



KANSAS GRANGER

- Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Grange -



GRANGE RESOURCE, INFORMATION AND TRAINING MEETING

Grangers are invited to attend the Grange Resource, Information and Training (GRIT) meeting on April 27 at Gardner Grange Hall from 10am-2pm.

We will be discussing program highlights, both State and National, having discussions on Grange events and activities including State and National Sessions, sharing information on upcoming events, and enjoy good Grange fellowship.

We are not requesting for people to bring in items for a potluck lunch this year but would ask them to bring snack items to enjoy throughout the meeting. The Youth will be meeting before the GRIT at 9:00am.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

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A MESSAGE FROM THE KANSAS STATE GRANGE MASTER

Well Grangers, looks like Spring might be finally trying to get here. I was buying seed potatoes recently and someone came up and said, "You're being awfully optimistic aren't you? I don't think you'll get potatoes planted by St Patrick's Day this year". It didn't seem like this winter was ever going to end. I know that so far this has been a difficult winter for many of the area's farmers and ranchers. I had heard that the Nebraska State Grange Master has suffered losses of livestock due to the cold earlier and now to flooding already this year. We need to keep him, his family and all of Nebraska in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Let's hope this isn't a precursor to this year's weather patterns. I had seen a report that the Missouri river at Atchison has already crested higher than the previous record set in the 1993 floods. From what I have heard the predictions are for a similar weather year like the '93 flood season. Let's hope not!

Our thoughts and
prayers are with the
Farmer family.

Well done good and
faithful servant.

Our Kansas Grange family has also experienced a loss recently when Brother Gilbert Farmer passed away. Gilbert had served the Grange in many capacities in his nearly 70 years of membership. His wisdom and Grange experience will be greatly missed. One could devote an entire article on what Gilbert had done for our State Grange. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family.

Have any of you recently seen the #GrangeStory 8- day Grange Photo Challenge on Facebook? In it you were challenged to post photos of something from your Grange experience that visually told your Grange story for eight days, then nominate (challenge) someone else to do the same.

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MASTER'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...



It doesn't matter if you have been a member for five or fifty years, we all have some story or experience to share. I have heard from people all over the country that have had non-Grange friends see the post then ask them about the Grange. This challenge has sparked an interest in what the Grange is about. It is often easier to invite someone to a meeting or an event when they approach you and they ask questions first. If you are on Facebook, use this opportunity to share your Grange Story if you haven't already, if for no other reason than to relive those fond Grange memories from the past.



I would like to take this opportunity to officially make a couple of announcements. Since Mandy Bostwick has been appointed to the role of National Grange Youth Director, she has decided to step down as our State Youth Director. Her sister Molly Newman has agreed to take over that role and continue some of Mandy's ideas and implement some of her own. Jamee Funk has accepted the position of Kansas State Grange Junior Director and is looking forward to working with our growing number of Juniors. We would like to thank Callie Ballenger and Mandy for the time that they have given in the instruction of our young members. We offer prayers for continued strength for Callie in the care of her mother, Betty Stiles.

Fraternally,
Roger



New Kansas State Grange Youth Director Molly Newman

New Kansas State Grange Junior Director Jamee Funk



SPRING FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Spring has sprung and so has opportunities for service in our communities! Keep some of your old tried-and-true projects but "blossom" out to try new ones. Make a difference. Have fun. Work with others. Let the Grange name grow and be known!

Several of you have asked for cards kits. I apologize but health issues have delayed me in getting them to you. On the mend now so they will be coming your way soon. Thank you for your patience and continued support of this state project.

This year's state program and year end report sheets are on the Grange website. If you have questions, please contact me and I'll be happy to discuss with you. Please note my new address below.

Randee Farmer
KS State Grange Community Service Director
1210 State Street Augusta, KS 67010
316-644-1871 | farmermd13@cox.net

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS GET NEW DIRECTOR

Hello Grangers!

I'm so excited to have been appointed as the new Youth Director after Mandy Bostwick's new appointment as National Youth Director! I plan to continue to work closely with Mandy to promote Youth program opportunities.

Youth members will meet prior to the GRIT meeting at Gardner Grange Hall on April 27th at 9 a.m. We will use this time to make plans for the rest of the year! Be thinking about what you'd like to accomplish during our time together.

As a reminder, at State Session we planned several Youth meetings throughout the year. Those dates are as follows with times and locations TBD:

- July 20
- October 5

I'm excited for the year ahead! See you soon!
Molly Newman



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

April 15: Claude and Ina Brey Scholarship application due

April 27: Youth and Young Adults Meeting; Gardner Grange Hall 9am

April 27: GRIT Meeting; Gardner Grange Hall 10am-2pm

June 14-16: Great Plains; Waco, Texas

October 11-13: Kansas State Grange Annual Convention; Wichita, Kansas



SUBORDINATE GRANGE HAPPENINGS

BAYNEVILLE GRANGE

Is that the sound of a sewing machine? Well, yes it is. Bayneville Grange members have been busy making weighted blankets at their recent monthly meetings. These blankets are being made for special needs children under the age of 3 associated with Rainbows United, an agency in Wichita. It takes up to 6 hours to complete one blanket. We've made 40 plus blankets thus far this year



PLEASANT VIEW GRANGE

Pleasant View Grange's recent programs were on legislative updates, community service and Family Activities. We reinstated a member in January, Chris Malsbury, husband of Angelia (Bates) Malsbury. In February, dictionaries were delivered to 3rd grade students at Oskaloosa and Jefferson West elementary schools.

In March, we collected food and pantry items for the Alpha Christian Children's Home near Perry and finished a Project Linus blanket. To the left, Amy Kramer, Kimber Newman and Ellen Durand show off a Project Linus blanket and collected food.

Three of our members, Roger and Melanie Bostwick and Mandy Bostwick, attended the Master's Conference in Wichita in February. Mandy also recently attended the Mid-Atlantic Leaders Conference



GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT



Dr. Gilbert A. Farmer, member of Bayneville Grange #1810, passed away Thursday morning, February 28, 2019, at the Lakepoint Long Term Care Facility in Augusta, KS.

Gilbert was a 69 year member of the Grange, 70 year member of the Masonic Lodge, educator, veteran, loving husband, father and grandfather. Full obituary is available at

www.jonescampbellfuneralhome.com.

Activities on the KS State Grange level included but were not limited to:

- Executive Committee member (1974-1977)
- Information/Public Relations Director (1984-1996)
- Caretaker of the KS Grange Camp & Headquarters on Lake Perry, KS (1986-1992)
- 1st Man of the KS State Grange (married to 1st woman State President, Lola Mae Farmer) (1992-1995)

Services were conducted on Thursday, March 7, at Jones Funeral Home, Burlington, Kansas. Masonic and Military ceremonies followed at Lorenz Schlichter cemetery, rural LeRoy.

Memorials can be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research and American Cancer Society.



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The Summer edition of the Kansas Granger will be printed in June. Please send submissions to the editor no later than June 1st.



ABOUT THE GRANGE

The Grange was founded in 1867 and is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, fraternal organization that advocates for Rural America and Agriculture. With a strong history in grassroots activism, family values, and community service, the Grange is part of more than 2,100 hometowns across the United States.

The Grange was the first national organization to give full voice and vote to women, 50 years before Congress adopted the same. Our passionate style of grassroots vigor has ensured that the average citizen is fully represented in public policy dialogue for nearly 150 years.

Family and community are the foundations of the Grange. Family values are promoted, taught, and woven into Grange activities and events. We are proud to have generations come together to learn from one another and build a stronger America, one community at a time.