Claremore, OK is

June 11th -13th, 106th Oklahoma State Grange Convention in Claremore, OK is October 15th - 17th and 155th National Grange Convention in Wichita, KS is November 9th - 13th. Lots of things to do!!

I want to continue to say "THANK YOU" to all the Subordinate Grange Secretaries for sending your quarterly reports in a timely manner. You make my job easy and I appreciate each one of you!

See you soon!!!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Membership Directors

Carl Shufeldt and Jerry Taylor

Fellow Grangers

We hope everyone is doing well and are making it through this cold weather. As we are writing this report it is with heavy heart as we have lost a great member of the Oklahoma State Grange in

Brad Keeton. He has been a great inspiration to a lot of people in the Grange for many years and will be greatly missed. As for membership in the most recent reports we have gained 46 members raising the total to 5312 members. Coming into the second quarter of the year I expect a larger increase in membership. Hopefully, we can have a little more normal year and can get back on track with meetings and getting some work done in the Grange.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Terry Stoelzing, Legislative Director

Current Oklahoma bills

SB401-Income tax adjustments; exempting military retirement benefits from tax. Effective date. 2021-02-19. To Senate Appropriations Committee

SB957-Judiciary; modifying procedures for assignment of substitute Justices or Judges. Effective date. 2021-02-19 Reported Do Pass Judiciary committee; CR filed

SB819-Controlled dangerous substances; modifying entities that may hold executive session. Effective date. 2021-02-19 To Senate Appropriations Committee

SB724 Physician Advisory Committee; removing authority to establish parameters for certain maintenance or treatment. Effective date. 2021-02-19 Reported Do Pass Judiciary committee; CR filed

SB979 Health insurance; requiring health insurers to cap copayments and supplies for diabetes. Effective date 2021-02-19 To Senate Health and Human Services Committee

SB136 Breast and cervical cancer; modifying time period of certain report; modifying criteria. Effective date. 2021-02-19 Coauthored by Representative Roe (principal House author)

SB1030 Insurance Department; authorizing Department to conduct certain examinations in certain circumstances. Effective date. 2021-02-19 To Senate Retirement and Insurance Committee

SB840 Purchasing; duties of county purchasing agents and procedures for county government operations. Effective date. 2021-02-19 Coauthored by Representative Boles (principal House author)

SB860 Militia; removing approval from the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for the exchanging and selling of military artifacts. Effective date. 2021-02-19 Coauthored by Representative Burns (principal House author)

SB710 Voter registration; authorizing state membership in multistate voter list maintenance organizations; establishing certain notification procedures. Emergency. 2021-02-19 Coauthored by Representative Newton (principal House author)

Covid-19 Governor Stitt signed Executive Order 2021-07 to continue the State of Oklahoma's COVID-19 response. The Executive Order extends the State of Emergency to March 12, 2021 and continues to commit the resources of all state departments and agencies to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The order limits public and social gatherings to 50% occupancy, except for gatherings in private residences, buildings, or businesses providing religious, healthcare, educational, public safety, and childcare services. Attendance at youth sports and extracurricular activities is limited to 50% occupancy.

The order also requires anyone on property owned or leased by the State of Oklahoma to wear a facial covering or mask at all times where physical distancing is difficult to observe.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health announced 74 Oklahoma counties are in the "orange" risk level, two are in the "yellow" risk level (Cimarron and Beaver counties), and one is in the "green" risk level (Roger Mills County), per the state's COVID-19 Risk Level System. The risk level categorizations provide guidelines for individuals and businesses.

Governor Stitt announced the COVID-19 vaccine will be available to the next priority groups in Phase 2 of the state's vaccine distribution plan. The following groups will be eligible for a vaccine starting the week of February 22:

Oklahomans under the age of 65 with comorbidities (including but not limited to hypertension, obesity, cardiovascular disease, Down syndrome, diabetes mellitus, chronic lung, liver, or renal disease, and cancer); and Teachers and staff in public and private Pre-K-12 schools and educational settings.

2021 Great Plains Grange Conference Registration Form

Claremore Conference Center and Holiday Inn Express

Located at: 1400 Country Club Road, Claremore OK 74017

918-283-4877

Rooms are \$79.00 plus tax per night (room fee waived for Oklahoma Grangers).

Registration fees are being waived.

June 11-13, 2021, Please Complete registration and submit by May 10th, mail to:
Billy Shufeldt, Oklahoma State Master, R.R. 1 Box 342-14 South Coffeyville OK 74072

One registration form per person.

Name _____

Subordinate Member _____ Junior Member: _____ Non-member: _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email address _____

Are there any **health conditions/dietary restrictions** we should be aware of?

If you are under 18, please have your parent/guardian complete the following:

I authorize _____ to participate in all activities. I DO / DO NOT (circle one) them to be photographed or recorded. Photos and recordings may be used on Grange social media.

Emergency Contact name _____

_____ Relationship _____ Phone (____) _____

Check the contests/events you plan to participate in.

_____ Sign-A-Song ___ Individual (indicate level) _____ Group (All levels)

Level: _____ (Junior OR novice; hobbyist; expert)

Speech (you may compete in more than one category)

_____ Prepared _____ Impromptu Speech _____ Radio Spot

Grange Baseball _____ (Youth) _____ (Junior)

Will you be staying at the conference hotel? YES NO

A reservation link to the Hotel and Event Schedule will
be sent at a later date.

LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT

Terry Stoelzing, State Lecturer

ESCAPE SOCIAL DISTANCING BY GARDENING

- **Start small.** You don't need a large yard to teach your child about gardening. In fact, small and simple is generally better because children are more likely to maintain interest and less likely to become overwhelmed. Plant beans or sunflowers in cups placed in a sunny window. Grow a tomato plant in a pot on your patio. Grow a small window garden of flowers. Use a simple project like these to teach your child about gardening basics, such as healthy soil, sunlight, and water. As your child gains experience and interest, you can graduate to a small vegetable or flower garden.
- **Choose high-interest plants.** To encourage your child to learn about gardening, let your child help decide which plants to grow, based on his or her interests. Cherry tomatoes make a tasty snack and generally produce fruit earlier than larger tomatoes. Leaf crops, such as lettuce and spinach, grow quickly and can be harvested more than once. Radishes, peas, and carrots can be planted in the spring for an early harvest. How about growing a giant pumpkin for carving or some gorgeous sugar pumpkins for pies? If your child has a yen for flowers, consider quick-blooming annuals, such as snapdragons, marigolds, or petunias.
- **Use the right tools.** Every gardener needs a set of high-quality tools and gardening gloves,

and children are no exception. Give your budding green thumb a child-size shovel and hoe, along with a durable pair of gloves.

- **Cultivate good habits.** Like many things in life, gardening success has as much to do with consistency as with luck or skill. Teach your child to store the tools away after use. Set aside 15 to 20 minutes once or twice a week to tend the garden. Show your child how to pull weeds and water the garden. These experiences offer bite-size lessons in responsibility and organization.

Eat the fruits of your labors. Children get firsthand experience of the food cycle when the plants they grew appear on your dinner table. Cook a tasty meal and [let your child help prepare it](#). Make Margherita pizza with tomatoes and basil. Scrub carrots for a quick snack. Slice strawberries for your breakfast cereal. Better yet, invite friends to join the feast or give your surplus vegetables to a food bank.

Visit a farm or farmer's market. Through gardening at home, children begin to understand [where their food comes from](#). A visit to a farm or farmer's market helps them connect the dots even further and fosters an understanding of and appreciation for the earth and the farmers who work hard to bring us food.

As you plan gardening activities with children, consider the growing season. Choose plants known to grow well. Think about your schedule, including vacations, and plan accordingly. It's much better to grow a small garden successfully than plan an unrealistic larger project that ends with poor results.

Chaplain's Corner

Yvonne Meritt, State Chaplain

Forgiveness does not depend on feeling forgiving; rather it is a matter of the will, determining to extend forgiveness and asking the Lord to help our emotions line up with our actions.

We see a powerful example of this in the life of Corrie ten Boom, a Christian whose family harbored Jews from the Nazis in Holland until someone betrayed them. Corrie, her sister and her father were arrested and sent to a concentration camp, where her sister and father died. Many years later Corrie spoke to an audience in Germany, and the very guard who had been involved in her sister's death approached her, thanking her for her talk and asking her forgiveness for

what he had done. When the guard extended his hand, everything in Corrie's being recoiled. Then she prayed that Christ would forgive him through her, and extended her hand. In that act Christ flooded Corrie with forgiveness for the man who had been the instrument of such cruelty and suffering for her. Christ loved him through her and forgave him through her. Christ can and will do this for us, if we ask. We can thank God that we have forgiven that person. This is humility: to choose to forget and, when we cannot forget, to choose to continue to forgive. After all, with every "Our Father" we directly tie our request for forgiveness to the forgiveness we extend to others. *And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.* (This devotion was written by Kimberly Hahn and published in the March 2021 issue of [Magnificat](#).)

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

March 27 Degree Day CANCELED

March 31 Scholarship applications due to State Master

May 10 Registrations due for GP Conference

June 1 Newsletter articles due to Editor

June 11-13 Great Plains Conference Holiday Inn Express, Claremore, OK

Sept 1 Newsletter articles due

Sept 1 Community Service Projects Due



Wedding Bells and Congratulations

Coty and Ann(Keeton) Allen

Oct. 31, 2020