

# Sooner State Granger

## *Master Message—Billy Shufeldt OK State Grange President*



Greetings Oklahoma Grangers and all other Grangers across the Country. I hope everyone had a great Memorial Day Weekend Holiday just a few weeks past. This year is going by very quickly and it is another wet year.

Our annual Degree Day was held on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Claremore, OK at the Claremore Convention hosted by the Big Cabin #156, Cabin Creek #359 and Bluejacket #353 Granges. We had approximately 60 Grange attending along with High Priest of Demeter Roger Bostwick and wife Melanie Bostwick. There were eight Grangers that took the first four Degrees, they were: Kyle Hayes, Adasyn Hayes, Tynlee Hayes, Jace Hawk - Elm Bend #358, Barry Kirkendall - Vinita #360, Dana Bailey - South Coffeyville # 351, Keykeigh Keeton - Thompson #352 and Kaycee Evans - Grand Lake #361. I would like to thank Roger Bostwick for his assistance taking over as Master for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Degrees. I would also like to thank all the Host Granges and all the Grangers that attended, the event was a great success.

I would like everyone to join me in congratulating our Oklahoma State Grange Scholarship recipients for the 2025/2026 school year. This year we received applications from five outstanding young adults that will receive the scholarship, they are Travis Knight and Randalyn Crowe - South Coffeyville Grange # 351, Christopher

Thomsen - Thompson Grange # 352, Allison Ward and Tate Ward - Prairie #334.

I want to wish all of them the best in their studies and life.

I would like to congratulate Randalyn Crowe - South Coffeyville #351 for being awarded the Brad Keeton Memorial Scholarship. Randalyn has just graduated High School but is already a CNA and works at a local Nursing home. She will be going into to Nursing program in the fall. I want to wish that she has great success in the future and that she able to accomplish all of her goals.

Colorado State Grange is hosting the Great Plains Regional Conference on June 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at the Quality Inn located in Canyon City, CO. We have 36 Oklahoma State Grangers that will be attending and while we are there we will go and see the Royale Gorge.

The 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Oklahoma State Grange Session will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn located at 205 S. W. Frank Phillips Ave. Bartlesville, OK 74003. Most of us will be arriving on the evening of October 16<sup>th</sup> at the hotel and the Oklahoma State Grange Executive Board will have a board meeting at 6:00 pm and the Grange Mutual Insurance Board will have their meeting at 7:00 pm with the State Officers having drill practice afterwards. Registration forms need to be sent to me by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Registration Fees will be \$20 per Youth and Adults and \$10 per Juniors ages 5



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

-13, please fill out one registration form per hotel room so we can get a good count on everybody. I will make all the hotel reservations so make sure you indicate what type of room you prefer, Also, all Juniors will stay in their parents' room unless pre-arranged, so if you need an extra room for your children, please let me know. This is an election year, so be thinking about who you want to be your State Officers.

All 2025/2026 Scholarship recipients, if you cannot attend the whole State Session, you will at least need to be at the Celebration Banquet on Friday night Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to accept and give your Scholarship acceptance speech.

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 Rd. Wann, OK 74083 or phone number main 918-559-9507.

If anyone would like to post anything on our state website, please feel 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

### Sheila Conrady, State Chaplain

As summer begins this Memorial Day weekend, we remember those service men and women that made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. What can we do in appreciation of them this summer and beyond? You, your Grange, your family, your friend group can do what we are called to do as Grangers and Christians... lead a life of service. There is no better way to honor the service of others than by acts of service. First, show up. Your presence matters more than you know. Show up for church; the pastor worked on that sermon for someone to hear it. I can tell you from experience as a church finance

secretary that when people are not in church, they rarely send money, and it is hard to do all the good work your church wants to without it. Show up for community events, family parties and dinners, for little guys and gals t-ball games, show up for the little things, it matters. Secondly, practice kindness and patience daily. We are not all born with these gifts of the spirit instead it seems God gives us opportunities aplenty to practice them with the people and trials placed in our paths. Don't forget to give yourself some of that kindness and patience while you're at it. Finally, love others, love your family and neighbors, love your community and your state and nation. Have a great and busy summer showing up and being in service to others. It is good for the soul.



### Grange Youth Team member appointed to the Cherokee Tribal Youth Council.

James Procter was recently appointed to the Cherokee Tribal Youth Council. James, 16, is

an active and dedicated student leader at his high school and within his community. He has been a member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) for two years, demonstrating his passion for agriculture and leadership. In addition, James has served in the Student Council (STUCO) for two years, first as a freshman representative and now as the Secretary.

James is deeply engaged in tribal and community organizations. He has been a member of the Tribal Youth Council for one year and serves as a Mid-Ambassador, helping to represent and advocate for his peers. Additionally, he has played high school baseball for two years, showing dedication both on and off the field.

Further showcasing his leadership, James has been the Grange Youth President for two years, actively working to support agricultural education and community services initiatives. With a strong commitment to leadership, service, and personal growth, James continues to make a positive impact on his school, community, and the Cherokee Nation.



Hello youth and young adults!

I hope everyone is doing great and enjoying the start to their summer!

I want to say congratulations to our Oklahoma State Grange Scholarship recipients for the 2025/2026 school year. This year we received applications from five outstanding young adults that will receive the scholarship, they are Travis Knight and Randalyn Crowe, South Coffeyville Grange # 351; Christopher Thomsen, Thompson Grange # 352; Allison Ward and Tate Ward, Prairie #334.

I want to wish all of them the best in achieving their goals!

I would like to congratulate Randalyn Crowe, South Coffeyville #351 for being awarded the Brad Keeton Memorial Scholarship. Randalyn has just graduated High School but is already a CNA and works at a local Nursing home. She will be going into a Nursing program in the fall. I believe that she will have great success in the future and that she will be able to accomplish all her goals.

Our annual Degree Day was held on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Claremore, OK at the Claremore Convention hosted by the Big Cabin #156, Cabin Creek #359 and Bluejacket #353 Granges. We had approximately 60 Grangers attending. There were eight Grangers that took the first four Degrees with five of them being youth, they were: , Adasyn Hayes, Tynlee Hayes, Jace Hawk of Elm Bend #358, Keykeigh Keeton - Thompson #352 and Kaycee Evans - Grand Lake #361. I am so

proud of everyone of you for being there and helping our Grange grow!

The Great Plains Regional Conference will be June 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> in Canyon City, Colorado. We will be taking a bus for anyone that would like to go with the pickup at Oklahoma Union School.

The 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Oklahoma State Grange Session will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn located at 205 S. W. Frank Phillips Ave. Bartlesville, OK 74003. Registration forms need to be sent to me by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Registration Fees will be \$20 per Youth and Adults and \$10 per Juniors ages 5 -13, please fill out one registration form per hotel room so we can get a good count on everybody. We will be serving dinner at the banquet Friday night and lunch on Saturday, and we will also be presenting the 5<sup>th</sup> Degree on Saturday so I would appreciate it if no one left after serving lunch. 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!

All 2025/2026 Scholarship recipients, if you cannot attend the whole State Session, you will at least need to be at the Celebration Banquet on Friday night Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to accept and give your Scholarship acceptance speech.

Please join our Facebook page: Oklahoma State Grange Youth

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

Bailey Miranda

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Dear Fellow Grangers,

We hope everyone is doing fine and ready for summer. During the first quarter we had a slight loss in membership. We had three subordinate Granges with a gain in membership. Congratulations to them. We ended with 5315 for a loss of

1.6%. We thank everyone for their work in the Grange. Remember next quarter we have to add a dollar per member for the National Grange Assessment fee.

Fraternally

Carl Shufeldt

Jerry Taylor

## LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT

Donna Keeton, State Lecturer

I hope everyone had a great Memorial Day, and a safe one. It was a wet holiday but we were able to decorate our families on Friday, that was a beautiful day. I am getting ready to go to Colorado to the Great Plains Conference in a couple weeks. It should be a lot of fun.

Yvonne said that she would have the quilt finished by the Great Plains Conference. I hope everyone has sold their raffle tickets. They are \$5.00 for one or \$20.00 for 6. It is beautiful quilt.

There is a lot of time to take pictures for the Lectures contest, except for the winter scene.

Here is the photo contest again. The size of the pictures cannot be bigger than 4x5 you can have a frame around the picture or backing on the picture. Have your name, Grange, Category, and age 5-9, 10-13, 14-19, and Adult.

### Photo contest:

1. Winter Scene
2. Picture of Clouds
3. Take a picture of an interesting person or persons

### Essay:

Take a picture of an old or an Historic Building and write about the history of the building.

It can be an abandoned building, church, etc...

### Coloring Contest:

I will be sending a copy of the picture to your local Subordinate Masters to give out to their members I hope there will be a coloring night so everyone can enter the coloring contest. So, I hope everyone gets busy with the Lecturer's contest.

## SECRETRIES TAKE NOTES

Jeannie Harrington State Secretary

I pray everyone is staying safe, healthy and having a wonderful spring. It is great to see everything beginning to turn green and the flowers bloom. The rain has also been a welcome sight although we could have done without the wind, hail and tornados.

By the time you read this newsletter Degree Day at the Claremore Convention Center in Claremore, OK was well attended with eight candidates taking the degrees. Thank you to Big Cabin, Cabin Creek and Vinita Granges for hosting the event.

The Great Plains Conference in Canyon City, Colorado will be June 20-22, 2025. There will be some fun and informative activities planned for the weekend.

The Oklahoma State Grange Convention will be October 17-19, 2025, in Bartlesville, OK at the Hilton Garden Inn. Plan to attend and invite your members to participate.

It will soon be time for the second quarter dues to be paid. The \$1.00 assessment fee for each member will also be due on this report.

I truly appreciate my fellow Grange secretaries and how you take care of the dues in a timely manner. You are all great to work with. You make my job as State Secretary enjoyable and much simpler. If you need to reach me, my email is: [jeannieharrington@rocketmail.com](mailto:jeannieharrington@rocketmail.com). My phone number is 918-559-9507 and my address is: 4253 NS 406 Road, Wann, OK 74083. I still have my Post Office Box 716, South Coffeyville, OK 74072. You can send your reports to either of these addresses.



Hello Grangers, .

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

**OKLAHOMA STATE GRANGE  
CONVENTION  
110th ANNUAL SESSION  
OCTOBER 17th, 18th & 19th, 2025**

**Registration Form (Per Room)**

**Hilton Garden Inn**  
**205 S. W. Frank Phillips Ave.**  
**Bartlesville, OK 74003**  
# \_\_\_\_\_

**Grange Name and**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ State Officer→Youth→Junior→Delegate→Director→Member→Guest→

Name \_\_\_\_\_ State Officer→Youth→Junior→Delegate→Director→Member→Guest→

Name \_\_\_\_\_ State Officer→Youth→Junior→Delegate→Director→Member→Guest→

Name \_\_\_\_\_ State Officer→Youth→Junior→Delegate→Director→Member→Guest→

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Rooms-** (This is a non-smoking hotel)

Cost of rooms are \$132.00 per night not including tax.

Please √ type of room needed.

Double ☐ ☐ or King ☐ ☐ or Handicap ☐ ☐  
day ☐ ☐

Please √ each day room is needed.

Thursday ☐ ☐ Friday ☐ ☐ Satur-

**Meals:** Continental Breakfast is provided by the Oklahoma State Grange.

Friday Lunch: **On your own.**

Friday Evening Banquet: (THEME: "**Pending**")

Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Luncheon: Complements of Grange Mutual Insurance.

Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

*Saturday Dinner is on your own.*

Please list food allergies \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE:**

\$20.00 ADULT \_\_\_\_\_

\$10.00 CHILD \_\_\_\_\_ (ages 5-13; Juniors room with Parents)

Total included with form: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send money and registration form to:

Billy Shufeldt

6399 NS 413 Rd.

South Coffeyville, Ok 74072

**State Master will make all room reservations. \_\_\_\_\_ (No later than September 15th, 2025)**

**Oklahoma State Grange takes care of only one room per Subordinate Grange.**

Com-  
ments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## MEMBERS MATTER

### 2025 Seniors



**Carlie Conrady** graduated from Medford High School. She is a member of Chervyvale Grange #221. She is the daughter of Mark and Sheila Conrady and granddaughter of Larry and the late Cheryl Shafer former State President and former First Lady. She plans to attend Northern Oklahoma College Stillwater and Meridian Technology Center to pursue Xray technology.

**Travis Knight** graduated from Oklahoma Union High School. He is a member of South Coffeyville Grange #351. He is the son of Justin and Kimberly Knight and grandson of State President and First Lady Billy and Welina Shufelt. He is planning to attend the Tri County Technical School and become an Emergency Medical Technician/Fireman.



**Allison Ward** graduated from Davis High School. She is a member of Prairie Grange #334. She is the daughter of Ryan and Skye Ward and Quay and Robbie Zevely. She plans to attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant and majoring in Early Childhood Education. After her bachelors she is planning to get her Master's in Speech Therapy at Oklahoma State University.



## GRANGER RUNS FOR TRIBAL COUNCIL

Timothy Keeton of South Coffeyville Grange #351 runs for Tribal Council. The following is part of an interview that was published in the Cherokee Pheonix newspaper on April 1, 2025.

**Why did you choose to run for Tribal Council?** I chose to run for Tribal Council because of my deep commitment to both my family and the broader community. My primary motivation is to contribute to the advancement of the Cherokee people, ensuring that our rich heritage and culture continue to thrive for future generations. By serving on the Tribal Council, I aim to influence policy in a way that promotes transparency and bridges gaps between the tribal government and Cherokee citizens. This role provides an opportunity to address the needs and concerns of our community, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for all members.

**What do you believe the greatest needs are within the district you are candidate for and how will you address those needs?** As a Tribal Council member candidate, I believe the greatest needs within District 11 are transparency of revenue sources and where those funds have been spent. To address these needs, I will advocate clear and open financial reporting to ensure that resources are directed towards initiatives that genuinely benefit district 11. Additionally, I will work with members to identify pressing local issues and develop tailored programs that effectively address these concerns. By fostering transparency and community involvement, we can create a fairer and more supportive environment for all

members of our district.

**What services will you work to expand and/or create for citizens within your district?** I deeply care about making healthcare and essential services more accessible for everyone in District 11, especially in our rural areas. I will work to improve our urgent care facilities, so everyone gets the quality of care they need. As someone who grew up here, I understand the importance of developing our towns and rural area infrastructure to improve our daily lives. I'll also focus on setting up a TAG office to make vehicle registration easier. Providing more fair housing options is crucial, and I am committed to ensuring everyone has a safe and affordable place to call home. Creating jobs through local partnerships will be a priority to strengthen our community's economy.

**How do you plan to protect and promote the Cherokee language and culture as a councilor?** As a Councilor, I plan to protect and promote the Cherokee language and culture by: Implementing programs that provide incentives for native speakers to teach and share the language with others, ensuring its preservation and growth. Encourage the use of the Cherokee language in community events and educational programs to enhance visibility and engagement. I have plans to work on adding Cherokee names to street signs and other public signage throughout District 11, making the language a visible and integral part of the community landscape. Developing programs in community centers and schools focused on teaching the Cherokee language and culture, including workshops, classes, and cultural events to foster appreciation and understanding among all ages.

## THE DICTIONARY PROJECT

The Grange is proud to support The Dictionary Project through its Word for Thirds program. Through the tireless efforts of the Grange's network of more than 200,000 volunteers, America's oldest rural and agriculture organization has presented third-grade students across the nation with more than 500,000 dictionaries. But, we cannot stop there! The National Grange is encouraging all Granges to present third graders in

their communities with dictionaries. The Dictionary Project program packets are available to help Granges institute this program in their communities. The packets includes: an instruction and presentation guide, a sample letter to send to schools, a dictionary project overview and order form, a label template, a participation form, sample press release, and sample media advisory. **More information can be found on the National Grange-website.**



Print



PDF

The Diction

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Union City, OK 73090

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### Dates to Remember

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

Sept. 1 Newsletter Articles due

Sept. 15th Registration forms for  
State Session due.

Oct. 17-19, 2025 State Session. Hil-  
ton Garden Inn, Bartlesville, OK



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