

Sooner State Granger

Master Message—Billy Shufeldt OK State Grange President



Greetings fellow Oklahoma Grangers and all Grangers across the country. I hope everyone is doing fine and is having a great Holiday Season. It looks like we might get our first snow of the season tomorrow.

The 110th Annual Oklahoma State Grange Convention was held in Bartlesville, OK at the Hilton Garden Inn, Oct. 17th, 18th & 19th, 2205.

We had approximately 100 + Oklahoma Grange members attend the convention along with our National Grange representatives, they were National Grange Executive Board member Buddy Overstreet and his wife Texas State Master Karen Overstreet. Buddy and Karen were both a tremendous help with several things during the Convention.

On opening morning past Oklahoma State Masters Yvonne Meritt and Donna Keeton were recognized along with National Grange Representatives Buddy and Karen Overstreet. The manager of the Hilton Garden Inn welcomed us to their hotel and to Bartlesville, OK.

The Friday night Celebration Banquet theme was "Fall", we had a great meal, and it was a great success.

After dinner was over the Executive Board and I announced the 2025/2026 scholarship recipients, they were Travis Knight and Randalyn

Crowe - South Coffeyville # 351, Christopher Thomsen - Thompson # 352 and Allison Ward and Tate Ward - Prairie # 334.

Randalyn Crowe - South Coffeyville # 351 was the Brad Keeton Memorial Scholarship recipient for 2025.

Grange Activities Director Lisa Evans gave out the Grange Activities awards for the various photo and crafts contests. She thanked Buddy and Karen Overstreet for their help with judging the contest and gave them a gift for their help. She also announced that she is stepping down as Grange Activities/Community Service Director. She will be missed.

Lecturer Donna Keeton gave out the Lecturer contest awards for various photos and short story categories. Donna thanked Buddy and Karen Overstreet and Robbie Henry for their help with the judging and gave each of them a gift for their help.

The Executive Board and I announced this year's Ganger of the Year Award winner, it went to Danetta Jones Elm Bend # 358. Danetta Jones is our State Treasurer and works hard and diligently to keep our checkbook correct and is constantly working to bring in new members to the Grange.

On Saturday, Oct 18th, 2025, we held our elections the results were as follows: Master-Billy Shufeldt, Overseer-Dee Procter, Exec. Commit-



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.

tee-Justin Knight and Ray Purdy, Lecturer-Scheneista Procter, Steward-Robert Bailey, Asst. Steward-Ryan Foley, Lady Asst. Steward-Sheyian Borgstrom, Chaplain-James Procter, Treasurer-Danetta Jones, Secretary-Jeannie Harrington, Gatekeeper-Avery Couch, Pomona-Krissy Hawk, Flora-Kimberly Knight, Ceres-Sheila Conrady.

At the Saturday, Grange Mutual Insurance luncheon Hayden Bailey- South Coffeyville #351 was awarded the 2025 Marvin Purdy Memorial Scholarship.

On Saturday evening the Youth put on the 5th Degree, and the State Officers helped by Buddy Overstreet. The Oklahoma State Officers put on the 6th Degrees conferral.

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

The 159th National Grange Convention was held on the Carnival Cruise ship Horizon from November 8th -16th, 2025. Welina and I attended the convention it was quite different from the conventions of the past. The Committee work on all the resolutions was done prior to the cruise so we were able to jump right in and go through them on the floor very quickly.

We had a good time but were glad to come home.

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. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

To all the 2025 - 2026 Scholarship recipients, an Official transcript of the students grades for the 2025 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 directly from them to the State Master by February 1st, to get the 2026 spring portion of your scholarship.

To all the Oklahoma State Grange 2026 - 2027 scholarship applicants, your application will be due by March 31st, 2026. 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, see my address and email below.

Your new Oklahoma State Grange Activities/Community Service Directors are Sonya Tackkett and Patrica Shufeldt. You can reach Sonya at 620-870-1858, email stackkett@yahoo.com address 12403 State Highway 10, Wann OK. 74083 and you can reach Patricia at 620-515-3443. I know they will do a fantastic job for all of us.

Long time Oklahoma State Grange Membership Director Jerry Taylor has decided to step down from the position. Jerry has done an excellent job for us for many years and I hate to see him go. Join me in wishing Jerry our greatest appreciation for his many years of service.

Your new Oklahoma State Grange Membership Director is Ann Allen. You can reach Ann at 620-373-3956, email annkeeton@yahoo.com address 19411 W 211th ST S Kellyville, OK 74039

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 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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

James Procter, State Chaplain



Winter - "Light in the Darkness"

When the cold winds blow and the days grow short, winter often brings a quiet that feels both heavy and holy. It's a time when nature rests – and perhaps when we are called to rest as well. Yet even in the stillness, God's presence remains constant, like a steady flame that never goes out.

John 1:5 reminds us, *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* What comforting words to carry through the coldest season. Whether we face loss, loneli-

ness, or simply the weight of another year gone by, God's light remains – guiding us, warming us, and reminding us that spring will come again.

In these quieter months, take time to tend your spirit as you would tend a fire. Feed it with prayer, scripture, and reflection. Reach out to those who might need encouragement – a neighbor, a friend, or a fellow Grange member who's struggling. Even a small act of kindness can shine brightly against the dark.

Winter reminds us that faith isn't only found in the sunshine; it's proven in the shadows. May we each carry that light – the light of Christ – into the new year ahead, sharing hope and warmth wherever the road may lead.

GRANGE ACTIVITIES

Patricia Shufeldt Sonya Tackett

Co-Directors

Patricia Shufeldt and Sonya Tackett are excited to serve as your new Grange Activities and Com-

munity Service Directors. We're happy to share that our annual Degree Day will be held on March 28, and we'll be hosting a fun dessert contest as part of the event. We hope to see everyone there and look forward to a great turnout!



Melody Finn, State Junior Director

Hello Grangers,

I hope everyone has enjoyed their Thanksgiving break. We had a great turn out for State session, with a total of 8 Juniors. We made bracelets and necklaces, colored Halloween puzzles and pictures, made Christmas ornaments, had a pumpkin sack race, played witch hat ring toss. It was a

weekend full of fun and laughter.

I'd like to thank Mutual Grange Insurance, Ray and Dena Purdy and all the Subordinate Granges and Grangers for their donations and support to the Juner Grange Department.

Degree Day will be held at the NAFI building in south Coffeyville, OK on March 28th at 10:00 a.m.. I hope to see you all there.

Fraternally.

Melody Finn

Junior Director

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Ann Allen has accepted the position of

Membership Director. Please welcome her to this position.



**Granger of the Year Danette Jones
(center)**

**Along with Master Billiy Shufeldt,
Executive Committee members
Kay Meritt, Richard Volz, and Ray
Purdy**



**National Grange
Representatives—
Karen and Buddy
Overstreet from
Texas**



**Quilt raffle was won by Cherryvale Grange #221.
Donna Keeton Lecture is presenting the quilt to
Shelia Conrady from Cherryvale Grange.**

LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT

Scheneista Procter

State Grange Lecturer

As I step into the role of Oklahoma State Grange Lecturer, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for the opportunity to serve our members in this meaningful capacity. The Lecturer's Department has always been the heart of our Grange family – where learning, creativity, and fellowship come together to enrich our meetings and strengthen our communities.

Each of us has something valuable to share – a story, a song, a skill, or even just a kind word that lifts another's spirit. My goal this year is to encourage every local Grange to include a "moment of learning" in their meetings. Whether it's a short educational program, a community spotlight, or a fun activity, these moments remind

us that the Grange is more than just agriculture—it's about growing together.

As we move into this new Grange year, I'd love to see Lecturers across the state highlight what makes their communities special. Share a local success story, honor a hometown hero, or organize a program that teaches a practical life skill. Let's celebrate the heart of rural Oklahoma – our people, our traditions, and our shared purpose to make our towns better places to live.

I encourage each of you to stay connected, get creative, and reach out if you have ideas or would like help developing programs for your local Grange. Together, we can keep the flame of learning and fellowship burning bright across our great state.



**Bailey Miranda
State Youth Director**

[
Hello Youth and Young Adults! I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving.

I can't believe it has already been almost two months since we seen each other at our state session. Our 110th Oklahoma State Grange Session was held October 17th -19th 2025, in Bartlesville, OK at the Hilton Garden Inn. We had a great group of youth that showed up this year, and I am so happy with everyone that came and participated.

Friday the 17th we started the day by watching the state officers open our state Grange session. They did an amazing job. Then we were dismissed and went into the banquet hall where we enjoyed our morning playing some games together and getting to know one another better. After we had lunch, our youth was split into two groups where they went off on a scavenger hunt around downtown Bartlesville where they had to solve riddles to find their destination. Both groups did so well and solved all of their riddles, and I think everyone had a great time. Friday evening was the Celebration Banquet where our youth served dinner for everyone and where they raised \$1639. Thank you to everyone that donated to our amazing youth.

Then we had our 2025/2026 Scholarship recipients receive their awards and they were: Travis Knight and Randalyn Crowe - South Coffeyville # 351, Christopher Thomsen - Thompson #352, Allison Ward and Tate Ward - Prairie #334. I want to wish all the best in their very bright futures.

The Brad Keeton Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Randalyn Crowe of South Coffeyville #351. She is attending school to eventually become an RN. I wish her all the best.

The morning of Saturday the 18th, our youth got together to hang out and to practice for the fifth degree, then after they helped serve

lunch before the insurance meeting where they raised \$1144. Saturday evening our youth put together an amazing drill for the fifth degree Travis and Kacey did an excellent job leading our drill and we had all our positions filled by all youth this year and did not have to ask for any fill ins how amazing is that! We also had 4 youth taking the fifth degree this year and 3 taking the sixth degree. National Representative Buddy Overstreet did the secret work for the fifth degree for our youth and did an excellent job. After the degree work our youth got together and did an escape room, I put together for them and played some other games I provided for them and had a great time hanging out and eating pizza. I want to say thank you to all my youth for showing up and putting in the work this year. You all did an amazing job and are all amazing young adults.

On Sunday the 19th we had worship and where we received an additional donation of \$270 from the Purdy's from their Pecan sales, we want to say thank you to them for donating their Pecan profits to the youth every year we greatly appreciate it. Then we watched as the Oklahoma Grange Officers closed this year's State Session.

I want to say thank you to everyone that supports and donates to our youth every year we love and appreciate all of you. You are the reason we can keep the youth going. I want to say thank you to Justin Knight for helping with practicing the fifth degree. And a Special Thank You to National Representative Buddy Overstreet for helping with the secret work of The Fifth Degree this year, you did an amazing job for us.

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

LECTURER'S REPORT 2025

Donna Keeton, Past State Lecturer

Here are the State Grange winners for 2025 contest:

PHOTOGRAPHY

WINTER SCENE

5-9 years old

1st place-Malachi Nutter Cherryvale Grange #221

10-13 years old

1st place: Gabriel Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

14-Adult

1st place: Mitchell Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd place: Hayden Bailey, South Coffeyville #351

3rd place: Keykeigh Keeton, Thompson Grange #352

CLOUDS

10-13 years old

1st place: Kourtney Evans, Grand Lake Grange #363

2nd place: Gabriel Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

14-Adult

1st place: Hayden Bailey, South Coffeyville Grange #351

2nd place: Andrew Baird, Cherryvale Grange #221

3rd place: Mitchell Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

INTERESTING PERSON OR PERSONS

5-9 years old

1st place: Malachi Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd place: Azariah Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

10-13 years old

Kourtney Evans, Grand Lake Grange #363

14-Adult

1st place: Steve Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd place: Kevin Ryan, Cherryvale Grange #221

3rd place: Mitchell Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

PICTURE ESSAY

14-Adult

1st place: Yvonne Meritt, Prairie Grange #334

2nd place: Randalyn Crowe, South Coffeyville Grange #351

3rd place: Welina Shufeldt, South Coffeyville Grange #351

PAINTING

5-9 years old

1st place : Malachi Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd place: Azariah Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

14-Adult

1st place: Leslie Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd place: Larry Shufeldt, OU Grange #355

3rd place: Sonya Tackkett, OU Grange #355

DRAWING

14-Adult

1st place: Faith Ryan, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd place: Josiah Procter, Big Cabin Grange #156

3rd place: Larry Shufeldt, OU Grange #355

Continued on page

Lecturer's Report 2025 Continued from page

COLORING PAGE

0-4 years old

1st place: Elsie Jarvis, Big Cabin Grange #156

2nd place: Coty Jean Allen, Thompson Grange #352

3rd place: Marlee Finn, South Coffeyville Grange #351

5-9 years old

1st place: Inara Keeton, Pleasant View Grange #354

2nd place :Braelyn Graf, South Coffeyville Grange #351

3rd place: Bryce Robbins, Cherryvale Grange #221

10-13 years old

1st place: Gabriel Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #351

2nd place: Kolten Graf, South Coffeyville Grange #351

14-Adult

1st place: Teena Robins, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd place: Lisa Ryan, Cherryvale Grange #221

3rd place: Stephani Baird, Cherryvale #221

We had six members in the Lecturer's Talent show they were as follow:

Travis Knight, South Coffeyville Grange #351-; Song

Yvonne Meritt, Prairie Grange #334; Flute

Sharon Smith Cherryvale Grange #221; Song

Coty Jean Allen Thompson Grange #352; Song

Rian Taylor, Vinita Grange #360; Gymnastic

Adien Smith, Cherryvale Grange #221; Song

They each received \$50.00 for participating.

Before the Banquet ended I held a Lecturer program with several people from the audience, helping with a skit called "Boys Will Be Boys...Or Something", everyone enjoyed the skit. Thank you to everyone who participated in the skit.

The Quilt Raffle raised \$660.00 for Safenet Services, a woman's shelter located in Northeast Oklahoma. I would like to thank Yvonne Meritt for Quilting the Quilt.

Cherryvale Grange #221 won the Quilt Saturday evening after the Fifth and Sixth Degree Work.

SECRETARIES TAKE NOTES

Jeannie Harrington, State Secretary

I pray everyone is staying safe and healthy. Thanksgiving is passed and I hope everyone was blessed with Family and Food. Christmas and New Year is just around the corner. This year has flown by. Seems the older we get the faster it goes.

The 110th Oklahoma State Session went well and it was great to see everyone again. It was decided that Degree Day will be March 28th in South Coffeyville, OK at the NAFI building at 10 AM.

"Thank you" to all who have turned in your re-

ports 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. You can also still send mail to my Post Office Address. It is 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.

You all are great to work with and I feel richly blessed.

OKLAHOMA STATE GRANGE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP 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.

Please describe your educational and career goals.

Activities and Honors

List Grange activities and honors

List school activities and honors

List Community involvement

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 "The National Grange Building" or "An essay on one of the Seven Founding Fathers of the Grange"
(revised 11-25-2024)

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

6399 NS 413 RD

South 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.

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 15th. 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 15th or the scholarship will be forfeited.**

If for any reason the student cannot accept or becomes ineligible for this award, other applicants will be considered for the unused money.



OK GRANGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIANTS

Pictured left to right : Master Billy Shufield, Randalyn Crowe and Travis Knight - South Coffeyville Grange # 351, Tate Ward and Allison Ward - Prairie #334, Christopher Thomsen - Thompson Grange # 352,.

MARVIN PURDY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



2025

Hayden Bailey with Ray Purdy,
son of Marvin Purdy



2024

Bailey Maranda with Ray Purdy, son of
Marvin Purdy

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

February 1 Transcripts are due from scholarship recipients to State Master

March 1 Newsletter articles due to Editor

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

March 31 Scholarship applications
due to State Master

I would like to express a Thank
you for all the Grangers who sent
me a card of well wished.

Fraternally

Mary Kreihbel, Cherryvale Grange
221



Brad Keeton Scholarship recipient Randalyn
Crowe with Billy Shufeldt, Master



**Oklahoma Grange
Mutual Insurance**
135 E. Canadian Ave.
Vinita, OK 74301
Covering Oklahoma Day and Night
GRANGE
MUTUAL INSURANCE
for over 100 years!