

# 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 doing fine and has had a great new year. We have had a lot of warm and cold weather but very little moisture in our State this year and lately several wildfires and the year is

flying by like most years do.

To all Oklahoma State Grange 2026 - 2027 Scholarship applicants, your application is due by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Please see Rules and Responsibilities for instructions. You can get the Application and Rules out of this paper or contact me, and I will send you a copy or look on the Oklahoma State Grange website. Your application needs to be filled out, including your **Subordinate Grange Master's signature**. You will need to send your **completed hard copy application and essay** directly to me by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. See my address and email below.

The Application for the Brad Keeton Memorial Scholarship which is a onetime \$2,500.00 scholarship is due on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Along with your Application you will need to send a 250- word essay on how the scholarship will assist you with your goals for the future. Please read the rules and requirements. Both the application and essay need to be sent to the Oklahoma State Grange Master, Billy Shufeldt by the due date. You can get the Application and Rules out of this paper or contact me, and I will send you a copy

or look on the Oklahoma State Grange website.

Our annual Degree Day will be held on March 28th, 2026, beginning at 10:00 am at the NAFI building, located at 205 Oklahoma Street, South Coffeyville OK. 74072 hosted by the Oklahoma State Grange. To all our Subordinate Granges, please bring your members that want to take the first four Degrees. I would like to ask that all State Officers and Directors be there around 9:00 am. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

The Great Plains Regional Leadership Conference will be hosted by the Kansas State Grange on June 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 in Fort Scott, Kansas. Location: Sleep Inn & Suites located at 302 E. Wall Street, Fort Scott, KS. Rooms cost \$149 per night, (no information about tax). Room must be reserved by **May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026** by calling 620-223-2555 or at this link <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/KD39P3>

All workshops and conference activities will be held at the Empress Event Center, Located at 7 N. Main Street, Fort Scott, KS 66701. Additional conference details and registration information will be sent at a later date by Kansas State Grange Master, Nathan Strawder, I will pass it on when I get it. I will not be attending the Conference this year so if you plan on going you will need to make your own arrangements.

Here is contact information of the new officers and directors:

Oklahoma State Lecturer - Scheneista Procter, 918-520-9742, [1scheneista@gamil.com](mailto:1scheneista@gamil.com)



Sooner State Granger (USPS Permit No. 2108) Oklahoma City, Oklahoma is the official publication of the Oklahoma State Grange 6639 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.*

Oklahoma State Grange-Junior Director - Melody Finn, 918-467-0319, [melody81997@yahoo.com](mailto:melody81997@yahoo.com)

Oklahoma State Grange-Youth Director - Bailey Miranda, 918-467-0337, [baileymiranda@gmail.com](mailto:baileymiranda@gmail.com)

Oklahoma State Grange- Community Service & Grange Activities Directors - Sonya Tackkett, 620-870-1858, [stackkett@yahoo.com](mailto:stackkett@yahoo.com) & Patricia Shufeldt, 620-515-3443, [pshoe59@hotmail.com](mailto:pshoe59@hotmail.com)

Oklahoma State Grange-Membership Director - Ann Allen, 918-373-3956, [annkeeton@yahoo.com](mailto:annkeeton@yahoo.com)

If anyone needs any help from Oklahoma State Grange Secretary Jeannie Harrington, you can reach her at email: [jeannieharrington@rocketmail.com](mailto:jeannieharrington@rocketmail.com)

[ton@rocketmail.com](mailto:ton@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 [soonerstate-granger@gmail.com](mailto:soonerstate-granger@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](mailto:bshufeldt.okgrange@gmail.com)

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

James Procter, State Chaplain



Spring - "Renewed in Spirit"

As winter fades and the first buds begin to break through the soil, we're reminded that God has a way of making all things new again. Spring in Oklahoma brings fresh hope – the kind that comes with green pastures, soft rains, and the smell of turned earth ready for planting. It's a season that calls us to renew not just our fields, but our hearts.

Scripture tells us, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has*

*gone, the new is here."* (2 Corinthians 5:17) What a promise that is! Just like the earth shakes off the chill of winter, we too can shake off what's been weighing us down – old habits, old hurts, or heavy burdens – and allow God to bring forth something new within us.

This season let's plant more than crops. Let's plant kindness in our homes, encouragement in our communities, and service within our Grange halls. With every act of compassion, we sow seeds of faith that can take root and flourish in others.

So as you prepare your gardens, mend fences, and ready for another year's work, remember that God is preparing you, too – for growth, renewal, and greater purpose. May this spring find your spirit as alive as the land around you.

## GRANGE ACTIVITIES

Patricia Shufeldt and Sonya Tackkett

Co-Directors

Degree Day is right around the corner—March 28, 2026—so don't forget about our Dessert Contest! We're inviting everyone to bring their best home-made treats and compete for bragging rights and prizes.

Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, so bring your favorite recipe and your competi-

tive spirit! Whether you're known for cakes, pies, cookies, or creative confections, we can't wait to taste what you create.

Mark your calendar, start planning your recipe, and get ready for a delicious Degree Day Dessert Contest!





**Melody Finn, State Junior Director**

Happy Spring Juniors, I hope everyone is having a great school year.

I'm so excited to see everyone for our Degree Day that is coming up March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026. It will start at 10:00 am at the NAFI building, located in South Coffeyville, OK. I'm going to have some fun activities for us to do together so come prepared to have some fun!



**Bailey Miranda, State Youth Director**

Hello and Happy Spring Youth and Young Adults, I hope everyone is doing well. I know we have been terribly busy over here with school, but I only have a couple of announcements to remember.

To all Oklahoma State Grange 2026 - 2027 Scholarship applicants, your application is due by March 31st, 2026. Please see Rules and Responsibilities for instructions. You can get the Application and Rules out of this paper or look on the Oklahoma State Grange website. Your application needs to be filled out, including your Subordinate Grange Master's signature. You will need to send your completed hard copy application and essay directly to Master Billy Shufeldt by March 31st, 2026.

The Application for the Brad Keeton Memorial

Scholarship, which is a onetime \$2,500.00 scholarship, is due on May 1st, 2026. Along with your Application you will need to send a 250-word essay on how the scholarship will assist you with your goals for the future. Please read the rules and requirements. Both the application and essay need to be sent to Master Billy Shufeldt by the due date. You can get the Application and Rules out of this paper or look on the Oklahoma State Grange website.

Our annual Degree Day will be held on March 28th, 2026, beginning at 10:00 am at the NAFI building, located at 205 Oklahoma Street South Coffeyville, OK. 74072. I would love to see anyone that is able to come so we can plan our activities for the State Session.

Please join our Facebook page: Oklahoma State Grange Youth

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

Email: [baileyjmiranda@gmail.com](mailto:baileyjmiranda@gmail.com)

Phone: (918) 467-0337

Address: 1413 South East Ave

Pauls Valley, OK 73075

## **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

**Ann Allen, Membership Director**

Greetings Fellow Grangers,

I'm new to this role, but not new to the Grange. My parents raised me in the Grange from birth, and I have continuously stayed active in the Grange. I encourage you to reach out if you would like to talk on the growth of Oklahoma's organization.

We start this year with our work cut out for us!

The state Grange in the last quarter of 2025 for two years in a row has come up short. At the end of the 3rd quarter, we had 5,283 members. At the end of the 4th quarter, we had 5,154 members for a loss of 129 members. We had 2 subordinate Granges with a gain, 8 with a loss, and 9 with no change.

I look forward to seeing what each subordinate Grange can do to push for increased membership as well as participation. I look forward to seeing everyone at Degree Day.

## LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT

Scheneista Procter

State Grange Lecturer

### Rooted in Oklahoma - Growing Toward October

As we continue this Grange year under our theme, "*Rooted in Oklahoma - Harvesting Our Traditions, Growing Our Future*," now is the time to begin preparing for this year's Lecturer's contests.

State Session may not be until October, but strong participation begins months in advance.

The seeds we plant in our Subordinate Granges today will determine what we harvest this fall.

I encourage each local Grange to begin identifying talents within your membership – quilting,

baking, photography, public speaking, music, writing, agriculture projects, community service, and more. Consider hosting a local contest night or highlighting potential entries during your meetings.

Contests are about more than ribbons. They preserve traditions, engage our youth, build confidence, and strengthen fellowship.

We will share detailed contest information in the next two issues, but for now, begin planning. Encourage participation. Make it part of your local program.

Let's grow something meaningful together – rooted in Oklahoma and ready to harvest in October.

Fraternally submitted,  
Scheneista Procter  
State Lecturer

## SECRETARIES TAKE NOTES

Jeannie Harrington, State Secretary

I pray this newsletter finds everyone is staying safe, healthy and enjoying the beautiful weather. Degree Day is coming up soon. It will be at the NAFI Building in South Coffeyville, OK on March 28, 2026 at 10:00 AM hosted by the Oklahoma State Grange. I hope everyone will be able to at-

tend. It is always nice to see all our fellow Granger.

Grange Scholarship applications are due to the State Master by March 31, 2026. The Great Plains Regional Conference is going to be in Fort Scott, KS June 12-14, 2026. Make plans now to attend this fun filled, informative weekend.

I truly appreciate my fellow Grange secretaries!

## The Grange Mutual Insurance

Brad Keeton Memorial

Scholarship Application

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 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year. They can be mailed or emailed directly to the Oklahoma State Grange Master

[bshufeldt.okgrange@gmail.com](mailto: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. Please check the Oklahoma State Grange website or call Billy Shufeldt to have the application email to you.

## 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.

Be 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.

### SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be evaluated and recipients will be selected by a scholarship committee consisting of the State Master and four members appointed by the Master. Any member of the selected committee, including the Master, with immediate family applying for the scholarship will be disqualified and a re-appointment made. All qualified applicants will be given equal consideration. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of Grange participation, demonstrated leadership, financial need, and potential to succeed. Applicants will submit an application and a 500-word essay to the State Master by March 31. A personal interview may be required for a final decision. Winners will be notified by May 1 and published in the Sooner State Granger.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

It shall be the sole responsibility of the applicant to provide the completed application and necessary information to the State Master by the stated deadlines. All recipients must enter school the fall term following selection. Payment of the first half of the scholarship will be contingent on proof of acceptance and enrollment of the student at an accredited school by official statement from the Registrar's office. Proof of enrollment must be received by the State Master via email or through the mail from the Registrar's Office by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Payment of the second half of the scholarship is contingent upon the recipient giving acceptance speech at the state banquet in October. At this time pictures will be taken of the recipients for publication in the Sooner State Granger. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the scholarship committee in the event of medical emergency or circumstances beyond the recipient's control. **The second half of the scholarship money will be transferred for the second term if a minimum 2.5 GPA has been achieved for the first semester. An official transcript of the student's grades from the Registrar's Office via email or mail must be sent to the State Master by February 15<sup>th</sup> or the scholarship will be forfeited.**

**OKLAHOMA STATE GRANGE  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
SCHOLARHIP APPLICATION**

Please print or type.

**Personal Information**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

First

MI

Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

**Education**

Education that has been completed to date.

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Please describe your educational and career goals.

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**Activities and Honors**

List Grange activities and honors

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List school activities and honors

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List Community involvement

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**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.



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

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OKC, OK  
PERMIT NO. 2108

### Dates to Remember

**March 28th** Degree Day 10:00 am,  
NAFI building, 205 Oklahoma Street,  
South Coffeyville OK. 74072

**March 31** Scholarship applications  
due to State Master

**May 1st** Applications for the Brad  
Keeton Scholarship Applications due

**May 11th** Room Reservations for GP  
Conference must be made.

**June 1st** Articles Due for Newsletter

**June 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>** Great Plains Confer-  
ence, Fort Scott, Kansas.



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