

**TEXAS STATE GRANGE
DATES TO REMEMBER
JANUARY – MARCH, 2014**

- Dec. 28, Saturday** **All Granges Holiday Party, Cibolo Grange Hall, 143 N. Main, Cibolo, TX; 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. See more info in Cibolo Grange article. Soup contest, Bingo, gift exchange, bring canned food. (See Cibolo Grange article)**
- Jan. 2, Thursday Poteet Grange meeting 7 p.m.
- Jan. 5, Sunday David Crockett Grange meeting (1:30 eat; 2:30 meet)
- Jan. 12, Sunday Leon Valley Grange meeting, 1 p.m.
- Jan. 12, Sunday Cibolo Grange meeting, (2 p.m. eat; 3 p.m. meet)
- Jan. 16, Thursday Black Hill Grange meeting, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 17, Friday Alamo Grange meeting, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 18, Saturday** **Lecturer, Family Activities, Community Service department, State Secretary and State Master workshop, David Crockett Grange Hall, 14309 Old Corpus Christi Rd; register 8:30 a.m.;workshop 9:00 a.m., See Family Activities article in this Newsletter. Also, Chili Cookoff, see instructions in Lecturer article.**
- Jan. 19, Sunday** **Bexar County Pomona meeting, 1:30 p.m. Bexar County and Cibolo Grangers are encouraged to attend. Host: Alamo Grange, at David Crockett Grange Hall.**
- Jan. 23, Thursday** **Atascosa County Pomona meeting, 7 p.m. at Poteet Grange Hall. Black Hill and Poteet Grangers are encouraged to attend.**
- Feb. 2, Sunday David Crockett Grange meeting (1:30 eat; 2:30 meet) **Dues Paying meal. (see David Crockett Grange article)**
- Feb 6, Thursday Poteet Grange meeting 7 p.m.
- Feb 9, Sunday Leon Valley Grange meeting, 1 p.m.
- Feb 9, Sunday Cibolo Grange meeting, (2 p.m. eat; 3 p.m. meet)
- Feb. 20, Thursday Black Hill Grange meeting, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 21, Friday Alamo Grange meeting, 7 p.m.
- Mar. 1, Saturday** **Rabies Clinic, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at David Crockett Grange Hall, 14309 Old Corpus Christi Rd, Elmendorf. Rabies shots \$8; combination shot (no rabies) \$12; bordetella shot \$12.**
- Mar. 2, Sunday David Crockett Grange meeting (1:30 eat; 2:30 meet)
- Mar. 6, Thursday Poteet Grange meeting 7 p.m.
- Mar. 9, Sunday Leon Valley Grange meeting, 1 p.m.
- Mar. 9, Sunday Cibolo Grange meeting, (2 p.m. eat; 3 p.m. meet)
- Mar. 20, Thursday Black Hill Grange meeting, 7 p.m.
- Mar. 21, Friday Alamo Grange meeting, 7 p.m.
- Mar 22, Saturday** **Degree Day, (all Four Degrees) at Leon Valley Grange Hall. Start 9 a.m. 1st & 2nd Degrees in morning, break for cover dish lunch, 3rd & 4th Degrees after lunch. 1st Degree – Poteet Grange; 2nd Degree – David Crockett Grange; 3rd Degree – Alamo Grange; 4th Degree – Leon Valley. All Grange members are encouraged to attend this special event. Executive Committee meeting after Degree program.**
- Apr 4-6, Friday thru Sunday, Poteet Strawberry Festival.**

TEXAS STATE GRANGE

Contest List for 2014

Departmental contests for the Family Activities and Lecturer's is open to everyone, Grangers and non-Grangers, with the exception of food contests are for Grangers and Grange families. Juniors (5 – 13 yrs.) and youth (14 – 18 yrs.) are encouraged to enter all categories in Family Activities and Lecturer's contests. They will be judged separately from adult entries.

Lecturers Contests / Writing:

Essay (300 words or less) – chose between:

An Influential Person in My Life

Topic of choice

Book review (300 words or less - book of your choice)

Poetry

Art:

Oils or Acrylics

Water Colors

Drawing - Black & white

Drawing - Colored

Photography:

Animals

People

Places

Plants

Traditions (up to 3 photos with a short written history)

Family Activities contests / Food:

Women – Spice cake

Men – Pumpkin muffins

Youth (13 – 18) Chocolate chip cookies

Junior (pre-teen) – Party mix

Canning – Pear preserves and bread & butter pickles

Candy – Pralines

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

Jewelry (handmade)

Wearable scarf

Hot pad/ trivet

Decorated Gift Bag

Wreath

Cross (handmade or purchased and decorated)

Bird house

Hair accessories

Small quilted items

Please keep this page for 2014 contests reference

THE TEXAS GRANGER

December 2013

MASTER'S MESSAGE

How time does fly! Hope all your goals for the past year have been met or exceeded. I trust that increasing membership in your Grange will be one of your resolutions for this New Year. I wish everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR.

We are on the final drive for you to have a chance to win one of the cash prizes at the Annual Session in July 2014. Every new member that joins from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 will have their name entered in a drawing for a \$100 prize. The person who recruited the new member will also have their name entered for another \$100 prize. So what are you waiting on! Get that family member, friend, or anyone (in good character) to join your Grange to have a chance to win the \$100! Brothers and Sisters, we need to "Grow our Grange"!! This is a little incentive to encourage you to work a little harder doing just that.

In November, Margaret and I attended the 147th Annual National Convention in Manchester, New Hampshire. The last National Session in Manchester was 1913 – 100 years ago. This year the Junior Grange celebrated its 125th Anniversary with formal events, new programs, and activities throughout the week of convention. A short highlight: in August 1888, the first Juvenile Grange was organized at the Texas State Grange Session. The Texas State Grange created and adopted a ritual for the Juvenile Grange and then took it to the 22nd Annual Convention of the National Grange. It took until the 24th Annual Meeting of the National Grange in 1890 to adopt the ritual. In 1964, the name changed from Juvenile Grange to Junior Grange. Again, Texas submitted the resolution that got that change.

Fraternally,

Jack Smithers, Master

FUND RAISER

Some of you know that Texas will be one of the host states to host the National Grange Session in November 2015, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Texas will be responsible for the 6th Degree again and manning the Hospitality room on Friday. It costs money to get our Rose Drill ladies and 4 or 5 state officers there. We must raise funds to do this. **The fundraiser for 2013 to 2014 and 2014 to 2015 is a \$10 fee for each member of your Grange as of June 30, 2014 and the same for 2015 – this \$10 fee is in addition to the amount your Grange pays on the June 30th quarterly reports. A separate check, made to the Texas State Grange, annotated *\$10 member*, is to be included with the June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015 report along with the dues check.** If you have questions you may call me or wait for my visit to your Grange.

STATE GRANGE WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 18, at David Crockett Grange Hall

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: All Grange members, Lecturers, Family Activities Directors, Community Service Directions, Secretaries, and especially Master. The State Lecturer and State Community Director will be presenting a workshop for their departments. The state Secretary will pass out the quarterly reports for 2014. If enough masters attend, we will have some additional masters training/conference. Register: 8:30 a.m. Program start: 9 a.m.

SECRETARY, TEXAS STATE GRANGE

Ann Roeder

Hello Subordinate Secretaries and all. I know December has been and will continue to be a busy month for all of us, but just wanted to remind you Secretaries that the 4th Quarterly Reports are coming due 31st of December. Also, please mark your calendars for **January 18th for the Family Activities/Lecturer's Conference at the David Crockett Grange Hall**. I hope to see you there.

I have had some requests for 25-year pins and certificates, so please check your registered members and let me know if you need any of those or even possibly 50-year pins.

I have finished the Journal (yeah!) and have gotten them to some of you. I will be passing the rest out at the Conference in January. Also, those of you who have not gotten your **up-to-date members list** to me, **including address, phone and e-mail, please do so as soon as possible; and also list what office a person holds, if any.**

You have all seemed to adjust rather well to the new Quarterly Report forms as changed last year, and I will be passing out the new batch for 2014 at the Conference as well.

It has been my pleasure working with all of you this past year and I wish you all the very best and "*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*".

FAMILY ACTIVITIES NEWS

Gail Dale, Director

I am wishing all my fellow Grangers a "very Merry Christmas" and hoping that you are having a wonderful time with your family and friends as you see out the end of 2013 and start 2014 off with a bang! **Please join us at the annual conference in January. We will be hearing from the Community Service, Family Activities, and Lecturer's departments, the State Secretary, and State Master. Projects for the Family Activities Contests will be discussed so you and your family members can work on them and submit entries at the State Grange Convention. We will be doing a little recycle project using your old Christmas cards – so please remember to save them as you clean your house or office and put away all your Christmas trappings. Don't throw them away or box them up for storage – we need you to bring them with you! Please bring some for others to share if you have extras, as people may forget or just not have many cards of their own. We will also have CHILI from the "Chili Cookoff" and covered dish items for lunch when we are through, so bring something yummy! See you on Saturday, January 18th, at 8:30 (registraton, no fee) for a morning of information, sharing, and fun times. Location: David Crockett Grange Hall; 14309 Old Corpus Christi Rd; Elmendorf.**

LECTURER'S "CHIT CHAT" CORNER

Mary Baker, Lecturer

There will be a "Chili Cookoff" at the Workshops, January 18, David Crockett Grange Hall. **Rules for the Chili Cookoff: must be in a crock pot and at the Grange hall by 11 a.m. You must register your chili to get a number and have a name for your chili. The chili will be served for lunch in addition to other covered dishes.**

GROW Club and Friends will have a get-together sometime in February, information will be provided via separate email. **Grangers are encouraged to start practicing for the**

Talent Show now and be ready for entertaining **at the State Grange Session, Saturday evening, July 26th, Poteet Grange Hall.**

Educator of the Year Award is being continued this year. If you need an entry form, please contact Sister Margaret Smithers at marges9876@yahoo.com. I hope we will have several entries in 2014.

We are starting a **new visitation contest.** It will be on an individual basis (not Grange). It will run **from November 2013 – June 2014.** If you attend any Grange meeting (other than your Grange) you will get 10 points. If you attend two (2) meetings within a month's time, you will get 20 points. *I will need to have the number of your points and the Grange and date that you visited it.* The last day of the contest will be June 30, 2014. ***I will need your paperwork by July 9, 2014.*** The top three will receive a prize at the Texas State Grange Session in July 2014.

YOUTH NEWS!!

Lori Wuest, Youth Director

Hello Fellow Grangers,

The Youth Department is very busy, not only recruiting, but also making plans. We have so far had two very successful events. A youth fun night and a Halloween party – both of these events had more than 40 people in attendance. I am working with some girl and boy scouts in an effort to recruit. I was thinking of a youth lock-in over the Christmas break. If you are interested, please let me know. Tentative date would be December 27th overnight to December 28th. Keep in mind the All-Grange Holiday Party is December 28th, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m at the Cibolo Grange Hall. This is open for all Grangers and friends in Texas. **Directions: I-35N, take exit 178 toward Hubertus Rd/Cibolo, turn right onto FM 1103, turn left onto CR-383/N Main St, go 0.5 mile, arrive at 413 Main Street, Cibolo.**

The plans are underway and moving along nicely for our **Regional Conference.** We will have great and fun workshops. Please mark your calendars and make sure you have the time off for the conference. The dates are **June 27th, 28th, and 29th.** It will be held at the **Holiday Inn San Antonio Downtown Market Square, 318 West Cesar E Chavez Blvd.** A registration form for the conference is included in this newsletter. Please send all payments to our Treasurer Bonnie Billquist (checks payable to Texas State Grange). Please send me a copy of your registration via email or on our Facebook youth page.

A "herd" is on the move --- and Lou is here. Please welcome "Lou the Longhorn" – he our State Grange mascot. See all of the fun activities that Lou has been up to over the last few week since his trip to Texas. Please **"Like"** him on Facebook at Lou the Longhorn.

Grange Radio is also here – have you ever been at work and just wanted to listen to good music and interesting topics streaming over the Internet? You do? Well grangeradio.org is for you, give them a listen and a **"Like"**.

"Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" from the Grange Youth Department.

ATASCOSA COUNTY POMONA GRANGE

Atascosa County Pomona Grange is scheduled to meet Thursday, January 23rd, 7 p.m. at the Poteet Grange Hall. Black Hill and Poteet Grange members are encouraged to attend.

BEXAR COUNTY POMONA GRANGE

Mary Baker, Master

Bexar County Pomona meeting is scheduled to meet Sunday, January 19th, 2 p.m. at David Crockett Grange Hall, Alamo Grange is sponsor.

NOTE: Attendance at Pomona meetings has dropped off recently, possibly because of changes in officers and members in Subordinate Granges. **All Grangers in Bexar County to include Cibolo Grangers may attend and become members of the Pomona Grange. Dues are \$5 per year per member.**

Current Pomona Officers: Master --- Mary Bell Baker; Overseer --- Marvin Schweppe; Lecturer --- Penny Martin; Steward --- William (Buddy) Overstreet; Assistant Steward --- Jerry Billquist; Lady Assistant Steward --- Bonnie Billquist; Chaplain --- Kimberly Ehlers; Treasurer --- Margaret Smithers; Secretary --- Jack Smithers; Ceres --- Ruth Lampman; Pomona --- Bernice Knight; Flora --- Winnie Taggart; Executive Committee --- Archie Knight, Roger Wuest, Morris (Smokey) Martin; Gatekeeper --- Lori Wuest.

I encourage all members and officers to attend this meeting. We will have a good set-down discussion on the responsibility of the Pomona Grange and what roll it should play in the Grange structure. I encourage everyone to attend this meeting. Let's get serious about our Grange work.

Jack Smithers, Master, Texas State Grange

ALAMO GRANGE #1446

Kimberly Ehlers, Secretary

Alamo Grangers have been busy the last several months – held an ice cream social and "classic car" viewing at the August meeting; participated in "truck or treat" at the Oak Island Methodist Church; passed out candy "providing wholesome meal" in October. In November, the Grange had a lovely turkey dinner and selected two families to assist by providing gift cards for Thanksgiving. In December, the meeting was canceled due to weather. Our Grangers participated in the Oak Island Methodist Church "White Christmas". Grangers went Christmas caroling along with the youth from the Church. After caroling, Grangers had dinner at a pizza place. The Alamo Grangers participated in the Oak Island Community Christmas by providing hot chocolate and other needed items. Alamo Grange also donated gift cards to two families for Christmas.

CIBILO GRANGE #1541

Dave Weaver, Secretary

The Grange's activities of last quarter were well attended (Yard Sale, National Night Out, and Thanksgiving). We were able to connect with our new City Councilman Doug Garrett who has shown himself a strong advocate of the Grange. The support provided by our members and Word Fellowship congregation was beyond our expectations and once again proved that the greatness of an organization lies within its membership! In addition to our primary activities, there were more than 200 hundred volunteer hours contributed towards building maintenance. For us the biggest highlight was "Thanksgiving with the Troops" and the amount of support we received, not only from members, local community, but to an even greater extent – HEB's funding of the turkeys and hams was mind blowing. What a great pairing of community minded organizations! The impressions made on the Basic Trainees will leave a lasting positive view of the Grange.

As I write this quarters' news update we are also preparing for our December meeting. We are looking forward to sponsoring a few families for the holidays – there always seems to be need this time of year. This is the best part of the holidays, the giving spirit is strong and benefits us all in ways we may not even realize. Our Christmas celebration will be made even more rewarding since the All Granges Holiday Party will be at the Cibolo Grange Hall. We hope for a tremendous turnout for some great food and lots of fun. Come on out, see how our hall has changed.

It's now time for us to look forward to the New Year and our main focus will be on membership/recruitment and family activities. We have completed a few fund raisers in hopes of kick-starting a youth group and plan to tie their activities to the Grange contest list. The State Grange Convention will be graciously hosted at the Poteet Grange this year; and we want to be ready to participate in as many contests as possible. Since the conference is driving distance for most, we hope to see more folks come out and participate if only for the day. Last year was my first conference and I can honestly say it will be a fun filled and memorable time for all. So take a look at the 2014 contest list and come out and join in the fun!

Webmaster Update

First and foremost, I want to make sure that everyone has heard about our web pages hosted by the National Grange. The easiest way to access your page is to visit the State site at www.grange.org/texasstate . Once there you can visit any Grange listed under the “Grange Pages” tab. I have been trying to include information on Grange activities on the state calendar so if you have any information to be included on the state web page or calendar please contact me (Dave) at cibolo1541@grange.org . If you prefer you can leave a message at 210-307-0599. I would like to make myself available to anyone who would like assistance with updating their pages or making a Facebook group page. Visit Facebook to search the “Cibolo Grange 1541” group page to see an example. Lastly, did you know the State has a Facebook page for “Lou The Longhorn” the state mascot. Please visit the page and see what “Lou The Longhorn” has been up to. I hear his favorite past time is photo-bombing our State Grange president. If you have an idea/trip for Lou please contact Lori at the David Crockett Grange. Her email is lawz095@gmail.com.

DAVID CROCKETT GRANGE #1431

Margaret Smithers, reporting

In November, members voted to help a family in the community with a Christmas tree, food, and gifts. The single mother is currently unemployed due an injury, and has three children to support. Several of our members were involved in obtaining items for this family.

In December, we welcomed new members Melisa Galvan, Ramon and Margarita Cadena, David and Kathy Montez. **WELCOME TO DAVID CROCKETT GRANGE!!** Our Christmas party was held on December 15th – members provided delicious side dishes to complement the ham, turkey, and desserts – an excellent Christmas dinner. There was about 60 people in attendance. Winnie Taggart donated a nice basket full of Christmas items for a raffle at the party. The raffle raised \$210, which will be used towards the State Grange "2015 fund".

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT PARTICIPATED IN THIS RAFFLE!

2014 upcoming events include the **workshop on January 18th**; registration at 8:30 a.m. program starts at 9 a.m. – there is a "soup contest" that you can participate in or bring a covered dish for lunch. **Sunday, February 2nd**, is our "dues paying dinner"; meal at 1:30 p.m. with Jack Smithers special "soup beans" (no gas because he cooks them upside down); accompanied by cornbread and other sides provided by the members; regular meeting at 2:30 p.m. **Saturday, March 1st**, will be our annual low cost rabies clinic; \$8 for rabies shots; \$12 for combo shots; \$12 for bordetella. Clinic hours: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

POTEET GRANGE #1576

Connie Waxler, Master/President

A group of dedicated members decorated the hall for the holidays, Sunday, December 1st. We hosted the annual 4H Christmas party on Tuesday, December 3rd and served strawberry shortcake. We had our December meeting/Christmas party on Thursday, December 5th. We had an ornament exchange, collected food for CAM (our local food pantry), and enjoyed a delicious turkey/dressing dinner. Thanks! to Susie Davis for baking "the bird", dressing, and gravy. Our hall was also donated for use by the Poteet Volunteer Fire Department Christmas party, Saturday, December 7th. Ann and Tom Roeder, representing Poteet Grange, accepted a "plaque of thanks" from the VFD for support. We made felt snowman ornaments and signed Christmas cards to be delivered to residents of the Poteet Nursing Home. "Thanks" to all who helped. We've had a busy season.

In January, we will meet on the 2nd, make plans for 2014, and undecorate the hall. **Don't forget to attend the Lecturer/Family Activities/Secretary/Community Service/Membership conference, January 18th, David Crockett Grange Hall.**

We're gearing up for the Poteet Strawberry Festival, held April 4th thru 6th. We hope to have a pet vaccination clinic in March. **Happy 2014!!!**

"Lou the Longhorn"

Some of you may not have heard of "Lou" the Texas Mascot. Let me bring you up-to-date. While at the National Grange Session, every State Grange Master was presented with their very own "State Mascot". Texas Master, Jack Smithers, received "Lou the Longhorn" (very appropriate). While at National, "Lou" must have "gotten out of hand" as he wore a collar depicting three young heifer cows, two farmers he chased off, and two barns he had stayed in. When finally caught, he was "banded" with an appropriate "device" with a Texas emblem, therefore making him "Lou the Longhorn Steer." Upon returning to Texas, Lou was captured by two young heifers (Lori and Lynell Wuest), who took him on a rampage through Cibola, and who knows where else. At this time, Lou is under the control of Dave Weaver. Hmm, wonder what he is doing now? (follow Lou on his Facebook page)

2014 Great Plains Regional Conference

June 27-29

San Antonio, Texas

Conference Information

The Texas State Grange is hosting the 2014 Great Plains Regional Conference **June 27-29, 2014** at the **Holiday Inn San Antonio Downtown Market Square, 318 West Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard, San Antonio TX 78204**. Price for the conference will be **\$40 per person or \$100 maximum for family with children 14 years old and under**. A block of rooms have been reserved at this location at a cost of **\$95.75 (includes tax) per night**. Room reservation will be based on individual call in; **reserve your room by May 31, 2014. Call 210-225-3211 (hotel phone), ask for Group Booking under Texas State Grange**. Room rate includes full American breakfast buffet, free parking, free WiFi. (The room rates are available three days before and three days after the conference.)

Simple Schedule

Tuesday, April 15, 2014	Conference Registration Deadline
Saturday, May 31, 2014	Hotel Room Reservation Deadline
Friday, June 27, 2014	
Afternoon/Evening	Arrival and Registration
Evening	Reception (Taco bar) Game Night and Getting Acquainted
Saturday, June 28, 2014	
Morning	Breakfast at hotel, 6 a.m. – 8 a.m. Workshops
Noon	Box Lunch
Afternoon	Workshops Tours (as selected)
Evening	Banquet Public Speaking and Sign Language contests
Sunday, June 29, 2014	
Morning	Sunday Morning Services Leave for home

2014 Great Plains Regional Conference

June 27-29

San Antonio, Texas

Registration Form – Deadline April 15, 2014

**\$40 per person or
\$100 maximum for family with
children 14 years old and under**

Name: _____ Grange State: _____

Address: _____ Grange Name: _____

City: _____ Email Address: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Participating in Conference as: _____ Youth & Young Adult _____ Junior Granger
(please select one) _____ Lecturer _____ Membership

Public Speaking Sign-up

Prepared Speech	_____ ages 13-19	_____ ages 20-29	_____ ages 30+
Elevator Speech	_____ ages 13-19	_____ ages 20-29	_____ ages 30+
Impromptu Speech	_____ ages 13-19	_____ ages 20-29	_____ ages 30+
Junior Prepared Speech	_____ ages 13-19	_____ ages 20-29	_____ ages 30+

Sign Language Sign-up

Sign A Song	_____ Novice	_____ Hobbyist	_____ Group
	_____ Expert	_____ Junior (ages 8-14)	
Sign the Alphabet (ages 8-14 only)		_____ Yes	

Registration Money Payable to:
Texas State Grange

For more info contact Lori Wuest
Lawz095@gmail.com

Send form and money to:

Bonnie Billquist
311 FM 474
Boerne TX 78006
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