

Sooner State Granger



Master Message—Billy Shufeldt OK State Grange President

Greetings, fellow Oklahoma State Grangers and all Grangers across our great country. I hope everyone is having a good year so far and will continue to do so for the remainder of the year.

Starting off I would like to inform you of the passing of one of our Executive Board members, Randy Henry. Randy was the Master of the Clear Creek Grange #84; he was a great asset to our organization and was a good friend to everyone. He will be missed by all of his fellow Grangers and his community.

To all the Oklahoma State Grange 2025 - 2026 scholarship applicants, your application will be due by March 31st, 2025. 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**. You will need to send your **completed hard copy** applications and essays directly to me.

Our annual Degree Day will be held on April 5th, 2025, beginning at 10:00 am at the Claremore Convention Center, located at 1400 Country Club Road, Claremore OK. 74017 hosted by Big

Cabin # 156, Cabin Creek # 359 and Bluejacket # 353. To all our Subordinate Granges, please bring your members that want to take the first four Degrees. The top three Granges that bring the most Degree Candidates will receive a monetary reward. I would like to ask that all State Officers and Directors do their best to be there. All Scholarship applicants and/or recipients are encouraged to attend. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

The 2025 Great Plains Regional Conference will be hosted by the Colorado State Grange on the weekend of June 20th & 21st, 2025. It will be held at the Quality Inn in Canyon City Co. and while attending, along with workshops, we will go on a tour of the Royal Gorge. For all Oklahoma State Grangers, you will be asked to pay a \$10.00 Registration fee (**5 yrs old and younger are free**) and the Oklahoma State Grange will pay the rest and take care of your hotel rooms and meals while traveling (**all Juniors and younger** will room with their parents). We will be taking a tour bus on the trip, leaving from Oklahoma Union High School in Nowata County at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 19th, 2025, and if we need to, we will stop in Blackwell, OK at Braum's store to pick up any members from that area and continue on our way, we will come back home on Sunday. I will make everyone's hotel reservations, just let me



Sooner State Granger (USPS Permit No. 2108) Oklahoma City, Oklahoma is the official publication of the Oklahoma State Grange 6399 NS 413 So. Coffeyville, OK 74072-9542 and is published quarterly. The yearly subscription cost is included in the annual membership dues for members of the Oklahoma State Grange.

Please send address changes to Yvonne and Kay Meritt, Co-Editors 20545 SW 15th, Union City, OK 73090-6805.

know what type of **room you prefer by writing it on the registration form**. All Scholarship applicants and/or recipients are encouraged to attend. A copy of the Registration form will be in this newsletter, I will need the filled-out registration form and fee back to me no later than 5-15-2025. **One registration form per person.**

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 feel 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

GRANGE ACTIVITIES

LISA EVANS - Director

Hello to all, I hope everyone is doing well. Degree Day is quickly approaching on April 5th There will be a dessert contest. It can be any desserts that you want to have bragging rights to, and provide yummy sweets to go with the lunch.

I hope to see you at Degree Day.

MEMBERS MATTER

Please keep Mary Krehbiel in your prayers as she recovers from a broken bone. Mary is a member of Cherryvale Grange #221. If you would like to send her a card, her address is: 28243 County Road 1060, Deer Creek, OK 74636-5044

Cherryvale Grange #221 recognized as a Grange in Action at the National Grange Annual Convention



SECRETRIES TAKE NOTES

Jeannie Harrington State Secretary

I pray this newsletter finds everyone staying safe and healthy.

Degree Day is coming up soon. It will be at the Claremore Convention Center in Claremore, OK on April 5th at 10:00 AM hosted by Big Cabin Grange #156 and Cabin Creek Grange #359. I hope everyone will be able to attend. It is always nice to see all our fellow Grangers.

Grange Scholarship applications are due to the State Master by March 31st.

The Great Plains Regional Conference is going to be in Canyon City, Colorado on June 20-21, 2025. Make plans now to attend this fun-filled, informative weekend.

I truly appreciate my fellow grange secretaries! You are all great to work with!

Fraternally,
Jeannie Harrington
State Secretary

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Dear Fellow Grangers

Spring is finally here. Time to get outside and do some work. The state Grange in the last quarter of 2024 came up a little short. At the end of the 3rd quarter, we had 5449 members. At the end of the 4th quarter, we had 5402 members for a loss

of 47 members. We had 3 subordinate Granges with a gain, 9 with a loss, and 7 with no change. We hope to see you on Degree Day. Stay safe.

Fraternally,
Carl Shufeldt
Jerry Taylor
Membership Directors



Hello youth and young adults!

I want to start by saying I hope all our scholarship applicants have gotten their college administration to send certified copies of their grades and class schedules to President Billy Shufeldt at bshufeldt.okgrange@gmail.com so they can get their scholarships since they are due at the end of March, we don't want anyone missing out on their scholarships, so I hope no one forgets.

Degree day will be April 5th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Claremore Conference Center 1400 W Country Club Rd Claremore, OK, I hope we will see you there! The Great Plains Conference will be June 20th-21st in Canyon City, Colorado. We will be taking a bus for anyone that would like to go with the pickup at Oklahoma Union School. Our com-

munity service project is still being planned so that will be announced at a later date, so please check our Facebook page for updates.

Our 2025 Oklahoma State Session will be October 17th-19th in Bartlesville, OK at the Hilton Garden Inn 205 SW Frank Phillips Blvd Bartlesville, OK 74003, if anyone wants to give ideas on what they would like to do for state session I am all ears we can start a conversation on what everyone would like to do since we will be in a new town!

Please join our Facebook page: Oklahoma State Grange Youth

If you have any questions, please feel free to get ahold of me.

Bailey Miranda
Oklahoma State Youth Director
Email: baileyjmiranda@gmail.com
Phone: (918)467-0337
Address: 1413 South East Ave
Pauls Valley, OK 73075



Hello Grangers,

I hope everyone is staying safe and keeping warm with all this snow and cold weather we have had. Our 2024 year was full of fun, I've enjoyed my first year as Junior Director. I am excited and ready to see what we can do for this new year.

Great Plains Regional Conference is June 20th & 22nd, 2025 at Canyon City Colorado we will be taking a bus.

Oklahoma State Session will be held in

Bartlesville Oklahoma at the Hilton Garden Inn on October 17th-19th, 2025.

I hope 2025 treats everyone well and I can't wait to see all your faces soon!

Fraternally submitted,
Melody Finn
Junior Director

MEMORIAL NOTICE



Randy Dean Henry

It is with heavy heart and deep sorrow to share that our State Grange Executive Committee Board member Randy Dean Henry, 74-year-old Bluejacket resident, went to be with his Lord and Savior early Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on February 24, 1950, in Welch to Elwin C. and Audrey Rose (Jinks) Henry. Randy was a 1968 graduate of Welch High School and received his associate degree from NEO A&M College in Miami. Randy was united in marriage to Robbie (McLain) on October 16, 1992, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He worked with his father on their Dairy, later for the Coal Companies as an electrician in the Welch area. He and his dad had a heavy equipment construction company together and coal mining reclamation service, also had Henry's Television Repair, was a diesel mechanic, and was currently a distributor for Pro-Energy Feeds and an insurance agent for Grange Mutual Insurance, and Executive Committee Board member for several years. He loved to work. In his younger years he was an airplane pilot, taught children's church, loved to quail hunt, and was a mentor to young men at the Thunderbird Academy in Pryor. Randy was a member of the Bluejacket Baptist Church, where he served as an elder, and teacher. He also served many years on the Bluejacket School Board. Randy was an incredibly talented musician, played the organ, piano, numerous stringed instruments, and played with McLain and Company Bluegrass band. Most of all he cherished his family, his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family includes his wife Robbie of the home, children, Andrea Buffington and husband Floyd of Vinita, Donnie Henry and wife Alicia of Farmington, Missouri, Eric Lucas and wife Kara of Lamar, Missouri, Leslie Marrs and husband Roger of Seneca, Missouri, seventeen grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

The celebration of life was held on Saturday, February 15, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., at the First Baptist Church of Bluejacket, Pastor Austin Clark officiated. Condolences can be sent to Robbie Henry at 15129 S 4420 RD, Bluejacket, OK 74333

PREPARING FOR EASTER

Lent is a the season of preparation for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday through which we attain redemption. The practice of receiving ashes on the forehead is practice by many different churches. It is not a sacrament. The placing of ashes on the forehead is a tradition which has roots in the Old Testament. "I turned to the Lord God , to seek help, in prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes. (Daniel 9:3)

The day after Holy Wednesday is Maundy Thursday which commemorates the Last Supper between Jesus and his disciples. Maundy Thurs-

day is the last day of Lent . Holy week is the sixth and last week of Lent, beginning with Palm Sunday and concluding on Holy Saturday.

Thing to consider for Lent. The three traditional pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is a time to work on discipline. Many think it is a time to give up something, however it can be doing something positive, such as exercising more, be nicer to family, friends and coworkers. Pray more often. Also don't go overboard, it is best to keep it simple. We are to spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Be patient with yourself. Reach out in Charity. Learn to love like Christ. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the Cross on Good Friday. Hope you have a Happy Easter.

**2025 GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

June 19-22, 2025

Quality Inn, 3075 E. US 50

Canyon City, Colorado

Room Rates \$118.00 (plus tax) Double or King

Name _____ Phone () _____

Member type: Subordinate Member _____ Youth (age 14-35) _____ Junior Member _____ 5& Under age _____

Address _____

Email address (if applicable) _____

Grange State & Grange Name Number: _____

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

Meals: Continental Breakfast included with stay.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$75.00

Registration forms and fees need to be to Billy Shufeldt by **May 15th, 2025**

Each State is asked to prepare and present a 30 -45-minute workshop of their choosing.

Event schedule: Saturday we will be going to the Royal Gorge

The community service project is donations

Please send money and Registration form to:

Billy Shufeldt (918)842-0242

6399 NS 413 RD

S Coffeyville, Ok 74072

OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Up to eight scholarships will be awarded for educational expenses at an accredited post-secondary educational institute of the recipient's choice.

Upon selection by the scholarship committee, Full time students (12 or more hours per semester) will be awarded a \$ 1300.00 scholarship. (\$650.00 per semester. Part-time students (minimum of 6 hours per semester) will be awarded a \$650.00 scholarship. (\$325.00 per semester) Non-traditional students (students returning to school after a period of at least 5 years out of school) taking less than six hours will be eligible for \$325.00. (\$162.50 per semester)

ELIGIBILITY The applicant must be a citizen of the United State of America, a High School graduate of senior at the time of the scholarship selection. Be an Active Fifth Degree member in good standing (current dues paid) of an Oklahoma. Subordinate Grange for **one year** by the application deadline (March 31).

To be considered an Active Member, the Applicate must attend Degree Day or Great Plains Conference or a State Grange Gathering and the State Session before applying. Previous winners of the scholarships will continue to be eligible for future selection but must re-apply and will be judged on an equal basis with other applicants.

The complete Application form and requirements are available on the State Grange website at www.oklahomastategrange.net. It is located on the opening page of the website or in the December 2024 newsletter which is also located on the website.

LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT

Donna Keeton, State Lecturer

It has been a cold winter, I can't wait for Spring. But the snow did give me an ideal for a contest. So one of the photo contests is a winter scene, and the next photo contest is stop and take a picture of an interesting cloud, the last photo contest is take a picture of an interesting person that you see it can be anywhere and be any one. My essay contest is going to go with the photo contest take a picture of an abandoned building and if you know the history of the building write an essay about the building. I know that there are a lot of buildings that used to be school houses or churches etc... get out and find and take that picture and tell about that building. The more history the better. I would like to thank Ryan Foley for suggesting some of the contests it gets hard coming up with something new each year.

The photo contest pictures need only be a 4x5 no bigger you can have it framed. No glass please.

I will have a picture for everyone to color it will be in the next newsletter. Please remember to use crayons, colored pencils, or markers.

And get out your paint brushes you can use oils, watercolors, etc... to paint with.

At National Grange this year I was able to bid on some quilt blocks that other States have made.

I asked Yvonne Meritt to make the blocks into a Quilt. Yvonne said that she should be finished with the quilt by the State Session. I am hoping to raffle the quilt off. For a worthwhile project. I should be getting the tickets ready by Degree Day.

National Grange Lecturer Director is having a photo contest you can look it up on the National Grange Website for all the rules, and the categories. You have to send in the pictures to the National Lecturer by e-mail. The winners pictures will be in a calendar next year.

I hope to see you in April for Degree Day, which is also Grange Month. So don't forget to promote

Grange in April, and bring a member who has not been to Degree Day with you.

Donna Keeton, Oklahoma State Lecturer

BRAD KEETON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

In 2022, the Oklahoma State Grange started the Brad Keeton Memorial Scholarship. Being such an influential and long-standing member of the Grange, we wanted to offer a chance for young men and women of our communities to receive a helping hand when it comes to furthering their goals of higher education, which was something very close to Brad's heart.

Once a year, a single recipient will be chosen amongst applicants to receive this scholarship totaling \$2,500. Eligible applicants include any Fourth Degree member in the Oklahoma State Grange that is pursuing higher education.

To apply, a completed application and a typed 250-word essay on how the scholarship will assist them in their goals for the future. These documents must be submitted by May 1st of the calendar year. They can be mailed or emailed directly to the Oklahoma State Grange Master bshufeldt.okgrange@gmail.com or 6399 NS 413 RD. S. Coffeyville, OK. 74072. Please mark your emails with a subject line that denotes this is for the Brad Keeton Scholarship.

The winner will be notified in advance and will be presented with their scholarship at that year's State Session. Payment of the scholarship is contingent on proof of acceptance and enrollment of the student at an accredited school by official statement from the Registrar's office. Winners are required to attend the Oklahoma State Grange session Saturday Evening during the degree work to receive the funds. Once a scholarship is awarded, the recipient is not eligible to apply again.

If you know of an individual that is deserving of a helping hand to continue their education, please consider them as an applicant for the Brad Keeton Memorial Scholarship.

The Grange Mutual Insurance
Brad Keeton Memorial
Scholarship Application

Date: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
 first middle initial last

Home Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Name of high school: _____ Graduation Year: _____

What college or university are you attending? _____

What will be your major field of study? _____

GPA for last academic term: _____ Scholastic Honors received: _____

Other academic achievements: _____

Participation in extra-curricular activities: _____

Work Experience: Are you currently employed? _____

What type of work?

_____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please attach a 250-word minimum essay for consideration about either the goals for your education or how the scholarship can benefit your continuing education.

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

PRSRTSTD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OKC, OK
PERMIT NO. 2108

Dates to Remember

March 31 Scholarship applications due

April 5th Degree Day 10:00 am at the Claremore Convention Center, located at 1400 Country Club Road, Claremore OK.

May 15th Registration for Great Plains Regional Conference due to be mailed to the State Master.

June 1st Newsletter articles due to editor

June 20th & 21st, 2025. Great Plains Regional Conference, Quality Inn in Canyon City Co.



Oklahoma Grange Mutual Insurance
135 E. Canadian Ave. Vinita, OK 74301
800.871.2479

Covering Oklahoma Day and Night

GRANGE
MUTUAL INSURANCE

for over 100 years!