JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

FOR

THE TEXAS STATE GRANGE

American Values.
Hometown Roots.

July 28-29, 2023
89th ANNUAL SESSION

Kendall County Cowboy Church
Comfort, Texas

THIS JOURNAL IS DEDICATED TO:

JENNIE PFEIFFER & JAY PFEIFFER



Jennie Pfeiffer has been a grange member since 1953. She currently lives on a farm in Boerne. Throughout the years, the family has raised tomatoes, corn, oats, hay, cantaloupe, and maize. The Pfeiffer family also raised goats, sheep, cows and pigs. Jennie has held many officers within the Boerne Grange, Kreutzberg Grange and the Kendall County Pomona Grange. Jennie was a bookkeeper at the Boerne School District and involved in the Retired Teachers organization. She also served as a mentor to children. Jennie served as the Texas State Grange Secretary from 2000-2008.



Jay Pfeiffer was the Texas State Grange Master from 2000-2008. He held the office of the National Grange Gatekeeper and then the office of National Steward during this time. He was also appointed as "Straw Boss" for the 7th degree. Jay joined the Grange when he turned 13 ½. He has held many offices within the Boerne Grange, Kreuzberg Grange and the Kendall County Pomona Grange. Jay was also the 5th Degree Youth Officer Team Master for many years. Jay has lived on the family farm all of his life. Growing up on the farm, he assisted with raising the crops and tending to the livestock. He continues to take care of the family farming operations. Jay is involved in the Farm Bureau and Sheep and Goat Raisers organizations.

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TEXAS STATE GRANGE OFFICERS
2023-2024


Master, Karen Overstreet…….…….....…….……210-422-8159
…….……...……2738 Oak Island Dr. #9, San Antonio, TX 78264


Overseer, Margie Blair……..……...……..830-276-4824
……5280 N. St Hwy 16, Poteet, TX 78065


Lecturer, Wendy Knox……..830-313-6695
……2755 Schuettig Rd, Poteet, TX 78065


Steward, Robert (Bobby) Martinez ……...…….…….210-827-2745
…….……...……..1240 W FM 476, Poteet, TX 78065


Assistant Steward, William (Buddy) Overstreet……....210-275-9609
……...……2738 Oak Island Dr. #9, San Antonio, TX 78264


Lady Assistant Steward, Leah Overstreet……..……210-452-1281
……...……2738 Oak Island Dr. #9, San Antonio, TX 78264


Chaplain, Denise Martinez ……..……..…….210-827-7725
……...…..1240 W FM 476, Poteet, TX 78065


Treasurer, Bonnie Billquist……..……...830-237-2192
……..…311 FM 474, Boerne, TX 78006


Secretary, Carmen Maglievaz……...……..……..830-200-8710
……...……..12300 FM 1333 Charlotte, TX 78011


Gatekeeper, Dan Boenig……...……..…….210-661-2079
……5765 Homestead Dr., San Antonio, TX 78244


Ceres, Irene Nieto……..……...……210-440-8659
……19872 Tejeda Rd Unit 2, San Antonio, TX 78221

 Pomona, Barbara Franklin……..……210-846-2521
……..…..477 School Drive, Poteet, TX 78065

 Flora, Fayerene Smith ……..……210-827-3824
……...…6032 W State Hwy 97 Cost, TX 78614

Executive Committee:

 Jerry Billquist, Chairman……..……..830-537-6363
#1 (2023-2025)……..311 FM 474 Boerne, TX 78006

 Connie Waxler……..……...……..830-570-9514
#2 (2022-2024)……..…..P.O. Box 383, Poteet, TX 78065

Dave Weaver……...……..210-249-6822
#3 (2023-2025)……..109 Westerly Place, Cibolo, TX 78108

 Ann Roeder, Secretary……...……210-827-4049
#4 (2022-2024)...……...……3790 FM 2146 Poteet, TX 78065

DIRECTORS OF THE TEXAS STATE GRANGE

2023-2024

LEGISLATIVE/AGRICULTURE
Curtis Voges ……. ….……... 325-347-4847
……...P.O. Box 415, Mason, TX 46856

FAMILY ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR
Gail Dale……...……210-218-3759
…….212 Commerce, Jourdanton, TX 78026

YOUTH DIRECTORS
Pat Soliz……...……210-213-8157
……...…….239 Haeckerville Rd., Cibolo, TX 78108

Kathy O'Meara……...……..…210-848-0472
……...…. 1001 Williamsburg Dr. Schertz, TX 78154

COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR
Margie Blair……..…830-276-4824
……..5280 N. St. Hwy. 16, Poteet, TX 78065

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
William (Buddy) Overstreet……...…...210-275-9609
……...……2738 Oak Island Dr. #9, San Antonio, TX 78264

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
Dave Weaver……...……..210-249-6822
…….……..109 Westerly Place, Cibolo, TX 78108

2023 DELEGATES

No. 1446 Alamo…….....Buddy Overstreet, Smoky Martin, Penny Martin, Leah Overstreet
Youth……Daniel Wilkins

No. 1547 Black Hill……..…… Gladys Kruse

No. 1541 Cibolo……...…….Jack Steers, Lori Wuest, Dave Weaver, Dan Boenig

No. 1431 David Crockett…….....Jackie Burke, Lynda Davis, Fayerene Smith, Leticia Rivera
Youth…….Alexus Wilson

No. 1655 Kreutzberg…….….Jay Pfeiffer

No. 1581 Leon Valley……...……...Jerry Billquist, Bonnie Billquist, Curtis Voges

No. 1654 Mesquite…….…… Karryn Overstreet

No. 1576 Poteet……...……...Robert Martinez, Carmen Maglievaz, Barbara Franklin, Wendy Knox
Youth…….Logan Knox

No. 6 Bexar Co. Pomona……...……....Mary Bell Baker and Deborah O'Toole

No. 1 Atascosa Co. Pomona…….…Daylon Payne and Doris Payne

2023 Officers



MEMORIAM

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Texas State Grange Memorial Service
July 29, 2023

Ruth Lampman …….Leon Valley Grange

Gloria Godoy ……David Crockett Grange

Rita Jenkins ……...David Crockett Grange

Rosa Lee Brumlow ……David Crockett Grange

Paul Hoffman ……..Converse Grange

CANDIDATES RECEIVING THE FIFTH & SIXTH DEGREE

Alexus Wilson……...David Crockett Grange

Ken Knox…...……..……Poteet Grange

Logan Knox …….……Poteet Grange

Wendy Knox……..……...……Poteet Grange

Minnie Ulmer……..Leon Valley Grange

TEXAS STATE GRANGE 89TH ANNUAL SESSION
JULY 28-29, 2023
Kendall County Cowboy Church
Comfort, Texas

State Officers of the Texas State Grange (14 officers present, 4 pro temp)

Present	Office	Name	Pro Temp
X	Master	Karen Overstreet	
	Overseer	Margie Blair	Dan Boenig
X	Lecturer		Lori Wuest
X	Steward	Robert Martinez	
X	Assistant Steward	Buddy Overstreet	
X	Lady Assistant Steward	Leah Overstreet	
X	Chaplain	Denise Martinez	
X	Treasurer	Bonnie Billquist	
X	Secretary	Carmen Maglievaz	
	Gatekeeper	Danny Boenig	Jack Steers
	Ceres	Helen Alameda	Lynda Davis
X	Pomona	Barbara Franklin	
X	Flora	Fayerene Smith	
X	Executive Committee #1, Chairman	Jerry Billquist	
X	Executive Committee #2	Connie Waxler	
X	Executive Committee #3	Dave Weaver	
X	Executive Committee #4, Secretary	Ann Roeder	
X	State Executive Committee Emeritus	Curtis Voges	

Delegates of TX State Grange (7 granges represented, 21 delegates) (1 Pomona granges, 2 delegates) (3 Youth Delegates)

Present	Grange	Delegate Name	Alternate
XX	Alamo	Buddy Overstreet, Smokey Martin, Penny Martin, Leah Overstreet. Youth: Daniel Wilkins	
absent	Black Hill	Gladys Kruse	
XX	Cibolo	Jack Steers, Lori Wuest, Dave Weaver, Dan Boenig	
XX	David Crockett	Jackie Burke, Lynda Davis, Fayerene Smith, Leticia Rivera Youth: Alexus Wilson	
XX	Kreutzberg	Jay Pfeiffer	
XX	Leon Valley	Jerry Billquist, Bonnie Billquist, Curtis Voges,	
XX	Mesquite	Karryn Overstreet	
XX	Poteet	Robert Martinez, Carmen Maglievaz, Barbara Franklin, Wendy Knox Youth: Logan Knox	
absent	Bexar Co. Pomona	Mary Bell Baker, Deborah O'Toole	
XX	Atascosa Co. Pomona	Daylon Payne, Doris Payne	

Friday, July 28, 2023

The 89th Annual Session of the Texas State Grange was called to order on Friday, July 28, 2022 at 9:17 a.m. by Worthy State Master Karen Overstreet at the Kendall County Cowboy Church in Comfort, TX. Session was opened in the 6th degree at 9:25 then the colors of our American Flag were presented.

Opening prayer was said by Chaplain, Sister Denise Martinez. Opening song was We Gather Together.

Presentation of the flag and introduction of past National delegate Brother Jay Pfifer, who was a former National Gatekeeper and National Steward. Brother William (Buddy) Overstreet, National Executive Committee member was also present.

Special guest Andra Wisian, Precinct 2 County Commissioner, was brought to our Worthy Master and spoke about the projects she has been involved in as well as some of her history in the county. After her presentation, Brother Jerry Billquist gave a response to the opening and greeting.

Roll call of officers and delegates by the State Secretary. Sister Karen asks if there are any changes that need to be made to the program. Brother Buddy

Overstreet moves to accept the program and allow for changes throughout the weekend. Brother Robert Martinez seconds; motion carries.

Sister Karen asks for any resolutions for immediate action, there were none. Resolution packets are passed out to all voting delegates. A one-hour break is called for session committees to meet and for resolutions to be discussed. Sister Karen calls for Break at 9:58 a.m. Call back to order at 11:03 a.m.

A video from National Grange President, Betsy Hueber was shown giving us an update from the National perspective and encouraging us to keep growing our membership. Worthy State Master Karen Overstreet was introduced by Brother Dave Weaver. Sister Karen then gave her annual address reviewing the state of affairs in Texas as well as an update on what is happening at the National Grange level. There are several opportunities for input at both the State and National level. She thanked the Granges for their action steps in various things such as Cibolo grange hosting the quilting workshop at the Regional Grange Session and food pantries that have been held by other granges. She reminded us that we must be kind to each other and gentle in our dealing with others. Another reminder was that we must get information to Sister Ann Roeder for the state newsletter to help her continue to do an amazing job. There was a reminder that as a state we are paying our dues to nationals annually, but the local chapters are able to pay quarterly or annually.

The floor was opened for committee reports and resolutions. Brother Jack Steers committee, Grange Law & Good of Order volunteered to go first.

Jack Steers began with resolution #4 which was adopted as amended. Resolution is below.

Texas State Grange Rose Drill Travel

Whereas: travel and lodging has become very expensive; be it resolved: that travel and lodging expenses for the performance of the Texas State Grange Rose Drill out of state, be paid by requester.

Resolution #5–Question from Bonnie Bilquist about getting the anticipated cost per mileage, A statement from Denise Martinez on how her expenses are paid, Brother Curtis Voges spoke his opinion on creating our own rules, Brother Dave Weaver spoke to putting the cap based on the AAA amount. Brother Buddy Blackwell sought clarification on how the resolution is written. Further discussion was held. It was moved that we send this resolution back to committee to be worded more closely to the sentiments expressed during the discussion by Karryn Overstreet and seconded by Dave Weaver. It will return back to committee.

Lunch arrived so a prayer was given by Sister Karen Overstreet and we broke for lunch at 11:46. Leah Overstreet announced that there were several cards going around to show support for Grange members who are unable to attend this year.

Session was called back to order at 1:04, An update was given on Brother Roger Wuest and Sister Margie Blair. The Memorial Service was begun by our Chaplain, Denise Martinez. Scripture was read, then individuals were honored.

Gloria Godoy, David Crockett Grange

Rita Jenkins, David Crockett Grange

Rosa Lee Brumlow, David Crockett Grange

Paul Hoffman, Converse Grange

Ruth Lampman, Leon Valley

The ceremony concluded with members participating in The Lord's Prayer and a final prayer.

Committee reports were then resumed.

Resolution #5 was brought back with a revision. It was suggested that the adjustments be displayed on the projector for all to be able to see. the resolution was approved as amended.

Resolution #8 was voted on. It was approved for the resolution to be rejected.

The committee was then released. The next committee to present was Legislative.

#6 was voted on and approved. This committee was released.

The next committee was Agriculture. with resolution #3. It was suggested for the resolution to be approved as read. It was approved. The committee was then released.

The next Committee was Transportation, Education, Safety and Health. They began with Resolution #1. Changes were made to the resolution and added to the screen for all to review. Resolution #1 was approved as amended.

Resolution 2 was amended and discussion was had. The resolution was voted on and rejected.

Resolution #7 was brought forward as an amended resolution. Resolution was adopted as amended. The committee was then released.

The following Committee was Membership and State By-Laws presented by Brother Buddy Overstreet. Resolution #9 was brought forward. Motion was adopted. The committee was released.

Special guest speaker Steven Zeller, Kendall County Extension Agent. Hay is the main crop in this county, and the current lack of rain is definitely hurting this crop. Deer trapping and sales have begun to be a business opportunity. They have approximately 545 4-H members. Some in traditional clubs and some kids in project-based clubs. They took 8 teams to the state contest, 5 teams won 1st place and will be moving on to the National level contests. Mr. Zeller explained the Hill Country Grandstand show, how it came about and how it has affected the students. After a few questions from fellow Grange members, Sister Karen thanked him for speaking with us.

Elections were held for Executive Committee Member #1, Number 3 and lecturer.

Nominations were opened for Executive Committee Member #1 and Brother Jerry Bilquist was nominated. No one else was nominated. As the votes were counted, Brother Jerry won the election with 22 votes, with one abstention. Sister Karen asked if Brother Jerry accepted the position, to which he replied he would be honored to accept.

Nominations were then opened for Executive Committee Member #3 and Dave Weaver was nominated. No one else was nominated. He received 22 votes and there was one blank ballot. Sister Karen asked him if he accepted the position and he replied that he would also be honored to accept the position.

Nominations were opened for Lecturer with the explanation that this is an open position of an unfinished term, so it will only be for one year. Nominated were Wendy Knox, Samantha Wilkins, Penny Martin and Karryn Overstreet. The first vote there was no majority winner. Both Penny Martin and Karryn Overstreet declined their nominations. The final vote was 7 for Samantha Wilkins and 14 for Wendy Knox. Sister Karen asked Wendy if she accepted the position and she did.

The installation of these three officers was held.

Leah Overstreet came to present on behalf of the Youth and Junior Grange Committee. Several activities had been brainstormed for the Grange youth. Some service activities were also discussed and loosely planned.

Sister Gail Dale came to speak for the Grange Activities committee. Mixed media was added to the contest for next year. Food categories were updated for next year. The theme for next year if we have a banquet will be “The Wild West”. Sister Gail thanked those who stepped in to give ideas and help her committee at the last minute.

Worthy Master Karen Overstreet and Sister Gail Dale gave the youth awards which were Sonic and Dairy Queen gift cards. Participation in the youth contests were how the youth were awarded these gift cards.

The Legislative Agriculture report was presented by Executive Committee Emeritus Curtis Voges. He spoke about the waters that affect our lands, and rules. He spoke about new laws that affect us.

It was moved and accepted that the last three reports were accepted. Motion passed. Announcements were made by our Worthy Master Karen Overstreet then The implements were secured for the night, and the flag was retired by Assistant Steward, Buddy Overstreet, Lady Assistant Steward, Leah Overstreet, and Flora, Fayrene Smith. The closing song was This Land is Your Land. Day one of the Texas State Grange was closed in the fourth degree.

Saturday, July 29, 2023

The Grange was opened in the fourth degree at 9:15 A.M. by Master Karen Overstreet. Worthy Chaplain, Denise Martinez, gave the opening prayer, and the opening song "Oh What a Beautiful Morning." The flag was presented by Assistant Steward, Buddy Overstreet, Lady Assistant Steward, Leah Overstreet, and Ceres, Fayerene Smith.

State Officers of the Texas State Grange (17 officers present, 2 pro temp)

Present	Office	Name	Pro Temp
X	Master	Karen Overstreet	
X	Overseer	Margie Blair	Dan Boening
X	Lecturer	Wendy Knox	
	Steward	Robert Martinez	
X	Assistant Steward	Buddy Overstreet	
X	Lady Assistant Steward	Leah Overstreet	
	Chaplain	Denise Martinez	
X	Treasurer	Bonnie Billquist	
X	Secretary	Carmen Maglievaz	
X	Gatekeeper	Danny Boenig	Jack Steers
	Ceres	Irene Nieto	
X	Pomona	Barbara Franklin	
	Flora	Fayerene Smith	
X	Executive Committee #1, Chairman	Jerry Billquist	
X	Executive Committee #2	Connie Waxler	
X	Executive Committee #3	Dave Weaver	
	Executive Committee #4, Secretary	Ann Roeder	

X	State Executive Committee Emeritus	Curtis Voges	

Delegates of TX State Grange (7 granges represented, 21 delegates) (2 Pomona granges, 1 delegates) (3 youth delegates)

Present	**Grange**	**Delegate Name**	**Alternate**
XX	Alamo	Buddy Overstreet, Leah Overstreet. Youth: Daniel Wilkins	Carl Overstreet Robin Overstreet Jazlyn Rodriguez
absent	Black Hill	Gladys Kruse	
XX	Cibolo	Jack Steers, Lori Wuest, Dave Weaver, Dan Boenig	
XX	David Crockett	Jackie Burke, Lynda Davis, Fayerene Smith, Leticia Rivera Youth: Alexus Wilson	
absent	Kreutzberg	Jay Pfeiffer	
XX	Leon Valley	Jerry Billquist, Bonnie Billquist, Curtis Voges, Minnie Ulmer	
XX	Mesquite	Karryn Overstreet	
XX	Poteet	Robert Martinez, Carmen Maglievaz, Barbara Franklin, Wendy Knox Youth: Logan Knox	
XX	Bexar Co. Pomona	Mary Bell Baker,	
absent	Atascosa Co. Pomona	Daylon Payne, Doris Payne	

Roll call of officers and delegates was taken by the State Secretary, and minutes from the previous day were read. It was moved and accepted to accept the minutes with changes as discussed. Minutes adopted.

A break was given at 10:08. Session was called back to order at 10:26

Good of the Order committee requested to be released. It was moved and seconded then voted upon. The committee was released.

Brother Buddy gives the Audit Committee report which will be printed in the journal. He says Sister Bonnie did a great job with the report. Brother Robert Martinez moves to release the Audit Committee, and Sister Jackie Burke seconds. Committee dismissed.

The Texas State Grange was then raised to the Sixth Degree and the names of the marching candidates are as follows: Alexus Wilson, Ken Knox, Logan Knox and Wendy Knox.

The Sixth Degree was exemplified by the Texas State Grange Officers as follows: Master, Jack Smithers, David Crockett; Overseer, Dan Boenig, pro-tem, Converse; Steward, Robert Martinez, Poteet; Assistant Steward, Buddy Overstreet, Alamo; Lady Assistant Steward, Carmen Maglievaz, pro-tem; Alamo; Chaplain, Denise Martinez, Poteet; Treasurer, Bonnie Billquist, Leon Valley; Gatekeeper, Jack Steers, Pro-tem, Cibolo; Executive Committee, Jerry Billquist, Leon Valley; Executive Committee, Dave Weaver, Cibolo; Ceres, Ann Roeder, Pro-Tem, Poteet; Flora, Fayrene Smith, David Crockett; Pomona, Barbara Franklin, Poteet.

- The Rose Drill team gave an excellent presentation, and Sister Karen asked each one to tell their name and the Grange they were from. The Rose drill team is as follows: Karryn Overstreet, Alamo; Leah Overstreet, Alamo; Charlotte Tate, Cibolo; Val Fragosa, Cibolo; This was the first time in history the Rose Drill has been complete with only four women.

There being no further business, the 89th Session of the Texas State Grange was closed at 12:09 P.M. The implements were secured for the night by Steward, Brother Robert Martinez. Flag was retired by Assistant Steward Buddy Overstreet, Lady Assistant Steward Leah Overstreet, and Flora, Fayerene Smith. Closing song was “God Be With You.”



Granger of the Year Award

Presented to Fayerene Smith, David Crockett Grange



It is said that Fayrene Smith is one of the best Grangers in Texas. She is one of the people that takes a project and runs with it and doesn't stop until it is finished-she is an outstanding person. She has performed in an excellent manner in every office she has held in the subordinate Grange and State Grange. She and her husband work hand in hand in the community, church and Grange. Few people perform at the level she performs. She spearheaded the "Toys for Tots" program in David Crockett Grange, and it has grown from a $1000 donation in the first year to $3000 in the second year. It is known that when the going gets tough, Fayrene gets going, and whatever she does it is just outstanding.

Educator of the Year Award
Presented to Mary Briones



Teaching high school English at Poteet High School has been my love and passion for 52 years. I was born and raised in Poteet, Texas and attended the Poteet schools for 12 years. After earning both my bachelor's and master's degrees, I returned home to begin my teaching career. Although I have taught English during my entire teaching career at Poteet High School, in the early 1970's I taught a couple of Spanish classes. Presently I teach English Language Arts to high school sophomores and juniors, and I plan to begin my 53rd year in the fall of 2023. Throughout all these years, I have had the pleasure of teaching three generations of students. I am very proud of all my amazing former students who demonstrated diligence, thoughtfulness, motivation, and compassion in my classroom. Because of their kindness, encouragement, support, but above all respect, I have been and continue to be positively motivated to push forward every day. It is because of these students' attributes that have allowed me to remain in the classroom for half a century.

2023

REPORTS OF

OFFICERS

AND

DIRECTORS

STATE MASTER'S ADDRESS
2023

Brothers & Sisters of the Texas State Grange, Officers, Delegates and Friends:

It is a privilege to bring you greetings as we open this 89th Annual Session of the Texas State Grange here at the KENDALL COUNTY COWBOY CHURCH in beautiful Comfort, TX. Thank you to Leon Valley and Mesquite Granges for hosting the convention this year.

Following our 2022 State Grange Session, Buddy and I were honored to represent the Texas State Grange as delegates to the 156th session of the National Grange in Sparks, Nevada. I served on the Citizenship and Taxation Committee while Buddy served on the Audit and Budget Committee. Texas' resolution of Foreign Country Agriculture and Business Property Purchases was included in the National Grange Agriculture Policy Statement. There was much discussion regarding the National Grange Headquarters Building AND the changing of the 6th Degree sign that will be introduced to everyone during the exemplification of the 6th Degree tomorrow. Since the National Grange Session there have been various committees appointed which will report back to the delegate body this November. Among these committees are:

*Reviewing the National Grange policy on hemp and cannabis
*Videotaping the first 4 Degrees, and

*The Diversity Task Force. I would like to thank Edna Guerra who has been an active member of this committee and has kept me informed of their findings and developments.

In February, Buddy and I virtually participated in the National Presidents' Conference. Projects and programs were explained at this time. State Presidents were asked to brainstorm ideas on how we can reimagine the National Grange Convention. If any of you have any suggestions, I would be happy to share them.

Our Texas State Grange Leaders' Day was held in March this year. Thank you to Alamo Grange for hosting this event. Information was distributed for Presidents, Secretaries, Youth and Juniors, Agriculture/Legislative, Community Service, Membership, Lecturers, and Family Activities. It has been suggested that the Leaders' Day be changed to the first part of the year. Everyone's feedback is appreciated if January or March best suits your schedule for this Leadership Day. Wendy Knox and Leah Overstreet shared information about Belong and New Century Hospice in Rural areas and some ways Grangers can serve the communities through these programs.

The Booster Program was introduced during this time. This is a visitation program that encourages grange members from a designated grange to "boost" up grange members from another grange. Think of the wonderful possibilities of sharing fun/educational programs plus being able to fellowship with other grangers! It's a win-win!! I believe that having fun at the local meetings and to fellowship with each other will build relationships within a grange therefore, they will feel comfortable about sharing their grange with new members.

In June, Texas hosted the Great Plains Regional Conference in Kerrville. Thank you to everyone who worked together to make this conference a success. I especially would like to thank those Texas Grangers who took the time to attend and participate in the various activities. A special "Thank You" goes out to Cibolo Grange for sponsoring a 'Quilting Workshop'. Lori Wuest, Logan Knox and Karryn Overstreet represented Texas in the various regional contests. Thank you all for your participation! I hope that Texas Grangers will continue to support the individuals who will represent Texas at the National Grange Session in November.

Public Service

Texas Grangers continue to find various means to serve their communities. Each of your Granges are so mindful of the various needs in your community and do your best to meet those needs. I encourage you to continue documenting what projects/activities you participate in and include them in your community service report or notebook. Thank you to Sister Margie Blair, our Community Service Director, for collecting these reports and acquiring individuals to judge them. The reports will be due to Margie by September 1st.

Our young people have also been busy with various activities: volunteering at various Festivals, participating in cleanup day at churches, assembling Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, setting up the Grange Hall and assisting with the opening and closing.

The National Grange has formed a partnership with Rural Minds to promote a campaign providing access to mental health educational content for rural America. Ruralminds.org highlights challenges rural America faces with mental health issues. The fear of judgment, inadequate health care coverage, difficulty getting an appointment, transportation limitations, and lack of broadband access all provide huge barriers for those in rural America. By listening to rural Americans and providing an open forum for sharing personal experiences, the door can begin to open to change the existing stigmas. Community Granges along with other groups are teaming up to sponsor programs about Rural Suicide Awareness and Mental Health. The National Grange also sponsors various webinar seminars that focus on the mental and physical health in rural America. Many helpful tips are mentioned in The Patron's Chain. If you would like to receive The Patron's Chain electronically, just let me know and we can get that started for you. It is a wonderful publication.

Legislative/Agriculture

Brother Curtis is constantly keeping us up to date and informing our members of various legislative and agricultural issues happening in the state and country.

The National Grange and the Texas State Grange continue to advocate for rural broadband. Funding for high-speed broadband deployment across the country and in the state of Texas continues to increase. Which is a good thing. Millions of Americans still do not have reliable high-speed internet in their homes. For others, broadband is available but unaffordable. This is one of the reasons, the National Grange is actively working to promote the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides a discount benefit for broadband to low-income and other eligible individuals. After receiving a grant to assist with the program's promotion, National Grange has begun registering Granges to take part in the work to inform people in the communities about ACP. Please take the time to register your Grange to take part in this outreach service, which will allow you to receive free materials to give at your community festivals, local food banks, at senior centers, or to put on tables at events your Grange might be having. There are many ways your Grange can increase awareness about the ACP program.

Last year I mentioned that there were many Texans who would go to bed hungry and I urged all of us to look into various ways we could assist in decreasing the number of Texans experiencing food insecurities. I am happy to report and I'm so impressed with how the local granges have stepped up. Some of you are sponsoring food banks in or outside of your local grange halls, some of you are volunteering at community food banks, sponsoring 'Meals on Wheels', partnering

with local businesses to provide free meals for the community, sponsoring food drives. Thank you so much for making a difference.

Grange Activities & Membership

Texas Grange members continue to assess the needs of their community and then they sponsor activities that serve the community to help meet those needs. Sharing these activities in the Texas State Grange newsletter may give other granges new ideas of various opportunities they could try in their own community. Please continue to send your local grange happenings to Sister Ann Roeder. Sister Ann is our Editor for the newsletter and always does an outstanding job in organizing our articles and disseminating the newsletter to our Texas Grangers. Not only do we reach out to the community, but, we also have to take care of our Texas members and assist each other whenever needed. By taking part in the Booster Program, we can fellowship with other grangers and 'boost' each other up. At Regionals this year, we learned about "diagnosing your personality to determine leadership type" and which personalities work best together. Some of us may be leaders, some of us may be followers; however, we all are needed to have a successful grange. I hope that we can be mindful and gracious to one another, no matter what our differences may be or what our personalities may be. We never know what that other person may be going through. Are we creating a "Team Environment" with our members? When we communicate with others, let us try to use 'we' or 'us' instead of 'you'. For Example: "Let us figure out why Sam doesn't come to our meetings?" instead of "You need to ask Sam why he doesn't come to our meeting". Let us ask questions instead of giving orders, clarify information instead of jumping to conclusions. Are we being a team player? We are all here for the same purpose…we want to serve our community and protect our land that God has given to us.

We are a volunteer organization; however, we still have guidelines we have to follow. Texas has voted to pay our dues to the National annually. If your local grange wants to pay for the entire year also that would be great or your grange can choose to pay quarterly. If your grange chooses to pay quarterly, please abide by the deadlines and pay when they are due. If at any time, there are circumstances or obstacles that arise within your grange, please let me know and we can work together. The last thing I want is to overwhelm anyone. Thank you to Sister Carmen and Sister Bonnie for all of your patience and time spent on this matter.

As I visit various Grange meetings and activities throughout the year, I notice how our young people (juniors and youth) continue to participate in various activities throughout the community. Some have assisted with pet vaccination clinics, participated in Farmers' Markets, Festivals, collecting and delivering items

for various food pantries and nursing homes, and Christmas caroling. They have many ideas about how they want to help others in the community and their enthusiasm is contagious. Even though we do not have an official Jr or Youth Director, I have witnessed local grangers nurturing their own young people and providing leadership opportunities and including them in all of their sponsored activities. I love to see multi-generational interaction. Everyone is learning from each other. I am very encouraged by seeing some of our new members at the Great Plains Regional Conference and also by those participating in this year's state session. I anticipate that Texas will continue to gain members within this next year and those members we have, will continue to make a difference in their own communities.

Some of my goals for this next year are:

*Continue recognizing heroes in our local Granges- I believe it is extremely important that we encourage each other and share positive comments to lift one another up. We have many superheroes throughout our granges in Texas that are constantly showing their powers by using their gifts and talents to serve others. I try to include a few of our superheroes in our quarterly newsletters. And besides…. it's fun!!

*Assist Granges with the Booster Program.

*Provide assistance and support for local granges that wish to promote the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program in their community.

*Brainstorm with Community Granges to discuss what resources are available in our community and what we can do to inform the community about Rural Suicide Awareness and Mental Health.

*Support local Granges with their already established activities.

As each local Grange continues to provide a variety of activities to meet the needs of their community, our Texas State Grange will increase in membership because people will want to be a part of this wonderful organization that is reaching out to the community.

I am so blessed to be able to work with the wonderful team of officers and department heads of the Texas State Grange. We are here to assist your grange whenever we can. Even though Brother Jack Smithers and Sister Margaret are having to take a little step back, they are always a phone call away. I so appreciate their continual support and encouragement they always give me. I ask that you please keep them both in your thoughts and prayers.

Delegates, and members of the Texas State Grange, thank you for being here today and for all your input and support. I wish to thank you all for allowing me to serve you!

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to my family for their constant support, patience, and willingness to always help me.

May God continue to bless the Texas State Grange!

Fraternally Submitted,
Karen Overstreet
President Texas State Grange

OVERSEER'S REPORT

I have attended the Executive Committee meetings at the State level. I have also attended meetings of my Subordinate Grange meetings when I could. I am planning to do as much as I can to spread the activities of the Texas State Granges.

Fraternally submitted,
Margie Blair
Texas State Grange Overseer

LECTURER'S REPORT

Vacant position for most of the 2022-2023 year.

Texas State Grange 89 th Annual Session
Lecturer Contest/Entries/Results
July 29, 2023

Judges: Fay Honaker, Marty Buell, Nancy Broyles, Judy & Gene Drisch, Karen Jackson and Marilyn Spaulding

The following is a list of the 2023 Lecturer's Contests winners –

WRITING (12 entries)
Essay:
1st – Merry Sue Stephens, Poteet
2nd – Judy Womack, Cibolo
Youth:
1st – Logan Knox, Poteet
2nd – Jazlyn Rodriguez, Alamo
Book Review:
1st – Ann Roeder, Poteet
2nd – Lori Wuest, Cibolo
3rd – Connie Waxler, Poteet

Poetry:
1st – Judy Womack, Cibolo
2nd – Fayrene Smith, David Crockett
Movie Review:
1st – Lori Wuest, Cibolo
2nd – Connie Waxler, Poteet
3rd – Judy Womack, Cibolo

ART (15 entries)
Oils or Acrylics:
1st – Katherine Shea, Cibolo
2nd – Barbara Franklin, Poteet
3rd – Wendy Knox, Poteet
Juniors:
1st – Hallie Devoney, Poteet
2nd – Tilden Wilkins, Alamo
3rd – Jacob Wilkins, Alamo
Water Color:
1st – Susie Davis, Poteet
2nd – Ann Roeder, Poteet
3rd – Barbara Franklin, Poteet
Juniors:
1st – Hallie Devoney, Poteet
Drawing – Black & White:
Juniors:
1st – Hallie Devoney, Poteet
Drawing – Colored:
1st – Barbara Franklin, Poteet
Juniors:
1st – Hallie Devoney, Poteet

PHOTOGRAPHY (37 entries)
Animals:
1st – Jackie Burke, David Crockett
2nd – Gail Dale, Poteet
3rd – Lori Wuest, Cibolo
Youth:
1st – Logan Knox, Poteet
People:
1st – Gail Dale, Poteet
2nd – Bonnie Billquist, Leon Valley

3rd – Jerry Billquist, Leon Valley

Places:

1st –Lori Wuest, Cibolo
2nd – Susie Davis, Poteet
3rd – Jerry Billquist, Leon Valley

Plants:

1st – Gail Dale, Poteet
2nd – Ann Roeder, Poteet
3rd – Bonnie Billquist, Leon Valley

Sky:

1st – Lori Wuest, Cibolo
2nd – Barbara Franklin, Poteet
3rd – Gail Dale, Poteet

On the Farm:

1st – Susie Davis, Poteet
2nd – Bonnie Billquist, Leon Valley
3rd – Carmen Maglievaz,Poteet

STEWARD'S REPORT

Worthy State Master, Officers, Delegates and Guests,
It has been an honor to serve as Steward of the Texas Grange this last year. I have learned an immense amount about our Grange and this position. It has been a challenge to learn, but a blessing I am thankful to have been given.

Fraternally Submitted,
Robert "Bobby" Martinez

ASSISTANT & LADY ASSISTANT STEWARD'S REPORT

Worthy State Master, Officers, Delegates and Friends,
We as Assistant and Lady Assistant Steward are proud to actively represent the Texas State Grange. Over the past months, we have participated in as many community service activities led by this organization as we could. It has been challenging. We look forward to continuing our participation and involvement in the upcoming year.

Fraternally Submitted,
Buddy and Leah Overstreet

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Not Submitted

TREASURER'S REPORT

Worthy State Master, Karen Overstreet, officers, delegates, fellow Grange Members, and guests,

It has been my privilege to serve for the past year as Treasurer of the Texas State Grange. I followed the directives of the Master and the Executive Committee. I submitted a Quarterly Report to them at each Executive Committee Meeting. Checks and cash were deposited in our bank accounts in a timely manner. Bills were paid as they were submitted to me by the State Secretary or State Master.

Security Service FCU - as of 6-30-2023	**2022**	**2023**
Checking	$2,950.10	$ 2,554.16
Money Market+ - checking		$34,065.30
Savings	$15.23	$15.23
7 mo. CD (6-30-2023)		$2,000.00
Future Builder CD	$28,083.87	$503.90

Department Fund Balance as of July 20, 2023

$1.00 Assessment - Tx State Session fund	$1,603.71	$1701.15
National Session Fund	$974.19	$4,832.15
Family Activities	$638.65	$436.84
General Fund	$1,562.42	$6,819.94
Lecturers Fund	$671.79	$28.21
Memorial Fund	$ 1,325.79	$ 1,325.79
Rose Drill		$3,950.00
Youth Fund	$416.96	$416.96
Jr Grange Fund	$368.28	$368.28
Legislative Fund	$50.00	$50.00

In Sept 2022 I transferred $21,500.00 from the Future Builder CD into a new Money Market+ Account that is paying a higher dividend (2.53APY). In January 2023 I transfer from the Future Builder CD another $5,922.03 into the Money Market+ account. As of June 30 2023, we have earned $484.27 in interest on those funds.
The Future Builder CD is still active in case the dividends get better on that type of CD we can move funds around again.

On June 30, 2023 I opened a 7mo. CD that has a high dividend (4.65APY) in the amount of $2,000.00. Funds were transferred from the Money Market+ account for this CD. My plan is to open additional 7mo. CD's with money transferred from the Money Market+ account (possibly 1 per month) and continue this as long as dividends are higher than the Money Market+ account dividend.

Proceeds from the Gr Plains Regional Conference held June 9-12 were split between the Lecturers Fund ($1,000.00) and the National Session Fund ($463.52)

Fraternally submitted,
Bonnie Billquist, Treasurer
Texas State Grange July 20, 2023

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee met and is pleased to report that the accounts of the Texas State Grange Treasurer are in order. Thanks to Sister Bonnie Billquist for the fine job she has done as the State Treasurer.

Fraternally Submitted,
Buddy Overstreet
Ann Roeder

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Worth State Master, Officers, and Delegates,

It has been my privilege to serve as your Texas State Grange Secretary for the last two years. Documenting the business of the Texas State Grange has been an honor. However, it is one that could not have been done effectively without the partnership of Sister Bonnie Bilquist, our fantastic state treasurer.

Fraternally Submitted,
Carmen Maglievaz

GATEKEEPER'S REPORT

Worthy State Master, Officers, Delegates and Guests,

It is a pleasure and a privilege to once again greet you from the Office of Gatekeeper. It has been an honor to serve our great organization and my fellow Grangers in this capacity. I wish everyone happiness, good health and God's fullest blessings during the coming year.

Fraternally submitted,
Dan Boenig

POMONA'S REPORT

Not Submitted

CERES' REPORT

Not Submitted

FLORA'S REPORT

Not Submitted

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR

Not Submitted

REPORT OF THE FAMILY ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Worthy Master, Delegates, and Patrons:

The Grange Leadership Conference was hosted by Alamo Grange on March 4, 2023 at Oak Island Methodist Church Hall. The day began with a welcome by State Master, Karen Overstreet. The presentation of awards by the Community Service director, Margie Blair followed. Curtis Voges, Legislative/ Agriculture director, reported on recent state laws and interests. The State Treasurer and the State Secretary discussed important information for the subordinate treasurers and secretaries and answered questions about changes. Information for the Youth and Juniors programs were shared. After a short break, presentations continued with information from the National Grange brought to us by Master Karen and National Executive Committee member, Buddy Overstreet. The award for the 2022 Educator of the Year was presented to Ruth Ann Olivares-Rubalcaba from Poteet.

State contest details and questions were addressed and lists of contests were reviewed. I shared information and showed pictures of string art crafts which was a new addition to the crafts contests for 2023. Members in attendance received wood, nails, string, and patterns and began working on small projects. The meeting then concluded with a delicious covered-dish lunch.

Thanks to the Leon Valley and Mesquite Grange members who did a wonderful job overseeing the hospitality room this weekend and to all Grangers who brought the food and drinks for us to share. Thank you also to Bonnie and Jerry Billquist and Karen and Buddy Overstreet for helping to move tables and set up the contest room for the session.

There were 51 entries in the Family Activities contests. There were many beautiful and creative entries. Thanks to the judges who spent their time going over and examining all the items on display. The judges for this year were Faye Honaker, Karen Jackson, Nancy Broyles, Marty Buell, Marilyn Spaulding, and Judy and Gene Drisch.

The winners were as follows:

FOOD (10 entries)
Women's Baking – Carrot Cake
1st – Fayrene Smith, David Crockett
2nd – Ann Roeder, Poteet
3rd – Barbara Franklin, Poteet
Men's Baking – Banana Bread
1st – Jerry Billquist, Leon Valley
Candy – Pecan Pralines
1st – Ann Roeder, Poteet
2nd – Connie Waxler, Poteet
3rd – Fayrene Smith, David Crockett
Canning – Blueberry Jam:
1st – Ann Roeder, Poteet
2nd – Gail Dale, Poteet

NEEDLEWORK (8 entries)
Afghans – Knitted or Crocheted:
1st – Ann Roeder, Poteet
Crocheted Items – Doilies:
1st – Donna Reed, Poteet
2nd – Ann Roeder, Poteet
Knitted or Crocheted Item (not afghans or doilies):
1st – Ann Roeder, Poteet
Embroidery

1st – Tracy Smith, David Crockett
2nd – Ann Roeder, Poteet

Counted Cross Stitch
1st – Katherine Shea, Cibolo

Needlepoint:
1st – Connie Waxler, Poteet

CRAFTS (33 entries)

Wall Hanging or Wreath:
1st – Mysti Schott, Poteet
2nd – Ann Roeder, Poteet

Decorated Flower Pot:
1st – Ann Roeder, Poteet

Jewelry:
1st –Lori Wuest, Cibolo
2nd – Katherine Shea, Cibolo
3rd – Betty Burke, David Crockett

Recycled Item:
1st – Fayrene Smith, David Crockett
2nd – Betty Burke, David Crockett
3rd – Jacqueline Burke, David Crockett

Greeting Cards:
1st – Ann Roeder, Poteet

Trivet or Hot pad:
1st - Betty Burke, David Crockett
2nd – Ann Roeder, Poteet

Cross:
1st – Mickey Urias, Cibolo
2nd – Lori Wuest, Cibolo
3rd – Connie Waxler, Poteet

Decorated Gift Bag:
1st – Doris Payne, Poteet
2nd – Ann Roeder, Poteet
3rd – Samantha Wilkins, Alamo
Youth:
1st – Daniel Wilkins, Alamo
Juniors:
1st – Jacob Wilkins, Alamo
2nd – Zachary Wilkins, Alamo
3rd – Tilden Wilkins, Alamo

Bird House
1st – Ann Roeder, Poteet
2nd – Jacqueline Burke, David Crockett

3rd – Lori Wuest, Cibolo
Juniors:
1st – Sophia Shea, Cibolo
String Art:
1st – Ann Roeder, Poteet
2nd – Lori Wuest, Cibolo
3rd – Susie Davis, Poteet

Thank you to everyone who helped during the convention and other activities throughout the year. I am honored to be able to lead this activity for the Texas State Grange.

Fraternally,
Gail Dale
Director of Family Activities

GRANGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Worthy State Master, Delegates, Patrons and friends. The Grange Activities Committee received no resolutions; however, the following report of contest categories for 2024 is presented. Departmental contests for the Family Activities and Lecturer's will be open to everyone, Grangers and non-Grangers alike, with the exception of food contests for Grangers and Grange families.

The Lecturer's contests for 2024 will include the following:

Writing:

Essay (300 words or less) – Topic of choice
Book review (300 words or less - book of your choice)
Poetry
Movie Review

Art:

Oils or Acrylics
Water Colors
Drawing - Black & white
Drawing – Colored
Mixed Media

Photography:

Animals	Plants
People	Sky
Places	On the Farm

The Family Activities contests for 2024 will be:

Food:

Women – Fresh Apple Cake
Men – Coffee Cake
Youth (13 – 18) – Chocolate Chip Cookies
Junior (pre-teen) – Marshmallow Cereal Treats
Canning – Apple Butter and Tomato Salsa
Candy – Coconut Candy

Needle Work:

Afghans
Crocheted Item (doilies)
Knitted or Crocheted Item (not afghans or doilies)
Embroidered Item
Needlepoint (Canvas or Plastic Canvas)
Counted Cross Stitch

Crafts:

Recycled Item
Decorated Flower Pots
String Art
Jewelry
Decorated Gift Bag
Wall hanging or Wreath
Cross (handmade or purchased and decorated)
Trivets or Hot pads
Bird House
Greeting Card

Juniors (pre-teens) and youth (13 – 18 yrs.) are encouraged to enter all above categories in Family Activities and Lecturer's contests. They will be judged separately from adult entries.

***All entries should have attached labels with Name (first and last), Age (if not adult), Grange, and Contest to be judged in. The label should be folded or attached so that the name is not visible to judges if the item is picked up to be looked at during judging. ***

The 2024 Grange Banquet theme will be "The Wild West.". The Lecturer's and Family Activities Conference will be held in March 2024.

Grange Activities Committee,
Gail Dale, Chairman
Wendy Knox
Doris Payne
Ann Roeder
Barbara Franklin
Connie Waxler

AGRICULTURE/LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Worthy state president, past and current national officers, state officers, delegates, and patrons: It is always a pleasure and privilege to address and bring you legislative/agriculture information.

Waters of the US Court gives Ag Guidance- The Supreme Court decision on the Clean Water Act restricts the federal government's jurisdiction of "adjacent" wetlands which now gives more clarity to farmers, ranchers, forest owners, and other landowners. It will be easier to look at property and tell whether something should be regulated as a water of the United States. The decision separated the terms "adjacent" and "adjoining" to mean only wetlands physically "adjoining" not "adjacent" to cover waters or to be regulated. The Court also reaffirmed that states have the "primary" responsibility to prevent water pollution. The new rule will amend the rural issue in January that went into effect March 20.

The United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) Trade Agreement- The United States has requested trade dispute settlement consolation under the USMCA Agreement. Mexico's efforts to ban genetically modified corn which prohibits tortilla makers from using white corn. Mexico's restrictions are not based on science and are inconsistent with sanitary chapters outlined under USMCA. A full ban on this corn would cause the United States economy to lose nearly $74 billion in economic exports. Canada has joined the United States in this trade dispute.

California Proposition 12 bans sale of pork in the state from facilities across the United States that use sow gelation crates to birth and raise piglets. Efforts are underway to nullify proposition by other swine-producing states.

Texas HB 2271 revises the Texas Agriculture Code to include agriculture as an agriculture operation.

SB 664- Truth in Labeling Bill establishes marketing and labeling requirements for imitation meat products effective September 2023.

Federal Swine Eradication and Control Program- A bipartisan bill in the United States Senate proposes to make permanent the Successful Pilot Test Program in 10 states.

Texas HB 73 prevents landowners from being liable to damages caused by livestock due to a damaged fence. It also prevents the landowners from being liable due to acts of God, wildlife, and livestock that are beyond the control of the landowner.

Texas SB 1123 creates a grant program to compensate property owners for damage caused by criminal activity related to border security.

Texas HB 1750 prohibits cities from imposing government requirements on all agricultural operations within city limits no matter when the land is annexed.

Texas SB 505 will impose a registration fee on electric vehicles effective September 1, 2023. Electric vehicle owners will pay a $400 fee for initial two-year inspection on new vehicles and $200 for annual registration renewal. Both fees will go into state highway fund to maintain roads.

Right to farm and ranch- A Texas Constitutional amendment aimed at farmers and ranchers to continue their business for generations to come. Texas voters can support this legislation by voting "yes" this November 7th.

Expand Texas Water Supply- The Texas governor signed into law creating a new fund dedicated to expanding our Texas new water supply portfolio. This will provide technical assistance to small and rural communities to help with water loss audits and establish a program to educate the public of the importance of water to our drought-prone state. Final authorization of the funds requires Texas voters to vote "yes" on these Constitutional amendments November 7th. It will also authorize the deposit of $1 billion into the Texas Water Fund.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly known as Food Stamps Program, is going to change under legislation brokered between Congress and the White House starting this summer, effecting middle-age citizens. Job requirements will vary depending on age. Military veterans and homeless are exempt. The new farm bill effective October 1, 2023, will further affect SNAP funding, depending how many total eligible participants have signed up. The average Texas SNAP participant currently receives $265 a month.

Broadband- The Department of Commerce has announced it will distribute high-speed broadband deployment funds to all states from the $42.5 billion Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD). Program funding for all high-speed broadband deployment across the country now stands at $92.95 billion.

Texas Property Tax Relief- Texas Legislature is in second special season having proposed using $18 billion from Rainy Day Fund for property tax relief over two years. Homestead exemptions would rise from $40,000 to $107,000 per year. No decision has been made on school finance.

Carbon- The United States Department of Agriculture announced a $300 million investment to monitor agriculture emissions including a research network to monitor carbon in soil. The USDA announcement and legislation are both aimed at the different questions on how to quantify carbon stored in soil.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management will receive $60.6 million from the United States Department of Energy to strengthen the state power grid infrastructure in preparation for future extreme weather and population. This grant will help Texas identify gaps in grid resilience and minimize grid disruption through weatherization and modeling technologies.

Curtis Voges, Legislative/Agriculture Director

Credits: Fredericksburg Standard Livestock Weekly,
San Marcos Times- Texas Agriculture,
San Antonio Express,
National Grange News
July 2023

2023 APPRECIATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates, and friends:
The following is the Report of Resolution of Appreciation:

Thank you to the Kendall County Cowboy Church for the use of their facility, thank you, Jerry & Bonnie Billquist for obtaining the KCCC facility for our session,

Thank you to the Leon Valley, Penny Martin & Barbara Franklin for helping in the hospitality room, thank you to all those who brought food for the hospitality room,

Thank you to County Commissioner Precinct 2, Andra Wisian for the Welcome extended to the 89th State Session of the Texas State Grange,
Thank you to Stephen Zoeller, County Extension Agent for their informative talk on agriculture in Kendall County and the Hill Country and report on 4-H members and their activities and achievements,

Thank you to the Howell family - Loramae, Martin & Danielle, for registration, preparing nametags, handling money and providing accurate account to treasurer and other help wherever needed,

Thank you to Gail Dale, Family Activities Director and Lori Wuest, Pro-tem Lecturer for working with the contests,

Thank you to Bonnie Billquist for getting the judges for the Lecturers and Family Activities contests. Judges are as follows: Fay Honaker, Judy & Gene Drisch, Karen Jackson, Marilyn Spaulding, Marty Buell and Nancy Broyles,

Thank you, Curtis Voges for donating Gift Cards to promote the youth to enter more Family Activity & Lecturer contest ideas,

Thank you, Jerry Billquist, for arranging, pick-up and delivery of lunch for Friday' session,

Thank you, Curtis Voges, Agriculture & Legislative Director, for a great Legislative/Agriculture Report and thank you to all the others who gave their reports in a timely manner,

Thank you, Denise Martinez, Chaplain, for the memorial service & all who participated,

Thank you, Bonnie Billquist, for always having a detailed and accurate Treasurer's Report,

Thank you to the Rose Drill for their hard work and presentation they gave Saturday morning,

Thank you, Connie Waxler, pianist for the State Session Rose Drill,

Thank you, Alamo Grange, for the acquisition of new cordless microphones and for use of the sound system,

Thank you to all members who helped set up the hall for the degree work and for those who helped clean up after,

Thank you, Fifth- and Sixth-Degree team,
Thank you to all the Grangers who participated in the "Change for a Change" and brought their checks to go toward 2024 State Session. Total raised for next year's State Session was $744.86,

Thank you to President Karen Overstreet who acquired the plaque for the Granger of the Year and Jack Smithers for payment for the plaque.

Fraternally Submitted
Ann Roeder
Bonnie Billquist

2023

RESOLUTIONS

(Submitted to National Grange)

Feral Swine Eradication and Control Program

Whereas: feral swine cause hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage; and

Whereas: a bipartisan bill in the US Senate would make permanent the successful Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program to control feral swine; be it

Resolved: that the National Grange work with Federal Law Makers to approve the bill and increase the amount of funding.

Resolution for the Expansion of Mental Health Care

Whereas: Investigations of school shootings and mass shootings consistently point to a problem in mental health care and,

Whereas: Violence, especially gun violence continues to increase in American cities and,

Whereas: This violence is expanding into rural American cities and towns and,

Whereas: Investigations of school shootings and mass shootings consistently point to a problem in mental health care and,

Whereas: Access to mental health care is lacking in rural America due to barriers (lack of facilities, providers, transportation, and face-to-face interactions); be it

Resolved: That states be encouraged to include early childhood through young adult mental health education and development in rural areas; be it further

Resolved: That the National Grange lobby Congress to establish a system of block grants, made available to States for the purpose of expanding Mental Health Care in rural areas and communities.

2022-23

EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE

MINUTES

TEXAS STATE GRANGE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 11, 2022

The Executive Committee Meeting was held at Leon Valley Grange. Those present were:
Karen Overstreet, Master
Jerry Billquist, EC Chairman
Ann Roeder, EC Secretary
Connie Waxler, EC (on phone conversation)
Dave Weaver, EC (on phone conversation)
Margie Blair, Overseer, (on phone conversation)
Bonnie Billquist, Treasurer
Curtis Voges, Agriculture/Legislative Director
Helen Alameda, Lecturer
Buddy Overstreet, Leadership Director
Marvin Schweppe, Guest

The meeting was opened at 3:05 p.m. by Jerry Billquist. Opening prayer was given by Karen.
Connie moved that the EC Minutes from the July 30, 2022 were adopted as written, seconded by Margie.

Old Business:

Jerry asked if there were any bills that need to be paid. There were none.
He asked if there were any comments regarding the 2022 State Session, and also if the Educator of the Year was presented with her check. It was decided that we would ask her to attend the Leadership Conference in March and give it to her then. Karen said if she could not come to the Conference, that Karen would come to the Grange meeting and give it to her; however, it would be better if she could make it in March

Karen said she got a few responses regarding the State Session, and there were no negative comments, so we did okay. She mentioned the idea of having extra mikes at the stations of Overseer, Chaplain and Lecturer, since a lot of the members had a problem hearing some of the conversations. Helen Alameda, said she has one that we can have, and a motion was made by Connie that we purchase two more mikes to be used at the next State Session. Motion was seconded by Ann.

Updating the By-Laws was next on the agenda. The Executive Committee can change the By-Laws, but at the next State Session we need 2/3 body to approve it. Karen suggested that we all look over the present By-Laws and Resolutions and make post-it notes wherever we think should be changed. We can get together later to go over it. There were a few mentioned that we are aware needs to be changed: the dues need to be updated, especially the dues to National once a year. The Membership Resolution we passed in July will carry to 2023. We have some from years past. Do we keep it in or take it out. Connie suggested we can add the most recent, and take the old one out. We can do the same thing with these to make sure we are going by what the Resolution says.

Department Reports:

Texas State Grange Agriculture/Legislative Report Executive Committee Meeting – September 11, 2022
Waters of the United States – EPA and US Corp of Engineers propose new regulation that would change the definition of WOUS and repeal the current successful Navigable Waters Protection Rule and reinstate the troubling pre 2015 WOUS rule.
Texas September Phone Bills – Land or cell phone bills will increase from 3% - 24$ due to universal service fund increase.
Broadband Deployment by State – States will receive $65 billion of these funds from National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NIA) for statewide broadband deployment. Broadband Data Company Light Box to develop Texas Broadband availability MAP to determine where to invest public money.
LRA Cuts off Water for Agriculture – Due to drought conditions, water will not be available from Hegland Lakes to farmers for the second growing season (rice). Farmers impacted are in Gulf Coast, Lade Side and Pierce Ranch.

U.S. Energy Production for Electricity – Thirty-Nine per cent of cost is Natural Gas up 5.25% since May, 2022. China Burns Coal.
Turkey – Forty-one million birds have been removed or died from AVIAN Flu. Prices projected to be up by Thanksgiving 23%.
Germany Ag Ministry – Green Party calls for Meat Tax.
Ukraine Ports – Open 8 ships (75% grain) going to non-European countries.
National Grange – No New Taxes– Grange and 100 National and State organizations sent letters to Senate and House Leadership opposing a tax increase on small individually owned businesses, family-owned farms and ranches.
National Grange Rural Voter Poll – Of 1,004 voters in July, the majority feel rural health concerns are not being addressed by Congress.
National Grange preparing for White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health – In September (comments sent) in America 91% of countries with the highest rate of overall food insecurity are rural, and 86% of the countries with highest per cent of children at risk of food insecurity are rural (school lunch and chips) (?).
Cotton Crops in Texas – Visited two cotton gins. Number 1 last year ginned record 160,000 bales, but estimate this year 10% of last year. Gin number 2 will gin only 3 – 5% of last year record crop. Last year cotton seed sold for animal feed $270 a ton. This year estimated $500 a ton. Expect feed prices and clothing to greatly increase in price. Texas cotton crop being abandoned. The dry land and significant portion of irrigated crop if not plowed under will be plowed soon. One cotton farmer planted 1,500 acres under 13 irrigation pivots and has one left.
Dumas Texas Hemp Processing Plant – Projected to open 3rd quarter of 2023. Environment Living Industries $43 million facility will process industrial Hemp. It is the fiber from the stock and is separated from the woody interior of the stock. The hemp leaves can also be harvested and utilized for paper, packing materials, construction materials, bioplastics and auto body panels.
Grange Foundation – Is governed by a Board of Directors composed of ten members elected on a rotating basis. Nominations are open for two Board Members from September 2 through October 15th. National Grange voting delegates will vote for (2) candidates.
Nevada Grange Youth Fair Program – Will have activities and interactive displays showcasing their projects completed in the youth fair program.
Note: CEO's play with their stockholder's money. Politicians play with taxpayers' money.
Supreme Court Narrows EPA Authority – The EPA does not have clear direction from Congress to require power plants to shift to cleaner energy sources according to a 6 – 3 decision from the Supreme Court.
Bushels to Bales – Balers follow combines baling corn stalks 7% protein. 15,000 5' x 4' bales shipped to 100 feed stores north of Anderson County.
AgriLife and Chevron – To develop a new diesel Nut, a line of high oil content peanut to be used as renewable feedstock for low-carbon diesel fuel.

Silage chopped from corn or sorghum - Being harvested from crops not making it to the full potential being fed to livestock.
Feral Hog Program – Ten counties in Texas were selected in first round trap hogs. The trap loan effort 3,800 hogs were trapped. Six counties were added to the second round. Landowners can volunteer to be included in the program.
Producer Owned New Been Processing Plant to open in Amarillo next year – Beef producers must invest in the company to have it slaughtered in the plant.
Ag Labor – Open positions on American Farm and Ranches. H 2 a program is seasonal. The number of visas limited to 20,000 a year, half are reserved for Dairy Industry.
New Hybrid Forum - For landowners to learn about the impact of solar panels and foreign ownership of Ag land. It takes 4 – 10 acres of solar panels to generate one megawatt of power. The end of year 2020 foreign investors owned 37.6 million acres which is 2.9 % of U.S. Agriculture land. Forum set for Tuesday, September 20 at 7 p.m. in Waco or live via Zoom.
Credits: Livestock Weekly, Texas Agriculture and RFDTV

Extra notes from Curtis: Our leadership says they are having problems with the power outage in California. Now they are saying you simply won't be able to charge your car between certain hours. I have invested in 2 generators. It takes about 4 gallons of propane to run a generator. Stop by Home Depot and get a brochure.
Prepare, educate yourself and VOTE!

Karen also commented on hemp production. There is a place in Greene where they show a video how this person started. Texas has made a lot of regulations and you have to be certified and a lot in place.

Family Activities: No Report.

Juniors/Youth: No Report.

Community Service: She will get the books to be judged as quickly as possible.

Lecturer: Helen Alameda said she does not have anything to report since she is trying to learn what to do. Past Lecturer Fayerene Smith gave her a lot of things to sort through.

Leadership: No report.

Secretary: Karen reported that Carmen said the Journal should be finished this week. Karen also said that she can send it to me and we will make adjustments. I don't believe she had any problems with dues.

Treasurer: Bonnie passed out a full written report showing the Security Service FCU checking balance of $2,683.06; Security Service FCU savings of $15.23; Security Service FCU CD of $29,898.76. She said the Minutes need to show that we are a non-profit.
She also said that we need to form a Budget. I think we can look back at the last year or so and come up with an idea of what has been spent. There is money in the bank, so that is not the issue. On our CD we can do up to 3 transactions per month without any fee. The Money-Market Plus is paying more than the CD. The Future Builder's CD is always available to us.

Newsletter: Ann said she sent out e-mails letting everyone know that they should be getting their reports in by the 15th so she can start putting them together.

Deputy: No reports.

Information Technology: No report.

State Master: Karen said she would like to thank everybody for being at the State Session. I got some suggestions I am going to incorporate. Karen and Buddy are driving to National, and she asked about the National Community Service Project which we donate $100 and the basket for Grow Club which we donate $50. Could we just take a check instead of buying and carrying with us. With the Grow Club they raise money for scholarships to get people to the National Session. They have a lengthy application. They get maybe $500 to pay for their trip to National.
Connie made a motion to give $50 to Community Service and $100 to Grow Club. Motion seconded by Ann. Motion passed.
Karen said she has her registration bill, but instead of flying they are driving, so could she get reimbursement for gas.
On the Assignment of Directors, Karen asked Brother Curtis if he would still take the position of Legislative Chairperson. Yes, he replied he would.
She said when she sent her report for the Newsletter, she did mention the "Change for a Change". It was then discussed that each Grange could collect each month if everyone would bring in their loose change and keep a running tally. At the next State Session each Grange could give Bonnie their check.

New Business:
Approve Budget: We need to approve the Budget in the By-Laws in September. Bonnie will come up with something for us to approve. We need to figure each fund going into each account. Connie said she just worked on a Budget for another organization. We looked at what we spent in the past and what we would bring in. We tried to make sure our expenses were no more than our income. Karen said a

Budget is just a plan. It is not black and white, but just a guideline. Bonnie said she will have it for us at the next meeting.

Dedication of the Journal: Several names were mentioned and Ann said she would make a list of those dedications for the last 10 years so we can better decide.

Leader's Day: Karen has marked March 4, 2023, from 9 to 1, with EC meeting following. The location is tentatively at Alamo Grange. She said March is usually a good date because she and Buddy would be back from National and could give a report of what went on.

2023 Texas State Grange Session location: Jerry and Bonnie said that they have a location picked out. There is a fee with it, but it has been mostly taken care of. It will be held at Kendall County Cowboy Church north of Boerne. It is a huge building with long tables for the session or to hold contest entries, plus several round tables for the banquet. There is a kitchen, bathroom and a large space to hold the Rose Drill. The date will be the last weekend in July. Speaking of the Rose Drill, Curtis asked Connie if they were to get new dresses for the upcoming year. It was reported that Irene has been looking at material and she will get a figure for us. Karen said Irene did have material at the last practice and she showed what would go together better. We are looking at elastic and drawstring for the skirts.

Karen said looking through the By-Laws, people are reimbursed for their hotel rooms; if they don't take the benefit of staying in a hotel room could we consign them 50 cents a mile for gas. Those to be reimbursed are Lecturer, Master, Secretary and Steward.

Karen noted that Dave clicked off the phone at 4:08 because his Grange was having a special event.

The next meeting will be December 3 at 1:00 p.m., including lunch, at Poteet Grange.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Jerry at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Roeder, EC Secretary

TEXAS STATE GRANGE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 7, 2023

The Executive Committee meeting was held at Leon Valley Grange. Those present were:
Karen Overstreet, President
Jerry Billquist, EC Chairman
Ann Roeder, EC Secretary
Connie Waxler, EC (phone conversation)
Dave Weaver, EC (phone conversation)
Margie Blair, VP (phone conversation)
Bonnie Billquist, Treasurer
Curtis Voges, Agriculture/Legislative Director
Buddy Overstreet, Leadership Director
Marvin Schweppe, Guest

The meeting was called to order at 2:21 p.m. by Jerry Billquist. Opening prayer was given by Karen Overstreet. The Minutes from the September 11, 2022 meeting was moved approved by Connie Waxler, seconded by Bonnie Billquist.

Old Business:

Dedication of the Journal: Karen asked if Connie and Margie were able to get anything together with pictures about Doris and Daylon Payne. Connie said they were working on it.

Leader's Day – March 4: Connie said one of our members would like to move the date back to January, and Karen said we would discuss that possibility in March for 2024. She did say that the reason it was moved to March was because she attended the President's Conference and this way she could report on what she had learned.

Connie reported that Gail said she was going to get someone to do some kind of demonstration on one of the entries. Karen said she had asked Samantha to do a presentation for the Youth and Juniors. Hopefully we will have something from National. Carmen Maglievaz, State Secretary, should be able to present something about dues.

Connie said it would be nice if we could have a visitation program; there are so few of us and we are so close, it would be a good thing to do; either on a meeting night or Sunday afternoon. She said she would try to put something together.

Update By-Laws (Women's Activities, dues, compensation for various officers, quarterly report, amendments 2/3 vote): Several sections of the By-Laws

with amendments from previous years were discussed. A new set of By-Laws will be presented at the next meeting.

2023 Texas State Grange Session – update on facilities, hotels new, speaker: Jerry said that he is a friend of the newly appointed County Commissioner, Andrea Wisian, Precinct 2. He will ask her if she will give our "Welcome", and that he would check with the high school to see if someone in the agriculture program would be our "Key Note Speaker".

Department Reports:
AGRICULTURE/LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Texas State Grange Agriculture/Legislative Report Executive Committee meeting, January 7, 2023.

Proposition 12 Case – Involves a law passed in 2018 that bans the sale of pork in California from hogs that don't meet the state's arbitrary production standards, even if the hogs were raised outside of California. Now the Supreme Court will hear/consider their opinion on the case.

Guayle – Desert shrub grown in Arizona requires ½ the water of agriculture crops. Perennial shrub will be processed to manufacture tires.

Infracture Gobs Act – Included $60 billion for broadband projects for communications that need it most. (Americans in hard-to-serve areas).

Hurricane Ian – Florida losses could reach $1.6 billion ruining vegetables, melons, citrus industry, horticulture sector and livestock industry.

Mississippi River – Flow was low effecting barge traffic, farmers storing their grain on site. Decent rains have improved river flow. Barges move a ton of cargo 647 miles on a single gallon of fuel; rail 477 miles per gallon, and truck 145 miles per gallon. This year grain crop shipments by rail are up 1000 percent. Rail strikes would cost U. S. economy $2 billion a day.

Electric vehicles – Charging stations in Texas will cost up to $408 million from bi-partisan infrastructure law to install fast electric charging locations. First year Texas plans to build 50 plus charging stations along major interstates. In addition, Texas will receive $27 billion for roads and bridges; $3.4 billion for public transportation and $1.2 billion for airports.

More consumers buying organic – But farmers are still wary. New challenge, consumers ready to pay higher prices, farmers reluctant to start; take advantage of revenue.

Key differences to use synthetic fertilizer and pesticides as well as genetically modified seed. Also, land utilized has to be planted for three years with synthetics, but cannot be sold for the higher organic premium those 3 years.

Honey Production –

Year 2020	TX honey producing			U. S.	
	Colonies	#	Value	#	Value
2020	157,000	8.9 mill	$174 mill	147.5 mill	299 mill

2021 137,000 76 mill $17.6 mill 126.4 mill 321 mill
2022 extreme heat and drought lack of activity and reporting sales of hives and queen and worker bees sign of Texas production recovering.

Essential Americans – A term to describe farmers and ranchers. Texas agriculture produced $24.9 billion in cash receipts last yar being 5.7 per cent of the U. S. Total.

Mexico – To proceed with genetically modified corn ban in 2024, and also phase out glyphosate, the active ingredient in Round Up. Shipments to Mexico make up 30 percent of U. S. corn export.

Genesys, Inc. – An animal health company aims to improve production economics and sustainability of livestock production. Twenty percent of embryos that get transferred are non-viable at transfer. New technology scans embryos and detects 85-98 per cent accuracy at identification.

Action on Colorado River – Water called absolutely critical. The United States Interior Department has request seven western states and 30 Native American Indian tribes to submit suggestions on how to reduce water demand by 15 percent. Options range from voluntary agreements among competing interest to use less, to draconian top-down federal cuts in water deliveries perhaps affecting cities including Denver, Salt Lake City, Albuquerque, Phoenix, Los Angeles and San Diego.

Saudi Arabia – Has a huge dairy industry. Saudi companies have purchased 10,000 acres in Arizona for $14.3 billion and another 3,500 acres in southern California with water rights to grow irrigated alfalfa to be shipped to Saudia Arabia.

U. S. House Republicans – Have requested a Federal Government investigation into foreign ownership of 37.6 million acres of land as of end of 2020.

The Department of Transportation – Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration denied an exemption from hours-of-service rules for drivers transporting live animals, insects and aquatic animals.

WOTUS – Last week the EPA and U.S. Department of the Army announced a final rule establishing a durable definition of Water of the United States. This rule again includes small streams, puddles and has a negative impact on American Agriculture.

Texas Ag Commissioner – According to Texas Agriculture Commissioner, Texas loses one farm or ranch each day, ie economics or lack of family (children) interest.

Curtis E. Voges
Agriculture & Legislative Director

Credits:
Livestock Weekly
Texas Agriculture Magazine

RFDTV

Family Activities: No report
Juniors/Youth: No report

Community Service – Margie Blair: Each Chairman of Community Service are keeping up good work. I appreciate all the work you have been doing.

Lecturer: Karen announced that Helen has resigned as Lecturer, and we are wondering if anyone is interested in taking the position. If anyone comes to mind please call the State Master. Curtis made a recommendation that possibly Fayerene would take over until the State Session.

Leadership – Buddy Overstreet: No report at this time.
Secretary: No report

Treasurer – Bonnie Billquist: Bonnie said there has not been a lot of activity since the September. Money comes in and payments go out. The Community Service Award money came in and it was paid out. We did the State Master's reimbursement.

The State session fund as of December was $1,265.51. It is going to fall short for State Session. Please start filling your jars so we can have January not in the red.

The CD matures end of January. I am going to move it to Money Market since that pays more interest than the CD.

Buddy said as Treasurer for the Regional account he had paid back to each state according to what they donated. He will keep Texas money until we get to Regional which is approximately $309. Bonnie will add another line to the Treasurer's Report titled National Regional.

The Memorial Fund was discussed as being used for capital improvements for Texas State Grange. Connie said that she would write an article for the Newsletter telling what the Memorial Fund can be used for so that people have a better idea about it.

A budget sheet was passed out for each department head to work on the amount of income they see being generated for their department as well as expenses for current year. These should be turned in at the next EC meeting – March 4, 2023.

The facility for the State Session was discussed and Jerry said they normally charge $2,000, but he and Bonnie talked them down to $500 which Bonnie had paid. They have a cleaning fee of $150 so we need to be very careful to make sure the facility is clean.

Newsletter: Ann said she has only received three granges' articles along with the articles from the Master. Jerry said he would get an article written today.

Information Technology – Dave Weaver: Dave did not have a report at this time. Karen told Dave she would set up a place the Leaders Day Technology department.

Deputy Reports: Karen said that she would like the deputies to get in touch with their assigned granges and ask each one what fun activities they have for their members and their Community Service Activity they are doing.

State Master Report: Buddy gave an update on the National Grange building. He said we have a purchase agreement that going to be signed so we are under contract. Based on the contract it will be finalized after 30 days that they do sign. We should have it sold by the end of March.

Karen said at National session the High Priest changed the Sixth-Degree sign. It looks like the Natzi sign with the arm extended straight out, so instead the arm will be bent in as shielding the sun from the eyes.

There are committees for the Ritual of the Pomona Grange; review of National Grange policy on hemp and cannabis; continue videotaping of the first four degrees; continue diversity task force, which will make sure all of our signs and wording are not offensive; and continue study of National Convention.

Karen said the President's Conference in February will be virtual on Saturday and she and Buddy will be attending.

New Business:

The question came up about paying Master's expenses should meals be included. There was a lot of discussion. Ann made a Motion to pay $1,297.80 for actual expenses of travel by car but not for meals. The motion was seconded by Connie.

The Great Plains Regional Conference: Karen asked Bonnie if she would take care of registration. There were several positions needing to be filled and Karen would appreciate volunteers.

She said one of the Community Service projects they may do was visit the Veterans Home or the hospital and deliver gently used books that people may use while waiting for appointments. Also, magazines would be good if they were up to date.

The next meeting will be held at the Leader's Day Conference following lunch. Closing prayer was offered by Jerry.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Roeder, Secretary

TEXAS STATE GRANGE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
March 4, 2023

The Executive Committee meeting was held at Alamo Grange. Those present were:
Karen Overstreet, President
Margie Blair, Overseer
Jerry Billquist, EC Chairman
Ann Roeder, EC Secretary
Connie Waxler, EC (phone conversation)
Dave Weaver, EC (phone conversation)
Bonnie Billquist, Treasurer
Curtis Voges, Agriculture/Legislative Director
Buddy Overstreet, Leadership Director
Gail Dale, Family Activities Director
Fayerene Smith, guest

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by EC Chairman, Jerry Billquist. Opening prayer was given by President, Karen Overstreet. Minutes from the last meeting were approved as presented by motion from Connie Waxler, seconded by Margie Blair.

Old Business:

The question came up as to whether form 990N had been filed, and Buddy Overstreet stated that yes, he had filed for the State as well as a few Subordinate Granges.

Copies of the updated By-Laws were given out to each department, and appreciation to Ann Roeder for preparing them.

The 2023 Great Plains Regional Conference plans were discussed as follows:
Karen asked Bonnie if the $1,000 check had been sent for the deposit. Since it had not been Karen said she would take care of mailing it, since she had received the Contract and had mailed it back. Bonnie said she would agree to having the reservation checks sent to her and she would keep tract of them as they came in. Karen said she had sent out notices of the Great Plains to other states, and that Oklahoma called to see if the $140 charge was for all members, and it was decided that children under 5 were free.

Karen said we were able to negotiate room costs since most other hotels in the area would cost $250 and upwards per night. Payment is due with the registration by April 20. Bonnie said the only thing she can deposit is with cash or check and that she would deposit the money into the savings.

It was questioned whether we have a tax number for food at the Great Plains Conference. After discussion, it was decided that the Texas State Grange does have a tax-exempt number.

Karen said we will have a speaker from National, and he will do a Youth Workshop. We also need a tour or a "hands on workshop". Karen did talk with the contact person about name tags and she will organize goodie bags.

Next item on the agenda was the 2023 Texas State Session, which will be held on July 28 and 29, at the Kendall County Cowboy Church. Jerry will arrange for a person to give the Welcome and is thinking about the present County Commissioner, Andrea Wisan. He will also check into finding a 4-H person to give a little talk. Leon Valley and Mesquite Granges will host this year.

The deadline for "Granger of the year" recommendation is June 15, 2023. Educator of the year recommendation deadline is June 15, 2023, and Resolutions are due to Karen by July 1, 2023.

Still under old business, Curtis said that he had called Connie to check on the status fo the Rose Drill dresses if Irene will make them and if she had found the material yet, and if so, what is an approximate cost. The dresses will be 2 pieces with elastic at the waist, and they should be pretty adaptable in size. Irene is looking for similar material since the old dresses have been used for over 20 years. Karen said maybe we could get a workshop going to get the dresses done for this year's session. The approximate cost will be $2,500. Curtis said if the Executive Committee agrees to go along with this, he will donate $1,500 in memory of his two wives, Ramona and Jeanette. Both Dave and Connie said they would each donate $500. Connie said yes, we need new dresses and we should pay Irene some way.

A motion was made by Ann to approve making new dresses, seconded by Margie, and accepting any other donations that may come in. Connie said she would write an article in the Newsletter asking if anyone would like to donate toward the dresses and other items needed for the Rose Drill.

Department Heads:

Texas State Grange Executive Committee meeting, Agriculture/Legislative Report, March 4, 2023.

The State of Texas has a Historic budget of $33 billion surplus, and items being conserved are property tax decrease, teacher pay increase (active/retired), physical security, Community College funding model, including new scholarship

program and establishing statewide business court to consider complex business cases.

Texas is also proposing school voucher program parents could move child from public school to enroll in private, charter or home school with voucher dollars.

Right to Repair Farm Equipment: Colorado and 10 states have introduced bill would force manufacturers to provide tools, software part and manuals need for farmers to accomplish the repair. John Deer and major farm agriculture organizations already have agreement.

Major student loan forgiveness suit being held this week by U. S. Supreme Court. Decision projected the end of June, 2023.

Pharmacy benefit manager transparency act of 2023, S, 127. Congressional Senate Committee has scheduled hearing on the bill. Currently insurance companies use middle persons known as Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PBM) to decide what medicine/cost people can obtain. The top three pharmaceutical companies are: CSV Caremark, Optimum RX and Express Scripts, which control 80% of the entire prescription market.

Mexico appears to have dropped plans to ban imports of U. S. genetically modified corn from years 2024, 2025 to later or not at all. This would have included feed corn and ground corn used in chips and snacks.

Foreign countries are changing rules on the supply chain, solar panels and exporting of fertilizer.

Organic Sector food values are projected in the U. S. at $63 billion per year.

Bill being formulated in U. S. Congress to halt the sale of agriculture land to foreign citizens or companies.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced an additional $96 million in grants and loans across the country to help increase meat processing capacity, farm income and consumer choice as well as create jobs. These 25 grants and loan projects will be located in 15 states including one loan in Amarillo, Texas acquiring and expanding Edes Custom Meats.

Texas Hemp Growers Tarleton State University. A team of experts from element and dynamics have collaborated to gain acceptance from the Texas Feed and Fertilizer control Service to feed hemp seed and oil to chickens and horses in the State of Texas. Hemp is high in fiber, peptain, omega 3 and omega 6 fatty acids.

SNAP payments in the U. S. have ended February 2023. Save the children network shows that rural residents are facing several challenges, the ability to feed their children and access good and affordable child care.

I still go by the adage, old friends, old wine and old gold are the Best!

Curtis Voges

Credits: Texas Agriculture

Family Activities – Gail Dale Director said we are getting ready, thanks to Bonnie for getting judges from the area. Karen said to encourage youth to enter 3 or more projects and will receive a free ticket to the banquet, and a child who get most of all will get a ticket to the banquet, paid for by the sponsor.

Junior/Youth Director – No report. Karen said she is looking for a new Youth Director at this time.

Community Service – Margie Blair. She replied that she really doesn't have much to say except that she knows that the people are working on the books. The winner of the Community Service Books 2021/2022 was announced as follows:
Cibolo, first place; Poteet, second place; Alamo, third place; and Leon Valley, fourth place.

Lecturer – Karen said we still need to find a new Lecturer.

Leadership – Buddy said that he had no report.

Secretary – Carmen Maglievaz had no report.

Treasurer – Bonnie reported that the 2023 National Session and 2023 Regional Refund – combination money toward 2024 National Session assessment total of $4,442.63.

She transferred all but $500 from the Security Service CD to a Money Market Plus account that is paying higher interest. She left the CD in place in case interest should change. The CD could still be available to add funds.

She transferred $2,000 from the CD to checking to cover travel expense reimbursement for Master Overstreet to National Session in Reno. This transfer was prior to transferring funds to the Money Market Plus account.

Dues are to be paid to National by April. Bonnie has a list of granges that did or did not pay in full, which is next quarter. We will get the balance for last year taken care of and we will get 2023 then. Those paid in full were Cibolo, Kreutzberg, Leon Valley, Black Hill and Poteet for 2022.

There are several subordinate Granges that have not paid in full for 2022. The following Granges still owe as follows:

Alamo Grange - $646.00

David Crockett Grange - $902.00

Mesquite Grange - $154.00

Please be sure to pay in full for 2022 as well as 2023. If you decide to still report and pay by each quarter, it is your responsibility to send the report to the Secretary – Carmen, and the payment to Bonnie, as they would be due.

She said in January she passed out a budget for the different departments, e-mailed. She is waiting for them to get back with her approximately how much they will need to do their work.

Newsletter – Ann said that it will be coming out in April, and that she hopes to have the articles by the 3rd of April so that she can get it out before the festival.

Deputy Reports – It was mentioned that we had 6 entries in the Community Service.

Connie asked if there is a piano at the church for state session, and Bonnie said there is a keyboard.

Connie also said that the granges should encourage people to apply for the scholarships in schools for the students not going to college, but going to tech school, there are scholarships to apply for.

Karen told Connie about the Booster plan that was announced in the Leadership meeting. Also, that Ruthann came and received her certificate and more.

Information Technology – Dave said he had nothing to add. Karen asked if people had trouble getting on the web, could they call Dave for help. He said he would help.

State Master – Karen said the rural mental health is really bad. We need to find something in our community for something to do. Maybe helping them to be aware that we are trying to help, but we don't know where to go. We need activities for the community; sponsors for benefits; build a connection with the young people.

New Business:

Curtis wanted to mention that the Journal looks terrific. He said he belongs to an organization in Mason County and we produce our annual membership list. We have resources to update and print. I think we have resources among our membership that we could put this together ourselves. I know that everything costs money, and I want to help.

Ann made a motion, seconded by Margie to pay Karen her expenses for printing the Journal of $663.59, and her other expenses.

Next meeting will be June 24 at 10:00 a.m. at Leon Valley. We can bring something for brunch.

Closing prayer was given by Connie.

Jerry adjourned the meeting at 3:13 p.m

TEXAS STATE GRANGE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 24, 2023

The meeting was held at the Leon Valley Grange Hall with the following present:
Karen Overstreet, State President
Jerry Billquist, Executive Committee Chairman
Ann Roeder, EC Secretary
Bonnie Billquist, State Treasurer
Carmen Maglievaz, State Secretary
Gail Dale, Family Activities Director
Curtis Voges, Agriculture/Legislative Director
Buddy Overstreet, Leadership Director
Marvin Schweppe, Guest
Also connected by phone were:
Connie Waxler, EC member
Margie Blair, State Overseer

The meeting was called to order by EC Chairman, Jerry Billquist at 10:15 a.m. Prayer was given by President, Karen Overstreet. Minutes from the previous meeting on March 4, 2023 were approved as written by motion made by Connie Waxler, EC member, and seconded by State Overseer, Margie Blair.

Old business:
The Great Plains Regional Conference report was given by Curtis Voges who said he would like to commend the State Master President and First Gentleman for getting it organized and keeping it on schedule. The banquet at the close of the evening was very good, and he was impressed by the youth that were there. It is a pleasure to be around a group of talent. He did comment that most of the youth were from other states. The contest was really good. He said he doesn't know how

we got out the information on the youth and juniors and that Karen and Buddy kept things rolling. The food was good, but was cold. All in all, he thought it was good. Karen said 45 people came. We did go to the VA, and we got a thank you note from them. Logan and Karryn participated. Logan did so well in speech class. I was excited that they were there. The museum was very educational. The lady from Colorado had done some sculpture down on the coast. The hands on were great.

State Session:
The time to go Thursday for set up is around 4:30 or 5:00. We will probably be there until around 8:00. Bonnie said she would arrange for tables. Karen said we would need 11 tables for the State Session, and Gail said she would make do with what we get. Bonnie and Jerry said they would bring tables from their hall. The hospitality is assigned to Leon Valley and Mesquite. Ann said she thinks Poteet has the box of supplies and would check on it and let Karen and Bonnie know.

Karen said the draft of the program is finished and would put it in the Newsletter so everyone would have a chance to look it over. Seating of the State Officers will be done on Friday morning, and the 5th Degree obligation and 6th Degree officers will be done on Saturday.
Resolutions need to be to Karen by July 1 and should be sent in Word document.
Educator of the Year application and Granger of the Year update are due June 30.
The speaker will be announced. Granges need to get the names to Carmen of members taking 5 th and 6 th Degree and any new members and recruiter for the drawing. Karen will talk with Denise about the Memorial Service.
The state needs to purchase cordless microphones. Connie moved that we check into buying 3 if the price is in reason and we will have to vote online to purchase. Ann seconded the motion.
Jerry said that lunch on Friday was available from Chicken Express. They will bring a lunch box with 3 tenders, mashed potatoes, gravy and roll for $7. When people register Friday morning Loramae can take count and collect for those who want to purchase.
Curtis made the remark that we had said we would give the youth banquet tickets for the one who entered the most contest and one who entered at least 5 items. Instead of banquet tickets, we will give Gift Cards. He will get 20 Gift Cards.
The Visitation Booster program was mentioned and Karen said you can start it any time. The Grange traveling takes the program and the visited Grange will provide refreshment.
Department Heads:
Curtis Voges, Agriculture/Legislative Director reports as follows:
Water of the United States (WOTUS), The Supreme Court of the U>S. ruled case Sackett VS EPA case win for Agriculture. Separate water puddles are not regulated EPA working or work around.

Food prices in the United States is up 8.5% in the last year. Seventy Five percent of increase cost happen after agriculture products leave the farm or ranch, ie processing, transportation and labor. Ninety percent of state of Georgia peach crop is lost due to extreme winter weather.

New H-2a wage rate calculation by Department of Labor effective March 2023 will hurt farmers/ranchers. The new rule introduces two dates for consideration per year for establishing wage rates instead of current one time per year.
California Proposition 12 bans sale of pork in the state from facilities across the USA that use sow gestation crates to birth and raise piglets.

Livestock antibiotics is no longer sold "over the counter" starting June 11. Texas A &M AgriLife Extension Service recommends livestock owners build a veterinarian client -patient relationship or VCPR to secure any future purchase of antibiotics that require veterinary oversight. First the Vet must assume responsibility for animal's health. Second, Vet must recently have seen the
animal. Third, the Vet must be available or have arranged emergency coverage and evaluation.

Feral Hogs. A bill was introduced to make feral hog eradication permanent in the US Senate. This pilot program has been successful in ten states and 16 counties in Texas. There estimated 2.6 million feral hogs in Texas causing crop damages and control cost of $1.5 billion annually.

Right to Farm and Ranch Constitutional amendment passed by Texas Legislature heads to ballot this fall. This Constitutional amendment specifies people have right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture or wildfire practices on real property they own or lease. It also protects the public from any real danger.

Milking robots are revolutionizing Texas dairy farmers. Cows are milked by robots using new technology increasing dairy production from 80 to 95 pounds of milk per cow. Lely A5 robots are installed under 100,000 square foot -climate controlled -tunnel vent barn. The robots capture data thru rumination collars the cows wear daily. The collar provides the farmer with heat detection, animal health and how much milk cow are milking. Each cow is milked twice up to five times a day. Each of the robots, six on one dairy, can milk 50 cows per milking duration. The robot also drops amount of allotted feed for each cow.

Foreign land purchaser. The current US Administration proposes to expand the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U. S. to include foreign acquisitions of real estate within 100 miles of U.S. military bases.

Cuba and China are currently planning on constructing military training bases in Cuba.

The 2022 Texas Landowner Survey conducted by Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute (NRI) had 5000 Texas Landowners respond. The report shows 83% of Texas is comprised of private, rural lands that produce food, fiber, recreation, ecosystems services and energy. The majority of these 60% operations own less than 500 acres, 15% own between 500 and 1,000 acres and 25% own more than 1,000 acres. Three reasons for owning land were wildlife, family and hunting, the loss of working land to urban sprawl is a major concern.

Alysas Law/Panic alert Law will invest $1.7 million to incorporate new technology in class rooms installing teachers to press a silent button that contacts school and emergency service agencies during emergencies in Texas Public Schools. Another bill, House Bill 3 sent to you for signing would give schools $300 million to build physical infrastructure on campuses. Bill also authorizes district employee armed guard or officer on every campus or have one employee trained or armed.

Texas House Bill 3908 increases drug penalties and requires schools to provide researched based instruction on fentanyl abuse prevention.

Recent rain has changed the landscape. Rainfall sparks optimism, as Will Rodgers said “The Farmer has to be an optimist or he still wouldn’t be a farmer.” Here’s to more optimism and more rain for us all.

USDA has this week approved the creation of chicken meat using cells in the laboratory.

Curtis Voges, AG/Legislative Director
Credit: Livestock Weekly/Texas Agriculture Magazine

Family Activities – Gail Dale Director said she is going to send Ann and article for the Newsletter. She also added that Bonnie came up with a little tag to be used with each contest entry. This will eliminate the question of which category the item should be entered in.

Juniors/Youth - Karen said we are in need of a director for this position. It was also determined as ages 5 – 12 list as Junior/Pre-teen and ages 12 – 18 list as Youth.
Community Service – Margie Blair reported not much to report. She did give Karen the books. She advised that everyone should be working on their books and the deadline is September 1. She does make an exception if the book is mailed to

her and it's past the due date, but if she doesn't have it until two weeks after the deadline, it's too late!

Lecturer – Karen announced that she is still looking for a Lecturer. If anyone knows of someone who shows an interest, please let her know.

Leadership – Buddy He said that he had no report. However, he said at Regional they did talk about the A1C Program. There is a grant from National that they can give. More information about how this works will be coming out in the Newsletter.

Secretary – Carmen said she doesn't really have anything to report.

Treasurer – Bonnie gave her report as follows: Security Svc FCU – checking $2,029.80; Security Svc FCU – Savings, $1,477.86; Security Svc FCU CD, $503.10; Security Svc MM, $35,000.45. She commented that Great Plains Conference made money for a change. We have $1,462.35, She needs to know where to put this extra money. She would like to give some to Lecturer and Family Activities accounts since they are either low or negative.

Karen said that since we have a representative going to National, we will have to help them. Rose Drill has $3,950 for new dresses. They will not be going to National this year, and it will probably be at least next year before new dresses will either be made or purchased. Irene is checking out fabric and all costs. Curtis said what's the possibility to invest the money until you are ready to start the dresses?

Bonnie said we can put it in the Money Market and draw it out without penalty. Buddy made the comment about the money from regional left over. Was everyone over charged, and it was said that every cost was evaluated and the amount charged was correct. There were 45 people who showed up. He also commented about the fund that he had set up for 2021 National Session which will go dormant this year if nothing is done with it. He said there is a possibility to laddering a CD. We invest a certain amount and in six months it matures then you take that amount and invest in another CD. But also, a month or two after the first CD, you can open another CD which may pay a better interest rate, etc. This will make more interest than the Money Market. It was suggested that this is where the 2021 Regional money can be placed.

Ann made a motion that Bonnie take the $300 and invest it in laddering CDs according to what the bank will allow. If possible, starting with $100 in a 6-month CD, and then in 2 months another $100 in a 6-month CD, and the final $100 in a 6-month CD in another 2 months. Buddy will write a check for the amount and give it to Bonnie to invest. The motion was seconded by Karen.

Connie made the suggestion that the Great Plains money be put into our National Session account. Karen moved that we put $1,000 in the Lecturer's fund and the

balance in the National Session fund which is $462.35. Carmen seconded the motion.
Bonnie also said there are still a couple of Granges that have not paid their 2022 dues.

Newsletter – Ann said she has sent out notice to receive articles before the end of the week so that she can get everything together and get the Newsletter out while still in the month of June.

Deputy Information – Connie said that she and Karen had talked with members from Black Hill. They are not interested in meeting at this time, but possibly in the fall.

Information Technology – Dave was not available to give a report.

State Master – Karen thanked everybody for working so hard on the Regional Session. It was a huge success and each issue was well organized. Dan Boenig has agreed to sit in as Overseer since Margie cannot make it to the State Session. Karen will see if anyone has questions about lodging to call Bonnie. She will put this in the Newsletter.

New Business:
Wendy Knox works for an agency called BELONG. It is what CPS used to be. She was asking if Texas State Grange would donate 100 small blankets to be placed in hygiene bags for their clients. She said they cost about $3.50 each. If we get 100 it would be $350 and we could put a tag on it. Connie moved to put a message in the Newsletter if any Grange wants to donate, and then we can decide at that time. Karen seconded the motion.
Karen said regarding the "Change for a Change" each grange is to total their collections each month and at the State Session we can each present a check for the total to Bonnie. Karen moved that a Certificate be given to the grange who donates the most and they can take a group picture at their meeting. The picture will be given to Carmen to be added to the journal. The motion was seconded by Carmen.

Curtis asked Buddy about the sale of the National building. Buddy replied LOI with another organization we have 45 days to complete and working once we sign the contract. We are asking to stay in the building for one year rent free once that gets done, we will have funds left over to purchase another building.

Next meeting:
A short EC meeting will be held immediately following the State Session in July.
Closing prayer was offered by Karen.

Respectfully submitted:
Ann Roeder, EC Secretary