

NEBRASKA STATE GRANGE NEWS

VOL. 60 NO. 50

April, May, June 2009



**President's Report
Joe Fryman**

One of the many sections found on the National Grange website is the pod cast segment produced by National President Ed Luttrell, other Grange officers or staff members. I found the recent pod cast that Ed produced, emphasizing the diversity of Grange members to be quite interesting. One of the definitions Webster's dictionary gives for diverse is "having various forms or qualities". This certainly could describe the membership of the Grange, even though some still think you need to be a farmer to become a Grange member. How fortunate we are to be a part of an organization with members that have such a variety of backgrounds, occupations and interests.

Hearing Ed's pod cast caused me to think more about how important diversity is in our lives. I remember

hearing my folks talk about surviving the Great Depression and the dirty thirties. Their farming operation was diversified including hogs, dairy and chickens as well as raising (or at least trying to raise) corn, oats, wheat, and alfalfa. By being very frugal they were able to produce enough from these various activities to support and raise a family.

Today's production agriculture has, in many cases, gone to more specialization, utilizing economies of scale and resulting in larger and larger operations that often produce only one crop or segment of livestock. This can create greater efficiencies but also lead to some very hard times when the market price for their particular product falls.

We all know what the economy of the United States is going through these days. Hindsight is showing us that a diversified portfolio rather than having everything invested in the stock market might have made more sense. A recent headline in the newspaper stated that Valmont Industries fared better than some because they had a diversified line of products.

Let's embrace the idea of diversity in the Grange. As Ed said in his pod cast, we can all support and live by the principles of the Grange while still expressing our own thoughts and ideas. Some of you may recall the words in the charge given by the President during the opening of the State Grange Session "I rely upon your calmness in deliberation, your

forbearance towards those who may differ from you, and your charity toward their motives ... let us ever practice the motto - In essentials unity, in nonessentials liberty, and in all things charity". These are good words to live by and reflect upon as we go through life and face the challenges that go with it.

Finally, remember to go to the National Grange website at nationalgrange.org to listen to the pod casts that are being posted there.



**Announcing the Arrival of
Hailey Grace**

**May 31 9 lbs 15 oz. 22
inches**

**Parents: Mick and Laura
Jackson**

**Grandparents: Joe and
Tammy Fryman**

GRANGE FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Phyllis Tooker, Director

With the temperature today, I feel like I've jumped right into summer. I hope that you are planning ahead to fall and our State Convention. At that time we need things for our classes that are to be judged as well as the community service items to be displayed. I believe that I left the tab collection for the Ronald McDonald House off of several communications but it is still one of our projects.

Our display is the only aspect of Grange that many people ever see so this is the only thing they know about us. I've been so proud of our display, but as you know it doesn't just happen so please start collecting or finishing the projects to make this display room so very special again.

With summer and picnic time the following salad recipe is so different but very good. Since it has mayonnaise in it, this salad needs to be refrigerated just as you would a potato salad. Try it and enjoy.



Chili Cheese Salad

1 can yellow corn, drained
 1 can white corn, drained, reserve juice
 1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
 1/2 green pepper, diced
 1/2 red pepper, diced
 1 small jar mayonnaise (15-oz or so)
 1 bag chili cheese Fritos (not the individual serving size)

Combine corns, beans, peppers and mayo. May need to thin the mixture with some of the white corn juice if it is difficult to stir. (It's ok if the mixture is a bit thin, since the Fritos will absorb liquid later.) Refrigerate mixture a few hours or overnight.

Immediately before serving, stir in the chili cheese Fritos.

(I have also added cheese "crumbles." It was a mixture of mild cheddar and Monterey Jack cheeses. Also very good.)

Program Director

Darlene Janing

I did not write this but felt it had a good message as we approach the summer season. It's not only food for thought but perhaps a view of where we are going with the Grange. Let's use this time to help make the Grange part of other lives by exhibiting our

values to others. Have a good summer.

Quilt of Holes

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles; an angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened. My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, thread bare and empty, like binding air.

Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose; each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise.

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness,

**Don't forget our
 Grange Radio Program on
 KNEB 960 at 1:20 p.m. and
 KRVN 880, KTIC 840 at 1:40
 p.m. on Fridays to help keep
 you better informed about
 Grange**

and wealth, and false accusationsthat took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was. I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes. Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, 'Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you.'

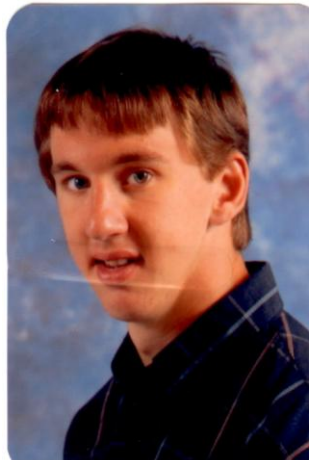
May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through! God determines who walks into your life. It's up to you to decide who you let walk away, who you let stay, and who you refuse to let go.' When you learn that all that is left is God then you will know that God is all you need.

Author unknown

Deaf Education and Awareness
Shannon Cooksley, Chairperson.

Dear Grange Friends,

It is my honor to present to you Monte Scott Geis II, winner of the 2009 Deaf Education and Awareness Scholarship. I have personally known Scott for many years and I always hoped the day would come when he would qualify for this scholarship. As you will read in his personal information, tragedy recently struck his family this year, making him more needy of the Grange's help. Thank you so much for supporting this very important cause to help students like Scott.



My parents grew up in Ogallalla NE. I have an older brother, Terry Gies. I started my education in Ogallalla then my family moved to Broken Bow. I have been involved in many activities since moving to Broken Bow. I live with my father and brother. My mother just recently is deceased.

My hearing loss is a mild to moderate conductive hearing loss in my left ear a moderate conductive hearing loss in my right ear. My hearing loss in the right ear has remained stable in the last few years and the left ear has been stable over the past two years.

I am possibly looking at having eardrum repair and/or middle ear surgery. It may be possible to correct or improve my hearing and/or wearing an auditory trainer at college.

I have been involved with Boy Scouts most of my life. I have reached the highest rank in Booy Scouts. I reached the rank of Eagle. I am also involved in sports at Broken Bow High School. I participate in football and wrestling. I enjoyed being involved in activities at school.

After I graduate from Broken Bow High School I plan to attend Southeast Community College at the Milford Campus to study auto collision repair. In the future I want to run my own restoration shop.

I would use the scholarship money to help pay for my tuition and the cost of books and tools. The cost of college is rising every year. I know that I will have to work at continuing to get my money for college, but this scholarship would assist in my dream of becoming the best auto collision repairman.

TechToGo

"We bring Technology to You!"

Chris Wittry

Owner

(402) 505-7710 ext. 501

cwittry@techtogo.net

www.techtogo.net

P.O. Box 241031

Omaha, NE 68124

Our Services

Support Contracts
PC Sales & Services
Virus scanning
Spyware Removal
Wired/Wireless networking

Data Recovery
Web site design
Personalized training

Call or email for information

**GRANGE SCHOLARSHIP
WINNER**

The recipient of the 2009-2010 Nebraska State Grange Scholarship is Holly A. Kaelin, member of Weissert Grange #419. She has just completed her freshman year at UNK.



My name is Holly Kaelin and I am a freshman at the University of Nebraska at Kearney working toward a degree in B.A. in Education with a minor in early childhood development. I also will be earning a Social Science 7-12 teaching endorsement. I want to work as a history teacher at a public school in Nebraska. My parents, Scott and Denise Kaelin, live on a farm near Westerville, NE where I grew up. My mother is an art teacher at Arcadia Public Schools. Joel, my older brother, graduated from UNL. He is married and is currently working for Waldo Farms at DeWitt, NE. Nicole, my older sister, is a senior at UNK and working on a teaching endorsement in business.

This year, I received the Susan Buffet Scholarship and as a result, I am a member of the Thompson Learning Community. By being in a learning community, I have met many new people that share the same goals as I have which will benefit in my

future. Each semester the Thompson Scholars are required to take a class together. This semester we are in a healthful living class and have the option of taking part in volunteer work. I have chosen to volunteer at a nursing home, where I get to meet with an older couple and make their day brighter. It is interesting to their stories they tell about their past.

Even though I am a history education major, I just joined Phi Beta Lambda, which is a business organization. I believe it will be helpful in the future to expand my knowledge about the business world. I helped grade papers, prepared materials and organized certificates and medals for a Business Competition Day for high school students.

I am also in the Student Support Services program which gives me the opportunity to volunteer at the Campus Kitchen preparing meals for people in the community.

I also volunteered at the Kearney High School to help with a Parent's Night Out, where I helped watch a large group of younger children. I work part time at a local child daycare.

I have been involved with the Adopt a Road Project with my hometown Methodist Church for the past fifteen years. I learned the importance of picking up trash to keep our earth clean when I was very young and consistently recycle paper, cans, and plastics. I have grown and developed many new skills by participating in many campus activities and organizations. I love giving back to my community and will continue to do so in the future.

**Legislative Report
Richard Janing, Chairman**

June 4th, 2009 is the last scheduled day of the ninety day session of the 101st legislature. There is the possibility May 29th could be the last day.

LB 160 which will give the Missouri-Papio NRD the authority to issue bonds without a vote of the electorate for constructing flood control dams was passed into law. The Grange and most other agriculture organizations opposed the passage of LB160. The affected NRD will lose prime farm land, closing of roads, see increase in taxes and possibly other development as the result. Passage of this bill could also result in other NRD's pursuing the right to issue bands without an election.

Agricultural employers with fewer than ten unrelated employees have been exempt from the Workman's Compensation Act, however a notice signed by the employees informing them that they are not covered was to be obtained by the employer before their hiring. A great number of employers were unaware of this requirement and a procedure of giving notice of termination, having the notice signed by the employee before re-hiring the employee was required. The Grange favored LB453 which will let the employee sign the notice while being employed but must be accident free for thirty days. The bill remained in committee until recent days when it was incorporated into LB630. LB630 was passed by the legislature and sent to the Governor.

Grange members opposed LB576 which would allow for the sale of liquor in state parks. This bill remains in committee. LB593 which the Grange is supporting and would give producers the protection from conglomerates that was lost with the defeat of LB300 also remains in committee. LB111 which passed and has been signed by the Governor will impose the double fine for speeding in construction zones only if workers are present at the time. LB163 was passed to allow substitute teachers to be school board members.

Grange was in favor of LB286 to make changes in the law governing lottery funds. With passage of the bill, pickle card vendors are allowed to retain twelve percent, a four percent increase above the current eight percent of the proceeds for operational expenses with exclusions. The original lottery law was effective October 1, 2003 to July 1, 2009. The July 1, 2009 date was eliminated.

LB476 was passed to create the Center of Student Leadership and Extended Learning Act. The purpose of the act is to establish state financial support to the Nebraska Department of Education for Vocational education organizations. The Grange supported LB476.

The Grange supported LB109-114 and 650 which all pertain to licensing of ATVs for operation on county and state roadways. These bills remain in committee.

Other bills which the Grange was in favor of and remain in committee were LB57 to remove the sales tax on repair parts, and LB516 for reimbursement of owners of property on the State Fair Grounds.

Those bills killed in committee were LB323 that would allocate a percentage of motor vehicle tax for roads; LB 466 to eliminate the check-off on corn and milo and LB 467 that would require approval of a state wide primary or general election of the residents of an area adjacent to a city of the first class before annexation.

Bills that the Grange opposed but never were advanced from committee were LB6 which would allow school permit holders to drive to work, LB255 would require seat belts in school buses and LB416 would require one license plate per vehicle.

Bills which were indefinitely postponed or killed in committee which the Grange opposed were LB538 which would have made government employees retirement income exempt from state income tax and LB5CA which would have changed the term limit of state senators from two terms to three terms.

Thanks again to the Legislative committee, the Executive committee and other Grange members who assisted in any way this past session of the Unicameral.

Nebraska Grange HICKupS Edgar Hicks, Membership

The energy the past few months that Grangers have put into our efforts to establish a new Grange in Grand Island has really been an outstanding team effort. We hosted our 3rd gathering on June 1st at the Hall County extension office. We have also contacted the Grand Island Northwest High School FFA

adviser to see if there is a way we can engage their participation.

The Chautauqua that will be hosted in Broken Bow on June 17-21st will be a great opportunity to work with Weissert Grange but also a great occasion to share the history of the Grange. I am looking forward to being a volunteer for Weissert. Please find time to visit this year's Chautauqua at Broken Bow!

One of the most popular items that has captured public attention has been the internet communication tool *Twitter*. I have used Twitter to set up a network for receiving agricultural communications and for making contact with Grange members. So far I have connected with the National Grange office, Rusty Hunt, and two Grangers in Pennsylvania. I did not join Facebook but was attracted to Twitter because its founder (Ev Williams) is from Clarks, Nebraska and I talk with his dad on a regular basis.

Twitter looks like a great tool for Grangers to connect with brief communications of 140 characters or less. Check it out at www.twitter.com.

Weissert Grange #419 Celebrates 50 years!!!

Come one, come all and celebrate with us on the 4th of **July at noon** at our Grange Hall as we honor our five charter members. We promise an afternoon of good food (which includes our great Grange ice cream) good fun, and good fellowship!!!



Nebraska State Grange Summer Bus Trip

This year's Nebraska State Grange Bus Trip has been extended to be a five day trip, Wednesday, July 8 through Sunday, July 12, 2009. We will be heading to Colorado and touring in the Denver and Colorado Springs area. There are many, many sites to see in this beautiful part of the country. Details are still being developed. There will be a mixture of the usual and unusual (as usual). We have been invited to see the Colorado State Grange Museum and have lunch at the Castlewood Grange at Centennial, Colorado which is near Denver.

There are still a **few** available seats. Please contact Joe Fryman at 402-426-5773 or email him at jfryman@huntel.net ASAP if you are interested in participating.

Membership Tip Rusty Hunt

People ask me all of the time "How do you answer when some asks you the question....?" The questions vary in topics and interests and most folks are asking because they have had people ask them these questions and they didn't know how to answer them. So now they are asking me hoping for a great answer that will fit any situation.

As a parent, I have been asked many questions that aren't always easy to answer. They may be funny or they may be serious. They may be personnel

and make me feel very uncomfortable. They may even be about me and my actions as an adult that may not always lead to me being the kind of example that I need to be or want to be for my kids. The most important thing is that I "**Answer the Question!**"

If people are asking questions about the Grange or its members it shows they are interested or concerned. They may even want to make a point about their perception of the Grange and its members. So we have to answer their questions or run the risk they will write us off as a viable organization. And if we don't know the answer we find out and get back to them *Pronto!*

We don't answer them or don't want to answer them because we either don't know or don't like the answer we would give them. Like when my son asked, "why can you say that bad word and I can't?" See *what I mean!* I shouldn't be saying the "bad word" either but I did so now I am faced with answering a question that puts me on the spot.

The questions about the Grange such as; "*Don't you have to be a farmer?*", "*isn't the Grange a secret organization?*", "*Why do you have an open bible on an Altar?*", "*We have an Active Community club, why do we need a Grange?*", "*Is there any money available to build a Grange Hall?*", "*What does National Grange/State Grange do with all the money they get from dues?*" are all questions I get asked frequently and I know that some of you have been asked the same questions. So, how do we answer these types of questions with a smile, positively, truthfully, and still be inviting and encouraging to those potential

new members? **We choose the right attitude** and put on a smile, tell them the truth and let them know with our answer, that all these things are what makes the Grange different from other groups and that we like the Grange and think they will too as they continue to learn more about the Grange.

I know all of you love the Grange and have a desire to see the Grange continue after we have gone. We know that means getting new people to join and take the "reins" and start steering the Organization. Many of us are seeing our role in the Grange changing from "the one doing everything" to the "teacher" or "mentor" of the new members. And with new members come lots of questions that we will have to answer and be the example of what a Granger is and can be.

So, go out there and start talking to people about the Grange. Ask them to join and be prepared for questions about the Grange. Choose to have a good attitude and let your passion for the Organization show in your answers. It will pay dividends in the end. Just remember, the most important thing is to "**Answer the Question!**"

**BY-CRACKY
SEE MACKKEY
for your
GRAIN, SEEDS
& FEED
14610 Chandler Rd
Chalco
Omaha, NE 68138
Phone 895-4060**

**Name Protection Update
Ed Luttrell**

Our attorneys have been achieving a number of successes in our efforts to protect the Grange name. We are winning these battles, one at a time. At the end of February, Tyson Foods abandoned their efforts. In March, a Maine website agreed to remove all references to Grange or Grange Hall. In April, Prairie Farms abandoned its application and Hickman's Eff Ranch abandoned both its applications. In May, Grassland Grand, OH and Sweetwater Village, ID agreed to cease all use of our Mark.

However, we still have Aldi selling Granger beef, a number of restaurants, a winery, and about 400 possible infringements found when we did a search in preparation for preparing our bill for Congress.

We have spent \$123,421.89 as of the end of April this year. Donations are at \$52,924.01 so far this year. The total donated since National Grange is nearly \$75,000 which helps offset the over \$150,000 we spent in the same period. Remember the budget was for \$250,000 in donations and \$400,000 in expenses. The current numbers put us on track for expenses.

Our attorneys are recommending a four prong approach that your Executive Committee is considering in light of our current budget restrictions: 1) Build on current successes. Each success bolsters our position in our negotiating with others who are either filing or infringing on our name.

2) Continue to address unauthorized users of our Grange name. 3) Advance Federal legislation. 4) File new trademark applications for food-related goods and services.

**News Letter Articles are due
by
August 15
Send to Judy Hansen
20657 State Highway 91
Blair, NE 68008
or
preferably by email
jhans@huntel.net**

Riverview Grange #392

January-Riverview Grange members met at the home of Joe and Tammy Fryman for a dinner meeting. Sale of the Grange Hall was finalized and receipts were forwarded to the State Grange. Joe gave an update on the Tyson Law suit over use of the Grange name. Joe has been chosen by the National Grange to represent the Grange in a meeting in Washington D.C. with the transitional team for President-elect Obama.

February-Grangers met at the Washington County Extension Office. Dues for 2009 were paid and ideas for community projects, speakers, and future meetings were discussed. Joe gave a synopsis on his trip to Washington D.C.

March-An open meeting was held at the Washington County Extension Office. Several guests were in attendance for the program. Karen Schaeffer, head of the Dana College Science

Department and Tony Palmer, beekeeper at the Henry Doorly Zoo presented information about bees and other insects that are necessary for pollination of crops.

April-Jim Peterson, former Washington County Extension Agent, presented a program on Heirloom vegetables and plants.

May-The obligation was given to Jim and Ruth Peterson. Ideas were fielded for additional meeting ideas and places to meet or to visit.

Elkhorn Grange #393

January-In attendance were 18 Grangers who enjoyed a meal of sloppy joes, relish tray, fruit salad, cake and cookies. Hosts for the meal were Darlene Andersen, and Peggy Merryweather, assisted by Joyce Everson. Several guests were in attendance including the Nebraska State Grange President, Joe Fryman and his wife Tammy. President Fryman shared news from the National Grange convention which he and Tammy had attended. Program Director, Phyllis Tooker distributed the 2009 Yearbooks.

February-A soup supper prepared by Phyllis Tooker and Joyce Everson was enjoyed by all in attendance. Members paid their 2009 dues. Lila Tooker gave a thought-provoking presentation on Grange membership. Edgar Hicks also talked about membership in Grange.

March-The guest speaker for the evening was Master Gardener/Certified Arborist Jim Keepers of Gretna. He gave a fine program on trees regarding weather related problems and insects that damage trees. Hosts

for the meeting were Richard and Julie Allen.

April-The Elkhorn Grange members met at Farmer Brown's in Waterloo for their annual spring banquet. Several guests were in attendance. The program was on Wind Farm and the speaker was Jeff Lewis of North Star Company. Phyllis Tooker made a centerpiece with windmills and also provided a delicious dessert for everyone to enjoy.

May-The program was presented by Phyllis Tooker. She discussed the Food Bank regarding the operation in Douglas County. Some of the facts she stated were that 53,000 people in Douglas County live below the poverty line; 15,000 are children. Phyllis said that besides food items, there is a need for some household goods. Grange members had brought canned food to the meeting to be taken to the Food Bank. Hostesses for the evening were Phyllis and Lila Tooker.



National Grange Says Restore Cooperative Service Program

Approximately 60 agriculture groups and supporters of the cooperative business system recently wrote to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack calling his attention to the need to restore critical resources to the USDA Cooperative Service Program.

The Coalition urged the Secretary to:

- Revisit the Department's mission at the highest level to define the Department's critical roles in supporting farmer-owned and other rural cooperatives;
- Consider structural and administrative changes to protect the program and its professionals from dilution of purpose;
- Redefine and fill staff positions, including those for cooperative finance, accounting, law and commodity specialty areas, and seek multi-skilled advisors;
- Restore the cooperative information/publications staff (which was moved to the Rural Development public affairs office) to its appropriate place within the cooperative program;
- Assemble a high-level group of industry, organizational, and public officials to guide the Department's revitalization of its cooperative program.

***Deadline for Community
Service Reports and
Resolutions is August 21.
Send Community Service
Reports to Shannon
Cooksley.
Resolutions should be sent
to State Secretary
Judy Hansen***

Schedule of Upcoming Events

July 4- 50th year celebration of Weissert Grange

July 8-12- Annual Bus Trip Colorado

August 15- Deadline for news sheet articles

August 21-Deadline for Community Service Reports and Resolutions

September 18-20-
State Convention
Howard Johnson Riverside Inn
Grand Island, NE

November 17-21
National Grange Convention
Grand Rapids, MI



