JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

FOR

THE TEXAS STATE GRANGE

American Values.
Hometown Roots.

July 25-26, 2025
91st ANNUAL SESSION

Poteet Grange Hall
Poteet, Texas

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THIS JOURNAL IS DEDICATED TO:

IRENE NIETO



The Texas State Grange proudly dedicates this Journal of Proceedings to **Irene Mendoza Nieto** in recognition of her lifelong service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the Grange, her church, and her community.

Irene joined Alamo Grange #1446 as a child and was an active member of the Juvenile Grange. Throughout her life, she has remained devoted to the Grange, participating in youth camps, Tri-State Conferences, State Grange Conventions, and numerous National Grange Conventions.

At the local level, Irene has served Alamo Grange in many leadership roles and currently serves as Secretary. She has worked on countless committees and generously supports every endeavor undertaken by her Grange. At the state level, she has been a member of the Rose Drill Team and has held numerous offices. Nationally, Irene has participated in the Rose Drill, prepared corsages and boutonnieres for Past Delegates and memorial services, chaired the hospitality room, and, alongside her late brother Manuel Mendoza, proudly represented Texas in the National Grange Talent Show. In recognition of her outstanding service, Irene was honored as the Texas State Grange Granger of the Year.

Beyond the Grange, Irene is deeply involved in her church and community. At Oak Island Methodist Church, she has served as an officer of the Methodist Women, a member of the Board of Trustees, a choir member, and the dedicated cook behind many church events and gatherings. She is known for her generosity, hospitality, and her tireless efforts organizing community service projects and preparing meals for family, friends, church members, Grangers, and neighbors alike.

Above all, Irene treasures her family. She finds great joy in spending time with her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, whose love and support have been central to her life.

Through decades of faithful service, leadership, and dedication, Irene Mendoza Nieto has exemplified the values of the Grange and has left a lasting impact on countless lives. The Texas State Grange is honored to dedicate this Journal of Proceedings to her.

TEXAS STATE GRANGE OFFICERS:



- **Master/President**- Karen Overstreet
- **Overseer/Vice President**- Margie Blair
- **Executive Committee#1**- Jerry Bilquist
- **Executive Committee #2** - Connie Waxler
- **Executive Committee #3**- Jackie Burke
- **Executive Committee #4**- Ann Roeder
- **Lecturer**- Wendy Knox
- **Steward**- Glenn Wilkins
- **Assistant Steward-** Buddy Overstreet
- **Lady Assistant Steward** - Leah Overstreet
- **Chaplain**- Logan Knox
- **Treasurer**- Bonnie Billquist
- **Secretary**- Samantha Wilkins
- **Gatekeeper**- Daniel Wilkins
- **Ceres**- Helen Alameda
- **Pomona**- Barbara Franklin
- **Flora**- Fayerene Smith
- **Executive Committee Emeritus-** Curtis Voges

OFFICERS OF THE TEXAS STATE GRANGE

2024-2025

Office	Name	Phone	Address	Email
Master/President	Karen Overstreet	210-422-8159	2738 Oak Island Drive #9 San Antonio, TX 78264	Koverstreet.txstategrange@gmail.com
Overseer/Vice President	Margie Blair	830-276-4824	5280 N St Hwy 16 Poteet, TX 78065	Margie_Blair@hotmail.com
Lecturer	Wendy Knox			Azlass2002@yahoo.com
Steward	Charles (Glenn) Wilkins	210-409-7888	21578 Pleasanton Rd San Antonio, TX 78264	Gwilkins123@gmail.com
Assistant Steward	William (Buddy) Overstreet	210-275-9609	2738 Oak Island Drive #9 San Antonio, TX 78264	overstreetbk@gmail.com
Lady Assistant Steward	Leah Overstreet	210-452-1281	2738 Oak Island Drive #9 San Antonio, TX 78264	ladysingsalot@gmail.com
Chaplain	Logan Knox			
Treasurer	Bonnie Billquist	830-237-2191	311 FM 474 Boerne, TX 78006	jbbillquiat@yahoo.com
Secretary	Samantha Wilkins	210-838-7892	21578 Pleasanton Rd San Antonio, TX 78264	Sanitawx4@gmail.com
Gatekeeper	Daniel Wilkins	210-630-5868	21578 Pleasanton Rd San Antonio, TX 78264	Danjamwil062025@gmail.com
Ceres	Marie (Helen) Alameda	210-573-5904	515 N 4th St Elmendorf, TX 78112	Malameda@satx.rr.com
Pomona	Barbara Franklin	210-846-2521	477 School Drive Poteet, TX 78065	Bfranklin22@sbcglobal.net
Flora	Fayerene Smith	210-827-3825	6032 W State Hwy 97 Cost, TX 78614	fvsmith@yahoo.com
Executive Committee-#1	Jerry Billquist	830-537-6363	311 FM 474 Boerne, TX 78006	jbbillquist@yahoo.com
Executive Committee#2-Chair	Connie Waxler	830-570-9541	PO BOX 383 Poteet, TX 78065	Connie.waxler@gmail.com
Executive Committee #3	Jackie Burke	210-627-0653		Jacqueline.d.Burke@gmail.com
Executive Committee#4	Ann Roeder, Secretary	210-827-4049	3790 FM 2146 Poteet, TX 78065	Annroeder123@gmail.com

DIRECTORS OF THE TEXAS STATE GRANGE

2024-2025

Department	Name	Phone	Address	Email
Agriculture & Legislative	Curtis Voges	915-792-6135	PO Box 415 Mason, TX 46856	**vogesranch@hctc.net**
Family Activities	Gail Dale	210-218-3759	212 Commerce Jourdanton, TX 78026	**Gdale325@aol.com**
Community Service	Margie Blair	830-276-4824	5280 N St Hwy 16 Poteet, TX 78065	Margie_Blair@hotmail.com
Membership	Buddy Overstreet	210-275-9609	2738 Oak Island Drive #9 San Antonio, TX 78264	**overstreetbk@gmail.com**
Communications				
Youth	Jackie Burke			**Jacqueline.d.burke@gmail.com**
Junior	Jackie Burke			

Delegates
2025 DELEGATES

Grange	Delegate	Alternate Delegate
Alamo 1446	Buddy Overstreet, Samantha Wilkins, Glenn Wilkins, Smokey Martin	Edna Guerra
Alamo 1446- Youth	Jazlyn Rodriguez	Eric Rodriguez
Black Hill 1547	Gladys Kruse	
Cibolo 1541	Jack Steers, Dave Weaver, Terry O'Meara, Dan Boenig	
David Crockett 1431	Jackie Burke, Lori Wuest, Diana Escajeda, Helen Alameda	Fayerene Smith
David Crockett 1431 - Youth		
Kruetsburg 1655	Jay Pfeiffer	
Leon Valley 1581	Jerry Billquist, Bonnie Billquist, Minnie Ulmer, Daniel Wilkins	
Leon Valley 1581- Youth	Zachary Wilkins	
Mesquite 1654	Jack Smithers, Leah Overstreet	
Poteet 1576	Ken Knox, Morgan Knox, Anne Roeder, Connie Waxler	Wendy Knox, Loramae Howell, Martin Howell
Poteet 1576- Youth	Logan Knox	
Bexar Co Pomona 6	Mary Bell Baker, Deborah O'Toole	
Atascosa Co Pomona 1	Daylon Payne, Doris Payne	

Texas State Grange Session Committees 2025:

Agriculture:
Dan Boenig
Curtis Vogus
Barbara Franklin
Smokey Martin
Ken Knox
Zachary Wilkins

Grange Law & Good of the Order:
Jack Steers
Doris Payne
Penny Martin
Connie Waxler
Fayerene Smith
Minnie Ulmer

Grange Activities:
Gail Dale
Wendy Knox
Leah Overstreet
Mary Bell Baker
Helen Alameda
Deborah O'Toole

Audit:
William (Buddy) Overstreet
Ann Roeder

Legislative:
Jerry Billquist
Daylon Payne
Logan Knox
Buddy Overstreet
Loramae Howell
Gladys Kruse
Jay Pfeiffer

Membership & State By-Laws:
Dave Weaver
Jack Smithers
Diana Escajeda
Margie Blair
Karryn Overstreet
Daniel Wilkins

Transportation, Education, Safety, & Health:
Glenn Wilkins
Jackie Burke
Lori Wuest
Jazlynn Rodriguez
Terry O'Meara
Morgan Knox

Youth & Junior Grange
Jackie Burke
Lynda Davis
Carl Overstreet
Glenn Wilkins
Leah Overstreet
Logan Knox

Resolution of Appreciation:
Bonnie Billquist
Samantha Wilkins

IN MEMORIAM

TEXAS STATE GRANGE MEMORIAL SERVICE
Saturday, July 26, 2025

Members lost between August 1, 2024- July 1, 2025

Grange	Name
Poteet Grange	Dona Berry
David Crockett Grange, Past National Grange Honorary Delegate, Past Texas State Grange Treasurer, Past Texas State Grange Newsletter Editor	Margaret Smithers

2025 Candidates who received the 5th Degree

Judy Mendoza	Alamo
Elisa Gertken	Poteet

2025 Candidates who received the 6th Degree

Judy Mendoza	Alamo
Elisa Gertken	Poteet

Texas State Grange 91st Annual Session
July 25-26, 2025
Poteet Grange Hall
Poteet, Texas

MINUTES OF THE TEXAS STATE GRANGE SESSION JULY 25, 2025

The 91st Annual Session of the Texas State Grange was called to order at 9:09 am on Friday, July 25, 2025, by Worth State President Karen Overstreet at Poteet Grange Hall in Poteet, Texas.. Opening in the 6th Degree.

The opening song was God of Folding.

Melissa Popham, Poteet City Manager, was our honored guest. She received a welcome from the Texas State Grange. Popham then welcomed Grangers to Poteet and brought greetings from the City of Poteet and several of its leaders. They appreciated the Texas State Grange hosting their annual session in Poteet, TX. Popham recognized the work of the Grange and how they are intertwined with the values of the city of Poteet.

Sister Connie Waxler made a response to Popham's address. Thanking her for her support of the Grange and appreciating the city of Poteet for its hospitality.

Worthy President Karen Overstreet recognized Brother Jack Smithers, Past State President of the Texas State Grange. Brother Smithers charged each of those in attendance to participate as fully as possible during the session and continue that energy past the time of the session ending. Brother Smithers recognized his wife, Sister Margarett Smithers, who passed away earlier this year. And the love and devotion they had for one another. He spoke about the need to step back in recent years, but he is back and ready to watch the Grange grow and soar. He spoke about the challenging position the Texas State Grange is in regarding our membership and charged us to put in the work to ensure we start to grow. Encouraging us to take action that helps us grow.

Roll Call of Officers and Directors concluded that there were 15 officers and 1 pro-temp officer present.

Present	Office	Name	Pro Temp
x	President	Karen Overstreet	
x	Vice President	Margie Blair	
x	Lecturer	Wendy Knox	
x	Steward	Glenn Wilkins	
x	Assistant Steward	Buddy Overstreet	

x	Lady Assistant Steward	Leah Overstreet	
x	Chaplain	Logan Knox	
x	Treasurer	Bonnie Billquist	
x	Secretary	Samantha Wilkins	
x	Gatekeeper	Daniel Wilkins	
x	Ceres	Helen Alameda	Minnie Ulmer
x	Pomona	Barbara Franklin	
x	Flora	Fayerene Smith	
x	Executive Committee, Chair	Connie Waxler	
x	Executive Committee #2	Jerry Billquist	
	Executive Committee #3	Dave Weaver	
x	Executive Committee #4	Ann Roeder	
-	Executive Committee Emeritus	Curtis Vogus	
x	Family Activities Director	Gail Dale	
x	Texas State Youth	Glenn Wilkins	
		Carl Overstreet	
x		Jackie Burke	
		Lynda Davis	
x		Logan Knox	

Roll call of delegates concluded that there were 6 Subordinate Granges and 1 Pomona Grange represented. With a total of 24 delegates.

Present	Grange	Delegate	Present	Alternate Delegate
x	Alamo	Buddy Overstreet		
x	Alamo	Samantha Wilkins		Edna Guerra
x	Alamo	Glenn Wilkins		
x	Alamo	Smokey Martin		

	Alamo	Youth- Jazlyn Rodriguez		Eric Rodriguez
	Black Hill	Gladys Kruse		
x	Cibolo	Jack Steers		
	Cibolo	Dave Weaver		
x	Cibolo	Terry O'Meara		
x	Cibolo	Dan Boenig		
x	David Crocket	Jackie Burke	x	Fayerene Smith
x	David Crocket	Lori Wuest		
x	David Crocket	Diana Escajeda		
	David Crocket	Helen Alameda		
	David Crocket	Youth-		
	Kruetsburg	Jay Pfeiffer		
x	Leon Valley	Jerry Billquist		
x	Leon Valley	Bonnie Billquist		
x	Leon Valley	Minnie Ulmer		
x	Leon Valley	Daniel Wilkins		
x	Leon Valley	Youth- Zachary Wilkins		
x	Mesquite	Jack Smithers		
x	Mesquite	Leah Overstreet		
x	Poteet	Ken Knox		Wendy Knox
x	Poteet	Morgan Knox		Martin Howell
x	Poteet	Anne Roeder		Loramae Howell
x	Poteet	Connie Waxler		
x	Poteet	Youth-Logan Knox		
x	Bexar Co Pomona	Mary Bell Baker		
	Bexar Co Pomona	Deborah O'Toole		
	Atascosa Co Pomona	Daylon Payne		

	Atascosa Co Pomona	Dorris Payne		

Connie Waxler motioned that we adopt the program agenda with flexibility to change as needed. Jerry Billquist seconded. Motion Carried.

Worthy President made an announcement about reports to be given and to whom- Officer reports, new member recruiting given to Samantha Wilkins, Change for a Change to Bonnie Billquist, Memorial Service names, Logan Knox.

Worthy President asked for continued prayers for Martin Howell and the entire Howell family as Martin recovers in the hospital.

Announcements about the Texas State Grange youth t-shirt sale were made- order forms are at the secretary's desk.

The Youth are hosting a Pizza Party tonight and have tickets on sale for $10.

Resolutions were assigned to each committee as follows:
Agriculture:
#3 Include Hay in as a Commodity Crop
#4 Property Tax Relief for Family Farms

Grange Law and Good of the Order:
#7 State Grange Newsletter

Legislative:
#1 Support for Legislation to Protect Vultures as Agricultural Allies

Transportation, Education, Safety & Health
#2 Expanding and Improving Mental Health Care Services in Texas
#5 Support for Agricultural Education and Youth Development Programs

Membership:
#6 Membership

The Texas State Grange was put at ease at 9:58 am for committee work.

The Grange was called back to order at 11:00 am

Sister Connie Waxler welcomed Texas State Grange President Karen Overstreet to give her annual address.

President Overstreet warmly welcomed delegates to the 91st Annual Session, thanking Poteet Grange for hosting and emphasizing the importance of grace—urging members to be patient, understanding, and kind in their volunteer service to one another.

She celebrated strong Texas representation at the **158th National Grange Session** in Iowa, noting the submission of 12 Texas resolutions and several high honors:

- **Wilkins Family** received the National Grange Cultivator of the year award for the Great Plains Region
- **Samantha Wilkins** and **Diana Escajeda** participated as National Communication Fellows.
- **Daniel Wilkins** earned the Wib and June Justi National Community Service Award

President Overstreet continued, noting that Community service continues to thrive across the state, with projects ranging from school supply drives and Meals on Wheels to Operation Christmas Child, youth volunteering, and health clinics. Members were reminded to submit Community Service Reports by September 1st.

Several **goals** were outlined for the year ahead, including:

- Continued partnership and participation in the **Grange Booster Program**
- Increased involvement in **multi-generational statewide activities**
- Supporting the **National Grange's Project Sustenance** through local efforts
- Creating programs to help celebrate the **250th birthday of the United States** in 2026

President Overstreet also announced that she and Brother Buddy Overstreet will attend the **first-ever National Grange Session at sea** this November and encouraged everyone to mark their calendars for the **160th National Grange Session** in 2026, to be held in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, which will be hosted by the Great Plains Region.

In closing, she thanked the membership and her family for their support. With changes coming in her personal life as they prepare to care for Buddy's mother full-time, she asked for continued grace and affirmed her love and commitment to the Texas State Grange.

President Overstreet was then given thanks for her service and dedication.

Following the Presidential Address:

Brother Jerry Billquist presented the Agriculture Report on behalf of Brother Curtis Voges for the Texas State Grange. In his stead, Brother Billquist covered a variety of agricultural topics relevant to both the State of Texas and the broader United States. The report included an overview of recently introduced legislation at both the state and national levels impacting agriculture.

The full Agriculture Report will be published in the **2025 Journal of Proceedings**

Sister Fayreene Smith announced that cards are available in the back of the session room for members to sign and send to those who are sick and in distress.

Grange was put at ease at 11:27 am

Grange was called back to order at 1:00 PM

Worth President Karen Overstreet called the meeting back to order

The session recognized **Jim Collums**, a local strawberry farmer from Poteet, Texas. Affectionately known as **"Mr. Strawberry,"** Jim is the proud owner of *Strawberry Country Winery* and also operates a unique *Windmill Museum* in the nearby town of Pleasanton.

During his presentation, Mr. Collums shared the rich history of strawberry farming in the region, offering insights into cultivation practices and the legacy of this sweet crop. He also highlighted the origins and growth of the *Poteet Strawberry Festival*, a cherished annual tradition that celebrates the town's agricultural roots and community spirit.

Report from Grange Laws and Good of the Order- Jack Seers

Resolution #7 - State Grange Newsletter-Committee recommends the resolution as amended.

Brother Jack Smithers moved to send the resolution back to the committee. There was no second. Motion failed.

Bonnie Billquist raised a concern that this is the current policy and moved to send Resolution #7 - State Grange Newsletter - back to the committee to review the previous resolution from 2021.

Motion is carried and was sent back to the committee.

Report Legislative- Jerry Billquist

Resolution #1 - Support for Legislation to Protect Vultures as Agricultural Allies- Committee recommends the resolution as amended

Resolution was adopted

Move to release the committee- Jerry Billquist gave thanks to the committee for their work.

Report Agriculture Committee- Dan Boenig

Resolution # 3: Include Hay in as a Commodity Crop- Committee recommends adoption

Resolution adopted

Resolution #4: Property Tax Relief for Family Farms- Committee recomends adoption as amended.

Resolution was adopted

Dan Boenig was chair of the committee, thanked the committee, and a motion was made and passed to release the committee.

Community Service Report- Margie Blair

Sister Margie Blair, Community Service Chairperson, addressed the delegate body, noting that 6 entries were made in 2024. Thanked everyone for their submissions and all of the community service work they have been doing.

2024 placings were as follows:

1st- Poteet, 2nd- Leon Valley, 3-Cibolo, 4-Alamo, 5-David Crockett, 6-Mesquite.

The 2025 service books are due on September 1, 2025, to Sister Blair.

Motion to accept the report was passed and carried.

Transportation, Education, Safety, and Health. - Glenn Wilkins

#2- Expanding and Improving Mental Health Care Services in Texas-

Resolution is recommended adverse by the committee.

#5 - Support for Agricultural Education and Youth Development Programs- Resolution is recommended by the committee to adopt as amended.

Resolution Adopted.

Committee submits resolution to be considered

#9 Support of Mental Health Funding and Texas Legislation SB188, HB 154, and SB 176- Committee recommends Adoption

Resolution Adopted

Membership/State By-Laws- Jack Smithers

#6 - Membership-

The committee recommends adoption

Diana Escajeda- motioned to send the resolution back to the committee to create a newer membership incentive. Motion Seconded. Motion failed.

Resolution adopted

Recess was called at 2:56pm

The session was called back to order at 3:22pm

Transportation, Education, Safety & Health- Glenn Wilkins

Introduced a new resolution #8

Resolution #8 Support of Continued Funding for the Affordable Care Act

Committee recommends adoption

Resolution was rejected.

That completes the report of the Transportation, Education, Safety, and Health committee and committee was released .

Youth Report- Leah Overstreet & Jackie Burke

Youth Committee revisited the events of the past year and discussed future events.

They plan to continue the State Pizza Party, Halloween Party, and New Year Party, and potentially adding a Movie Night or Day Camp to the 2025-2026 calendar.

The committee showcased Apparel that is on sale to support the youth committee.

Motion was made to accept the committee's report, and the motion passed.

Treasurers Report - Bonnie Billquist

Bonnie Billquist gave the annual treasurer's report detailing the finances of the State Grange.

Motion was made to accept the committee's report, and the motion passed.

Greetings from the National Grange President

Christine Hamp, National Grange President, sent a video greeting to the members of the Texas State Grange. Hamp recognized the achievements made by several Texas State Grange members.

Hamp recognized that this year has been a difficult but meaningful year but through it all the work at the community and state level is a vital one. One for purpose and meaning.

Hamp introduced a new program entitled ‘Grange Engage, ’a tool that will be used to transform how we communicate and track membership. A new modern take on the previous Grange database system. It is a new bridge from the local to the state to national levels of the Grange.

Hamp announced a new collaboration has been made between the Grange Advocacy board, Grange Foundation board, and the Executive Committee of the National Grange in order to create a new strategic team that will be able to collaborate and work together on projects for the interest of the National Grange and all of its members.

Hamp reviews Project Sustenance, which is also a new program introduced within the last year, noting that this is now the Granges signature project focused on three pillars- Food Security, Personal Sustainability, and Personal and Community Resilience. She encouraged Texas Granges to jump in on the project and participate in Project Sustenance.

Hamp mentioned doubling down on Advocacy to make the Grange and the Grange name stronger. She introduced the Rural Life Initiative project, funded by Pfizer. She noted there is funding available to local and state Granges to participate in programs related to the Rural Life Initiative.

Hamp stated that the 7th degree has now been recorded and preserved in history. The recording will air and the next convention that will be held on Carnival Horizon this November.

She continued by inviting all members to join us on the cruise convention- noting that the bookings will end August 1, 2025.

Hamp states that the future of the Grange is being written by each one of us who is willing to evolve and work. She challenged us to build excitement, to be bold to change, and to preserve what still shines. She wants us to ensure that each Granger feels seen, valued, and invited into leadership, inviting the next generation to lead fearlessly. And do this all by working together and continuing to be Grange Strong.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of officers was held, with two executive committee member seats up for election this year.

The results of the election were as follows:

EC #1 - Jerry Billquist

EC #3- Jackie Burke

Hearing no other business needing to be conducted today, President Overstreet moved into closing the Grange.

The closing song was How Great Thou Art

The work of the Grange was complete at 4:24pm

During the evening activities, the youth hosted a pizza party and game night. Raising funds for the youth department.

MINUTES OF THE TEXAS STATE GRANGE SESSION JULY 26, 2025

The 2nd day of the 91st Annual Session of the Texas State Grange was called to order at 9:15 am on Friday, July 25, 2025, by Worth State President Karen Overstreet at Poteet Grange Hall in Poteet, Texas.. Opening in the 4th Degree.

The opening song was Here I am Lord

Roll Call of Officers and Directors concluded that there were 15 officers and 1 pro-temp officer present.

Present	Office	Name	Pro Temp
x	President	Karen Overstreet	
x	Vice President	Margie Blair	

x	Lecturer	Wendy Knox	
x	Steward	Glenn Wilkins	
x	Assistant Steward	Buddy Overstreet	
x	Lady Assistant Steward	Leah Overstreet	
x	Chaplain	Logan Knox	
x	Treasurer	Bonnie Billquist	
x	Secretary	Samantha Wilkins	
x	Gatekeeper	Daniel Wilkins	
x	Ceres	Helen Alameda	Minnie Ulmer
x	Pomona	Barbara Franklin	
x	Flora	Fayerene Smith	
x	Executive Committee, Chair	Connie Waxler	
x	Executive Committee #2	Jerry Billquist	
x	Executive Committee #3	Dave Weaver	
x	Executive Committee #4	Ann Roeder	
	Executive Committee Emeritus	Curtis Vogus	
x	Family Activities Director	Gail Dale	
x	Texas State Youth	Glenn Wilkins	
		Carl Overstreet	
x		Jackie Burke	
		Lynda Davis	
		Logan Knox	

Roll call of delegates concluded that there were 6 Subordinate Granges and 1 Pomona Grange represented. With a total of 24 delegates.

Present	Grange	Delegate	Present	Alternate Delegate
x	Alamo	Buddy Overstreet		

x	Alamo	Samantha Wilkins		Edna Guerra
x	Alamo	Glenn Wilkins		
	Alamo	Smokey Martin		
	Alamo	Youth- Jazlyn Rodriguez		Eric Rodriguez
	Black Hill	Gladys Kruse		
x	Cibolo	Jack Steers		
x	Cibolo	Dave Weaver		
x	Cibolo	Terry O'Meara		
x	Cibolo	Dan Boenig		
x	David Crocket	Jackie Burke	x	Fayerene Smith
x	David Crocket	Lori Wuest		
x	David Crocket	Diana Escajeda		
	David Crocket	Helen Alameda		
	David Crocket	Youth-		
	Kruetsburg	Jay Pfeiffer		
x	Leon Valley	Jerry Billquist		
x	Leon Valley	Bonnie Billquist		
x	Leon Valley	Minnie Ulmer		
x	Leon Valley	Daniel Wilkins		
x	Leon Valley	Youth- Zachary Wilkins		
x	Mesquite	Jack Smithers		
x	Mesquite	Leah Overstreet		
x	Poteet	Ken Knox		Wendy Knox
x	Poteet	Morgan Knox		Martin Howell
x	Poteet	Anne Roeder		Loramae Howell
x	Poteet	Connie Waxler		
x	Poteet	Youth-Logan Knox		

	Bexar Co Pomona	Mary Bell Baker		
x	Bexar Co Pomona	Deborah O'Toole		
	Atascosa Co Pomona	Daylon Payne		
	Atascosa Co Pomona	Dorris Payne		

Minutes of the previous day was read. Motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. Motion carried and the minutes were accepted.

President Overstreet asked each Grange to speak about how they are participating in Project Sustenance.

Reports were given by: Alamo, Cibolo, David Crockett, Leon Valley, and Poteet.

Several announcements were made

A discussion over what is entailed in an Officer Report was given to help officers understand the process

Grange Law & Good of the Order- Jack Steers

Resolution #7-State Grange Newsletter, which was sent back to the committee, was brought forth in a revised state.

Committee Recommends adopting resolution as amended.

The resolution was adopted by the committee

Motion was made and seconded to release the committee.

Memberships/By Laws- Jack Smithers

Introduced Resolution 10

Move and amend - section 3

Move and amend- section 2.3 strike and assessments

Move to accept the resolution as amended.

Resolution adopted as amended

Motion was made and seconded to release the committee.

Family Activities Committee- Gail Dale

A report was given on the 2026 contests.

Family Activities Director- Gail Dale

Gail Dale gave a recap of the year

Listed all awardees for State Grange contests

Lecturer's Report- Wendy Knox

Wendy gave a report of winners for the State Grange contests.

National Grange Representative

President Karen Overstreet recognized National Grange Executive Committee Member Buddy Overstreet as our National Grange representative.

He spoke about the new communication software being rolled out - Grange Engage.

He mentioned the 159th annual convention being on a cruise, November 8-16, to the ABC Islands.

Hall of fame inductions, awards, and memorial service will be made via live stream on November 21st, 2025, at 8:30 pm eastern

He encouraged Grange members to connect on all forms of Social Media.

He discussed the National Grange headquarters, which has been sold; we are now renting a space from the new owners on a five-year lease. And relayed conversations that the National Grange is looking at where its future will be.

Questions were asked about the 2024 national convention and a review of the highlights

The Grange was put at ease at 10:52 am to set up for the Memorial Service.

The Grange was called back to order at 11:14 am for the Memorial Service

Opening with a prayer and scripture.

Worthy Chaplain, Logan Knox read a reading. And this year, we paid tribute to Two Grange members

Dona Berry- Poteet Grange

Margaret Smithers- David Crocket Grange- Past National Grange Honorary Delegate- Past Treasurer of the Texas State Grange, and Texas State Grange Newsletter Editor.

Memories of each of the beloved were shared by family members or other Grange members

Following the laying of the roses, Brother Knox led the Lord's Prayer and read a passage.

The session was put at ease at 11:30 am

The session was called back to order at 1:10 pm

Installation of officers happened-

Installing two new executive committee members, Jerry Billquist and Jackie Burke.

Recess called at 1:20

Obligation was given to two members for the 5th degree

Judy Mendoza (Alamo) and Elisa Gertken (Poteet)

The conferment of the 6th degree was held.

Obligation was given to two members for the 6th degree

Judy Mendoza (Alamo), Elisa Gertken (Poteet)

After the conferment of each degree, announcements were made

- Thanks to Brother Dave Weaver for the time served on the EC,
- Poteet Grange for their hosting
- And a reminder to begin thinking about setting time aside to come to the National Grange session 2026 and volunteer,

Closing Song was- God be with you til we meet again.

With no other business for this session, the 91st Session of the Texas State Grange was closed at 2:55 PM

Following the work of the annual session a Celebration Banquet was held. A meal of Hamburger steak, mashed potations w/onion gravy, green beans, roll and a drink was had.

Catering was from Mrs. C's Kitchen was served to attendees. Approximately 55 people attended the banquet.

Danny Boenig was presented with the Granger of the Year Award. His younger brother & wife and sister &; husband were in attendance to help Danny celebrate this award.

Award plaque was presented by Jack Smithers.

Evening Speaker after the banquet was Brianna Garcia – 4 th generation strawberry farmer and

FFA member. She highlighted her experiences with strawberry growing with her family and

talked about how her FFA membership helped with her farming and college degree.

This was followed by a short Live Auction of 3 Montana Silversmith items, a ladies' pendant, a ladies' pendant and an earring set, and a man's bracelet. The total of the live auction was $285.00 which helped defray the cost of the annual session. Thank you to those who bid.

The Change for a Change certificate went to Alamo Grange with $515.00. total collected toward the cost of the annual session with Change 4 a Change funds is $1,257.27. The list of what all Granges contributed is as follows: Cibolo $240.00, David Crocket $150.00, Leon Valley $207.93, Poteet $144.34.

There were several entries for the talent show, and the judges had their work cut out for them as all were good.

Third place went to Jasmin Overstreet, of Alamo Grange, with her "Sign a Song" performance

Second went to Terry O'Meara, of Cibolo Grange, with his presentation of a poem.

First place went to Leah Overstreet of Alamo Grange with her song.

Several other performances were made during the talent show.

Fraternally Submitted
Samantha Wilkins
Texas State Grange
Secretary

2025 State Presidents Address

Worthy Past State Master, Brother Jack Smithers, Worthy Past State Master and Past National Grange Steward, Jay Pfeiffer, Worthy National Grange Executive Committee member, Buddy Overstreet, Brothers & Sisters of the Texas State Grange:

It is a privilege to bring you greetings as we open this 91st Annual Session of the Texas State Grange here at the Poteet Grange Hall. Thank you to the Poteet Grange for inviting us back. I know hosting a State Session can be stressful and I truly appreciate all your hard work and dedication.

As I began writing this address, one word stood out to me. “Grace” In Hebrews 4:16 it states “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, one meaning of grace is “an act of kindness or courtesy”. I encourage us all to show grace to one another.

It’s easy for us to criticize others for not doing what WE think they should be doing. To say they are not carrying out their duties, not participating in State sponsored activities, not making deadlines, not being organized, forgetting dates/times/locations of activities, not communicating efficiently, etc.

The list can go on and on…. but I think we need to remember- people are doing the best they can. Let’s be gracious with one another. This is a volunteer organization. People don’t have to belong to our organization; but showing grace makes them want to belong to the grange.

In November, Buddy and I along with 6 other Texas Grangers attended the 158th National Session in Bettendorf, Iowa. I served on the Grange Growth committee and Buddy served on the Audit and Budget committee. Texas had (12) twelve resolutions that were sent to National this past year.

Congratulations to the Wilkins Family who received the 2024 National Grange Membership Cultivator Award for the Great Plains Region. Thank you for all you do for the Texas State Grange! (could you all please stand)

Texas was honored to have two extraordinary members chosen for the 2024 Class of Communication Fellows. Samantha Wilkins was chosen for the Senior Communication Fellow position,

and Diana Escajeda was chosen as one of the Communication Fellows. These two along with other Communication Fellows from across the United States worked diligently through the National Grange Convention to help build Grange membership and tell the Grange story. We are so proud of Samantha and Diana. Thank you both for representing Texas. (Samantha and Diana, could you please rise)

Also at the National Grange Convention, Daniel Wilkins received the National Grange 2024 Wib and June Justi Community Service Award. Daniel is one who is always first to volunteer for projects that impact the community. He volunteers at the food bank, food drives held by local school districts, and any event that the Grange hosts. He truly exemplifies the 'I'd be delighted' attitude. Congratulations Daniel, we are all so proud of you! (Daniel could you please stand) Texas is blessed by having so many wonderful members!

Our Texas State Grange Leaders' Day was held in March this year. Thank you to Leon Valley Grange for hosting this event. National and State information was distributed at the time. Those present also created a list of how we can help with Project Sustenance.

*****Later in the session I will ask each grange to share what they are doing in their communities to support Project Sustenance.

This November the National Grange will make history as having the first ever National Grange Session at sea. Buddy and I will be participating in the session while on the Carnival Cruise Ship. Neither one of us have been on a cruise so this will definitely be a learning experience! Wish us luck!!

Public Service

Texas Grangers continue to find various ways to serve their communities. Among some of the activities sponsored this past year were:

*Words for Thirds program

*Donating school supplies

*Sponsoring Quilt of Valor presentations

*Delivering Holiday cards to employees at local schools

*Donating toys for the Toys for Tots Program

*Sponsoring cardio and strength building classes

*Meals on Wheels food deliveries

*Providing baked goods for cake walks

*Participating in Guardians of the Children's fund raiser

*Participating in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox project.

*Sponsoring Rabies clinics for the community

Our young people have also been busy with various activities:

Participating in cleanup days at churches, assembling Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, volunteering at various Festivals, assisting at Rabies Clinics, and always taking the time to help those who might be in need.

These activities are documented in each Grange's Community Service Report or Notebook. Thank you to Sister Margie Blair, our Community Service Director, for collecting our community service reports and acquiring individuals to judge them.

Remember these reports will be due to Margie by September 1st.

Legislative/Agriculture

Brother Curtis Voges is our Legislative/Agriculture Director and always provides us with valuable information to keep our members up to date about various issues that affect our state and country. He constantly shares his knowledge during our Executive Committee meetings and includes detailed articles in our Texas State Grange Newsletter.

Thank you, Brother Curtis, for your dedication in keeping our Texas Grangers informed.

The horrific flood that swept through Texas' hill country has left great devastation for families, citizens and farmers. I know many of us are reaching out in our communities to try to find ways we can assist any way we can. It will be a long healing process for all. Texas Agriculture Commissioner, Sid Miller stated in the July eharvest newsletter that the Texas Department of Agriculture can provide various support for farmers and ranchers in the affected areas with the following resources:

AgriStress – Mental health support that is available 24/7

The STAR Fund which is the State of Texas Agriculture Relief Fund, can support farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses with rebuilding and relief needs

Also, ranchers needing hay can use TDA's Hay and Feed Hotline- which is linking hay providers with those in need

Please spread the word of these services and let others know what is available. Let us continue to pray for all those affected.

Grange Activities & Membership

Texas Grange members are always on the 'look out' for new projects to meet the needs of their local communities while providing entertaining, educational and motivating activities for their own members. Please continue to share these activities in the Texas State Grange newsletter. Sister Ann Roeder is our Editor for the newsletter and always does an exceptional job in arranging our articles and circulating the newsletter to our Texas Grangers.

I love the Booster Program! I love reading about the granges visiting other granges and what activities everyone participated in. So many different opportunities to add fun to our meetings and 'boost' our grangers' spirits.

In 2025

Some of you may have already taken a program and that's great. Others still have time to coordinate with your partnering grange! It will be an enjoyable experience for all.

Last year, The Texas State Youth Committee planned several entertaining events for us all to participate in. The Halloween Party, the New Year's Party, Craft Day and the Pizza Fund Raiser & Game Night which will happen tonight. These activities were open to all members and guests of any age. I think it is so important that we support the young people of our organization and we can play and cut up alongside of them.

As an educator, I was always told, "kids don't care what you know until they know you care". I'd like to encourage each of us to participate in all of these statewide activities to build relationships. Let's make these connections!

This next year our wonderful country will celebrate it's 250th birthday. Buddy and I are currently on a committee with grangers around the nation to brainstorm ideas on various events and projects that we can participate in to celebrate this wonderful event. Some ideas that have been mentioned are: special red, white, and blue t-shirts can be sold, sponsor picnics across America, contests that focus on America's birthday and the collection of recipes from past grange cookbooks. I will keep you posted as details develop.

Also, in November, 2026 the 160th annual session of the National Grange will be held November 11-15th at Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. This coming Monday, Buddy and I will participate in a virtual meeting with other leaders in the grange to discuss the upcoming convention and we will give you the information as soon as we can. Everyone mark your calendar for November 11-15! It would be wonderful if we could have a HUGE representation from Texas!

Some goals I have for this next year are:

*we continue to assist each other with the Booster Program.

*we participate in the statewide activities that encourage multi-generational connections.

*we develop programs that support the National Grange Project Sustenance

*and we create events and projects that focus on our country's 250th birthday.

As we head into a new year, I look forward to seeing your grange's exciting events and projects. All of you are amazing and I totally enjoy working with each of you.

A big thank you to all.. of… you…. the delegates, and members of the Texas State Grange. You are what makes the Texas State Grange so great!

I would also like to say a special thank you to my family and to Buddy. Your constant support, patience, and willingness to always help me is such a blessing.

I mentioned 'grace' at the beginning of this address.

Many of you know that we have been taking care of Buddy's mom off and on for the past year. Because of her declining health, she will move in with us in September.

I’m not sure what this next year will look like, but I ask that you show me a little grace as we navigate this unknown territory.

Be assured that I love the Texas State Grange and will always do the best I can for its members.

Fraternally Submitted,

Karen Overstreet

President Texas State Grange

Credits:

Texas Dept of Ag E-Harvest Newsletter, July, 2025

Texas Agriculture Matters, July, 2025

OVERSEER REPORT

None Submitted

LECTURER'S REPORT

This past year has been a wonderful one for our Grange, filled with creativity, fellowship, and engaging activities that brought members together across all ages. I'm pleased to report that our **State Lecturer** was instrumental in organizing **two successful state-level events**, both of which were hosted at **Alamo Grange** and were well-attended and enjoyed by all.

The first event was a **Halloween Party**, which brought in about **25 participants**. Members came dressed in costume, and we held a fun and spirited **costume contest**. The event featured a **round-robin of themed activities,** including bowling, "Pin the Bone on the Skeleton," "Make-a-Monster," and other games that kept everyone laughing and interacting. It was a wonderful opportunity for Grangers of all ages to enjoy each other's company and celebrate the season in true Grange spirit.

The second event was our **State Art and Craft Day**, also held at **Alamo Grange**. Grangers from across the area came together to **create crafts for entry into the State Grange contests**. Different Grangers volunteered to lead various stations, which included **painting projects, building birdhouses**, and other creative activities. It was inspiring to see the talent and enthusiasm on display as members encouraged one another and shared ideas. This day not only supported our members' artistic skills but also helped foster a stronger sense of community and collaboration.

Both of these events reflect the values at the heart of the Grange—**creativity, community, and service**. I'm grateful for the support and participation of our members, and especially appreciative of the State Lecturer's leadership in helping bring these events to life.

As always, I welcome ideas for future programs and look forward to continuing to build on the energy and connection we've created this year.

Fraternally submitted,
Dr Wendy Knox
Lecturer, Texas State Grange

STEWARD REPORT

This last year has been a blessing. Getting to represent the Texas State Grange as the Steward and be responsible for keeping the items of the Grange has been fun. I have had the opportunity to represent my Grange and the Texas State Grange at various events. I spent my year attending Grange meetings, participating in fundraising events, such as the Poteet Strawberry Festival and Helotes Cornyval, and participating in various community service projects. I also attended the 2025 Great Plains Regional Conference, where I led a workshop on leadership entitled 'Becoming a Foreman.'

Fraternally submitted
Glenn Wilkins
Steward, Texas State Grange

ASSISTANT AND LADY ASSISTANT STEWARD 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 REPORT

None Submitted

TREASURER REPORT

Worthy State President, 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 take seriously the task of Treasurer that has been bestowed on me by following the directives of the President 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 President. I try my best to invest money to collect interest on our monies but try not to tie up funds in long term investments.		
	Previous Yr 2024	Current Yr 2025
Security Service FCU - as of 6-30-2025		
Checking	$3,221.16	**$ 770.34**
Mondy Market - checking	$20,368.19	**$ 8,811.30**
Savings	$125.70	**$ 15.37**
CD 62081 (opened 6-30-2023 $2000.00)	$2,095.15	**$ 2,194.28**

CD 62082 (opened 7-21-2023 $3950.00 - Ross drill Acct)	$4,121.72	**$ 3,591.47**
CD 62083 (opened 8-3-2023 $2000.00))	$5,114.93	**$ 6,347.70**
CD 62084 (opened 9-29-2023 $2500.00)	$2,594.85	**$ 7,713.16**
CD 62085 (opened 12/19/2023 $2500.00)	$2,563.55	**$ 2,687.90**
CD 62086 (opened 08/28/2024 $10,000.00)		**$ 10,390.00**
Future Builder CD	$515.66	**$ 530.48**
Randolph Brooks FCU - combined total - 2 accounts	$4,710.12	**$ 4,710.71**
Fund Balance as of July 23, 2025		
$1.00 Assessment - Tx State Session fund	$2,250.15	$ 2,863.52
National Session fund	$1,664.15	$ 4,609.86
Family Activities	$436.84	$ 361.52
General Fund	$6,679.09	$ 7,716.23
Lecturers Fund	$28.21	$ (111.79)
Memorial Fund	$1,575.79	$ 1,375.79
Rose Drill	$3,488.16	$ 3,591.47
Youth Fund	$416.96	$ 736.46
Jr Grange Fund	$368.28	$ 368.28
Legislative Fund	$50.00	$ 50.00
Fraternally submitted,		
Bonnie Billquist, Treasurer		
Texas State Grange July 23, 2025		
I renewed CD's for add'l 7 mos as they matured		
I open one additional 7 mo. CD in the amount of $10,000.00 Aug 28, 2024		
withdrawal from MM+ for SIFT water sales petty cash ($300.00)		
to be used as pettycash for Pizza Party during State Session		
Total dividends on all CD's & MM+ since July 18, 2024 $1338.63		
Transferred money to checking from MM+ to cover expenses		

AUDIT REPORT

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 State Treasurer.

Fraternally Submitted,
Buddy Overstreet
Ann Roeder

SECRETARY REPORT

Good Day, Fellow Grangers,
It has been a privilege and an honor to serve the Texas State Grange as the state Secretary. Over the year, we have worked with Granges to make membership reports and ensure their dues are collected in a timely manner. I have attended several meetings from the National Grange specifically geared toward state secretaries and learning how we can make a smooth process for the subordinate Granges. I was able to be active in both of my Granges, participating in local community events, fundraising activities, and regular meetings. I also had the privilege to attend the 2024 National Grange Session in Bettendorf, IA as a communications fellow. I learned vital skills to improve communication efforts at the state and local levels. I also attended the 2025 Leaders conference (via zoom). I also attended the 2025 Great Plains regional conference in Colorado where we learned leadership development skills and helped with several community service projects. I am looking forward to continuing my work in serving the Grange.

Fraternally Submitted
Samantha Wilkins
Texas State Grange, Secretary

GATEKEEPER REPORT

I had a great time serving this past year as the Texas State Grange Gatekeeper. I attended several Grange events throughout the year and remained active in both my local Granges. I also attended serval state events and the Great Plains Regional Conference in Oklahoma. I look forward to serving the Grange in the coming year.

Fraternally Submitted
Daniel Wilkins
Gatekeeper

POMONA REPORT

No Report Given

CERES REPORT

No Report Given

FLORA REPORT

August 31, 2024 – July 31, 2025

I participated at the local level at David Crockett Grange as Overseer. At October election, I was elected member of Executive Committee. I cover for Chaplain and Lecturer in their absence, saying the prayers and providing a program. I am positive and approachable in assisting and participating during these meetings. I volunteered to put together our annual scrapbook and made numerous calls and typed countless hours. Mailed to Sister Margie Blair.

December meeting was replaced with a Christmas meal where I provided homemade cornbread and broccoli salad. We invited our families and elderly neighbor/friend. Food and fellowship were enjoyed by all and Santa visited the children. I worked the kitchen and took care of any needs. I transported our car load of donated Toys for Tots to the checkin point in San Antonio as arranged Marine pickup person did not show up. Participated in Sister Margret's memorial service held at David Crockett Grange. I encourage Grange members, 4-H members in Gonzales County where I'm the leader and family to participate in the Texas State Grange contests. I bring their entries to the contest and take back with awards! My lemon pound cake which had turned out nicely in practice two times, stuck on the pan. So I did not enter and it was enjoyed my family members at home. Upon arriving at Poteet Grange Friday morning, Master Karen told us the registration table would not be covered by Laura May who always does this job. I asked if I could help. Sister Jackie was also available so we set up a basic system for registration and payment. Brother Buddy and Sister Gayle assisted as needed. Mission accomplished! Before State session, I secured a variety of cards, a clipboard, and ink pens. During session we identified members who would receive a Thinking of You card or a Sympathy card. Grange members signed cards and I will put in the mail. I was responsible with Assistant Steward and Lady Assistant Steward for presenting and retiring the flag in the opening and closing of the Grange.Prior to session I communicated with State Master Karen about silk roses needed for 6 th degree. They are on hand. I participated in my role as Flora during 6 th degree.I prompted Sister Minnie during session as she was covering for Ceres.
I served on Resolution Committee #7 – State Grange Newsletter. I asked Sister Jackie to cover my station and she wore the sash when I left for a family matter Saturday morning.

Respectfully submitted,
Sister Fayerene Smith

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

No Report Given

FAMILY ACTIVITIES REPORT

Worthy Master, Delegates, and Patrons:

The Grange Leadership Conference was hosted by Leon Valley Grange on March 1, 2025 at their renovated and refreshed Grange hall. State Master, Karen Overstreet began the day with a welcome and thanked our hosts for the use of their facilities. Important information was shared by Secretaries, Youth and Juniors, Community Service and Membership. Family Activities and Lecturer's contests were discussed and questions answered after which Gail Dale, Family Activity Director, led the group in a recycle project, making Christmas ornaments out of can lids and old Christmas cards. I also attended the craft day at Alamo Grange on June 7. It was a lot of fun to watch young and old as they crafted, painted and created beautiful items for our July contests.

Thanks to Poteet Grange members who helped set up the tables and chairs for the convention on clean-up day and to Buddy and Karen Overstreet, Glenn Wilkins, Ann Roeder and Connie Waxler who put the finishing touches on the meeting room. Many thanks also to members of

David Crockett and Poteet Granges for overseeing the hospitality room this weekend and to everyone who brought the snacks for us to share.

There were 71 entries in the Family Activities contests. This was down from last year, but still pretty good. There were so many creative and interesting items entered. Thanks to the judges who spent their time going over and examining all the items on display. The judges for this year were Janice Smith and Ana Schorsch.

The winners were as follows:

FOOD (12 entries)

Women's Baking – Lemon Pound Cake:

1st – Elisa Gertken Poteet
2nd – Crystal Engleken Cibolo
3rd – Ann Roeder Poteet

Candy – Peanut Butter Chocolate Candy:

1st – Elisa Gertken Poteet
2nd – Ann Roeder Poteet
3rd – Debra O'Toole David Crockett

Canning – Strawberry blend Jelly:

1st – Ann Roeder Poteet
2nd – Mary Bell Baker Alamo
3rd – Lori Wuest David Crockett

Canning – Dill Pickles:

1st – Lori Wuest David Crockett
2nd – Ann Roeder Poteet

NEEDLEWORK (6 entries)

Afghans – Knitted or Crocheted:

1st – Ann Roeder Poteet

Crocheted Doilies:

1st – Ann Roeder Poteet

Knitted or Crocheted Item (not afghans or doilies):

1st – Bonnie Billquist Leon Valley
2nd – Katherine Shea Cibolo

Juniors:

1st – Hallie Devoney Poteet

Embroidered Item:

1st – Charlotte Ceeko Cibolo

CRAFTS (53 entries)

Wall Hanging or Wreath:

1st – Ann Roeder Poteet
2nd – Gail Dale Poteet
3rd – Connie Waxler Poteet

Decorated Flower Pot:

1st – Gail Dale Poteet

2nd – Debra O'Toole David Crockett
3rd – Ken Knox Poteet

Juniors
1st – Ari Martinez David Crockett

Jewelry:
1st – Gail Dale Poteet
2nd – Betty Burke David Crockett

Juniors
1st – Ari Martinez David Crockett

Recycled Item:
1st – Susie Davis Poteet
2nd – Connie Waxler Poteet
3rd – Ann Roeder Poteet

Juniors
1st – Ari Martinez David Crockett

Greeting Cards:
1st – Gail Dale Poteet
2nd – Ann Roeder Poteet
3rd – Connie Waxler Poteet

Trivet or Hot pad:
1st – Ken Knox Poteet

Cross:
1st – Mickey Urias Cibolo
2nd – Ken Knox Poteet
3rd – Susie Davis Poteet

Juniors
1st – Ari Martinez David Crockett

Decorated Gift Bag:
1st – Irene Nieto Alamo
2nd – Ann Roeder Poteet
3rd – Debra O'Toole David Crockett

R.O.A.D. Entries
1st – Mariah Dodd Cibolo
2nd – Joshua Mendoza Cibolo
3rd – Isaiah Gonzales Hagan Cibolo

Juniors:
1st – Ari Martinez David Crockett
2nd - Luke Nieto Alamo

Bird House
1st – Carlos Nieto Alamo
2nd – Wendy Knox Poteet

Juniors:
1st – Afton Devoney Poteet
2nd – Luke Nieto Alamo

The Wild West banquet was catered by Mrs. C's Kitchen and consisted of hamburger steak with mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and a roll with tea. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. Thanks for helping to set up and decorate for the evening go out to more people than I can even list, but special thanks to many of the families of the Rose Drill that jumped in to help move tables and chairs. It was so appreciated. During the evening, special awards and gift cards were given out to Ann Roeder and Ari Martinez who each had the most entries in the Family Activities contests in their division. Gift cards were also presented to Ann Roeder for having the most entries in the Lecturer's and Family Activities contests combined, and to the Knox family for the most entries by a family in both contests.

Thank you to everyone who helped during the convention and other activities throughout the year. I am honored to be able to have served the Texas State Grange in this position for so many years.

Fraternally,
Gail Dale
Director of Family Activities

GRANGE ACTIVITIES SESSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Worthy State Master, Delegates, Patrons and friends. The Grange Activities Committee received no resolutions; however, the following report of contest categories for 2026 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.

<u>The Lecturer's contests for 2026 will include the following:</u>

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

<u>The Family Activities contests for 2026 will be</u>:

Food:

Women – Zucchini bread
Men – Cornbread
Youth (13 – 18) – Blondies
Junior (pre-teen) – Puppy Chow Cereal Mix (sweet or savory)
Canning – Pickled beets & Orange marmalade
Candy – Peanut brittle

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
Patriotic Wall hanging or Wreath
Cross (handmade or purchased and decorated)
Diorama
Bird House
Greeting Card
Welding project

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 2026 Grange Banquet theme will be "Americana.". The Lecturer's and Family Activities Conference will be held in March 2026.

Grange Activities Committee
Gail Dale, Chairman
Wendy Knox
Ann Roeder
Leah Overstreet
Connie Waxler
Fayrene Smith
Mary Bell Baker
Penny Martin

LEGISLATIVE AND AGRICULTURE REPORT

To National/State Officers, Patrons and Guests

NEW WORLD SCREWWORM ACTION PLAN

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) has joined U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins robust plan as she announced the launch of a sterile NWS fly dispersal facility in Hildago County, Texas. The NWS is currently combating in southern Mexico- the looming threat is Texas animal agriculture. Key facets of USDA five-pronged plan to address NWS included:

- Stop the pest from spreading in Mexico
- Protect US border at all costs
- Maximize our readiness
- Take the fight to the screwworm
- Involve our way to eradication

Border to reopen to import Mexican cattle, bison, and equine in phased approach with inspections starting at Douglas, Arizona. NWS fly dispersals are being conducted seven days a week (100 million flies a week)

Texans can be assured tireless preparedness planning and training are ongoing to mitigate the potential damage to animal agriculture.

TEXAS LAND TREND REPORT 1997-2022

- Texas Population increased 88%, 19-30 million residents
- Land values have increased $1,951 - $3,021 per acre, now $7,000
- Trend causing rural landowners to subdivide and sell
- Texas lost 19,000 agricultural operations in the last 5 years
- Where will future food and fiber come from?

Note: Property Tax Cuts Texans could get some relief IF voters in November OK homeowners and business tax cuts, school districts… the homestead would change from $100,000 to $140,000.00. Homeowners 65 and up and those with disabilities will see even bigger savings.

"Research and Vote"

America's Big New Beautiful Bill created by Congress and signed by President Trump on July 4, 2025. We will experience all facets of this bill.

Tariffs have been assigned/changed on all world countries exporting into the United States.

SOME OF 300 plus bills signed by Texas Governor Abbott:

SB7 Provides $1 billion revenue stream to fund new project (50%) and 50% to address existing programs. This bill will also seek an agreement with Arkansas to access 1.5-million-acre feet of surface water.

SB9 Restricts who is eligible for release on cashless personal bonds.

SB10 Requirement that a copy of the Ten Commandments be displayed in all public schools

SB34 is designed to beef up preparation for wildfires and provide state funding for qualifying volunteer fire departments.

HB11 Makes it simpler to work in Texas by recognizing out-of-state occupational licenses.

HB12 Which is the legislature version of the Trump Administration's Department of Government Efficiency or DOGE.

HB29 Establishes water audit validation and mitigation requirements for municipalities' owned utilities that provide potable water to 150,000 service connections.

HB33 Designed to improve school safety through planning and training

HB229 Codifies that Texas recognizes only two sexes- male and female.

EDUCATION

Texas Schools will receive $8.5 billion in additional public education funding, teachers in smaller districts a $8,000.00 raise having 5 plus years of teaching experience. Those less than 5 years will receive a $4,000 raise.

BEEF/DAIRY

The number of beef on dairy on feed yards isn't a small number. It is in the millions and growing. The quality of these animals has improved over $100.00 difference between Yield Grade 2 and Yield Grade 3. The focus has been on driving quality and providing that incentive to drive quality rather than red meat yield.

The US Agriculture community is very fortunate to have concerned, knowledgeable experienced US Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L Rollins.

Fraternally Submitted
Curtis E. Voges
TSG Agriculture/Legislation Director
Credit: San Angelo Livestock Weekly
Fredericksburg Standard
Texas Agriculture News

YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

NONE SUBMITTED

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS

#1 Support for Legislation to Protect Vultures as Agricultural Allies

WHEREAS: vultures are nature's clean-up crew, playing a vital ecological role by consuming animal carcasses and thereby preventing the spread of some diseases.

WHEREAS: vultures provide critical benefits to agriculture by controlling carcass populations on farms and ranchlands, reducing the need for chemical or mechanical carcass disposal methods that can be harmful to the environment; and

WHEREAS: the decline of vulture populations in some regions- due to habitat loss, poisoning, illegal hunting- has led to measurable ecological and economic consequences; and

WHEREAS: public awareness and policy support are necessary to ensure the survival of vulture populations and the continued benefit they provide to rural communities and agricultural operations;

- Support the conservation and monitoring of vulture habitats,
- Fund research and public education campaigns about the role of vultures in agricultural health and sustainability, and
- Encourage partnerships between farmers, wildlife agencies, and conservation organizations to promote vulture-safe farming practices;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the National Grange shall advocate for increased awareness of the ecological and agricultural importance of vultures, and encourage its members to support conservation measures that protect this vital species.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

#3 INCLUDE HAY IN AS A COMMODITY CROP

WHEREAS: Hay is not listed as a program commodity in the current version of the Farm Bill; and

WHEREAS: Hay is a major commodity with approximately 4.6 million acres raised in Texas and 53 million acres grown in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Listing hay as a program commodity would make hay growers eligible for commodity assistance programs. Therefore be it;

RESOLVED: The Texas State Grange supports hay being included as a covered crop in United States Department of Agriculture assistance programs; and be it further

RESOLVED: That upon adoption, this resolution be sent to the National Grange for consideration.

ADOPTED

#4 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF for FAMILY FARMS

WHEREAS, family-owned farms and ranches in Texas are the backbone of the state's agricultural economy and rural identity; and

WHEREAS, rising land values, particularly near urban growth corridors, have led to unsustainable increases in property taxes for working lands; and

WHEREAS, excessive taxation can force families to sell land, limit agricultural productivity, and accelerate the loss of open space;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Texas State Grange supports property tax reform that provides relief to working agricultural lands, including caps on annual appraisal increases and expanded eligibility for agricultural valuation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Texas State Grange advocates for legislative action to preserve family farms and ranches. These financial pressures can tax families out of ownership of family farms and ranches.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

#5 Support for Agricultural Education and Youth Development Programs

WHEREAS, programs such as FFA, 4-H, and agricultural science courses in Texas public schools provide critical leadership, vocational, and life skills to youth; and

WHEREAS, agricultural education fosters interest in food production, sustainability, animal science, and agribusiness among the next generation of Texans; and

WHEREAS, investment in youth agricultural education is an investment in the future of rural communities and the agriculture industry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Texas State Grange supports increased state, local, and private funding for agricultural education programs, including FFA, 4-H, and high school agricultural science programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Texas State Grange urges school districts to prioritize the hiring and retention of TEA Certified agricultural science educators, especially in rural and underserved areas.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

#6 Membership

RESOLVED, the new membership incentive program be continued for another year starting July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 as follows:

> All new members joining the Grange during the above dates will have their names placed in a drawing for $100.00 during the banquet at the Texas State Grange Session in 2026.

The recruiter for the new member during the time period above will have their name placed in a separate drawing for $100.00 during the banquet at the 2026 session; and be it further

RESOLVED, the recruiter and new member must have their dues up to date (recruiter and new member must have their 2026 dues paid)

ADOPTED

#7 STATE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

WHEREAS, the Texas State Grange Newsletter is published quarterly, providing a means of communication to the Grange membership, including;

1. A platform for State Officers and Directors to provide pertinent information on department activities
2. An opportunity for Subordinate Granges to showcase the projects they are working on and activities their members are engaged in.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that all State Grange members remain well informed, to ensure this, distribution of the newsletter will begin with the newsletter creator, who will send completed newsletters electronically to the leadership of each Subordinate Grange. It will be the responsibility of the Subordinate Grange leadership to ensure the newsletter is forwarded to their membership electronically, in print, or by other means available to their members.

THEREFORE, be it further resolved, that this resolution supersede the approved 2021 Resolution #1, TEXAS STATE GRANGE NEWSLETTER.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

#9 SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING

WHEREAS, mental health is a critical component of individual well-being, community stability, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, over 1 in 5 Texans experience a mental health condition each year, yet many go untreated due to insufficient funding, access barriers, and stigma; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 188 (SB 188), House Bill 154 (HB 154), and Senate Bill 176 (SB 176) represent essential legislative steps toward improving mental health care access, funding, and infrastructure in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, these bills aim to enhance mental health services in schools, strengthen community-based resources, expand access in underserved areas, and support early intervention and prevention strategies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Texas State Grange fully supports increased state investment in mental health services and endorses the passage and implementation of SB 188, HB 154, and SB 176 to ensure a healthier, safer, and more equitable future for all Texans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of Texas, members of the Texas Legislature, and relevant health policy committees as a call to action on mental health.

ADOPTED

#9 BY LAWS AMENDMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that Article XVI.1 have the following amendments made:

SECTION 2. Be amended to state:

Section 2 DUES

2.1 Membership Dues of Subordinate Granges-
The dues of each Subordinate Grange shall consist of three parts, as follows

a. The amount of dues or assessments required by the National Grange, if any; and
b. The amount of dues or assessments required by the Texas State Grange, if any; and
c. The amount of dues necessary for the operations of the Subordinate Grange.

2.2 How Collected- The Texas State Grange shall collect annually from each Subordinate Grange the following:
a. The dues and assessments required by the National Grange, plus
b. The dues and assessments required by the Texas State Grange.

2.3 Dues of the Texas State Grange-
The dues required by Texas State Grange are;
a. Subordinate/Community Grange;
i. $4.00 per quarter for each regular or affiliate member ($16 annually)
ii. $8.00 per quarter for each family ($32 annually)
b. Junior Granges- No Dues Required
c. Pomona Grange- No Dues Required

Section 3: Be amended to state:

Section 3- Reporting

3.1 Reporting - Each Subordinate Grange Secretary can have the option to report quarterly or annually to the Secretary of the State Grange. This report shall include the name, telephone number, and email address(if applicable) of each of its members. The report should also include the names and numbers of members who have died, been demitted, or dropped since the last report. The secretary shall accompany such report with the remittance of dues explained in Section 2.

ADOPTED

2024-2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
July 27, 2024

The Executive Committee met on July 27, 2024 approximately 3:25 p.m. following the 90th Annual Session of the Texas State Grange. Those attending were:
Jerry Billquist
Dave Weaver
Connie Waxler
Karen Overstreet, President
Margie Blair, Overseer
Curtis Voges, EC Emeritus
Bonnie Billquist, Treasurer
Gail Dale, Family Activities Director
Samantha Wilkins, Secretary
Ann Roeder
Jack Smithers Guest

The meeting was called to order and Ann Roeder nominsted Jerry Billquist as Chairman; Margie Blair nominated Connie Waxler as Chairman; with a show of hands, Connie was elected as Executive Committee Chairman; Ann Roeder was then elected EC Secretary. Dave Weaver was elected as Vice-Chair.

Jerry moved for payment of all bills, which was seconded by Margie. Gail said she had a bill for Bonnie. Karen explained that we paid the church $350 yesterday and today $35 each per hour for those two boys to set up the hall. It was a total of $490. Wendy Knox has a bill for the 90th decorations and can e-mail the amount to Bonnie.

Dave said that he had already paid for the banquet meal and that we have about 50 reservations so far. He said the bill was about $900.

It was announced that on August 4 at 2:00 p.m. Poteet will be coming to Cibolo as the Booster Program. We will bring our own drink, and will not expect food.

It was brought up about the Resolution whether it was printed in the whole thing or just the Resolve. We need to find out how it was done in the past.

Curtis said we need to be thinking about suggestions for next year; things we ought to change, etc. or leave alone. Connie suggested it would be an idea for next meeting in September. Some things need to be fazed out or left in.

Our next meeting is set for September 28, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at Cibolo Grange. Once again, bring your own drink, and there will be no food.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Karen.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Roeder, Secretary

TEXAS STATE GRANGE
EXCUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
November 24, 2024

The Texas State Grange Executive Committee met at Poteet Grange, and the meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman, Connie Waxler, at 2:11 P.M.
Those present were:
Connie Waxler, Committee Chairman
Jerry Billquist, Executive Committee
Ann Roeder, Committee Secretary
Karen Overstreet, State Grange President
Margie Blair, State Grange Overseer
Curtis Voges, Executive Committee Emeritus
Bonnie Billquist, State Grange Treasurer
Samantha Wilkins, State Grange Secretary
Gail Dale, Family Activities Chairman

Opening prayer was offered by Karen Overstreet, and Karen moved that the Minutes from the last meeting, as amended, by approved, motion passed.

Old Business:
Unfinished business was the 2025 Texas State Grange Session lovation. Jerry said that Val Ford was checking on different places; one inparticular was the North West Community Church on Gilbeau, San Antonio When she got back to Jerry, he would contact Karen and we could decide possibly with a phone conversation meeting.

Karen said March 1, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. was the date for Texas State Grange Leader's Day, with the Executive Committee meeting to follow. It will be held on Saturday at leon Valley Grange Hall. Karen asked if anyone had new ideas of things to do on Leader's Day; what you would like the agenda to include.
Jerry said we need to have a redo of our members update on the medical program. It was suggested maybe we could get a responsible representative to go around to each grange and present the program.
Gail said she and Wendy will go over the contests. Karen will cover anything from National. The Youth will have a contest and a program

Department Reports:
Agriculture/Legislature – Curtis Voges

United States citizens have spoken in the November 5 election. The 2025 spending bill expires the end of December, 2024. What happens when a farm bill expires? Congress left town at the end of September to campaign for reelection. They did not pass a new farm bill before leaving, in fact, neither the Senate nor House farm bill versions have been sent to the floor for a vote. In the last few years, thanks to unanticipated price inflation. The dollar is only worth 80% of what it was in 2018. The fixed reference prices for commodities in that farm bill, which define the help from USDA farmers depend on in rough times, are only worth 80% of what they were in 2018. Also, dollars set aside for research and innovation grants and certain conservation programs are only worth 80% of what they were in 2018. So, what will we miss with no new farm bill?

Permanent law – A number of farm bill programs operate under permanent law, meaning law without a sunset date. These include brop insurance programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and several disaster programs. These will continue to operate but without improvements and updates that would happen in a new farm bill. Normally when people talk about permanent law and the end of a farm bill, they are talking about farm programs dating back to the 1930's and 1940's that are still on the books, but which are suspended by modern farm bills.

Farmers are looking to reduce use of fertilizer/chemicals effecting suppliers.

The U.S. is proposing the upgrade of 32 ports, cost of $580 million.

The U. S. Beyond Meat false claims cause $7 billion fines.

Sweden has distributed 5 million pamphlets on how to survive during World War III.

Denmark is turning fields into forrest to reduce use of fertilizer.

Honduras has recorded 30 inches of rain.

U. S. eastern states storms have damaged many homes and business.

In U. S. HPA1 has caused disposal of 14 million turkeys/6% of flocks.

Results of election/changing of administration has great effect on our legislation, federal and states. The transfer of power will change and delay many policies, citizens will continue to live/exist with community support.

The current average U. S. farm size is 463 acres, which requires off farm employment income. Family farm and ranch account for 90% of total U. S. agriculture production.

Land – Prediction is that 40 - 60% of U. S. land will change ownership in the next 20 years. The 1031 Land Exchange Law is predicted to be safe for 2 – 3 years.

New Border Land Owner Law Handbook now available at Agrilife.org/texaslaw. It provides guidance on a variety of topics including property damage, trespassing and reporting criminal activity.

Redland Cotton operates 5,500 acres of cotton and 2 gins farm to finish operation. One seamstress in her 80's enjoys sewing rather than sit around.

Brooks Rollons in Dept of Ag nomines.

Credits: Curtis E. Voges

Fox News
RFD
Texas Agriculture

Ag/Leg Director
Texas State Grange

Family Activities – Gail Dale
Gail said she does not have anything new to report. It was suggested that the Contests list to out for every meeting. It will also go in the Newsletter.
Gail said she has not filled out the budget from.. Last year we spent less than $40 on gifts. I am sure I need to order ribbons which may cost around $200. If we do any kind of project on Leader's Day, that will cost. I try to get things that will be cheaper. Karen asked if $200 was for Family Activites and Lecturer's account? Bonnie said normally the only things coming out of Lecturer's account is the talent show. Karen moved that we put $200 in the Lecturer's account, and $200 in Family Activites account. The motion was seconded by Ann and motion passed.
It was suggested that certain members may want to donate their contest items to be donated for auction for the Texas State Grange.

Juniors/Youth – Representative from Youth Commttee
The Youth set up games and fun things to do at the Halloween party at Alamo Granage in October. The next event will be a New Year's party set for January 11, 2025 from 11:00 a.m.to 1:00 p.m. at David Crockett Grange. We are to bring a brunch item to share. The Youth are also collecting gently used books with they will sell when they get enough collected.
The Alamo youth are holding a health fair on February 22, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Community Service – Margie Blair
Margie said she had nothing to report other than that everyone should be working on their books. The guide lines should help. The winner of the Community Service Book was a group from Kansas at National. Karen said next year the books will be digitally sent to National. This will only be the winner of First Place that will be digitalized and sent.

Lecturer – Wendy Knox
Wendy was not present, but Connie said she doesn't have anything, just that she and Gail will get together to decide what needs to be done.

Leadership/Membership –
Karen said Buddy is still looking. Jerry said we need to have someone in this position and is someone who likes to talk to people.

Secretary – Samantha Wilkins
Karen announced that the Wilkins family got an award, Daniel Wilkins for the Youth Representative at National.
Samantha said she has everything in the Journal, but is still waiting for the 90th State Session. We will look through the Journal before we print.

State dues will be $16 and to National $14, plus the $1 assessment. The total dues for 2025 will be $32. If it passes in November, it will go up again for National.

Treasurer – Bonnie Billquist

Bonnie said she needs to ask Buddy to send the RBFCU statement for July.
She still has 2 granges that have not paid. Karen said she had a check from Mesquite and would mail it to Bonnie. Bonnie gave an accounting of the funds in each category, including the bank balances of the Security Service Federal Credit Union checking and saving, and the SSFCU CD's and the money market. The printout of each account is attached.

Fund Income Expense 2024 Fund Income Expense 2024
$1.00 Assessment
(State session) $1,576.35 $2,302.24 $1,524.26
$1.00 Assessment
(State session) $1,576.35 $92.50 $1,431.76
Nat'l Session $4,654.15 Nat'l Session $4,654.15
2023 Regional Refund
(Buddy) $309.00
2023 Regional Refund
(Buddy) $309.00
Family Activities 37.66 $399.18 Family Activities 37.66 $361.52
General Fund $1,588.64 $1,224.25 $7,043.48 General Fund $217.09 $1,744.28 $5,516.29
Lecturers Fund $70.00 $(41.79) Lecturers Fund $70.00 $(111.79)
Memorial Fund $1,375.79 Memorial Fund $1,375.79
Youth Fund $350.75 $190.00 $577.71 Youth Fund $350.75 $190.00 $738.46
Jr Grange Fund $368.28 Jr Grange Fund $368.28
Legislative $50.00 Legislative $50.00
Dividends on CD's $176.54 $919.29 Dividends on CD's $176.54 $1,095.83
Rose Drill $32.97 $3,521.13 Rose Drill $12.32 $3,533.45
Bank Balances Dividend Balance Bank Balances Dividend Balance
Security Svc FCU - checking $1,831.47 Security Svc FCU - checking $1,013.09
Security Svc FCU - Savings $15.31 Security Svc FCU - Savings $15.37
Security Svc FCU CD $2.45 $518.02 Security Svc FCU CD $1.22 $520.49
Security Svc MM $84.60 $12,639.06 Security Svc MM $26.82 $12,691.78
7mo CD 62081 $16.62 $2,111.91 7mo CD 62081 $8.35 $2,128.85
7mo CD 62083 $20.72 $5,155.96 7mo CD 62083 $20.38 $5,197.31
7mo CD 62084 $10.52 $2,615.66 7mo CD 62084 $10.34 $2,636.64
Rose Drill CD 62082 $16.66 $4,154.69 Rose Drill CD 62082 $12.32 $3,490.88
7mo CD 62085 $10.88 $2,585.12 7mo CD 62085 $10.73 $2,606.89
7mo CD 62086 $10,000.00 $10,000.00 7mo CD 62086 $39.53 $10,080.21
RBFCU $4,710.12 RBFCU no stmt since July
open new 7mo CD - 62086 in the amount of $10,000.00
renewed all other CD for add'l 7 mos as they matured renewed CD's for add'l 7 mos as they matured

Newsletter – Ann Roeder

Ann said that with newsletter will not be printed until January 2025 and that she would send out notices to all the Presidents to get their articles to her by January 15, 2025. Jerry said I should keep sending him notices so that he will get an article in.

Deputies – Jerry, Connie, Jack

Jerry said that the Grange Foundation has 1 in 1,000 Club, with 80 people as members. He donated a two-day fishing trip in Great Falls, Montana. If anyone wants to bid on the trip they can get on National and look for the Grange Foundation.

Connie said she has not gotten with Black Hill, but will try again to contact one of their members.

State Master – Karen Overstreet

Karen said she hopes everyone has sent in their bonding. If you are not sure it has gone to the right office you can call National to check. Ann and Bonnie both said they had sent their grange's in.

Karen said she was contacted by a liaison for legislative Kidney Patient Act. People on dialysis must take oral phosphate lowering therapies to eliminate excess phosphate from their body. January 1 those people would be required to receive their oral PLs in the dialysis setting.

She was asked to send letters to Congress and Senators that the Texas State Grange does not support receiving PLTs at the dialysis centers only. Other issues are obesity, and this is in the National Grange hand book.

She said we had 13 Resolutions sent to National.. The dues resolution was changed to be incorporated with $20 individual and $40 family. State issued medical use of marijuana was adopted. One was rejected, and one we withdrew.

New Business:

National Grange headquarters will conduct a feasible investigation to find a place where we can move. We just signed a 3 year lease; it will always be the National Grange building, Suite 301 is the new address to send the bonding or dues checks.

They are pushing Good Day Magazine, and it was suggested that if you don't want it for yourself you could give a subscription to someone who does not get out often and would appreciate reading it.

Next year National Session will be on an 8-day cruise. You leave out of Miami. There are quite a few already signed up.

Karen moved approval of the budget less Family Activities and Lecturer, and leave the rest the same. $2,500 expenses with 216 grange members; $4,000 income. Margie second motion and it passed.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be immediately following Leader's Day on March 1, 2025. If we get results for a location for the next State Session before the 1st, we will have discussion and decide by phone regarding the location.

Closing prayer was given by Connie.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Roeder, EC Secretary

March 1, 2025
Executive Committee Meeting
Call to order: 1:30pm

President Overstreet opened in prayer.

- No quorum was met- unable to vote on any matter- if a voting is needed on any issue a phone vote will be called.
- In attendance: Connie Waxler(EC Chair), David Weaver (EC), Karen Overstreet (P), Samantha Wilkins (Sec), Bonnie Billquist (Tres), Gail Dale (Fam Activities), Curtis Vogues(EC-Emeritus)
- Minutes to the previous meeting were emailed. Needing to be added to the previous minutes that the EC voted by text to hold the 91st annual session of the Texas State Grange in Poteet in July of 2025.
- It was reported that the 990N has been filed as of the end of February.
- State Session:
    - Will be held in Poteet, Texas, at Poteet Grange Hall
    - Karen passed out a draft agenda for the session
    - Melissa Popham will do the welcome at Session. Poteet City Manager was asked to speak as well and will be asked to present on something that falls in line with the National Grange project; Project Sustenance.
    - The Memorial Service will remain on Saturday morning at 9 am. Following Election/Installation.
    - Following Lunch- will be the presentation of the 5th/6th degrees
    - Directly after closing on Saturday we will set up and prepare for the banquet.
    - Connie reported that she has a speaker for the banquet from the FFA
    - Discussion was had about a potential lunch & tour on Friday or due to heat and accessibility issues we may ask a speaker to come in on Friday. Connie will look into options.
    - Youth Pizza party could be held as a lunch on Friday or Saturday.
    - Connie and Gail are working on judges for the contest entries.
    - Granges 'hosting' this year's session are David Crocket & Poteet
    - A discussion on catering for the session banquet was held.
- Granger of the year nominations are due June 1st to Connie
- Resolutions are due July 1st to Karen
- Ag Report was given by brother Curtis Vogues- notes will be sent to Ann.
- Family Activities-
    - The theme for this years state session will be 'The Wild West' -Gail is working on decorations.
    - Poteet is hosting a Farm camp June 1-6 for 3rd-8th grade from 6-8pm
    - Meal for banquet at session:
        - Gail has found one caterer for $14/pp Mrs C's Kitchen. The meal would be Hamburger Steak and sides. We would provide desserts.
        - Discussion to set up an online/paper pre registration for the convention was had. This would allow us to get a better count of meals to order.
        - Plan is to charge $15/pp for pre-orders and $20/pp for day of orders.
- Junior/Youth
    - Spring Fling dates TBA
    - June 7th State Craft Day to be held @ Alamo Grange
- Community Service

    - Keep working on books and serving the community
- Lecturer- No report
- Leadership- New committee to be formed
- Secretary
    - Copy of JOP was sent to EC members for approval
    - Cibolo has turned in dues reports
    - Looking into email platform to create better communication to members
- Treasurer
    - Shrive Grange Utility check was received
    - Renewing CD's
    - Report sent to Ann
- Newsletter
    - TO go out in April- Reports due April 15
- Deputy- NONE
- Info Tech- NONE
- State Master- NONE
- New Business
    - Petty cash for April 5 Water sale- Bonnie will give cash to Samantha at next Leon Valley Meeting to be delivered to Karen
- Next Meeting June 7 @ Alamo @ 1pm

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30pm

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
TEXAS STATE GRANGE
June 7, 2025

The Texas State Grange Executive Committee met at Alamo Grange, and the meeting was called to order at 1:09 P.M.
Those present were:
Connie Waxler, Committee Chairman
Jerry Billquist, Executive Committee
Ann Roeder, Committee Secretary
Karen Overstreet, State Grange President
Curtis Voges, Executive Committee Emeritus
Dave Weaver, 2nd Committee Chairman (on the phone)
Bonnie Billquist, State Grange Treasurer
Gail Dale, State Grange Family Activities
Loramae Howell, State Session Registration Chairman & Guest
Martin Howell, Guest
Buddy Overstreet, Guest

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman, Connie Waxler, and prayer was given by Karen Overtrteet. The Minutes from the last meeting were approved as written.

Old Business:
The Great Plains Regional Conference to be held in Colorado was mentioned, and that Karen and Buddy will not be going, but they do have a representative from Texas.

The 2025 Texas State Grange Session is set for July 25 and 26, 2025. Karen said she talked to Glenn to see what time he wants to be there to set up. Gail said that we are planning to set up around 5:00 p.m.
The hospitality for this session is Poteet and David Crockett. Karen said she would talk to Jackie to see if she will feel good enough to represent David Crockett. Connie said she would talk to someone from Poteet. Everyone who has free time should help too.
Karen passed out a draft for the Annual Session to go over. It was discussed that FFA kids come and give a short talk about the Farm Camp recently held at Poteet. Connie said she would work on getting someone possibly from the Poteet Festival to give a talk.
The pizza party was discussed, and Karen said the kids decided instead of a dance after they would like to do some games. The money for the pizza party needs to go to Jackie and Linda.

Karen asked for delegates, and mentioned that Loramae would also need to have the names for name tags. She said Resolutions are due by July 1, 2025.
Connie reported on the Farm Camp and said we had a good turnout at our meeting by the parents and kids. They were invited for dinner and some even brought food.
It was decided that Karen should send a text to Executive Committee warning about any e-mail she would be sending; this way if someone does not always check e-mail, they would know to do so.
The Banquet was discussed. For early tickets an RSVP is needed and the price will be $15, and anyone coming and buying at the session, the price will be $18. It was suggested that we should order 70-75 plates. Our order needs to be in to the caterer by the 18th of July, and those who RSVP names should be given to Loramae so that she will have a record of who they are and can charge accordingly. The meal will be chicken fried steak with brown gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll and drink. We will use the contest cakes for dessert.
Karen made motion that each grange gets the names and sends to Loramae by the 18th of July the RSVP names at $15 each, and that the day of the session the cost is $18. Motion seconded by Ann, and motion passed.
Karen said there were no other nominations for Granger of the Year. It was said that the names of those doing the 5th and 6th Degree should be given to Samantha, along with the names of recruiters and new members for the drawing
Connie said she would make a map of Poteet showing the restaurants so that those who want to go out at lunch time can know where to go, since we do have a few new ones in town.

Karen said looking back at our "feedback" from last year, the question of mikes was brought up, that do we need more mikes. We decided instead of buying more mikes, there would be one or two general mikes and we would have runners to deliver the mike to the person doing the talking. Music was also mentioned, and she is thinking about someone to ask who plays the

piano. Registration is $10 per person. It was decided the first day the delegates would be identified and all the first-time persons asked to stand.

It was decided that there would be 8 Gift Cards given this year to those who make the most contest entries and Best of Show. Connie and Ann said that they would each buy 4 at $25 each. It was decided that the winners of the talent show would be $50, $30 and $20 cash prizes.

The water sale that was held this past April did a little better than last year. It was brought up by Bonnie as to where the "petty cash" was and decided that Samantha still had it. Karen said she would ask her about it.

Department Heads:
Agriculture/Legislative Report
To National/State Officers and patrons:
Texas Land Trends report outlines changes in working lands period 1997-2022 status and changes. Texas is home to eight of the top 15 fastest growing cities in the U.S. Texas population increased 55% from 19 million to 30 million residents as the population increase 88% occurred within our states, 25 counties. Land values have increased by 505% in the last 25 years from $1,951 per acre to $3,021. This trend is causing land owners to sub-divide and sell. During these last 25 years, about 3.7 million acres of working land have been converted to non-agriculture use. Texas has also lost 17,000 agriculture operations in last 5 years. The report also shows small farms and ranches of less than 100 acres in size represent 60% of all ownership, but account for 3% of land devoted to agriculture in 2022. Conservation of agriculture and working lands impact future generations.
Screwworm Day In 1960's when screwworm eradication was getting under way funds were collected from ranchers and farmers to establish a fly plant in Mission, Texas, $3 million to moch- fly the building at the Mission Airport that had been used to train pilots. Now $3 million is nothing. Back then we had 3-cent stamps and nickel sodas. Most ranchers could afford at most $10 donation, a few $50. Dr. Bushland and Kipling were the entomologist known for developing the sterile moch-fly technique. The objective then and now is to keep the bad flies south of United States below Mexico and toward Panama. If the screwworm fly were to reach the Texas-Mexican border, they could reach Canada by the end of this summer. These flies hitch a ride with birds, animals and vehicles.
On May 14, U.S. Senators and Representatives authorized a Bill into legislation titled "Strengthening Tactiles to Obstruct the Population of Screwworms Act". The proposed bill would outlaw funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture to build new sterile plant addressing major gaps in current response capabilities that same day.
The U. S. halted the transport of live cattle from Mexico as a containment measure. As July approaches the hunting and ranching community is watching for federal action.
Legislation
A bill was sent to the Governor of Texas banning clubs supporting gay teens in public schools based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
Depending on inevitable court challenges every public school classroom in Texas could be required to display a copy of the Ten Commandments.

Water Unfractured Texas will begin investing dedication $1 billion per year for next 20 years starting in 2027. Texans will vote on this in November. Indications there are $50 billion in needs.
School Vouchers will start down the school voucher road, tax payer funding to pay for children's private school tuition and home school. Public education which educates 93% of state's children will get a $8.5 billion boost.

Vaccines Parents and individuals will be able to file conscientious exemptions so their children can opt out of immunization requirements.
Property Tax Cuts Texans could get some relief if voters in November OK home owners and business tax cuts, school districts ie homestead would change from $100,000 to $140,000. Home owners ages 65 and up and those with disabilities will see even bigger savings.

Credit: Fredericks Standard
Texas AC Magazine

Curtis Voges
Agricultural/Legislature Director

Family Activities: Gail Dale said that other than coordinating with the caterer, she has six Judges and one alternate for Friday morning. She is working with Wendy Knox, State Lecturer.

Juniors/Youth – The Youth committee has met to keep action going across the state. The next thing we have going is the pizza party. Connie said we have a new splash pad in Poteet Park, and its open to the public. But the parents have to be responsible for the kids.
Curtis asked what kind of security we have for the Grange hall, and Connie said she would talk to the Police Department to keep check for us.

Community Service – Margie was not present, but had sent word that she did not have anything new to report.
Karen said last year the Community Service Book went to National, but the proper form did not get submitted, therefore we did not get reported. This year there will be a specific form to be submitted. But they are not giving anything for prizes.
Jerry motioned that we should not send to National but that we should do our own state level, and then moved to suspend motion for state prizes and wait to send it to National. Ann seconded his motion. Motion passed.

Lecturer – Wendy Knox was not present for EC meeting, but had been there for craft day in the morning. She had about 15 people in the craft session with a variety of materials.

Leadership – Karen said she is still looking for someone. If you know of anyone who would be willing to take the job please let her know.

Secretary – Samantha was not present, but Karen reported that the Journal is getting up to date, and that she was checking for corrections. She will print off about 5 or 6 copies, and send the rest via e-mail.

Treasurer – Bonnie gave her report according to the attached chart, and said that she did get dues and roster from Poteet and Mesquite. She does not have Cibolo or Alamo. She redid the

Subordinate Grange Annual Report Form again, hoping that it will be a little more understandable and easier to figure.

6-Jun-25			
Fund	Income	Expense	2025
$1.00 Assessment (State session)	$597.14		$2,863.52
Nat'l Session	$149.28	$210.00	$4,593.43
2023 Regional Refund (Buddy) $309.00			
Family Activities			$361.52
General Fund	$4,980.80	$3,055.75	$8,488.34
Lecturers Fund			$(111.79)
Memorial Fund			$1,375.79
Youth Fund			$738.46
Jr Grange Fund			$368.28
Legislative			$50.00
Dividends on CD's			$1,665.14
Rose Drill	$37.64		$3,533.03
Bank Balances	Dividend		Balance
Security Svc FCU - checking			$1,377.61
Security Svc FCU - Savings			$15.37
Security Svc FCU CD	$3.70		$527.95
Security Svc MM	$78.35		$13,823.57
7mo CD 62081	$24.40		$2,179.06
7mo CD 62083	$56.03		$5,310.01
7mo CD 62084	$27.50		$2,693.35
Rose Drill CD 62082	$37.64		$3,566.58
7mo CD 62085	$29.18		$2,669.26
7mo CD 62086	$115.56		$10,317.97
RBFCU	$2.54		$4,712.66

renewed CD's for add'l 7 mos. as they matured
withdrawal from MM+ for SIFT water sales petty cash $300.00

Newsletter – Ann reported that since we are in the month of June, reports are due by June 15, which will allow her to get it all together for the month. She did mention that come next year, March will be the month for the Newsletter instead of April, since March fits in better with the 3 month system.

Deputy – Jerry, Connie, Jack - None have anything to report.

Information Technology – Dave reported that we don't have grange e-mail addresses. Each grange is responsible for putting in their own e-mail address if it will possibly work.
He did mention the Quilts of Valor; he said we have about 5 or 7 groups throughout the state trying to use a new system which is difficult. Those who used it before have seen drastic improvement. Each individual subordinate grange would be able to keep in touch with each other.

State Master – Karen said she had her airline tickets and registration for National to fly into Miami and fly back which she gave to Bonnie for reimbursement.
She said she received a call from Amanda in National; someone had contacted her from Jefferson Texas. He has a real estate address and said there is a structure on the property. He said looking back through the records, there is a structure on 2 acres in the grange name. There is a $5,000 delinquent tax on the property. Before the grange folded they shared the structure with a church; there was no transfer of deed to this property. Inheritance did come to Texas State Grange in 1873; this property was donated to the grange.
Someone who owns property next to the two acres wants the property, and the $5,000 back taxes have been paid.
Karen said she called someone in Washington to see what would have to be done. It was suggested that a Quit Claim Deed would need to be done. Karen moved and seconded by Jerry to research all of this before anything is done. Motion passed.

New Business:

Bonnie will take care of the certificate for the winner of Change for Change presented at State Session.
Karen said she has tried to give a Officer Duty Handbooks to all the new officers, except the Graces. She will take care of that, and she has a follow up with Logan about Memorial Service.
Connie reported that Irene found material and sent for one yard to see if the weight is okay for the tops to match up with the new skirts. We have 10 girls and possibly by next year there will be 12 girls.

The next meeting will follow the Session on the 26th of July.

Closing prayer was given by Connie.

Karen moved to adjourn, second by Connie at 3;37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Roeder
Executive Committee Secretary