

Sooner State Granger



Master Message—Billy Shufeldt OK State Grange President

Hello again Oklahoma Grangers and all Grangers across our great country. I hope everyone is doing fine and is having a great Holiday Season. It is still very dry in my area, but we have had our first bit of snow recently.

Since our last paper Welina and I traveled to Springfield IL. and attended the Illinois State Grange Convention. Welina and I joined in on the festivities of the State Session. We had a great time and were able to watch and learn how another State puts on their State Grange Convention. Their contest and exhibit room was quite impressive, with lots of produce and hand-crafted items in their contests. I would like to thank Don & Lynette Schaeffer for inviting us and we both look forward to returning again someday.

The 108th Annual Oklahoma State Grange Convention was held back in Claremore OK at the Claremore Conference Center / Holiday Inn Express located in Claremore OK on October 20th, 21st & 22nd, 2023.

We had approximately 110 + Oklahoma Grange members attend the convention along with our National Grange representative Samantha Wilkins, Nation Youth & Junior Director. We also were pleased to have National High Priest of Demeter / Kansas State Grange Master Roger Bostwick and Kansas First Lady Melanie

Bostwick and their daughter Mandy Bostwick in attendance. All our guests joined in and helped in various ways during the Convention. Roger Bostwick served as Sixth Degree Master in the Degree work. Also, Roger and Melanie and Welina Shufeldt along with Mandy Bostwick and Samantha Wilkins installed our newly elected State Officers.

The Friday night Celebration Banquet theme was "Black Tie Masquerade", was a great success, with everyone dressed very nicely and wearing their masquerade masks.

After dinner was over, I began by announcing the 2023/2024 scholarship recipients, they were Hayden Babb - Bluejacket # 353, Charli Moore - South Coffeyville # 351, Christopher Thomsen & Halie Thomsen both of Thompson # 352.

Charli Moore - South Coffeyville # 351 was the Brad Keeton Memorial Scholarship recipient for 2023 and Hayden Babbs - Bluejacket # 353 was the Marvin Purdy Memorial Scholarship recipient for 2023.

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

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

On Saturday, Oct 21st, 2023, we held elections of State Officers the results were: Master - Billy Shufeldt, Overseer - Dee Proctor, (cont. pg 2)



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

(Cont.inued from page 1) Lecturer - Donna Keeton, Steward - Robert Bailey, AS Steward - Ryan Foley, LAS Steward - Sheyian Borgstrom, Chaplain - Kimberly Duvall, Treasurer - Danette Jones. Secretary - Jeannie Harrington, Gatekeeper - Avery Couch, Executive Committee - Randy Henry, Ceres - Leslie Nutter, Pomona - Krissy Hawk, Flora - Kimberly Knight.

On Saturday evening the Youth put on the 5th Degree, and the State Officers led by Roger Bostwick did the 6th Degrees conferral.

On Sunday State Chaplain Sheila Conrady held morning worship and then held a Memorial service for our deceased Patrons. We finished up our business by installing the State Officers. Also, Scheneista Proctor announced that she was stepping down as State Junior Director and that Melody Finn would be taking her place. I would like to thank Scheneista for her years of service and I am sure Melody will do a great job. We would also like to thank one of our newest members Colleen Bennett for taking the photos during our State Session.

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

The 157th National Grange Convention was held in Niagara Falls, NY on November 14 -18, 2023. Welina and I along with Will, Bailey & Leo Miranda and Emily Shufeldt all attended the Convention. Welina and I attended several committee meetings while we were there and were part of the main Convention from Tuesday to Friday. There were a lot of Resolutions discussed and voted on during the convention, all the Delegates worked very hard and tried to make the best decisions they could.

On Thursday, Oklahoma's First Lady/National Grange Flora Welina Shufeldt hosted the Past Delegates luncheon, she did an excellent job and had a very good and interesting speaker.

Will, Bailey, Leo and Emily joined the Youth tour and was able to see and learn about the Amazing Niagara Falls area and history. Emily Shufeldt gave her speech on Friday night at the Honors Awards program while representing the Great Plains Region and the Oklahoma State Grange, she did a wonderful job. We all had a great time but were glad to come home.

Our annual Degree Day will be held on April 6th, 2024, beginning at 10:00 am at the NAFI build-

ing, located at 215 North Oklahoma Street, South Coffeyville OK 74072 hosted by Pleasant View # 354, South Coffeyville # 351, Thompson # 352, and OU # 355. 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 do their best to be there. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

To all the 2023 - 2024 Scholarship recipients, an Official transcript of the students grades for the 2023 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 2024 spring portion of your scholarship.

To all the Oklahoma State Grange 2024 - 2025 scholarship applicants, your application will be due by March 31st, 2024. 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.

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

Billy D. Shufeldt

Oklahoma State Grange Master

6399 NS 413 RD South Coffeyville OK 74072, Phone 918-842-0242,

Email: bshufeldt.okgrange@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Greetings Fellow Grangers

Hope everyone is doing well. We wish you all the best holidays possible. The third quarter of the month was a little down from the previous quarter. Even though we had six subordinate granges with an increase in membership the net total was

down 107 members. I'm sure we will be increasing again after the holidays. Thanks to all the Granges for the work you do that keeps us a success.

Sincerely

Carl Shufeldt

Jerry Taylor

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 108th Oklahoma State Session went well and it was great to see everyone again. It was decided that Degree Day will be April 6, 2024 in South Coffeyville, OK at the NAFI building hosted by Thompson, Pleasant View, OU and South Coffeyville Granges.

"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.

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.

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 and much simpler.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hello Grangers!

This is Kim Duvall your newly elected State Chaplain. My contact info is the following: kduvall821@gmail.com and call or text at 913-963-2109. As we focus on the new year I thought of the peace God wants for us! The world has been in civil unrest this passing year. We continue with the Coronavirus pandemic, economic instability, addiction, suicide, and more. There is so much hatred, racism and many forms of evil. Many people are battling with depression, anxiety and panic disorders. Yet, God's will is for us to be in peace. 2 Thessalonians [3:16] "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all." And Jesus promised us peace in John [14:27] "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you;

not as the world gives do I give to you." God's will is for us to experience the peace with Him. Adam and Eve having eaten the forbidden fruit is a prototype of the condition of every man living in sin. So inherently, we are born with a broken relationship with God. "For all have sinned and falls short in the glory of God." Roman [3:23] And so it is that when Jesus died for our sins; he died to restore the peace we lost in Eden. Romans [5:1] says, "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." And in Isaiah [9:6] "It is impossible to experience true peace without a living relationship with Jesus." So as we approach the coming year "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans [12:21] Stay in peace my fellow Grangers! Let God fight your battles so that you don't miss your destiny.

Kim Duvall, State Chaplain

GRANGE ACTIVITIES LISA EVANS

Hello to all, I hope everyone is doing well. Degree Day is quickly approaching on April 6th at the NAFI building at 215 N Oklahoma Street South Coffeyville, Ok. We will have 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.



Hello Youth and Young Adults, I hope your holidays were wonderful! Now let's recap the year that we had in 2023!

Since accepting the position of youth director in January 2023, we had our yearly Degree Day that was held in Ponca City, OK at City Central. We had an amazing group of Youth and Young Adults that attended this event this year. We had four of our youth from three subordinate Granges taking the 1st - 4th Degrees and we are so proud of them.

We had four youth from three subordinate Granges that received scholarships from the Oklahoma State Grange. Charli Moore was the recipient of the Brad Keeton Memorial Scholarship, and Hayden Babbs the recipient of the Marvin Purdy Memorial Scholarship. We are very proud of the accomplishments of each of them and look forward to watching them each achieve their goals.

We had a great group of Youth and Young Adults make the trip to Texas this year for the 2023 Great Plains Regional Conference. Texas State Grange, along with our National Officers that attended, put on a great conference. Everyone that went had a great time and came home with new knowledge and new or renewed friendships from our brothers and sisters from other states. Thank you to the Texas State Grange for your kindness and hospitality.

Our Oklahoma State Grange Session began on October 20, 2023, and ended on Sunday, October 22, 2023, in Claremore, OK. The youth started their annual fundraiser by serving for tips on Friday night at the banquet and again on Saturday at the luncheon. The total amount received in tips totaled to for both meals was \$3892.05, and we got a donation of \$177.50 from Ray and Dena Purdy from them selling pecans at state

session which made our full donations for state session \$4069.55. We continue to be in awe of the kindness, love, support, and HUGE generosity we always receive from our members and Subordinate Granges. We love each and every one of you more than you can even imagine.

We had six of our youth taking the 5th Degree this year. Travis Knight and Jacklynn Keeton put together a great drill for our youth to perform. We did have some rocky spots in our degree work but for them not to put it on in over a year they did an amazing job, and I am so proud of them.

After the 5th and 6th Degrees 12 of our youth and myself went to Ralphs Mini Golf to enjoy an evening of fun together with us doing Zombie Laser Tag and Mini Golf. They all had a great time.

The 157th Annual National Grange Convention was held in Nigara Falls, New York from November 13, 2023, to November 19, 2023. As everyone knows Emily Shufeldt participated in the regional speech contest and won so she got to present her wonderful speech at the National Convention. William, Leo, and I got to accompany her to Nationals, we arrived on Wednesday November 15th where we got to meet the other youth members that were attending at the youth hangout that night. Thursday November 16th, we had a youth workshop where they were asked to work on a resolution that was being discussed at the national session. That evening was the Grow Club dinner where they pinned the new members, and after that the youth had a silent disco party that all ages enjoyed.

Friday November 17th the national youth drill team opened national session and presented the pros and cons of the resolution they had been given they did a great job, after we loaded up to start our youth tour where we first helped at the Community Mission where some went and organized clothes, some gave out food and the rest made Christmas cards, then we headed to the Niagara Power Vista where we got to learn how the water powers New York State, our last stop of the day was our tour at the Cave of Winds and

(continued Youth from page 4) it was a great experience for everyone even though we did get a little wet and windblown. That night at the National Grange Honors, Emily Shufeldt got to present her amazing, prepared speech to everyone at the National Grange Convention she did a wonderful job.

Saturday November 18th was our last full day at convention Emily Shufeldt and William Miranda got to attend the updated 7th Degree the national officers did a beautiful job, to end our day and our National Grange trip we had the Evening of Excellence where we got to eat great food and enjoy the night with our new Grange friends.

We had an amazing trip to the National Grange Convention, and I want to thank our State Grange for helping support us on our trip it was an experience we will all remember.

I want to thank my dad, Master Billy Shufeldt and the entire Oklahoma State Grange, Delegates,

and members for their continual support of the youth of Oklahoma. And a special thank you to LeeAnn Bailey, Welina Shufeldt and Justin Knight for helping me in my first year as youth director.

Now some important dates to remember, on Saturday April 6th at 10am we have Degree Day in South Coffeyville, Ok I can't wait to see you all there! An also my scholarship kids don't forget to look at President Billys message to find your information about scholarships!

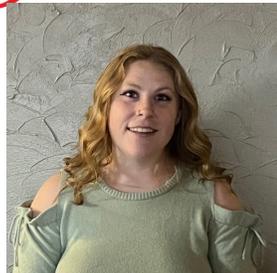
Please join our Facebook page: Oklahoma State Grange Youth

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

Fraternally submitted,
Bailey Miranda
Youth Director



We would like to welcome Melody Finn as our new Junior Director. Melody has been a member of the Oklahoma State Grange her entire life. She is the Daughter of our Master Billy Shufeldt & Welina Shufeldt. She is married to Andrew Finn and they have a daughter Marlee. Welcome aboard Melody we know you will do great things with our Junior Department as it grows.



Fraternally yours,

Billy Shufeldt, Master /President
Oklahoma State Grange

Lecturer's Contest Winners

ESSAY

MY GRANGE SUPER HERO

15 - Older age group

1st -Ryan Foley, Bluejacket Grange 353

2nd -Lisa Ryan, Cherryvale Grange #221

3rd - Mitchel Nutter, Cherryvale Grange

#221

TALENT SHOW

1st-Faith Ryan, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd-Cooper Evans Grand Lake Grange #361

Continued on page 6

LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT Donna Keeton State Lecturer

State Session was a huge success we had a lot of entries for the photo contests, coloring contests and the essay. Thank you to everyone for entering. I had a busy year, I went to Degree Day in Ponca City, I went to the Great Plains Conference in Texas. Thank you to the State Master for having a bus for the Great Plains Conference.

PHOTOGRAPHY

COMMUNITY SERVICE IN MOTION

10-14 age group

1st -Landon Knight, So.Coffeyville Grange #351

15 - Older age group

1st - Mary Krehbiel, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd - Lindsey Krehbiel, Cherryvale Grange #221

3rd - Lisa Ryan, Cherryvale Grange #221

IT'S A GOOD DAY TO BE A GRANGER

5-9 age groups

1st place Azariah Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

10-14 age group

1st -Faith Ryan, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd-Landon Knight, So. Coffeyville Grange #351

15 - Older

1st -Ryan Foley, Bluejacket Grange #353

2nd-Kevin Ryan, Cherryvale Grange #221

3rd -Mary Krehbiel, Cherryvale Grange #221

SIGHTS OF SPRING

5-9 age group

1st -Malachi Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

10-14 age groups

1st -Gabe Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd -Elijah Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

3rd-Landon Knight, So. Coffeyville Grange #351

15 - older age groups

1st -Sheila Conrady, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd-Mitchel Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

3rd -Kim Knight, South Coffeyville Grange #351

DRAWINGS

5-9 age groups

1st-Malachi Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd-Azarah Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

10-14 age group

1st -Faith Ryan, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd - Elijah Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

3rd -Gabe Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

15-older

1st -Leslie Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd -Staphanie Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

PAINTINGS

WATERCOLORS

10-14 age group

1st -aith Ryan, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd -Keykeigh Keeton, Thompson Grange #352

15-older age group

1st -Clayton Krehbiel, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd-Donna Keeton, Pleasant View Grange #354

3rd -Leslie Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

COLOR A PICTURE

1-4 age group

1st -Coty Jean Allen, Thompson Grange #352

2nd -Asher Krehbiel, Cherryvale Grange #221

3rd -Paisym Grat, South Coffeyville Grange #351

5-9 age group

1st -Malachi Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd -Braelyn Grat, So.Coffeyville Grange #351

3rd-Elizabeth Walkup, Cherryvale Grange #221

10-14 age group

1st-Faith Ryan, Cherryvale Grange #221

2nd-Gabe Nutter, Cherryvale Grange #221

3rd-Elijah Nutter- Cherryvale Grange #221

15-older age group

1st-Ryan Foley, Bluejacket Grange #353

2nd-Mary Krehbiel, Cherryvale Grange #221

3rd-Martha Shifeldt, OU Grange #355

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 or 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 Applicant 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 select-

ed 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.

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 "What is your favorite place you have traveled to with the Grange?" or "What is your favorite subject in school?"

This information must be received by the state Master by March 3, 2024 or it will not be considered.

Mail completed application to:

Oklahoma State Grange, Master, Billy Shufeldt

6399 NS 413 RD

South Coffeyville, OK 74072

Granger of the Year Jeannie Harrington



Photo left to right Executive Committee Kay Meritt, Randy Henry, Granger of the year Jeannie Harrington, Executive Committee Richard Volz, President Billy Shufeldt

Oklahoma Grangers who attended National Grange at Niagara Falls, NY



Billy and
Welina
Shufeldt

Leo, Bailey
and Will
Miranda



Emily Shufeldt
and Leo Miranda



Emily Shufeldt Regional Speech Winner giving her speech at the National Convention



Oklahoma State Officers 2023 - Standing left to right- Steward - Ryan Foley; Master - Billy Shufeldt; Ex. Comm. Richard Volz; Secretary - Jeannie Harrington; Gatekeeper - Avery Couch; Treasurer - Danette Jones; Overseer - Dee Proctor; Ex. Comm - Randy Henry; Steward - Robert Bailey; Ex. Comm. Kay Meritt; LAS Steward - Sheyian Borgstrom; Sitting left to right Chaplain - Kimberly Duvall; Flora - Kimberly Knight; Pomona - Krissy Hawk; Ceres - Leslie Nutter; Lecturer - Donna Keeton



Oklahoma Grangers who attended the
National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls NY

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

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Dates to Remember

Jan. 1 Reports for 2023 Proceeding Book Due

Feb. 15th Scholarship winner must submit 1st Semester Grades to State Master

March 1 Newsletter articles due

March 31 Scholarship applications due

April 6th Degree Day 10:00 am at the NAFI building,
located at 215 N. Oklahoma Street, South Coffeyville
OK



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