

**Journal of Proceedings  
of the  
National Grange  
of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry**

**145th Annual Convention  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
November 8-12, 2011**

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## **THE GRANGE MISSION**



**The Grange provides opportunities for individuals and families to develop to their highest potential in order to build stronger communities and states, as well as a stronger nation.**

**The Grange will accomplish this mission through:**

### **FELLOWSHIP**

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- We give our members the opportunity to meet with and get to know their neighbors in a safe, family-friendly atmosphere.
- We provide a place where children, youth, and adults can grow, develop their talents and social skills, and learn leadership techniques.

### **SERVICE**

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- We provide our members with the opportunity to discover and solve community needs.
- We give assistance to individuals in crisis.
- We provide a great place for community networking.

### **LEGISLATION**

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- We have a grassroots approach to local, state and federal legislative change.
- We give our members a voice in state and federal government forums.

**NATIONAL OFFICERS - 2011**

Master	Edward Luttrell	1616 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20006	202-628-3507
Overseer	Jimmy Gentry	1734 Wilkesboro Highway Statesville, NC 28625	704-878-0000
Lecturer	Pete Pompper	1608 Culbertson Ave. Myrtle Beach, SC 29577	609-820-6239
Steward	William "Chip" Narvel	911 S. Governors Ave. Dover, DE 19904	302-734-4653
Assistant Steward	Roger Bostwick	9578 110th Street Ozawkie, KS 66070	785-876-2751
Lady Assistant Steward	Beth Merrill	107 West Street Antrim, NH 03440	603-588-6615
Chaplain	Phyllis Wilson	PO Box 335 Myrtle Point, OR 97458	641-572-4117
Treasurer	Dwight Baldwin	2606 Highway 224N Kellogg, IA 50135	641-526-3420
Secretary	Judy Sherrod	333 Crossfield Drive Knoxville, TN 37920	865-862-8211
Gatekeeper	Scott Sherman	178 Weaver Hill Road West Greenwich, RI 02817	401-226-4118
Ceres	Linda Chase	491 Hollis St. Dunstable, MA 01827	978-649-7184
Pomona (Pro Tem)	Linda Lewis	21305 Chase St. Canoga Park, CA 91304	818-998-0983
Flora	Patti Lee	11067 Beloit Road Belvidere, IL 61008	815-544-4811

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chairman	Betsy Huber (2012)	362 University Road Lincoln University, PA 19352	717-737-8855
Secretary	Phil Prelli (2011)	12 Alexandria Drive Barkhamsted, CT 06063	860-379-1017
	Duane Scott (2012)	N2552 Strunk Road, Ft. Atkinson, WI 53536	920-723-6660
	Joe Fryman (2011)	14512 County Rd. P16 Blair, NE 68008	402-426-5773

**ASSEMBLY OF DEMETER**

High Priest of Demeter*	Tom Severance	7034 W. St. Rd. 26 Portland, IN 47371	260-726-2337
Priest Archon	Daniel Bascom	123 Franklin St. Rochester, NH 03867	603-332-2164
Priest Annalist	Bruce Croucher	2514 County Road 25 Clifton Springs, NY 14432	315-462-3067
High Priest Emeritus	Woodrow Tucker	1623 Ministerial Road Peace Dale, RI 02883	401-783-2070
High Priest Emeritus	John Valentine	7034 W. State Road Portland, IN 47371	260-726-2337

\* Daniel Bascom assumed Acting High Priest upon the May 15, 2011 death of High Priest Tom Severance.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

<b>National Grange Headquarters</b>	<b>(888)-447-2643</b>
Controller	Amber Bell
Communications	Amanda Leigh Brozana
Executive Assistant/Meetings Planner	Jessie Cope
Information Technology	Stephanie Wilkins
Legislative Affairs	Nicole Palya Wood
Sales, Benefits, & Programs	Samantha Johnson
Trademark Protection Manager	Leroy A. Watson

Junior Grange	Diane Szkutak	56 Rumonoski Dr. Northbridge, MA 01534	508-234-3892
Membership	Michael Martin	102 Coventry Dr. Carlisle, PA 17015	814-883-3465
Youth Development	Charlene Shupp Espenshade	213 Black Swamp Road Bainbridge, PA 17502	717-361-2844

## ELECTIONS

The Delegates elected the following National Officers on November 10, 2011:

Master	Ed Luttrell, Oregon
Overseer	Jimmy Gentry, North Carolina
Lecturer	Pete Pompper, South Carolina
Steward	William “Chip” Narvel, Delaware
Assistant Steward	Roger Bostwick, Kansas
Lady Assistant Steward	Beth Merrill, New Hampshire
Chaplain	Barbara Borderieux, Florida
Treasurer	Dwight Baldwin, Iowa
Secretary	Judy Sherrod, Tennessee
Gatekeeper	Christopher Johnston, Michigan
Ceres	Linda Chase, Massachusetts
Pomona	Christine Hamp, Washington
Flora	Patti Lee, Illinois
Executive Committee	Phil Prelli, Connecticut
	Joe Fryman, Nebraska

## DELEGATES

AK	John Poirrier, P.O. Box 111897, Anchorage, AK 99511
CA	Bob and Wendy McFarland, 3830 U St., Sacramento, CA 95817
CO	David and Kay McCord, 855 Newport St., Denver, CO 80220
CT	Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron, 115 Prospect St., Moosup, CT 06354
DE	William and Barbara Narvel, 4201 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808
FL	Barbara Borderieux, 3915 38th Ave. E., Palmetto, FL 34221
ID	Don and Mary Johnson, 3895 W. Lake Hazel Road, Meridian, ID 83642
IL	Lyle and Patty Lee, 11067 Beloit Road, Belvidere, IL 61008
IN	John and Susan Plank, 7843 South US Highway 231, Brookston, IN 47923
IA	Dwight and Kathy Baldwin, 2606 Highway 224N, Kellogg, IA 50135
KS	Roger and Melanie Bostwick, 9578 110th Street, Ozawkie, KS 66070
ME	Patrick Brewer, 20 Harry/Thelma Road, Jefferson, ME 04348
	James Owens, 567 Main Street, Madison, ME 04950
MD	Maurice and Donna Wiles, 5543 Buffalo Road, Mt. Airy, MD 21771
MA	Matthew and Lisa Johnson, 22 Jordan St., Haverhill, MA 01830
MI	Christopher and Connie Johnston, 1730 Chamberlain Way, Haslett, MI 48840

MN Donna Champion, 4820 Pioneer Trail, Greenfield, MN 55357  
MT Scott and Marie Nicholson, 1445 Summerdale Road, Corvallis, MT 59828  
NE Joe and Tammy Fryman, 14512 County Road P16, Blair, NE 68008  
NH James Tetreault, 35 Keene Road, Apt. 35D, Winchester, NH 03470  
Arthur Merrill, 107 W. Elm St., Antrim, NH 05440  
NJ John M. Benedik, 1401 Cobblestone Court, Flemington, NJ 08822  
Pete Pompper, 63 Pecks Corner Road, Salem, NJ 08079  
NY Stephen and Mary Coye, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045  
NC Jimmy and Anita Gentry, 1734 Wilkesboro Highway, Statesville, NC 28625  
OH Gary and Linda Brumbaugh, P.O. Box 121, Fredericktown, OH 43019-0121  
OK Donna and Brad Keeton, Route 1, Box 106, South Coffeyville, OK 74072  
OR Mark Noah, 1407 Modoc St., Springfield, OR 97477  
Phyllis Wilson, 643 Union Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-2462  
PA Carl Meiss, 20 Erford Road, Suite 216, Lemoyne, PA 17043  
Betsy Huber, 362 University Road, Lincoln University, PA 19352  
RI Steve and Claire Logan, 26 Taber St., West Kensington, RI 02892  
SC Jerry Martin, 2368 Freedom Blvd., Apt. B2, Florence, SC 29505  
TN Judy Sherrod, 333 Crossfield Drive, Knoxville, TN 37920  
TX Jack and Margaret Smithers, 7361 Parkett, San Antonio, TX 78223  
VT Errol Briggs, P.O. Box 90, Barre, VT 05641  
Kendal Holden, P.O. Box 337, Underhill, VT 05489  
VA James Taylor, 12600 Bundle Road, Chesterfield, VA 23838  
WA Duane and Christine Hamp, P.O. Box 1186, Olympia, WA 98507  
WV Jim and Earlene Foster, Route 1 Box 105, New Milton, WV 26411  
WI Duane and Kim Scott, N2552 Strunk Road, Ft. Atkinson, WI 53536  
WY No Delegate

John Trimble Youth - Nathan Strawder (KA)

Honorary Delegates - Joan Smith (Potomac Grange #1, D.C.)  
and Karen Lee Letourneau (Pahrump Grange #18, NV)



## 2011 CONVENTION COMMITTEES

### AGRICULTURE

Don Johnson, ID \*\*  
Bruce Croucher, NY (H) \*  
John Plank, IN  
Maurice Wiles, MD  
Joe Fryman, NE  
Jimmy Gentry, NC  
Jack Smithers, TX  
Phil Prelli, CT (H)  
Linda Chase, MA (H)

### AUDIT & BUDGET

John Benedik, NJ \*\*  
Judy Sherrod, TN \*  
William "Chip" Narvel, DE  
Dwight Baldwin, IA  
James Owens, ME  
Donna Keeton, OK  
Duane Hamp, WA  
Beth Merrill, NH (H)

### CITIZENSHIP

Barbara Borderieux, FL \*\*  
Donna Champion, MN \*  
Mary Johnson, ID  
Calvin Chase, MA  
Tammy Fryman, NE  
Anita Gentry, NC  
Earlene Foster, WV  
Kim Bascon, NH (H)  
Karen Lee Letourneau, NV (H)

### CONSERVATION

Stephen Logan, RI \*\*  
Randy Lewis, CA (H) \*  
Kay McCord, CO  
Mary Coye, NY  
Jerry Martin, SC  
Errol Briggs, VT  
Jim Foster, WV  
Joan Smith, Potomac (H)  
Nathan Strawder, Youth (H)

### EDUCATION & HEALTH

Jimmy Taylor, VA \*\*  
Melanie Bostwick, KS \*  
Wendy McFarland, CA  
Patti Lee, IL  
Matt Johnson, MA  
Chris Johnston, MI  
Linda Brumbaugh, OH  
Claire Logan, RI  
Dale Sanderson, VT

### GRANGE GROWTH

Carl Meiss, PA \*\*  
Donna Wiles, MD \*  
Barbara Narvel, DE  
Susan Plank, IN  
Kathy Baldwin, IA  
Stephen Coye, NY  
Christine Hamp, WA  
Duane Scott, WI  
Pete Pompper, NJ (H)

### GRANGE LAW

Jody Cameron, CT \*\*  
Betsy Huber, PA \*  
David McCord, CO  
Roger Bostwick, KS  
Marie Nicholson, MT  
Arthur Merrill, NH  
Gary Brumbaugh, OH  
Linda Lewis, CA (H)  
Dan Bascom, NH (H)

### LABOR & JUDICIARY

Jim Tetreault, NH \*\*  
Mark Noah, OR \*  
Kate Poirrier, AK  
Bob McFarland, CA  
Connie Johnston, MI  
Meghan Taylor, NJ  
Brad Keeton, OK  
Phyllis Wilson, OR  
Sharon Croucher, NY (H)

### TAXATION & TRANSPORTATION

John Poirrier, AK \*\*  
Maureen Prelli, CT (H) \*  
Jodi Ann Cameron, CT  
Lyle Lee, IL  
Rick Grotton, ME  
Karen Jenson, MN  
Scott Nicholson, MT  
Margaret Smithers, TX  
Scott Sherman, RI (H)

**\*\* Chairperson**

**\* Secretary**

## OFFICIAL PROGRAM

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

7 a.m.  
Freshmen Delegates Breakfast

8 a.m. to noon  
Committee Meetings

Noon  
Legislative Luncheon  
*Speaker: Linda Welch, USPS Regional Vice President of Operations*

2 to 5 p.m.  
Committee Meetings

7 to 9 p.m.  
Host Region Welcome Dinner

10 to 11 p.m. Committee Meetings

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

8:30 a.m.  
Pre-Convention Tour for Delegates  
*Will Rogers Memorial Museum & J.M. Davis Arms & Historical Museum*

2 p.m.  
Opening of the 144th Annual Convention in the Seventh Degree

2:15 p.m.  
Admission of Fourth Degree Members  
*Roll Call of Officers, Introduction of Staff, Roll Call of States, Partial Credentials Report and Adoption of Order of Business*

2:30 p.m.  
National Master Edward L. Luttrell's Address  
*(session at ease)*

Reconvene Session in Fourth Degree  
*National Master's Internal Report, Committee Reports and Action Announcements*

6 p.m.  
Session Closes

7:30 to 11 p.m.  
Committee Meetings

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

8 a.m.  
Salute to Agriculture Breakfast  
*Speaker: Steve Sowers, Environmental Director, Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB)*

10:30 a.m.  
Session Opens in the Fourth Degree  
Committee Reports and Actions

Noon  
Session Recesses

12:15 p.m.  
Heroes of the Grange Luncheon  
*Honoring: Crystal Allen, Rusty Hunt, Randy Lewis, Kermit Richardson, Christopher Szkutak, Caroline Tart and Fran Vitt*

2:30 p.m.  
Session Reconvenes

4:30 p.m.  
Session Recesses

4:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
Idea Fair & Best of Show Preview

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Distinguished Grange Awards

6:30 p.m.  
Youth Orientation/Expectations

7:30 p.m.  
Session Reconvenes  
*Youth visit National Grange Session  
Special guest: Will Rogers as played by Doug Watson*

9:30 p.m.  
Session Closes

9:30 p.m.  
Youth Get Acquainted Party

10 to 11 p.m.  
Committee Meetings

10:30 p.m.  
Youth Vespers

11 p.m.  
Youth Officers Parade

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

8:30 a.m.  
Business Session Opens  
*Committee Reports/Actions, Election of  
Officers and Directors' Reports*

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Youth Tour  
*Oklahoma City National Memorial and  
Museum*

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
General Tour  
*Cherokee Heritage Center*

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Idea Fair & Best of Show

10 a.m.  
Junior Grange Registration

10 to 11:30 a.m.  
Junior Grange Activities

Noon  
Session Recesses

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.  
Past Delegates Luncheon

2 to 4 p.m.  
Junior Grange Activities

2 p.m.  
Session Reconvenes in the Fourth Degree  
Committee Reports and Actions

3:30 p.m.  
Memorial Service by National Chaplain  
Phyllis Wilson

5 p.m.  
Session Closes

5 to 7 p.m.  
Committee Meetings (as necessary)

5 to 6:30 p.m. Youth Workshop  
*"Putting the Team in Teamwork"*  
*Speakers: National Grange Youth Mentors*

6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Youth and Junior Pizza Party and Slideshow

8 to 9:30 p.m.  
Junior Pajama Party

8 to 9 p.m.  
Convocation and Business Meeting of the  
Assembly of Demeter

8 p.m.  
Youth Directors Conference

9 to 10 p.m.  
Sixth Degree Practice

9 to 11 p.m.  
Committee Meetings (as necessary)

9:30 to 11 p.m.  
Youth Costume Party and Dance  
*Theme: Superheroes*

11 p.m.  
Youth Vespers

11:15 p.m.  
Youth Officers Parade

### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11 Veterans Day**

7 a.m.  
Chairs/Secretaries Breakfast

7:30 p.m.  
Youth Officers Practice and Pictures

8:30 a.m.  
Session Opens  
*Youth Opening  
Junior Grange Presentation  
Committee Reports/Action*

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Idea Fair & Best of Show

9:30 to 10:15 a.m.  
State Junior Directors'/Committee Workshop

10 a.m. to noon  
Youth Workshop  
*"Meet the Press"*  
*Presenters: Charlene Shupp Espenshade  
and Amanda Leigh Brozana*

10:15 to 11:30 a.m.  
Combined Juniors and Directors Workshop  
*Crafts, projects, games and activities*

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Seventh Degree Walk-Through

Noon  
Session Recesses

1 to 2 p.m.  
Evening of Excellence Rehearsal/Sound Check

1 to 4 p.m.  
Junior Tour  
*Tour of Tulsa Zoo and Living Museum*

1:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
Membership Workshop  
*Speaker: Michael Martin*

2 p.m.  
Session Reconvenes  
*Installation of Officers*

3 to 6 p.m.  
“This is My Grange” Interviews and Photos

3:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
Communications Workshop  
*“We can’t be everywhere: Why the Web is important for the Grange”*  
*Presenter: Amanda Leigh Brozana*

5 p.m.  
Session Closes

5 p.m.  
GROW Club and Youth A.O.L.E. Dinner

6 p.m.  
Horizon Leadership Ambassadors Pictures

7:30 p.m.  
Evening of Excellence

9:30 to 10:30 p.m.  
Sixth Degree Rose Drill Practice

10:30 p.m.  
Youth Program  
*Hosted by the Great Plains Region Youth*

11:30 p.m.  
Youth Vespers

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

8 a.m.  
Seventh Degree Final Preparations

8 a.m. to noon  
Idea Fair & Best of Show

8 a.m.  
Junior Breakfast and Super JG Awards  
Ceremony

8:30 to 9:30 a.m.  
Lecturer’s Workshop  
*Presenter: Pete Pompper, Natoinal Grange Lecturer*

9 to 9:30 a.m.  
Long Term Care Workshop  
*Presenter: LTC Financial*

9:30 to 10:30 a.m.  
Dogs for the Deaf Workshop  
*Presenter: Robin Dickson*

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Youth Workshop  
*Topic: “Grange Knowledge Challenge”*

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Junior Grange Activities

10 a.m.  
Sixth Degree Conferral

1 p.m.  
Seventh Degree Conferral

1:45 to 4 p.m.  
Junior Grange Activities

2:30 p.m.  
Junior Grange Auction with JG Dollars

3 to 6 p.m.  
“This is my Grange” Interviews and Photos

7 p.m.  
Grange Celebration Banquet and National  
Grange Auction  
*Entertainment: Clear Creek Band*

Following Banquet- Grange Dance

Midnight  
Youth Vespers



## DAILY RESUME

### 145th ANNUAL NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION

As is customary, Sandor Szima, National Grange Building Engineer, was the first to arrive at the Marriott Southern Hills in Tulsa, Oklahoma with convention materials on Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011. Others arriving early on Thursday, Nov. 3, were Executive Assistant/Meeting Planner Jessie Cope, Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana, Programs Assistant Grace Boatright, Intern Tyler Manson, and National Master Ed and First Lady Celia Luttrell (OR) to finalize plans and begin pre-convention activities. Sales, Benefits, and Programs Manager Samantha Johnson, Marketing Coordinator Beverly Mitchell, Controller Amber Casey Bell, and Leadership/Membership Director Michael Martin arrived on Friday, Nov. 4. Legislative Affairs Director Nicole Palya Wood, Trademark Protection Manager Leroy Watson, Youth Development Director Charlene Espenshade, and Junior Grange Director Diane Szkutak arrived on Saturday, Nov. 5. Members of the Host Committee also arrived early.

The members of the Board of Directors also arrived on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2011. The Board of Directors, spouses, and staff met for dinner at 7 p.m., followed by the Executive Committee meeting.

### PRE-CONVENTION Sunday, November 6, 2011

New Delegates were welcomed to the 145th National Grange Convention on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. for a workshop. New Delegates are David and Kay McCord (CO), John and Susan Plank (IN), Matthew Johnson (MA), Scott and Marie Nicholson (MT), Stephen and Mary Coye (NY), Jerry Martin (SC), Duane and Chris Hamp (WA), and Karen Lee Letourneau (NV). A noon luncheon was held for the Executive Committee and new Delegates.

Beginning at 4 p.m., Nicole Palya Wood, Legislative Director, conducted a workshop for Committee Chairs and Secretaries.

A reception welcoming the National Officers, Delegates and staff was held beginning at 6 p.m.

Beginning at 7 p.m., a convention overview for Officers and Delegates, Foundation meeting, and National Master's budget meeting was held. Introductions of National Officers, Assembly Officers, and staff members were made by Master Ed Luttrell. Board of Directors members gave a brief session overview, with Duane Scott outlining the events to be held during the session. Joe Fryman gave a few session reminders, and Jimmy Gentry reported on the Grange Foundation and the amount of money in each of the funds in the Foundation. He reported that two states had received grants from the Deaf Awareness Fund – Washington and Iowa. He reminded that there was an Earmark Fund in the Foundation that is for states without foundations to use without an administration fee.

Copies of the budget were passed out, and both Master Ed Luttrell and Chairman of the Board Betsy Huber gave updates regarding income and expenses. Board Secretary Phil Prelli asked for any questions regarding the budget, which were answered by a Board member or Master Luttrell.

Director of Communications Amanda Brozana gave a presentation about the new National Grange website and about navigating around the website. State Granges were

reminded to send a list of all Community Granges in their states so that the feature entitled “Find a Grange” could provide the ability to locate a local Grange by zip code. She spoke of other features that will soon be available on the website.

Trading cards for the National and Assembly Officers have been prepared by the staff and were distributed to every Delegate and Officer. One trading card is included in the Convention Schedule booklet. The trading cards have a photo of the Officer along with information on the back side of the card about them. Delegates and Officers were instructed to have fun in trading the cards, trying to get all 21 of them.

Priest Archon Dan Bascom announced that Amanda Brozana and Samantha Johnson designed a new pin in memory of High Priest Tom Severance, who passed away this year. They cost \$10 each, and the money from the sales of the pins will go into a Degree Fund. The Degree Fund is set aside to allow the National Grange to make a video of the first four Degrees of our Order.

Happy Birthday was sung for Kim Bascom who was having a birthday today. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

### **PRE-CONVENTION Monday, November 7, 2011**

Beginning at 7 a.m., the freshman Delegates met for breakfast.

Beginning at 8 a.m., committees met for work on resolutions and worked until lunch time.

A Legislative Luncheon was held at noon, with speaker Linda Welch, Vice President Southwest Area of the U.S. Postal Service. She provided statistics regarding the mail and explained the need to cut costs and make a change in the current business model. Because the Grange has been instrumental in aiding with mail delivery to rural America, she is hopeful that we can partner to change how the Postal Service operates so that it may evolve to meet future changes.

Following lunch, committees met again to work on resolutions until approximately 5 p.m.

A workshop entitled “What Can the National Grange Staff Do For You” presented by Amanda Leigh Brozana, Samantha Johnson, and Michael Martin was conducted beginning at 3:30 until about 5 p.m.

Yvonne Merritt (OK), Chairman of the Great Plains Region Host Committee, and the members of the Region (Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas) welcomed the Delegates for a delicious Host Dinner.

Following the meal, Yvonne Merritt introduced the entertainment for the evening—singers and dancers from several Indian tribes who demonstrated several styles of dance. The Invocation was given by the Indian group using sign language to the words of The Lord’s Prayer in their native language. The atmosphere in the ball room transformed into a pow wow. The singers were seated around a large drum and used sticks to play the drum as they sang. The dancers, both men and women, danced in native clothing specific to their heritage. Explanations were given regarding the type of dress that each dancer was wearing, and then Grangers were asked to participate in the dance.

Rehearsal of the National Grange Officers began at 9:30 p.m. Session committees met to continue working on the 2011 resolutions.

The hospitality room was hosted by the State of Oklahoma.



**FIRST DAY**  
**145th National Grange Convention**  
**Tuesday, November 8, 2011**

The day began at 8:30 a.m., as two busloads of Delegates and Officers traveled to the Will Rogers Museum and J. M. Davis Arms Museum. They returned to the hotel at noon.

Dan Bascom (NH), acting High Priest of Demeter in the absence of Tom Severance, called the 145th Annual Convention of the National Grange to order in the Seventh Degree at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011. The session was held in the Sequoia Ballroom at the Marriott Southern Hills in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The National Officers marched in and formed an altar circle before going to their stations. The soloist for the opening was Linda Brumbaugh (OH); Fran Dunkum (TX) served as the pianist.

National Master Ed Luttrell (OR) opened the Grange in full form in the Seventh Degree. High Priest Pro Tem Dan Bascom (NH) led the salutation of the Seven Degrees. The American Flag was presented.

With no further business to come before the Grange in the Seventh Degree, Priest Annalist Bruce Croucher (NY) and High Priest Pro Tem Dan Bascom (NH) were escorted from the hall to make preparations for the conferral of the Seventh Degree. The Grange was then lowered to the Fourth Degree, and Fourth Degree members were admitted.

The Grange Flag was presented by a team of members from the Great Plains region, including Yvonne Merritt (OK), Jeannie Jeary (NE), Margaret Smith (NE), Melanie Bostwick (KS), Peggy York (TX), Cindy Greer (CO), and Dee Proctor (OK). They were dressed in jeans and host t-shirts with colorful bandanas.

Honored guests, Past National Master Ed Andersen (NE) and wife, Darlene, were recognized by Worthy Master Ed Luttrell. Having requested not to be presented at the Master's station, the Graces approached the Andersens, each presenting Darlene with a pink rose and receiving a trading card of the current National Master and the current State Master.

The roll call of Officers found all present with the exception of High Priest Tom Severance (MA) who passed away earlier this year. The roll call of Delegates showed all states represented except Wyoming. Also present were representatives from Potomac Grange #1 and the State of Nevada, as well as John Trimble Legislative Experience Representative Nathan Strawder (KS).

Chairman of Audit and Budget John Benedik (NJ) gave a partial Credentials Report, which was adopted.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the order of business as printed. Motion carried.

The Worthy Master requested Worthy Overseer Jimmy Gentry (NC) assume the Master's station as Worthy National Master Ed Luttrell (OR) gave his annual National Master's Address. The Master's address will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.

Worthy Overseer Jimmy Gentry (NC) assigned sections of National Master Luttrell's address to the various committees.

Master Ed Luttrell gave his Internal Report. Jimmy Gentry, Overseer, assigned sections of this report to various committees. This report will also appear in the Journal of Proceedings.

Motion made to release the External Report to the Press. 2nd. Carried.

Recess until 4 p.m.



Following recess, the National Master stated that with the technology available today, including smart phones, Twitter, Facebook, etc., he had a request to make. He asked that members not post information from action on the floor until a motion is made to release it to the press.

Barbara Borderieux of Citizenship transferred NY-110 to Labor & Judiciary.

Jimmy Taylor of Education and Health transferred CA-109 to Agriculture.

Jody Cameron of Grange Law transferred NY-117 to Grange Growth.

Jim Tetreault of Labor & Judiciary transferred IL-101 to Citizenship & Public Affairs and also IA-103 to Citizenship & Public Affairs.

Carl Meiss of Grange Growth transferred NY-111 to Citizenship and OH-103 to Grange Law.

John Poirrier of Taxation and Transportation transferred MD-107 to Education and Health.

Citizenship Chairman Barbara Borderieux gave a partial report with changes in the National Grange Policy Book.

Don Johnson of Agriculture transferred NC-105 to Labor & Judiciary.

Steve Logan of Conservation transferred OR-106 to Taxation and Transportation, OR-101 to Agriculture, and VT-101 to Growth & Development.

John Benedik, Chairman of Audit & Budget Committee gave a partial report.

Jim Tetreault of Labor & Judiciary Committee gave a partial report of that committee.

Jody Cameron, Chairman of Grange Law, gave a partial report concerning 2nd reading resolutions.

Recess for 15 minutes until 5 p.m.

Following recess, announcements were made.

Donna Keeton gave the Word of the Day.

Chip Narvel (Steward) announced to the Delegates that the sashes they are wearing are theirs until the close of business, reminding them that they are accountable for the sashes.

Ed Luttrell announced that Western States Masters meet in Room 1119 regarding GIA following the close of today's session.

Phyllis Wilson, Chaplain, made an announcement that a card will be circulated to be signed for John and Nancy Valentine. John's mother remains in grave condition. She also reported that the memorial service will take place on Thursday afternoon, and a short practice for those who will participate will be held Wednesday afternoon at recess at 4:30 p.m.

National Overseer, Jimmy Gentry, announced new Delegates as follows:

David and Kay McCord (CO)

John and Susan Plank (IN)

Matthew Johnson (MA)

Scott and Marie Nicholson (MT)

Stephen and Mary Coye (NY)

Jerry Martin (SC)

Duane and Chris Hamp (WA)

Honorary - Karen Lee Letourneau (NV)

Nathan Strawder – Youth (KS) – John Trimble Legislative Experience

Carl Meiss, Chairman of the Grange Growth & Development Committee gave a partial report.

John Poirrier of Taxation and Transportation gave a partial report.

Barbara Borderieux of Citizenship gave a partial report. One correction to 24 hour

resolution – page 38 #8 should not be changed and the committee withdraws that 24 hour request.

Motion by John Benedik (NJ), Chairman of the Audit and Budget Committee, to bring the budget to the floor at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon, seconded, and carried. (Note: It's the same budget that was given to the Delegates on Sunday evening, with no changes from the Audit & Budget Committee).

Announcements –

National Officers will rehearse at 9 p.m. tonight.

Carl Meiss (PA) reported a Team Speak conference will be held tonight at 8 p.m.

The first day of the 145th Annual Session of the National Grange closed in the Fourth Degree at 6:15 p.m. Closing Song – America the Beautiful.

Fran Dunkum (TX) served as the pianist for the day.

The hospitality room was provided by the Kansas State Grange.

Resolutions on the large screen were managed by Grace Boatright.

The committees met to work on the resolutions during the evening.

**SECOND DAY**  
**145th National Grange Convention**  
**Wednesday, November 9, 2011**

A Salute to Agriculture Breakfast was held at 8 a.m. The speaker for the breakfast was Steve Sowers, Environmental Director, Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB).

Master Ed Luttrell (OR) opened the second day of the 145th Annual Convention of the National Grange in the Fourth Degree at 10:45 a.m. following an entrance march by the National Officers.

Roll call of Officers found all present except High Priest Tom Severance, who passed away earlier this year. Roll call of Delegates found all states were represented except Wyoming. Also in attendance was a representative from Potomac #1, the State of Nevada, as well as the John Trimble Youth Representative Nathan Strawder (KS). Opening song was "It's a Good Thing to Be a Granger."

The adopting of the pre-convention and first day minutes was deferred until the afternoon session.

John Poirrier (AK), Chairman of Taxation and Transportation, gave a partial report.

Jody Cameron (CT), Chairman of Grange Law, gave a partial report.

Announcements:

Scott Sherman (RI) reminded that if cell phones ring during session there is a \$10.00 fee, with the money collected going to the Youth and/or Junior Funds. Bruce Croucher (NY), Priest Annalist, reminded that he needs volunteers to be deputies during 7th Degree Conferral.

Don Johnson (ID), Chairman of Agriculture, gave a partial report.

Barbara Borderiux (FL), Chairman of Citizenship, gave a partial report.

John Benedik (NJ), Chairman of Audit and Budget, gave a partial report.

Jody Cameron (CT), Chairman of Grange Law, continued his report.

Master Ed Luttrell recognized Brother Ed Andersen and wife, Darlene, who were present in the hall.

Jimmy Taylor (VA), Chairman of the Education and Health Committee, gave a partial

report.

Announcements:

Donna Keeton (OK) gave the Word of the day from Blackfoot tribe. Chaplain Phyllis Wilson (OR) reported she has cards to sign for members' families - Death of former past Master of Florida Caryl Heath, former Connecticut State Master Duane Wetmore, and the family of Washington State Former First Lady Helen Hill.

Kathy Baldwin (IA) asked anyone who brought an item for the Grow Club auction to bring them to her. She thanked those who will help the Youth fund through this auction.

Brother Scott Sherman (RI) asked for an update on Past National Master Kermit Richardson. Master Ed Luttrell said Kermit is now home and doing well. He will join us by phone at the Heroes of the Grange Banquet later today.

Duane Scott (WI) moved to release yesterday's session work to the public, which was adopted.

Recess.

At 12:15 p.m. the Heroes of the Grange Luncheon was held. Those members being honored for extraordinary achievement were Crystal Allen (NC), Rusty Hunt (WA), Randy Lewis (CA), Kermit Richardson (VT), Christopher Szkutak (MA), Caroline Tart (NC), and Fran Vitt (Potomac #1). Each was presented with small crystal sheafs of wheat.

The Grange was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

Announcement: Brad Keeton (OK) reminded members to go to the Host Office to let them know your departure details and to order flowers from Cindy Greer from Colorado. The Best of Show items should be in Room Sycamore-B before 4 p.m. today.

Minutes of pre-convention activities and first day of session were approved as corrected.

John Benedik (NJ), Chairman of the Audit and Budget Committee, presented the 2012 proposed budget, which was accepted. The Audit and Budget Policy Statement was accepted, the Chairman's "thank you" completed, and the final report of the Audit and Budget Committee was adopted in its entirety.

John Poirrier (AK), Chairman of Transportation and Taxation, continued his report.

Stephen Logan (RI), Chairman of the Conservation Committee, gave a partial report.

Carl Meiss (PA), Chairman of Growth & Development, presented a partial report.

Jim Tetreault (NH), Chairman of Labor & Judiciary, brought back to the floor MI-104, which was adopted. The Policy Statement was also adopted.

Don Johnson (ID), Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, continued his report.

Lecturer Pete Pompper led the Delegates and Officers in an exercise about dealing with bullying.

Arthur Merrill (NH) asked that the printed program be amended to move the Convocation and Business Meeting of the Assembly of Demeter on Thursday evening to 7:30 p.m. instead of 8 p.m., which was approved.

Jimmy Taylor (VA), Chairman of Education and Health, brought two resolutions back to the floor, both of which were adopted.

Announcements:

Dwight Baldwin (IA) requested Mid-West Masters to meet at recess. Lady Assistant Steward Beth Merrill commended National Officers for opening drill this morning. This drill came from a Juvenile Grange book dated 1935. Chaplain Phyllis Wilson (OR) gave a reminder that State Masters will meet at 4:30 p.m. today for rehearsal for Memorial Service.

Recess.

The Delegates, National Officers and guests previewed the Idea Fair and Best of Show

displays from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Distinguished Grange Awards were presented following a make-your-own ice cream sundae event at 5:30 p.m. The 2011 Distinguished Grange Awards were presented to the following:

State Granges – Maryland \*, New York \*, and North Carolina

Subordinate Granges –

Burns Grange #160 (MI)

Chepachet Grange #38 (RI)

Deer Lagoon Grange #846 (WA)

Elizabethtown Area Grange #2076 (PA) \*

Five Mile Prairie Grange #905 (WA) \*

Haynie Grange #169 (WA)

Humptulips Grange #730 (WA) \*

Kuna Grange #59 (ID) \*

McIntosh Grange #1001 (WA)

Mica Flats Grange #436 (ID)

Prairie Grange #1832 (IL)

Redland Grange #796 (OR) \*

Russellville Grange #91 (PA) \*

Sequim Prairie Grange #1108 (WA)

Stanford Grange #808 (NY) \*

Uxbridge Grange #200 (MA) \*

\* Indicates 2nd year winners

The session reconvened at 7:30 p.m. Master Luttrell welcomed the Youth and guests to the session.

Announcements:

Reminder to please turn cell phones to “off” since the National Gatekeeper will collect \$10 for every ring. Committee Chairmen were told to please see Nicole to let her know if you are finished with your committee room so those rooms can be released.

Jody Cameron (CT), Chairman of the Grange Law Committee, brought a resolution needing attention in 24 hours.

Roll call of states was called and Grangers representing their states were recognized.

The Grange was declared at ease for special guest Will Rogers as portrayed by Doug Watson.

When the session was called back to order, Jim Tetreault (NH), the Chairman of Labor and Judiciary, presented the committee index, which was adopted. The Chairman’s thank you was presented, and the entire report was adopted.

Jody Cameron (CT), Chairman of Grange Law, continued his report.

The Grange Law Policy Statement was presented, which was adopted. The Index was presented and was adopted, the Chairman’s thank you was completed, and the entire report of the Grange Law Committee was adopted.

The second day of the 145th session was closed in due form at 9:25 p.m. Closing song was “Let There Be Peace On Earth.”

The Youth Orientation was conducted at 6:30 p.m. The youth enjoyed a “get acquainted” party in the evening, followed by vespers at 10:30 p.m. The Youth Officer Corp. began practicing at 11 p.m.

Fran Dunkum (TX) served as the pianist for the day.

Hosts in the hospitality room for Wednesday were from Nebraska.

The resolutions projected on the large screen in the session room were taken care of today by Grace Boatright, Programs Assistant.

**THIRD DAY**  
**145th National Grange Convention**  
**Thursday, November 10, 2011**

The third day of the 145th Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m. following an entrance march by the National Officers.

Roll call of Officers found all present with the exception of High Priest Tom Severance. Roll call of Delegates found all states represented except Wyoming. Also in attendance were representatives from Nevada and the John Trimble Youth Representative Nathan Strawder (KS). Opening Song was "This Old Grange."

Adoption of the minutes from yesterday's session will be deferred until the afternoon session.

Announcements were made.

Steve Logan from Rhode Island recognized past National Secretary and Past National Flora Shirley Lawson and her husband, Jack.

Duane Scott moved that the work from yesterday be released to the media. Don Johnson reported he has an intent to reconsider an item from yesterday. Motion failed.

Worthy Master Ed Luttrell called for the election of new officers for the National Grange for the next two years. Balloting proceeded in due form.

Ed Luttrell (OR) was re-elected as Master.

Jimmy Gentry (NC) was re-elected as Overseer.

The report of the Communications Director of the National Grange, Amanda Brozana, was given, detailing activities and giving information regarding the new National Grange website and expected additions to be completed in the future.

Phil Prelli (CT) was re-elected as a member of the Executive Committee.

The report of the Sales, Benefits and Programs Director, Samantha Johnson, was given, outlining new benefits programs that are available for Grange members.

Joe Fryman (NE) was re-elected as a member of the Executive Committee.

Master Ed Luttrell recognized Brother Ed Andersen, past National Master from Nebraska.

Reports of the Directors of the National Grange continued with a report from Legislative Director Nicole Wood.

Pete Pompper (SC) was re-elected as Lecturer.

Trademark Protection Manager Leroy Watson gave a report of activities regarding trademark management.

William "Chip" Narvel (DE) was re-elected as Steward. Recess.

Following recess, Roger Bostwick (KS) was re-elected as Assistant Steward.

Jessie Cope, Executive Assistant, gave a report regarding activities of this convention and future convention sites.

Michael Martin, Leadership Membership Director, gave his report. All Director reports will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.

Beth Merrill (NH) was re-elected as Lady Assistant Steward.

Don Johnson moved to reconsider the policy statement of Labor & Judiciary Committee. There was a conflict in the policy statement with another committee; so a revised policy statement for Labor and Judiciary was presented.

Announcements were made.

Duane Scott moved to release the work of yesterday's committee to the press.

John Poirrier, Chairman of Taxation and Transportation Committee, gave a partial report.

Barbara Borderieux (FL) was elected as Chaplain.

The report of the Chairman of Taxation and Transportation continued.

Gary Brumbaugh moved to substitute OH-106 for the committee report, which was adopted.

Donna Keeton introduced Marvin Purdy, Past State Master from Oklahoma and Past National Treasurer.

Judy Sherrod was re-elected as Secretary.

Announcements were made before recess.

National Grange Flora Patti Lee (IL) was emcee at the Past Delegates Luncheon, at which 47 past Delegates were honored. Sister Henrietta Keller (IL), past National Secretary and past Illinois State Master, was the speaker.

The session was called back to order at 2 p.m.

Carl Meiss (PA), Chairman of the Grange Growth and Development, continued with his committee report.

Chris Johnston (MI) was elected as Gatekeeper.

Don Johnson (ID), Chairman of Agriculture, gave a partial report.

Steve Logan (RI), Chairman of Conservation, continued his report.

Linda Chase was re-elected as Ceres.

Master Luttrell declared the Grange at ease to receive the past Delegates of the National Grange.

The past Delegates marched around the hall, escorted by the Assistant and Lady Assistant, where each of the past Delegates announced their offices and years of service.

A memorial service was held under the direction of National Chaplain Phyllis Wilson (OR). Secretary Judy Sherrod (TN), Pomona Linda Lewis (CA), Ceres Linda Chase (MA), Flora Patti Lee (IL), along with State Masters representing the states of the deceased members assisted with the service. Sister Barbara Borderieux (FL) gave the benediction. Pianist Fran Dunkum (TX) provided the music for the memorial service.

Deceased members:

Jerry Hancock (VA)

Marion Beecher (CT)

Charles E. Buell (WY)

Edgar L. Hall (WV)

Don McKee (AK)

Rita Morgan (NH)

Wilma Purdy (OK)

Doris Saturley (NH)

Jessie Rae Scott (NC)

Thomas F. Severance (MA)

Walter Thomas Smith (FL)

John Odell Swadley (MD)

Reta Mae Tate (ID)

Freda Wolverton (OR)

Howard Caldwell (OH)

Carryl Emery Heath (FL)

Helen Hill (WA)



Duane K. Wetmore (CT)

The Grange was called back to order at 4:15 p.m.

Chris Hamp (WA) was elected as Pomona.

The Conservation committee report was continued with a further look at the index. The report was adopted in its entirety.

Patti Lee (IL) was re-elected as Flora.

Carl Meiss (PA), Chairman of the Growth and Development Committee, presented the policy statement, which was adopted.

Announcements before closing.

Donna Keeton gave the word of the day in the Creek language for rabbit.

The second day minutes were adopted as presented.

The third day session was closed in due form at 5 p.m., with spouses or friends of the National Officers filling their chairs. Master Ed Luttrell gave a thank you to those who are filling in for the closing. Closing Song was "Good Night Grangers."

Pianist for the day was Fran Dunkum (TX).

Hosts in the hospitality room today were from Colorado.

Grace Boatright was again responsible for displaying the resolutions on the large screen in the session room.

There was a Youth workshop held at 5:00 p.m., with guest speakers from the National Grange Youth Mentors, Joseph Stefenoni (CA) and Camille Harrison (NC), followed by a pizza party at 6:30 p.m.

The Annual Convocation of the Assembly of Demeter met at 7:30 p.m.

Election of officers as follows:

High Priest     Bruce Croucher

Priest Archon     Dan Bascom

Priest Annalist     James Owens

The Junior Grangers held a pajama party at 8 p.m., a Youth Costume Party and Dance beginning at 9:30 p.m. followed by vespers and Youth Officers practice.

#### **FOURTH DAY**

#### **145th National Grange Convention**

#### **Friday, November 11, 2011**

A Chair/Secretaries breakfast was held at 7 a.m.

The fourth day of the 145th Annual Convention of the National Grange opened in the Fourth Degree at 8:30 a.m., following an excellent entrance march by the Youth Officer Corp. of the National Grange.

The following Youth served as officers:

Master - Caroline Tart (NC)

Overseer - Sara Kingborough (OR)

Lecturer - Jimmy Smith (WA)

Steward - Courtney Grey (NC)

Asst Steward - Matt Clark (NH)

Lady Asst Steward - Lynn Clark (NH)

Chaplain - Emma Edelen (IA)

Treasurer - Dwayne Craft (NC)

Secretary - Corey Spence (MA)

Gatekeeper – Ben Wadsworth (PA)  
Ceres – Alissa Estes (NH)  
Pomona – Molly Welsh (KS)  
Flora – Mary Schunemann (NH)  
Exec. Comm. – Chris Szkutak (MA)  
Exec. Comm. – Alexa Suing (OR)  
Exec. Comm. – Justin Knight (OK)  
Exec. Comm. – Clayton Krehbiel (OK)  
Pianist – Clyde Mooney (ID)

Youth Secretary Corey Spence (MA) called the Roll of Youth Officers. The opening song was “God Bless America.”

Escorted to the Master’s Station were Youth Mentors, Junior Ambassadors, National Youth Development Director Charlene Espenshade, and National Junior Director Diane Szkutak. The Junior Grange Ambassadors were introduced, and each stated their home states. Junior Ambassadors were Jacob Gwin (WA) and Clay Rapp (NC).

Youth Mentors Camille Harrison (NC) and Joseph Stefenoni (CA) gave remarks. Diane Szkutak (MA), National Junior Director, gave her report encouraging states to organize new Junior Granges and encourage young people. Charlene Espenshade (PA), National Youth Development Director, gave the annual report for the Youth Department. Both of these reports will appear in the Journal of Proceedings. Sister Espenshade recognized this year’s group of Youth Ambassadors, and then asked all former youth royalty to stand.

Lecturer’s Report from Ann Keeton (OK) was read, along with a list of Delegates who have served in the military. Each were given a small gift. She also announced the State of Oklahoma’s project was to make quilts to be donated to veterans in Oklahoma.

Lester Gibbs, Jim Foster, and Douglas Baldwin were presented blankets with their branch of the military on it.

National Lecturer Pete Pompper announced we are here to celebrate and honor those who have served and who continue to serve. He told the history of Veterans Day and read a poem entitled “The Soldier’s Prayer.”

Worthy Master Ed Luttrell challenged us to open the doors to the Youth and to encourage the Juniors. He presented a hand-made gavel to the Youth Master, Caroline Tart.

The Youth Officer Corp presented a fun exit drill. Youth and Junior activities will be going on throughout the day.

Roll call of National Officers found all present, with the exception of High Priest Tom Severance. The roll call of Delegates found all states were represented except Wyoming. Also answering roll call were representatives from the State of Nevada, and the John Trimble Legislative representative Nathan Strawder (KS).

Jimmy Taylor was recognized since today is his birthday.

Jack Smithers introduced Jay Pfeiffer, past National Grange Steward and past State Master.

Barbara Borderiux, Chairman of the Citizenship Committee, gave a partial report.

Announcements – Dan Bascom reminded of installation at 2 p.m. Wear dark colors.

He announced the times he needs participants in the Seventh Degree to be present.

Carl Meiss, Chairman of the Growth and Development Committee, gave a final report, which was adopted in its entirety.

Jimmy Taylor, Chairman of the Education and Health Committee, gave a partial report.

Because today is Veterans Day, and 11-11-11, at 11 a.m. the delegate body had a moment



of silence to honor the veterans for their past service and to recognize the current military. Recess.

Following recess, the minutes from day 2 were adopted as amended.

Jimmy Taylor, Chairman of Education and Health, continued his report.

The report of the Education and Health Committee was adopted in its entirety.

Barbara Borderieux, Chairman of the Citizenship Committee, gave a partial report.

Phil Prelli, for Don Johnson, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, gave a partial report.

Announcements – Donna Keeton gave the word for the day from the Cherokee tribe.

“Wa-dough” means thank you. Brad Keeton thanked everyone on behalf of the region. Thanks for being a part of this session hosted by the Great Plains Region. After 3 p.m. today, the host office will give you a slip to confirm your departure.

Recess. At 2 p.m. the installation of newly elected officers.

The Installation team consisted of Installing Officer Dan Bascom (NH), Lady Marshall Kim Bascom (NH), Regalia Bearer Linda Lewis (CA), Implement Bearer Bruce Croucher (NY), Installation Master Scott Sherman (RI), Installation Chaplain Phyllis Wilson (OR), and Pianist Fran Dunkum (TX).

Following recess, the Grange was called back to order. Scott Sherman (RI), Linda Lewis (CA), and Phyllis Wilson (OR) were escorted to the Master’s Station where they each received a Past National Grange Officer Pin, with each giving remarks.

Jack Smithers (TX) introduced Barbara Knight, former National Flora and her husband, Archie, who is a past State Master. He then introduced part of the 50 or so Texans who are in attendance at this convention.

Don Johnson, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, thanked the members of the committee who took care of the committee work on the floor while he was at 7th Degree run-through. He introduced Brother Don Billmire, Past Master of Idaho State Grange.

The Agriculture Committee report was adopted in its entirety.

Barbara Borderieux, Chairman of the Citizenship Committee, continued her report.

The report of the Citizenship Committee was adopted in its entirety.

Thomas McKern, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Grange Insurance Association (GIA), was escorted to the Master’s station. He addressed the delegate body with information about the insurance company, their investments and money paid out due to weather.

Motion by Joe Fryman (NE) to release all of today’s business that is appropriate to the media. Seconded. Carried. He then moved to allow the Executive Committee to be authorized to approve Friday’s session minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

Announcements.

Pete Pompper thanked the pianist for an outstanding job.

Don Johnson gave greetings from High Priest Emeritus John Valentine who sent his congratulations to the newly elected Officers.

Jack Smithers reminded host states about the practice for 6th Degree at 9 p.m. tonight.

James Foster complimented the host states for an outstanding hospitality room during this session.

Worthy Master Ed Luttrell (OR) gave the 2012 Annual Words to all State Masters and National Officers. Secretary Judy Sherrod (TN) read the roll call of State Masters and National Officers to receive the annual words.

Betsy Huber moved that the minutes reflect our appreciation toward Nathan Strawder and his work this week as a participant of the John Trimble Legislative Experience.

The 145th Session of the National Grange closed in the Fourth Degree. Closing song was “Bless Be the Tie That Binds.” Everyone present formed a circle, joined hands and sang “God Be With You.”

Host of the hospitality room today is Texas.

Fran Dunkum (TX) served as the pianist for the day.

At 7:30 p.m., the Evening of Excellence was held in the Council Oak Ballroom. Lecturer Pete Pompper (SC) and Youth Mentors Camille Harrison (NC) and Joseph Stefenoni (CA) introduced the participants in the Talent, Public Speaking, Sign-a-Song and State Ambassadors of the 2011 Horizon Leadership Program. The winners as Youth Mentors for 2012 were announced: Ana Mari Parker (NC) and Patrick Wadsworth (PA). Runners-up were Sara Recktenwald (NY) and Andrew Martin (NC).

The following workshops were held throughout the day: 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m., State Junior Directors & Committee Workshop; Youth Workshops entitled “Meet the Press” from 10 a.m. to noon; following the Youth Workshops were a combined Juniors and Directors Workshop; the Junior Tour to the Tulsa Zoo and Living Museum from took place from 1 to 4 p.m; a Youth/Membership workshop was conducted from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., presented by Michael Martin; a communications workshop was held from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., presented by Amanda Leigh Brozana; and lastly, the Grow Club dinner was held at 5 p.m.

## SATURDAY

A Junior Grange breakfast was held beginning at 8 a.m., followed by a special workshop with Junior Grange activities. The Junior Degree was presented at noon, with more activities during the afternoon. Pete Pompper, National Lecturer, led a workshop at 8:30 a.m. Other workshops during the morning were the Long-Term Care Workshop, presented by LTC Financial, Ms. Robin Dickson’s presentation on Dogs for the Deaf, and the Youth Mentors and National Youth Director’s workshop regarding the Youth Knowledge Challenge.

The Seventh Degree Conferral began at 1 p.m. with 99 candidates.

### Cast:

High Priest	Dan Bascom, Acting (NH)
Priest Archon	Jack Smithers, Pro Tem (TX)
Priest Annalist	Bruce Croucher (NY)
Priest Treasurer	Dwight Baldwin (IA)
Priest Interpreter	Don Johnson (ID)
Priest Archivist	Maurice Wiles (MD)
Priestess Hierophant	Phyllis Wilson (OR)
Priest Orator	Christopher Johnson (MI)
Priest First Mystagogue	Calvin Chase (MA)
Priest Second Mystagogue	James Owens (ME)
Priest Conductor	Arthur Merrill (NH)
Priest Messenger	James Taylor (VA)
Priest Herald	Kevin Klenklen (KS)
Priest Guardian	Chip Narvel (DE)
Priest Announcer	Gary Brumbaugh (OH)
Priestess Ceres	Linda Chase (MA)
Priestess Pomona	Linda Lewis (CA)
Priestess Flora	Patti Lee (IL)

Ceres Attendant 1	Connie Johnston (MI)
Ceres Attendant 2	Claire Logan (RI)
National Master	Ed Luttrell (OR)

Trumpet Girls:

Melody Shufeldt (OK)  
Bailey Shufeldt (OK)  
Jorja Fisher (OK)  
Kennedy Bailey (OK)  
Rachel Edelen (IA)  
Samantha Shufeldt (OK)

Marching Candidates:

Molly Welsh (KS)  
Ashlee Schif (KS)  
Aaron Schif (KS)

Court Ladies:

Donna Champion (MN)  
Karen Jensen (MN)  
Chris Hamp (WA)  
Kay McCord (CO)  
Barbara Borderieux (FL)  
Marie Nicholson (MT)  
Jodi Ann Cameron (CT)  
Melanie Bostwick (KS)  
Wendy Martin (PA)  
Kim Bascom (NH)  
Susan Noah (OR)

Directors:	Scott & Jennifer Russell (OH)
Slide Illustration:	Duane Scott (WI)
Video Technician:	Patty Dyer (OH)
Wardrobe, Makeup:	Donna Wiles (MD), Melanie Bostwick (KS), Judy Sherrod (TN) and Mary Johnson (ID)
Backstage Assistants:	Harold and Carolyn Hill (CA)
Vocalists:	Donna Keeton (OK)
Pianist:	David Stevens (OK)
Head Deputy:	Randy Lewis (CA)

The Grange Celebration Banquet began at 7 p.m. All those present gave the pledge to the flag followed by the invocation by Chaplain Barbara Borderieux. Those seated at the head table were Yvonne and Kay Merritt, 2011 host coordinators, Michael Martin and his wife, Wendy, Chaplain Barbara Borderieux, John and Peggy Fine, 2012 host coordinators, Anne Bercher from the Kelley Farm, and National Master Ed Luttrell and his wife, Celia.

Following dinner, Brother Ed introduced the National Grange staff members, National Officers and Assembly Officers. Samantha Johnson showed the quilt that was completed by Barbara Grove in Pennsylvania, to be given to the Foster Family organization and auctioned

off at their annual convention. A check was presented to Anne Bercher from the Kelley Farm for \$3,500. Samantha Johnson announced a new fundraising activity for the National Grange, selling Yankee Candles, with proceeds going to the Kelley Farm. The Youth will go to the Kelley Farm in 2013 for presentation of Degree work from 1873. The National Grange Community Service Awards were presented by Samantha as follows: 4th Progressive Valley #2433 (OH), 3rd Ekonk Community #89 (CT), 2nd Richmond #6 (RI), and 1st Flora #1752 (IL).

Michael Martin, Membership/Leadership Director, announced net gains in membership. 495 Community Granges had net gains. There is a map on the wall listing all of these Granges by State. The State Granges which had a net gain in membership were California, Oklahoma, Montana, Maryland, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Texas and New Jersey.

The entertainment for the evening was introduced by Yvonne Merritt (OK). The Clear Creek Bank played and sang. She said that half of the bank members were also Grange members. Matt Clark (NH) announced the winners in the Grow Club silent auction, which netted \$693.50.

National Master Ed Luttrell recognized everyone present at the banquet from the host region states, and Yvonne Merritt thanked the host region members who helped make this year's Convention a success. A video for Boise, Idaho was shown, and the Convention Coordinators for the 2012 Convention, John and Peggy Fine, welcomed everyone to Boise in November 2012.

An auction was held for a crystal vase engraved with the Grange emblem. The proceeds from the auction went to the Trademark Protection Fund.

The Grange truck traveled 7,417 miles in 2011 and saw 195 new members while passing through states. It was passed along to the Florida State Grange. The new Motto is "American Values, Hometown Roots."

Fraternally Submitted,

Judy Sherrod (TN), National Grange Secretary

**COMBINED SEVENTH DEGREE  
BUSINESS MEETING AND CONVOCATION  
Tulsa, OK  
November 10, 2011**

The combined Convocation and Business meeting of the Seventh Degree was held in the Sequoia Ballroom of the Tulsa Marriot Southern Hills hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011.

Priest Herald Kevin Klenklen conducted the Officers and cast consisting of Priest Archon Pro Tem Jack Smithers (TX), Priest Annalist Bruce Croucher (NY), Priest Treasurer Dwight Baldwin (IA), Priest Interpreter Don Johnson (ID), Priest Archivist Maurice Wiles (MD), Priestess Hierophant Phyllis Wilson (OR), Priest Orator Christopher Johnston (MI), Priest First Mystagogue Calvin Chase (MA), Priest Second Mystagogue James Owens (ME), Priest Conductor Arthur Merrill (NH), Priest Messenger James Taylor (VA), Priest Guardian Chip Narvel (DE), Priest Announcer Gary Brumbaugh (OH), Priestess Ceres Linda Chase (MA), Priestess Pomona Linda Lewis (CA), and Priestess Flora Patty Lee (IL) to their proper stations. Priest Herald Kevin Klenklen then conducted High Priest Pro Tem Daniel Bascom and National Grange Master Edward Luttrell. Priestess Hierophant Phyllis Wilson gave the opening prayer. The opening song was "America."

High Priest Pro Tem Daniel Bascom opened the meeting in full form. High Priest Pro Tem

Daniel Bascom welcomed all to the convocation. High Priest Pro Tem Daniel Bascom told the assembly that the history of the gavel and gavel block, being from the Temple at Elusis, was part of the convocation. The Signs of all of the Seven Degrees were read from the Sacred Record and exemplified by Priest James Taylor and Priest Jody Cameron. Priest Annalist Bruce Croucher and Priest Archon Jack Smithers exemplified the Patrons General Sign as High Priest Pro Tem Bascom read from the Sacred Record.

Minutes from the 1922 convocation were read for the interest of the assembly. This session was held in Wichita, KS. Charles Gardner was High Priest and S.J. Lowell was National Master. High Priest Gardner stated that a copy of the Sacred Record had been prepared and examined by the Executive Committee and had been accepted. The statement regarding the significance of the Seventh Degree had been incorporated into the Sacred Record.

High Priest Pro Tem Daniel Bascom opened the business meeting of the Assembly of Demeter. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and some corrections were made. A tribute to High Priest Severance was then given by Priestess Ceres Linda Chase. Brother Tom joined the Grange in 1955 in Brookfield, MA. He served in many offices and was elected State Grange Master in 1993. He and his wife, Peg, worked tirelessly for the Grange. He had a dream to one day become High Priest; this dream was fulfilled in 2009. Although he never had the opportunity to serve at the convention, he did his best and worked well with Dan Bascom in making sure the Degree was presented properly and in providing the words for admission each level of the Grange. The choice of Jack Smithers as the substitute Priest Archon was Tom's. Priestess Chase ended with the poem "He Only Takes The Best."

High Priest Pro Tem Daniel Bascom introduced National Master Luttrell. Priest Luttrell shared that he worked with High Priest Severance on the Grange Law Committee. They discussed the ritual work and the convocation. The emblems of the convocation officers were of interest. We need to promote the messages of the Degrees to the local level and encourage youth members to be involved. We need to leave a legacy that that would make Tom proud.

High Priest Pro Tem Daniel Bascom introduced Past National Master Edward Anderson of Nebraska.

### *Old Business*

High Priest Pro Tem Daniel Bascom thanked everyone in the cast of the 7th Degree. He appreciates all who do their best.

New Business: National Master Ed Luttrell was asked to conduct the election of the officers of the Assembly of Demeter. The statement defining eligible voters for the election was given, and it was determined that there were 93 in the hall. The result of the election was:

High Priest - Bruce Croucher (NY)

Priest Archon - Daniel Bascom (NH)

Priest Annalist - James Owens (ME)

A resolution to allow the use of the 1873 version of the first four Degrees in a public setting was presented. A motion was made to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded and carried.

It was announced that the original Sacred Record, compiled by founder Thompson, was now under lock and key at the National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Charles Gardner version was at the home of Daniel Bascom in NH, and the Valentine version was on display at this convocation. The National Grange website will have a members only section and the annual password will also be the password for this section. This year's class of candidates for the 7th Degree will be called the "Tom Severance Class." Commemorative pins will be available at the Degree registration. A special seal will be affixed to this year's 7th Degree certificates.

High Priest Pro Tem Daniel Bascom introduced Scott and Jennifer Russell, directors of the 7th

Degree. Scott appreciates the opportunity to serve. He thanked Carolyn and Bud Hill, Duane Scott and Patty Dyer, as well as Donna Wiles, Judy Sherrod and Melanie Bostwick, the make-up crew. The Great Plains Committee was thanked for their help. The stage this year should provide good visibility for the Degree.

John Fine, 2012 Convention Coordinator, invited everyone to attend the 146th session next year at the Grove Hotel in Boise, ID. The theme of the convention will be “Climb Every Mountain.” We need to climb the mountain of challenges and meet at the top. The number of candidates this year is 99.

The closing song was “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.” The meeting was closed in proper form.

Fraternally Submitted,

Bruce M. Croucher (NY), Priest Annalist



**ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE NATIONAL MASTER  
145th Annual Convention  
Tulsa, OK  
November 8, 2011**

National Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters,

For the first time the National Grange meets in Annual Session in the great state of Oklahoma. The inspiration of Oklahoma's rich Native American ancestry and the indomitable spirit of the pioneers of the great American prairie remain a defining part of our American and Grange values.

There is a reason that the Grange has prospered for the past 144 years; we have never forgotten that we were founded on American values and that our strength is in our hometown roots. The principles and values of our great nation are under constant attack in the name of political correctness, and the Grange stands firm in our belief that the principles and values of America remain relevant and important to each citizen and to the future of our nation.

The foundation of America is in our hometown community. The diversity of faiths are shown by the myriad steeples that point toward the heavens in each community. Countless organizations seek to give each citizen the opportunity to learn and grow into the person that they dream to be. The strength of our great country is based not upon the size of the federal government, but upon the health of each community we call home. The roots of America which nourish our nation are the hometowns of each citizen.

*Postal Service*

At the heart of our hometowns are our local post offices. The Grange has been one of the greatest advocates of the United States Postal Service (USPS) since our earliest days. We've always been willing to suggest improvements, but our goal has been to improve the USPS so that rural America receives the service it so desperately needs.

We currently see the USPS attempting to evolve and struggling through the growing pains from a transition off federal funding and into fiscal independence. In that effort, they have asked Congress for the right to change their service schedule, which includes eliminating Saturday delivery. The USPS has included in their proposal the right to further reduce days of service, have the flexibility to make business model alterations, and change postal rates to stay competitive in their market, without the need for Congressional approval. The USPS is also considering the possibility of closing over 10% or approximately 3,700 of their post offices to save money.

The National Grange remains a supporter of the USPS due to the critical service it provides to rural America. We do oppose the reduction of service to rural America as there are still no alternatives for many of its citizens and businesses. However, in light of the fiscal condition of the USPS and our nation, the Grange will work with the USPS and Congress to ensure that postal service to every home and business remains a reality. We call upon Congress to find solutions to the problems they have created. The USPS cannot be innovative and responsive to a rapidly changing world when they are saddled with laws and rules which restrict or prohibit many common business options. If a measure is not passed to either federally fund the USPS or allow it to operate as an autonomous organization, mail delivery will be drastically affected as early as August of 2012.

The National Grange also has an economic incentive to keep the USPS alive. Should we let the USPS fail, as the 2nd largest non-government employer in the United States, we

will lose over half a million jobs.

The Grange believes that all reforms should be fully debated, while keeping in mind that the rural mail customer is much more likely to rely on USPS services in light of the current digital divide. We suggest that Congress allow the USPS to be innovative in the modern business world and develop a competitive culture within their employees.

### *Broadband Build Out*

From mail to email, the National Grange has advocated for the creation and improvement of communication infrastructure in rural America since our earliest days: first for railroads, telegraph, and postal service; then telephone service; the Interstate highway system; and, more recently, broadband service. The Internet and connections brought by broadband is truly the bridge that will shorten the distance between rural America and state-of-the-art learning and healthcare. Living on a back road should no longer translate to being denied access to cutting edge communication.

Accessibility and affordability of broadband service is critical to rural America. Education, medical care, business, as well as instant communication and updates between family members, are now common uses of high speed internet. The health of our rural communities depends upon being a part of the modern world.

Recently, the National Grange briefed the Congressional Rural Caucus on the need for Rural Broadband. We partnered with large carriers such as Verizon and AT&T as well as the National Telecom Cooperatives Association, and smaller telecom and cellular providers, like Windstream and CenturyLink, to advocate for a collaborative proposal called America's Broadband Connectivity Plan (ABC). ABC was brought to the Federal Communications Commission.

Two weeks ago, the FCC ruled to endorse a good portion of the ABC plan and reallocated money in the Universal Service Fund to allow rural Americans the same affordable access to broadband that the Universal Service Fund brought them with copper wires 30 years ago. Due to the collaborative nature of these organizations, and the support of advocacy groups like the National Grange, \$4.5 billion will be invested in building out Rural Broadband, and even better, this investment will come from a fund already established. The Connectivity plan will redirect monies already collected.

Doing more with less is something that rural Americans know very well. Broadband allows its users to do many things, but most importantly it makes us more efficient at home and at work. Just as broadband helps us do more with less, the cost of energy requires us to do the same.

### *Energy*

Our lives are powered by the energy created when our bodies burn calories. Our God-given ingenuity and intelligence has allowed us to harness a wide variety of other forms of energy to improve the lives of every person in America. The very strength and future of our country is dependent upon the availability and affordability of energy.

Energy is the lifeblood of our economy and it is a major factor in the quality of our life. We depend upon energy in the form of electricity, which powers much of the telecommunications and personal technology revolution sweeping the world, and oil, which provides the bulk of the energy required for transportation. Even with conservation, refinements, and improvements in our energy usage, we know we will need even more energy in the future to maintain, if not improve, our lives. It is doubtful that many Americans will voluntarily reduce their standard of living, and it is not possible to go



back to a simpler time, before the electrification of America, without massive negative environmental impact.

Coal provides approximately 45 percent of our needed electricity, natural gas 23 percent, nuclear 20 percent, hydro-electric 7 percent, and all other renewable sources provide less than 4 percent. Nations, such as France, have demonstrated that the majority of their electricity can be provided with clean nuclear generation.

The reality of our use of fossil fuels is that many nations, including ours, are adding massive quantities of greenhouse gasses to our atmosphere. Science agrees that the climate always changes and that we may impact those changes.

Executive orders from the President, thousands of pages of complex laws from Congress, and mountains of regulations from various federal agencies have done virtually nothing to address our nation's energy security needs. Dams generating clean power are being removed to return streams and rivers to their "natural state," and nuclear electrical generation facilities are shut down due to age, yet neither are being replaced to ensure that we have clean, renewable power in the quantities our society needs.

Since the birth of the Grange in 1867, our organization has advocated and taught that we are the stewards of the land and we should leave the Earth in better condition than we found it. We know that the best practices in raising crops or caring for livestock and the best methods of protecting soil and water are learned through study, observation, and vigorous discussion of those findings. In addition, we know those practices and methods must always be updated as new information is discovered.

The National Grange calls upon the President and Congress to immediately begin to remove legislative and regulatory roadblocks to allow clean energy production to be brought on line within the next ten years. We further call on the President to direct all Federal agencies that manage our natural resources to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the land and water resources under their jurisdiction that could be used effectively to generate or transport clean electricity within the next ten years, regardless of the previous political designation given to those lands and water resources. America needs direction from our leaders, not dictates. Just as we overcame the challenges of putting a man on the moon within ten years, it is within our power to change the electrical energy supply system of America.

When America has direction, it will empower the private and public sector to follow promising research, adapt to new information, and form partnerships that allow quicker implementation to accomplish this goal. This process is proven to be far more effective than government mandates, which lock all into a decision that is often more political than practical.

New designs of nuclear facilities, which are safer and may have much smaller footprints, need to be tested and approved. New hydro-electric projects need to be explored. While geo-thermal, tidal, solar, biomass, and wind power electricity generators are not substantial producers now, they serve an important niche and, as technology improves, may serve a larger role in electrical generation. All of these electricity generation technologies would benefit from greater access to appropriate land and water resources now managed by the federal government.

This approach doesn't begin to solve all the problems, but it moves us in the right direction and doesn't require brand new technologies, which may or may not be economically viable. It also frees up natural gas and coal for other valuable uses beyond burning for electrical generation.

### *Agriculture*

2011 has been a mixed year for much of agriculture with prices generally up. It has also been a rough year for many farmers with weather challenges, a struggling economy, and uncertainty from government over-regulation.

The next farm bill is due to be renewed in 2012. More than 70 percent of all money in the last farm bill was directed to non-farm programs such as food assistance and school lunch programs. If a farm bill is passed in the next year, it may be the first to contain almost zero farm subsidies. Under the deficit reduction deal, a supercommittee of 12 members of the House and Senate will decide the fate of the 2012 Farm Bill and most likely the programs and monies funded by it. This supercommittee, called the Joint Deficit Reduction Committee, has told the House and Senate Ag Committees that they must cut at least 23 billion from the current or 2008 Farm Bill program baselines.

Regardless of the outcome from this supercommittee, seven billion citizens of Earth now expect access to basic needs like food, fiber and fuel. In my lifetime, our population is expected to top 9 billion, yet we continue to see a migration away from agriculture to urban centers even in underdeveloped nations that can scarcely feed themselves. As a majority of the Earth's citizens have migrated to cities, the remaining farmers must work harder and be smarter to assure that urban consumers have access to the food and fiber they need and desire. With the growing global population shifts, a new generation of agriculturalists will utilize a wide variety of business plans and will expect market forces, not government assistance, to shape and dictate the success of their businesses. For this reason, those in Washington, D.C. must resist setting a new course in agriculture policy and allow the market to guide our American farmers.

It is apparent that direct payments and commodity specific production subsidies to farmers are not only on the table, but will likely be ended. The Grange believes that programs such as crop insurance, research, and marketing partnerships are essential to give farmers a more level playing field in both the local and global market.

Investments in research and education through a variety of means, including the Extension Service, 4-H, and our Land Grant Colleges, benefit both large and small farmers. Improved and more efficient practices, disease research, and leadership development are essential to help farmers improve production and to strengthen America's rural communities. In addition, billions of our fellow beings around the world are alive due to improvements and discoveries by American agricultural research.

Crop Insurance, disaster payments, and marketing programs and partnerships are important keys to helping farmers and ranchers deal with volatile and unpredictable weather and markets. To ensure the health of farm communities, we need systems in place to help farmers and rural communities survive the bad years in order to make it to the profitable years.

Long term success for agriculture is only partially dependent upon weather and markets. It is becoming apparent that the marketing of every product of agriculture will be dependent upon the perception that the public has toward each commodity. Agricultural production for the farmer and rancher has always been as much about the lifestyle and love of the land as making a profit. We must remember that while a profit is necessary, the perception of our production methods greatly impact the views and opinions of the consumer.

The terms "factory farm" or "industrial agriculture" create an incredibly negative view of agriculture. There is research being conducted that may someday create a factory farm, such as the research funded by PETA to raise meat in a lab setting without animals, but that world does not exist today. As I have said on many occasions, the average American

below the age of 50 is at least two generations removed from living on an active family farm. They do not form their opinions about the role and benefits of agricultural production based on personal experiences. The average consumer creates their opinion based upon the information that they are given through many forms of media rather than the facts as presented by agricultural groups, who by their nature are workers, not talkers.

We often don't create our own messages—messages that could improve the image of our industry. Instead, we allow the message to be created by people who know little or nothing about the day-to-day operations, needs and stewardship of those involved in agriculture. As an increasing number of consumers have little or no understanding of the farm, the need grows for everyone who cares about agriculture to become educators and creators of public opinion. We need to communicate using all the mediums used by the consumer to ensure that agriculture is judged on facts, not myths.

How we grow our crops, harvest our crops, raise our livestock, and how we treat the land and animals impacts how the public views agriculture. We need to educate children and adults about why people choose to be farmers, ranchers, or foresters and enlighten them of the fact that those people cherish the land and livestock they care for. Small and large producers alike share in the need to present agriculture in a positive light. If we fail to take the leadership in the arena of public opinion, those organizations that stand in opposition to agricultural interests will do so and will win the war they have waged on the livelihood and passion of so many who live and work in agriculture.

The health of agriculture in America is dependent upon our fellow citizens viewing producers as good stewards of the earth and ethical people who care for the livestock they raise. Both small local producers and large production farmers are necessary to meet the needs of the coming decades. American consumers are demanding more locally grown products as well as many specialty products. At the same time, the population of the world continues to grow, and the need for American ingenuity and skill in feeding the world's hunger grows. The Grange believes that both small and large producers are filling important roles: one in meeting local demand and the other in feeding the starving around the world. Both are to be commended, and we encourage producers in both groups to acknowledge the vital role that all play in feeding and clothing their fellow beings.

### *Regulation*

This year, we've seen regulations proposed from nearly every federal regulating agency. The Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Agriculture have all considered, proposed, or adopted regulations affecting nearly every aspect of feeding and clothing America and the world.

The Grange believes that there are too many regulations already impacting farmers, ranchers, foresters, and small businesses. According to the Government Accountability Office, 1,827 rulemaking proceedings were completed between October 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011. Of these, 37 were identified as having an expected economic impact of at least \$100 million per year to business. No major rules were adopted that decreased regulatory burdens during the same period.

Nearly every aspect of daily life is under scrutiny from federal regulators. The Spring 2011 Unified Agenda lists 2,785 rules, of which 144 are major. This is an increase of over 15% in the number of major rules from the spring of 2010 to 2011. The burden from these 144 major rules alone would cost American businesses a minimum of \$14 billion each year.

The cost to the American people from developing, implementing, and enforcing these rules continues to rise and is projected to consume at least an additional 4% of tax dollars

this year alone. The federal regulatory octopus is expanding its scope and reach at a rate that is faster than the growth of our economy, faster than the growth of our population, faster than the general rate of inflation, and even faster than the specific rate of inflation for our health care over the past decade.

The more regulators strangle business and innovation, the higher the cost will be to consumers. Consumers pay more for American products as the cost of doing business in our country increases. We also pay with jobs lost when American companies cannot compete against foreign business or when companies choose to relocate to other nations with fewer regulations in order to remain competitive.

The Grange is not opposed to common sense regulations, but we call upon the President to halt the growth of onerous federal regulations during this time of economic uncertainty. We also ask Congress to exercise their authority to oversee the federal agencies and remove the funding of additional major rules.

### *Fiscal Responsibility*

The economic problems our nation has experienced over the past three years has impacted millions of Americans and will continue to impact many citizens for years to come, regardless of when or how quickly the economy recovers. Many have had their retirement plans changed by the loss of their career during what should have been their peak earning years. Others have lost homes or savings, and it may take years or even decades to rebuild the financial security that has vanished. Many retirees have been forced to cut their lifestyles due to losses from their investments.

Government involvement in our economy appears to have worsened and prolonged the problems from a common sense viewpoint. Unrestrained spending by our elected officials has resulted in a reduction by Standard and Poor's of our nation's bond rating for the first time in history and created doubt with foreign investors that will affect our market for years to come. Uncertainty created by regulations and massive laws have negatively affected both large and small business. Government selection of winners and losers through stimulus spending, grants, and loans has not greatly benefited the economy, even as it has apparently benefitted selective campaign contributors. In addition there have been several large and public failures in these programs.

The Grange advocates for common sense actions to bring fiscal responsibility back to our nation. Congress and the President should start with balancing the budget. If deficit spending is required to meet our nation's needs, such as in the case of war or natural disaster, then the American people will know that debt is created for a specific purpose and can hold their elected officials accountable. Until the budget is balanced, it will not be possible to pay down the national debt that has already been created and continues to grow at an unacceptable rate.

The Grange asks each elected official to lay aside their partisan politics and work together to ensure that a balanced budget is achieved. We also believe that Congress should seek to implement their laws and financial solutions in a timely fashion rather than passing them to future Congresses, which must act in order for those solutions to be implemented.

The American tax code has become extremely complicated. Tax rates, tax credits, and tax deductions create confusion for the average American. Businesses and individuals are required to hire tax experts in fear of IRS audits and to take advantage of a multitude of tax credits and deductions.

The National Grange calls for a simplification of the tax code. This simplification should follow some basic philosophies: it should be based upon the ability to pay, and we

firmly reject the idea that success in America should be punished with a heavier tax burden; each working American should pay something to their nation; and the purpose of the tax code should be to raise the necessary revenue needed by a frugal government, not social engineering.

We recommend that all tax credits be reviewed by Congress with the goal that only those shown to have a positive impact on the economy be kept. Americans should be making financial decisions based on what is right for themselves and their businesses rather than how to avoid paying taxes.

### *Conclusion*

The Grange stands ready to work in thousands of communities, to advocate in State Capitals around our nation, and to stand firm in Washington, D.C. on the common sense principles of American values. We understand that our hometown roots are what give strength to America.

2012 will be an interesting year. It is shaping up to be a year of intense partisanship due to the presidential and congressional elections. The challenges in urban, suburban, and rural America are many, but solutions will be found, issues will be addressed, and at the end of the year, we will be Americans working together.

Grange members understand “American Values, Hometown Roots!”

Fraternally Submitted,

Edward L. Luttrell (OR), National Master

**NATIONAL MASTER’S INTERNAL ADDRESS**  
**145th Annual Convention**  
**Tulsa, OK**  
**November 8, 2011**

National Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters,

This internal report is designed for the benefit of the Delegates of the National Grange and all members of our Order. I urge each Grange to discuss the content contained within this report.

In the annual address I used the phrase “American Values, Hometown Roots” a number of times. These four words summarize what the Grange is to our members and one way to share our organization with the public.

The challenges and opportunities facing the Grange range from financial to trademark protection, from growth to our 150th birthday. Just as America will face both challenges and opportunities in the coming year, so too will we find solutions and ensure our future.

### *Finances*

Just as the challenges of keeping the budget balanced in the face of revenue reductions occupy a lot of time for State Grange Executive Committees, the same is true for your National Grange Executive Committee.

However, as we look outside our Order, we see that the economy is the major source of concern for most of America. During tough times, our organization has always risen to



the challenge, and through serving the needs of our fellow citizens in our hometowns, we have grown and prospered.

The budget shows that membership losses have completely negated the dues increase in 2010, meaning that the budget projections for 2012 will be the same as those from 2008. Supportive membership income has declined by 40 percent since 2008. The only income that has gone up is the building income, which has increased by nearly \$180,000. This means that dues and fees are 38% of the proposed 2012 income and the building income is over 50%.

On the expense side of the budget, personnel expenses are 40% of the budget and departments, events, services, and training are 58%. Expenses continue to increase in spite of all efforts to contain costs. I believe that the National Grange Officers and staff teams have increased the services, benefits, and aid offered to our members and our Granges, while trimming the budget, but this cannot continue without increasing revenue.

Your National Grange has pared the budget as far as reasonably possible, and many hard choices have already been made. If we continue to have revenue reductions, even harder choices will be made by the Executive Committee and this delegate body in the next year or two.

The importance of increasing membership in both Regular and E-Members is obvious when viewed from a financial point. I ask that each State Grange Master make increasing both Regular and E-Membership their number one priority for the coming year.

### *Junior Grange*

This year I've reflected on length about our Junior Grange program. In discussions with the Directors of the Youth and Junior programs we have identified 3 major concerns. The reason for these concerns is that we believe the purpose of the Junior Grange program is to develop leadership skills in children.

First, the program often fails to develop our Juniors to their full potential. It sometime fails to provide the young people participating a chance to excel; once a level is reached, there are often not tougher goals that encourage additional growth. In many cases the program is not well rounded and neglects one or more of the following areas: fun and recreation, educational activities, or leadership development activities. The Junior Grange is not an arts and crafts club or a child care program. The program is designed to give a balanced approach to developing our children into young adults. We take the balanced approach for granted in our Community Granges and it is even more critical for children.

Second, the structure of the Junior Grange doesn't seem to be working well in the 21st century. Fewer and fewer Junior Granges are being formed. For the past four years fewer Junior Granges have been organized than Community Granges. The last time that happened was in the 1930's and the smallest year of growth in that decade was 1933 with 111 Junior Granges organized. To achieve 111 Junior Granges today, it would require each of our states to start only three new Junior Granges plus an additional three anywhere else in the country. Is the problem the Chartering requirement or process, the number of required leaders, or are other aspects of the structure of the Junior Grange working against the success of the program? Junior Granges tend to be created with groups of children who are brought by their parents, but how does the program serve children when there are only one or two coming with their parents to a Community Grange? How can we reach out to children whose parents have not yet joined the Grange and become a meaningful organization in their lives?

In addition, we should ask ourselves if State or Camp Junior Granges are actually providing positive benefits to our program as a whole. We know they are benefiting kids,

but are they building a program that builds lifetime loyalty like 4-H and FFA do? Can a Junior Grange which doesn't meet at least monthly provide the opportunities to children that we should expect from this program? Should the State and Camp Junior Granges be supplements rather than the core of a Junior program?

The third area is the attitude of our membership. Many of us refer to 4-H, FFA, or a Scouting program as a key part of our development of children and young people. I hear far fewer saying the same things about our Junior Grange program. My participation with the Juniors has been as a leader, a parent, and a supporter of this program, and I believe that our program is second to none. We do more with less than anyone else, and yet it seems that many of our own members view the Junior program as a second class program. It is essential we believe in the quality of the program in order for the Junior Grange to be successful and see growth.

In the next few years, many of our members will have children or grandchildren entering the Junior program. Will we give those children more of the same, or will we offer a revitalized and reenergized program designed to meet the needs of today's children?

I request that the Grange Growth and Development Committee discuss our Junior Grange program in depth this week. I believe this body should direct that a committee be formed to thoroughly investigate all aspects of the Junior program and propose changes and recommendations to ensure that our Junior Grange program remains a vital and important part of our Order.

We often use the phrase: "The children are our future." In this case, we know it's true. For our children, we want to present a well-rounded program that allows them to grow as individuals and become the next generation's Grange leaders. In just a few short years, when those children help us to celebrate our 150th Anniversary, I want them to understand what a wonderful organization they are a part of.

### *Sesquicentennial*

Today, the 150th anniversary of our Order is only 2, 218 days away. This is just over six years, and the 150th Session of the National Grange is only 5 short years away. At this time we are planning on having the 150th Session in the Washington, D.C. area. Many activities will be developed over the coming years to involve everyone in celebrating this milestone.

It is essential that our members be deeply involved with this anniversary. While many activities will be conducted at the National level, there must be ways for each Community Grange and every member to be directly involved in this celebration. It would serve our Order well if each State Grange would form a celebration committee to explore ways to involve their members in this once-in-a-lifetime anniversary.

With 150 years of activity and achievement, this anniversary must mark a resurgence and revitalization of the Grange at the National, State, Pomona, and Community levels. From Fredonia Grange #1 in New York, to Carver Grange #427 in Nebraska, each Community Grange has reason to commemorate this milestone.

One example of programming that will help us gear up for the 150th Anniversary comes from the Youth Department, which in 2013, would like to exemplify the original 1873 Degrees at the Kelley Farm for interested members and the public. I recommend that the Delegates of the National Grange and the Assembly of Demeter give permission to our young people to pursue and implement this project. I also recommend each of you find ways to promote and explain the importance of our ritual work to members so that as we grow and move forward, we also retain those lessons and values which have bound us together as Brothers and Sisters across generations, social changes, and geographical separations.



### *Growth*

It is our pride in the Grange that will help us grow. Growth is essential. A focus on Growth is something we've asked each State Master to consider since 2008 when they began making pledges on behalf of their state to add to their membership. In these three years, it has become quite evident that it is far easier to make a pledge than to meet that pledge. The record shows that Masters who made only one or two pledges were far more likely to achieve them than the Masters who made multiple pledges.

This year, I ask that each State Master make a pledge that will stretch you and your members. A single focus to create growth in your state will be far more likely to become a catalyst for success.

Each Grange leader must realize that in failure there is no shame, but the greatest disgrace is in the failure to try. Each Grange leader must be willing to step into uncharted territory, where we must grow as leaders to achieve success. Relinquishing control, building teams, and even merely asking for help can be hard, but it is necessary if we are to be the leaders who will ensure that our organization thrives. Each leader bears the responsibility for failure when they fail to delegate, but the teams they build share in the successes.

Several State Granges appear to be in serious trouble. I've been told by members that it is a waste of time to try to save their Grange because no one will join. At the same time, we are seeing new Granges organized in many states, and we can foresee that it is likely that in the next couple of years we'll add voting Delegates for the Nevada State Grange to this delegate body.

It is often true that saving a failing Grange is more difficult than starting a new Grange. This is why over the last few years, National Grange has committed significant resources to a balanced approach to growth. We have developed and taught processes to organize new Granges, reorganize inactive Granges, revitalize struggling Granges, as well as revitalizing our Pomona Granges. These techniques and processes have been well received by some. They've been put into place, proven successful and well worth the resources it took to create them.

I challenge each of you to look at what your State, Pomona and Community Granges are doing to support new Granges and Brothers and Sisters who are new to the Grange. We are not successful if growth does not equal retention. Building a follow up support system is just as important as learning how to make the initial effort.

One of the keys to success is that every member must recognize that we are one Grange, and county or state boundaries should not stop us from being part of a team that helps create success. Success requires us to become a strong and effective team, where each member and each Grange is a vital part of the whole.

In 144 years as Brothers and Sisters working together, we have made this organization great. Yet in the past few years, I have seen a growing division within our organization. Some members call themselves progressives, and they often call long-time members traditional. Other names are used, but all are negative terms, as they either imply superiority or inferiority. We must be united as Grangers. Disagreement is handled through our discussions and those civil debates encourage each member to learn and grow. It is a fundamental belief of our organization to be united to accomplish great things, but never to force any member to act against their conscience. We must be one family, integrating new members and Granges into the whole of our great Order, never creating separations within the Order. Disagreements within our organization should never be shared with the public either through social media, websites, or traditional media. I ask each to remember the Grange motto in all your actions: "In essentials, Unity; In non-essentials, Liberty; and

in all things, Charity.”

I challenge each State Grange to make and implement plans to ensure that they have a significant net gain in membership and in Community Granges in the next five years to celebrate our 150th anniversary. It is likely that the most important teams that each State Master will create will be the membership and public relations teams that start new Granges, revitalize your existing Granges, and promote the organization as a whole. Long term and sustainable growth will require new or reorganized Granges in every State. An additional benefit of success will be that once your members achieve a significant net gain, it will become easier to repeat it.

This next year we will have quarterly internet meetings with State Masters and Membership Directors. This will build team spirit among the State Grange leaders, as well as allowing them to share ideas and challenges with each other. The goal is to aid each State Grange in carrying out their plans.

We have unveiled a new website which now includes a “members only” section, where every Grange member in the country will be able to connect with their Sisters and Brothers. Today, technology, such as the Internet, has changed the methods of communication. It is important for us to embrace this technology. I encourage each of you to create a profile on the National Grange site, update the pages we have provided for you to promote your Grange, and network with others so that ideas can be shared. Email is essential in order for our organization to keep in contact quickly, efficiently and directly. I urge each of you to submit success stories on membership gains, community service projects, interesting Lecturer’s programs, and positive feedback from members. We must tell the story of the Grange...because if we do not, who will?

During our 144 years of service, we have had Community Granges in 48 states. I believe that it should also be a goal to have active Granges in every State that we have ever had a presence in by our 150th anniversary. To make this goal a reality, we will need to develop teams to organize and support Granges in the 11 states where we need to reintroduce our organization. I commend Brother and Sister Lewis for their successful work in Nevada. Without their efforts, the growth we are seeing in southern Nevada would not be happening. Still, we see large areas of the country that have millions of people meant to be Grangers. These are people who love America and their hometowns and who want to give back and become part of something greater. We must give them the opportunity to become our Brothers and Sisters. I ask any member who lives in a state without a State Grange to consider becoming part of our team to start Granges in their state.

The E-Membership program, now a year old, allows us to not only benefit State Granges financially, but can also provide a pool of new members to our Community Granges. However, it is apparent that this program will not become the success that it can be unless we share in the marketing effort. If State Granges will partner with the National Grange, as well as with each other, in developing and implementing marketing plans we have a strong tool to grow both regular and E-Member rolls.

It is my observation that fairs, festivals, and many other public events that Granges sponsor, participate in, or just have a presence at offer one of the best opportunities to grow the Grange in both Regular and E-Membership. We must not just man booths; we must be ambassadors for our wonderful organization. We must engage people in conversation; invest in up-to-date brochures and signage, and share the fun and empowerment of Grange membership with tens of thousands of potential members in the upcoming year. Never be discouraged; when someone declines regular membership, ask if they’d be interested in joining on-line to learn more.

I want to congratulate the 495 Community Granges that achieved a net gain in membership in the 2010-11 membership year. We have created an honor roll to recognize these Granges for their achievement. Morgan Hill Grange in California had the greatest gain of new members with a net gain of 59, and Fruitdale Grange in Oregon had the highest percentage of growth at nearly 279 percent. These two Granges will be receiving a visit from the National Master in the coming months to celebrate. I challenge each Community Grange to be on the honor roll next November for the 2011-12 year.

#### *Trademark Protection*

Protecting the Grange name has taken a financial toll on our organization and while the fight continues, we keep adding victories to our credit. Forty-nine challenges to our name have been successfully confronted, and we enter November 2011 with only three remaining before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB). Another seventeen infringement cases are awaiting negotiated resolution, and one case is proceeding through Federal Court.

We can also be encouraged that this year our applications for sub-registration of GRANGE and the GRANGE LOGO under the categories for cookbooks, farmers markets, catering and food-related services, fairs and exhibition facilities, community meeting and social function facilities, and wine making and vineculture services were all approved by the U.S. Trademark Office. These additional trademark sub-registrations will make our future defenses of our trademark rights in these areas that may come before the TTAB, as well as in the Federal courts, stronger and less expensive to prosecute.

A powerful fact that each member should take to heart is that these businesses that have challenged us see value in the reputation that our members and Granges have created over the past 144 years. While I wish our good name had not been challenged, I am proud that after nearly 150 years, the Grange is still viewed in such a positive light.

We anticipate that by the end of 2012 our current battles in TTAB as well as in Federal court should be resolved, and we will be dealing mostly with unintentional infringements which overall tend to be much easier and less expensive to resolve. We must remain vigilant in protecting our name and be willing to budget for the maintenance of our trademarks. Our local Granges derive at least 7 million dollars each year from fundraising using our Grange names and logos, and I am proud that we have protected their ability to continue to do so.

I thank every member and Grange who has contributed their money or time to help in this effort over the past four years. This issue truly shows the strength of the Grange when we are united.

#### *In Memoriam*

This year we lost the High Priest of Demeter, Tom Severance. It is not often that we lose a sitting National Grange Officer, and when we do, it has a big impact on each of us. Tom loved the Grange and he served the Grange in many capacities. Tom was truly a friend to all and exemplified the qualities of a good Patron with passion and caring. Tom's task on earth is over, but his legacy will be the lessons we learned from him and are now a daily part of our lives. To Tom, we should each say, well done, good and faithful friend.

As we pause this Thursday to remember the past Delegates who have passed on to the great Grange above, we should reflect upon what each of them gave to us. Each name that will be read during the memorial service was a dedicated member who gave freely of themselves. They shared their ideas, time, and talents with all in the Grange and we are better for it.

### *Thanks*

This past year has been a wonderful and exciting time. The past four years have changed my life in so many positive ways and I have so many to thank.

The staff has been an essential part of creating many opportunities that have become successes. Rusty has earned my respect, and we trust that the membership program in Washington will grow dramatically under his guidance. Nicole, Samantha, and Amanda have made tremendous strides in growing the programs that they are responsible for and Charlene and Diane continue to build the Youth and Junior programs, while Michael prepares to ratchet our membership/leadership program to a new level. Jessie and Amber also provide their talents on a daily basis to ensure that success continues to grow.

The Executive Committee and the Officers of the National Grange have been key parts in our achievements. Betsy, Jimmy, Phil, Joe, and Duane have been friends, partners, and have challenged me to constantly improve over the past year.

Celia and my family have given freely and enabled me to serve our great Order in this capacity. I would be much less without the support, advice, and love of Celia.

### *Conclusion*

This report outlines the challenges that I see for our Order as well as several opportunities to benefit our Grange. I encourage each member to reflect on the words I've written and to suggest improvements wherever they see fit.

Thirty-seven years of Grange membership has given me enough sense to know that I don't know nearly enough. What I do know is that together we can accomplish anything. The teams we create will be the successes of 2012 and far into the future. Our members deserve our very best, and I see the National Grange Officers and Delegates continuing to grow as they meet the many challenges they face.

The outlook for our organization is bright, and I remain energized and optimistic. This coming year the message that every person will hear is that the Grange is growing. We will be welcoming new members to an organization of service, family, and community. Our Order is American Values, Hometown Roots!

Fraternally Submitted,

Edward L. Luttrell (OR), National Master

## STATE MASTERS' REPORTS

### Alaska

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates, and members of the 145th Annual Session of the National Grange:

My wife, Kate, and I bring greetings from the State of Alaska. We are honored to have the opportunity to participate in this "Party on the Prairie."

This year, the Alaska State Grange held its first weekend-long annual conference, hosted by the Slykok Creek Grange. Two Delegates represented each of the seven Granges. The Alaska State Grange opened its eighth annual meeting in the 6th Degree, setting a new standard for annual meetings of the Alaska Grange. Most of the State Officers and Executive Committee Members are 6th Degree members, bringing the total to sixteen 6th Degree members in the State. This enables the Alaska Grange to carry on the tradition and conduct the ritual, mostly from within its own resources. The Alaska Grange was honored to have National Lecturer Pete Pompper represent the National Grange at its conference. During the course of the weekend, Grange members had the opportunity to work together on matters of importance to the State Grange, as well as get to know one another in a friendly social setting.

It is important to note that each of the Officers of the Alaska State Grange was wearing a pink sash, appropriate to his or her office throughout the meeting. At prior state meetings, the blue sashes of the hosting Community Grange were the only sashes available in Alaska. Special thanks go to the North Carolina Grange for providing pink sashes used at the state meetings, the Idaho Grange for blue sashes used by our new Granges, and the Oregon Grange for a cash contribution to our sash fund.

The current challenge for the Alaska State Grange is to become effective as a statewide organization and implement the procedures for operation described in the state bylaws and the national digest. To this end, the Alaska Grange declared that its headquarters would be located in Palmer, and established new checking and savings accounts with a financial institution that has branch offices in every community in Alaska. With only seven Granges in Alaska this year, we are challenging each Grange to perform its duties without undue intervention by the State or National Grange. The Alaska Grange will assess the degree to which it accomplished this goal at the 2012 conference in Palmer, Alaska.

Respectfully submitted,  
John E. Poirrier, Master



### California

It feels good to be a Granger. In California, this slogan caught on early in 2011 and soon spread statewide, showing up on emails, t-shirts and elsewhere. And why not? We find that the Grange is growing in many ways in California. By this year's end, we believe there will be close to 1,000 new members and almost 20 new or reorganized Granges.

Our legislative efforts are paying off as well, as we continue to make progress promoting the issues that our members feel are important. There has been a noticeable change in the tempo and focus of individual Community Granges sponsoring resolutions that find



their way to the floor of our Annual Convention. It's truly a grassroots effort. Many of these resolutions mirror the national trend of supporting local agriculture and rural communities, as well as an awareness of what we are eating, where it comes from, and how it is grown. Interest and respect for the Grange is growing as well, and we find ourselves courted once again by state and local legislators that want the Grange to support their causes.

We're encouraging our Local Granges to open their doors and invite the community in. As a result, various and diverse groups are feeling welcome and joining. We've also been promoting the importance of Pomona Granges.



Two major projects are underway: the completion of a performing arts center at our Sacramento headquarters property and the creation of a California Grange Ag School. As we explore ways to expand our interests and influence, these projects have captured the imaginations of our members and have broad support.

Like most State Granges, we are not without our challenges. Balancing our budget and staying in the black is difficult. Thankfully, we have the increase in income from dues to help. However, this doesn't cover everything, as we struggle to maintain and add programs that best serve our members.

We remain optimistic. We are confident that our membership will continue to grow. We know that the Grange is relevant today. Now we look toward the future with long-range plans that will insure our survival and boost our efforts to improve the lives of our members and the communities they serve.

Fraternally,

Bob McFarland, Master

## Colorado

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Colorado State Master John Hagan delivered the following report to Colorado's Grange members at our annual meeting in October 2011. John chose not to run for re-election and I was elected as the Master for the present two-year term ending in the fall of 2013.

National Master Ed Luttrell, Officers, Directors, Delegates and Members – Welcome to the 138th Annual Session of the Colorado State Grange. Once again we meet to set the tone and establish policy for the coming year, celebrate our achievements, and have some fun. The colors of the flora are changing, and even the Broncos burnt orange seems more cheery this year.

### *Agriculture*

A special year, or an especially hard year, depending on the area of the State your operation is located in, was seen as 2011 brought drought and flooding, strong demand and scarcity, and ran the gamut of opportunity and problems for ranchers and farmers. Southeast Colorado ranchers dealt with the worst Mother Nature has to offer with a drought causing crop failure, declining pastures, hay at premium prices, and resulting cattle herd reductions. Northeast Colorado had timely spring rains to save suffering crops and produce an above average harvest. Leprino Foods is building a cheese factory in Greeley that will start operating in November; and coupled with a rebound of milk prices, the dairy industry has improved over 2010. Commodity prices have remained strong through the year and

prospects remain good.

Rocky Ford cantaloupes have come under fire for an outbreak of listeria, which was traced to one farm in Holly, Colorado, located eighty miles east of Rocky Ford. The Rocky Ford name on melons will suffer this year, and possibly for the next year or two. One incident affects all of the growers in the area to the detriment of their bottom line.

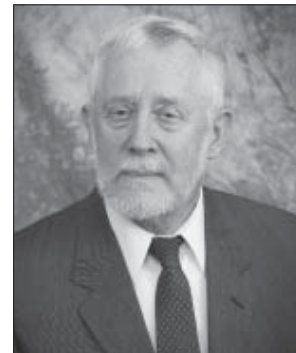
#### *Highways and Transportation*

Highway construction is in a lull, due to the poor economy and the problem of financing new construction. Projects past the initial plan with their finances in place may see the light of day. Many areas show a need for improvement or expansion, due to increased demand or the useful age of bridges and roads being exhausted. The problem of increasing the capacity of Interstate 70 west of Denver generates a lot of ideas and opinions, but no affordable remedy is in sight. A light rail line heading west to Lakewood is under construction, but a proposed line to Denver International Airport is struggling to produce the necessary financing. Local government financing has saved some projects, like the new interchange on Interstate 25 for the town of Windsor. Windsor, Ft. Collins, and Greeley helped the project succeed. The need is great, but means are short.

#### *Legislation*

Legislation affecting agriculture this year includes the repeal of sales tax in Colorado on farm equipment supplies, fertilizer, and related items. With the impediment to local sales removed, the business environment improved for agriculture suppliers and farmers.

Nationally, a challenge to the record keeping of pesticide use was made by a district judge, which threatened to drastically increase requirements associated with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, known as FIFRA. Congress acted quickly to reestablish the authority of the FIFRA act, making the long-standing record keeping outlined in the act sufficient. Farmers and Parks and Recreation workers have avoided the oppressive increase to record keeping. Also, the Environmental Protection Agency has proposed establishing dust-blowing standards for farm operations. No standards have been written yet, and the EPA has denied they plan on setting parameters for dust. All farm organizations, including the National Grange, have registered their opposition to any standards for dust blowing, whether by law or an EPA edict. The matter will continue to be monitored.



The final day of the 2011 Colorado legislative session saw an act passed clarifying the exemption of property taxes for non-profit organizations with income under \$25,000. The previous exemption had reporting provisions for incomes between \$10,000 and \$25,000. Now, reporting is not necessary until \$25,000 in income is reached. Thanks goes to Representative Cindy Acree for carrying the bill and Jeanne Davies for promoting the proposal, as well as doing a lot of the leg work to get it heard in the legislature.

#### *Colorado Granges*

The status of some Colorado Granges continues to erode, as we face the possibility of three Granges turning in their Charters. The Executive Committee and the membership teams continue to work in these three Granges to keep a viable, working Grange. The bright spot this year is Lewis Grange in Cortez. Mark Wilson, a local farmer and descendant from a Grange family, has spearheaded a revival, calling on friends and neighbors to get the Grange Hall in shape for events and recruiting new members. Cindy Greer has provided assistance when called on. Three cheers for that community! Colorado State



Grange must remain vigilant about the condition of Subordinate and Pomona Granges and help them through their problems.

*Other Stuff*

This year our Grange family was saddened by the loss of some good members. Among those we lost include Golden Sheaf member, Deputy, and delegate at many State Sessions, Joe Dembroski of Left Hand Grange; Pauline Cooksey, a 70 plus year member of Homestead; Golden Sheaf member and Deputy George Westphal of El Paso Grange; and Roy Wardle, a 70 year member of Wheat Ridge and father of Executive Committee member Gary Wardle. They will be sorely missed.

Congratulations to Kathy Wardle for being selected to sculpt a bronze piece for the City of Brighton that is on permanent display.

Thanks to Dave McCord, for his work on the Ag Council, and all the Officers, Directors, and Delegates who faithfully give their time and work to make the Colorado State Grange a success. I have enjoyed working with each and every one of you dedicated Grange members. To my successor, I wish God speed on “the journey to the light.” We look forward to a year of growth and success here in Colorado.

Fraternally submitted,  
David H. McCord, Master

## **Connecticut**

Brothers and Sisters,

Sister Jodi Ann and I bring you greetings from the members of the Connecticut State Grange. I committed to reestablishing the purpose of Pomona at the 2010 National Session in Charlotte, N.C. We conducted Schools of Instruction in each of our ten Pomonas. We reviewed the preamble of the Digest regarding Pomona, and then had an open discussion to establish an initiative for each Pomona that would “strengthen and aid” the Community Granges within their jurisdiction. Many of the Pomonas followed through with their initiative and I thank them for their efforts.

I chose the theme “Community Grown” for 2011. Every member was challenged to secure one new member, and each Grange to initiate one new member per month, working toward our ultimate goal of doubling our membership in four years. We unfortunately fell short of our 25 percent growth goal for this year, but not all is bad. One Grange, Norfield Grange #146 took in 18 new members. I am also proud to report that Connecticut posted a net gain in the quarter ending June 30, 2011. It has been many quarters since we have seen a net gain. My appreciation goes to every member who secured a new member in 2011, unfortunately we did not see an overall net gain for the year. However, our Granges are thinking out of the box. Two of them have indoor winter farmers’ markets and one has a coffee house during the week. We are continuing our efforts and will focus on membership growth in 2012.

We congratulate Cannon Grange #152 for being selected as a WasteWise Partner of the Year winner by the US EPA. The members of Cannon Grange worked very hard and have obtained an impressive 77 percent recycling rate for 2010. Their community will be benefiting from their achievement for generations. I challenge all Granges to follow Cannon Granges lead.



We mourn the loss of two very dedicated members who served our State Grange with honor and dignity. Past Voting Delegate Sister Marion Beecher passed away in March 2011 and Past Master Duane Wetmore passed in October 2011. Their presence will be missed, but their spirit and impact will continue to move our organization forward.

In July, the Connecticut State Grange and the Rhode Island State Grange came together for an “Old Fashioned Grange Picnic.” I thank Brother and Sister Logan and all of the members of the Rhode Island State Grange for their hospitality and am looking forward to 2012 when Connecticut continues this new tradition.

In 2011, the Connecticut State Grange reinstated the Granger of the Year Program. Sister Sue Gray, Past Voting Delegate, was named the 2011 Granger of the Year.

It is an honor to represent the members of the Connecticut State Grange as their Master/President. 2011 brought many challenges, tough decisions, opportunities, joys, and celebrations, and I look forward to 2012 with excitement.

Faternally,

Jody A. Cameron, Master

## **Delaware**

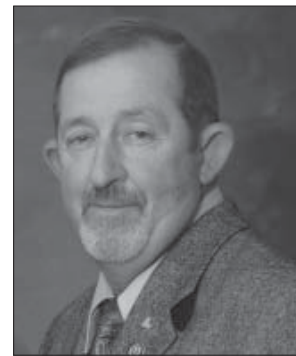
It is with great pleasure that Barb and I, along with the members of the Delaware State Grange, bring greetings to this 145th Annual Session of the National Grange. We want to thank the Great Plains Region for hosting. As one of the hosting states last year, I know how much time and energy it takes to pull all of this together, but it is a labor of love to be a part of the hosting region.

Last year at our 136th Annual Session we were privileged to have Sister Betsy Huber, Chair of the National Grange Executive Committee, as our National Representative.

I want to thank all of the Officers, Delegates and Committees of the Delaware State Grange for all of their hard work and dedication in making our State Session a productive one. Our departments had a busy and prosperous year. Our Grange Family Activities members continue to make and donate faceless baby dolls, comfort pillows for cancer patients, teddy bears, shoulderettes, walker and wheel chair bags, and lap robes. These items go to Hospice and Police organizations and area hospitals.

In Delaware, the season started out well, but progressed into a very dry summer. Then, around harvest time we had an earthquake, followed by hurricane Irene, with 12 to 15 inches of rain and high winds, and to top it all off we had another storm in the Seaford area that brought another 16 inches of rain. Some of the corn that was knocked down after Irene was then covered by three to four feet of water from the next storm.

In April, Delaware hosted the Eastern Regional Youth Conference. Our new Youth Directors, R.J. and Bianca Carcillo, took on the task, and I would like to thank them for all of their hard work. This was their first time, and they did a terrific job. The conference was held at the Delaware State Fair Grounds. It started on Friday night with games to get acquainted. With the help of Charlene Espenshade, our National Grange Youth Director, and Diane Szkutak, our National Grange Junior Director, we had a wonderful weekend. On Saturday we had workshops on team building, working together, and a class on sign language from a teacher of blind and hard of hearing students. For more fun, we went over to the Ice Rink, had lunch and skated. We even had two of our young at heart attendees



(both National Grange Officers) on skates, and one of us didn't even fall. On Saturday night after dinner we held the Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song Contests. After all of the hard work we went back to the hotel, which had an indoor pool, and went swimming. On Sunday morning we had a church service and concluded our weekend, as some of our youth had a 9-hour ride ahead of them.

Our Scholarship Banquet is held every year in April during Grange Month to award our annual scholarships. We give two scholarships each to the University of Delaware and Delaware State University. This year we also awarded two more scholarships to Grange members who applied.

Our State Grange is supported by the funds made from our State Fair Food Booth. The State Fair is held during the last ten days of July each year. This year was a tough year, and we were not as profitable as the year before. We had five days of temperatures with the heat-index over 100 degrees and one topping 125 degrees. Fortunately, we got a break later in the week.

We have been taking in some new members, but it does not seem to offset the decline. We will keep trying and we will never give up!

The Family Activities Director has a spring activities program with workshops, a guest speaker, and a covered dish luncheon where the projects for the upcoming year are gone over. In September, the Family Activities Director and State Lecturer host their contests and programs, award prizes, and finish with a luncheon.

We look forward to working with our fellow State Masters and National Officers at a fun and productive National Session.

Faternally,

William "Chip" Narvel, Master

## **Florida**

Brothers and Sisters,

It is my privilege to bring greetings from Florida, the Sunshine State. We started 2011 with our 49th State Session in January. National Master Ed Luttrell was present. Membership is our most important issue at the moment. Ed encouraged the Delegates and members to pledge at least one hour each month to work on membership growth.

Ed remained in Florida for four days after the State Session to help us set our goals and start working towards them. We visited an area with a Grange that needed help and another where we may try to start a new Grange. Our goal is to grow by 50 members before our 50th State Session in January 2012. Each Grange was asked to add five new members, and we hoped we would open a new Grange. Some of our Granges have added new members; we are still a long way from our goal, but we are trying.

To help us achieve our goal, the National Membership Director, Rusty Hunt, presented two one-day workshops for some of our Granges. One of the best ways to get new members is to ask them to join. Simple concept, but do we do it? Rusty also stayed up late talking to a small group of members who wanted more information and ideas. It was wonderful having both Ed and Rusty here in Florida.

February found many State Masters in Nevada for the Masters' Conference. Thankfully,



I was able to attend. While there, we created a new 'Facebook' page for Florida. Progress is slow, but we are trying to move a little closer to the 21st century. TeamSpeak has helped us stay in touch with many Grangers across the country. It has been very rewarding to feel a part of the Grange all across our Nation, not just in our little neck of the woods. I hope more will tune in and be apart.

Seven of our members attended the southeastern leadership conference in July. They came home with many ideas and suggestions. Two of our juniors did a neat and upbeat sign-a-song. We are delighted to have added some new junior members this year. Our newest junior Grange entered a float in the children's day parade in April named 'Space Through the Eyes of a Child.'

At the end of 2010, Florida ranked first in the US in the value of production of oranges, grapefruit and sugarcane for sugar and seed. Fresh-market snap beans, cucumbers, and tomatoes, as well as bell peppers, squash, sweet corn and watermelons, were also ranked first in value of production. Agricultural is still alive here in Florida.

Fishing and tourism are also important to our state. There are still some concerns over whether last year's oil spill has had an effect on the sea life in the gulf. Our beaches are some of the best in the nation. We would love to have you visit our state and visit one of our Granges while here. We love company.

January 19-21, 2012, Florida will celebrate its 50th State Convention, and we hope many of you will come celebrate with us.

Fraternally,

Barbara Borderieux Master

## **Iowa**

Brothers and Sisters,

It is with great pleasure that Kathy and I bring greetings from the members of the Iowa State Grange at this 145th Annual Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We thank the Great Plains Granges for hosting this National Session.

The 142nd Annual Session of the Iowa State Grange was held in Newton, IA, with Jasper County Granges as the hosts. Newton is the home of the first Grange in Iowa and the second working Grange in the United States.

I wish to thank the officers and Delegates of the Iowa State Grange for their dedication to making our Session a productive one.

The Iowa State Grange would like to thank our National Representatives, Jimmy and Anita Gentry, for attending our Session. They were helpful, and we enjoyed them at our Session.

I attended the Great Lakes Leaders Conference hosted by Illinois State. The conference is a great place for additional leadership training, and I would encourage all states to send their Officers and members to attend. Our Legislative Director worked to keep us all informed on legislative issues in our state.

Our Junior Department and Camp Directors had a great Junior camp, with 30 campers in attendance. The Youth and Juniors served two breakfasts at the camp to support their activities. Our Youth Director is the President of the Grow Club Committee, supports activities at the National Session with the Grow Club Banquet, and raises money for the Scholarship Fund. We are also honored to have the winner of the Midwest Youth Confer-



ence's speech contest, Emma Edelen. She is also participating in the Night of Excellence and will be a member of the Youth Officers Corp at the National Session this year.

The National Membership and Leadership Director made a trip to Iowa this year, and we had three regional meetings that were attended by our members. At these meetings, we were given additional tools to help attain more members in our state.

The Iowa State Grange sponsored the Iowa FFA Creed Speaking Contest at their Annual Convention. Contributions were made by the Granges to support this worthwhile endeavor.

I want to extend our thanks to the Great Plains Region for hosting the 145th Annual Convention of the National Grange. We appreciate the work that goes into hosting the Session.

Fraternally submitted,

Dwight Baldwin, Master

## Idaho

Greetings to our Worthy Master, National Officers, and Delegates to the 145th Annual Session of the National Grange:

We bring greetings from all the Grangers in our "Gem State." Our welcome mat will be in place next year when the National Master calls the 146th Annual Convention of the National Grange to order.

Our 2010-2011 Grange year has been a busy one. The First Lady of the Idaho State Grange and I conducted three leadership conferences around our state. We asked everyone to come and be a part of something different. We asked all of the attendees to take their shoes off and then we walked away from them. We then asked our Grangers to sit down in front of another pair of shoes, try to put them on, and "walk in someone else's shoes."

We have challenged our members to think outside the box and try something different if the same old thing is not getting new members. Unfortunately, we did not have an increase in new members statewide this year. We will try harder next year.

We look forward to visiting with each of you in Tulsa. We were "New Delegates" again last year, but this year we will be involved in mentoring the new Delegates, Duane and Chris Hamp, from the state of Washington.

Idaho Grange members enjoyed having Brother "Pete" Pompper, Lecturer of the National Grange, attend our 104th Annual Session of the Idaho State Grange. His counsel, words of encouragement and advice were especially appreciated.

We hosted National Master Ed Luttrell and the First Lady of the National Grange, Celia Luttrell, on July 16, 2011. We helped serve lunch to a group of workers who were building a "Habitat for Humanity" home for a young family at noon. Later that evening, Richard and Eileen Javaux, Pomona Master of Canyon County Pomona, hosted a picnic at their farm. We enjoyed the view with the mountain range in the distance and the growing crops surrounding the beautiful Javaux yard.

Thank you to the host committee this year for its dedicated labor in preparing for the 145th Convention of National Grange in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Fraternally,

Don W. Johnson, Master





## **Illinois**

Greetings from Illinois!

Our 140th State Session was held in Peoria this year and went very well. Officer elections were held and 6 new Officers were elected. I'm proud to say half of our Officers are what I consider youth. Randy and Linda Lewis from California were our National Representatives this year and they did an outstanding job.

We did get one Grange reorganized and they are well underway. One Grange celebrated their 140th anniversary, which is a huge milestone. We had a booth at the State Fair again and also had a Grange Farm Family of the Year. This year it was Fay & Donna Ellwanger of Prairie Grange.



We attended Ag Legislative day in Bloomington and Legislative Day in Springfield. We actually have some legislators here that listen to our ideas. We have a new Legislative Director this year, Marion Thornberry, from Flora Grange. Within two weeks of getting appointed he went to Springfield to promote the Grange's stance on broadband Internet service for rural communities.

We are in the process of reestablishing two Junior Granges. Unfortunately, we lost two Granges this year, but hopefully we can regain what we lost.

Patti and I are looking forward to the National Session in Tulsa and thank them in advance for hosting.

Respectfully,

Lyle Lee, Master

## **Indiana**

National Officers, Members and Delegates at this 145th National Grange Annual Convention:

As a newly elected State Master, it is a great pleasure for Susan and I to bring you greetings from the State of Indiana. Our 141st Annual Session of our Indiana State Grange was recently held this past October. It was an honor to be elected as State Master during this election year. I know the next year will bring many new challenges my way, and I look forward to tackling them.

It was a wonderful experience to have the National Secretary, Judy Sherrod, as our National Grange representative at Convention this year. We all enjoyed her stories that she shared with us as she clowned around. By the way, Judy, I'm going to try very hard not to fall off this horse that I'm on now.

I'm proud of the hard work our State Officers and Committee members do here in Indiana. After many meetings and late nights, we were able to get a new Grange started this year. Our past State Master, Gordon Groves, presented the charter to Crossroads Grange during our State Session. I hope this is the start of a new trend for us, as I'm hoping to get another new Grange started in the following year. I also would like to rejuvenate an old Pomona Grange next year. With the formation of a couple new Granges, I hope members will be encouraged and feel the state is heading in the right direction. I'm also proud of our Subordinate Granges. Some of them are working very hard to increase their membership

and put the Grange name in the public eye.

Indiana State Grange is moving into cyber space. We now have our own web page, but it's still a work in progress at this time. Check us out at [www.IndianaStateGrange.org](http://www.IndianaStateGrange.org). Leave a message and tell us what you think. This should be a great tool to get information out to Grange members and non-members alike.

In August, the Indiana State Grange sponsored a bus trip to the Kelly Farm in Minnesota. We had a few Michigan Grangers to help fill the bus with us. The trip was very enjoyable. We made several sightseeing stops on the way there and back. I had always wanted to go to the Kelly Farm, so this was a great opportunity for all of us. It's always more fun when you let someone else do the driving.

Our State Grange purchased a concessions trailer a couple years ago that we are making available to any of our Subordinate or Pomona Granges to use. Each July during the Cass County 4-H fair, we have a State Grange Elephant Ear stand. This is used as a money-maker project for our State Grange Committees. All the Committees help out with running the stand during the week. This is just one of the ways we are getting involved with the community and putting our name out there. It has always been fun getting together with Grange friends, stretching out dough for elephant ears. Let me tell you, we get some strange looking Elephant, Ears but everyone seems to like them. I would have to say this year was one of the hotter summers for making Elephant Ears though.

I would like to thank the Oklahoma State Grange for hosting the 145th National Grange Convention in the city of Tulsa. May all Granges have a successful year and Happy Holidays!

Fraternally submitted,  
John Plank, Master



## **Kansas**

The Kansas State Grange welcomes the Officers, Delegates and Guests of the 145th National Grange Convention to the "Party on the Prairie." The Grangers in the Great Plains Region hope you enjoy your stay in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We have all been working hard to make this a wonderful National Convention. Even without all of the planning for the National activities in November, we've still had a busy Grange year with our State activities.

On March 12, Kansas held a State Grange Leadership School meeting with 25 members in attendance, which helped to make it a successful event. At the meeting, members were made aware of the benefits available through the National Grange and By-Law changes at the National level.

From April 8-10, Kansas hosted a Grange Growth Summit in which five states were represented. The Summit began at 6:00 p.m. Friday evening with National Master Ed Luttrell, National Membership Director Rusty Hunt, and Grangers from California, Nebraska, and Washington State. Nine members represented Kansas. On Saturday evening, as Grangers have been known to do, we all enjoyed a relaxing time over ice cream. Sunday morning we wrapped up with a debriefing session.

This year the states in our region combined the Youth, Junior, Membership, and Lecturers' conference into one. The resulting conference occurred in Broken Arrow, OK, (Tulsa area), on June 17-19. With well over one hundred in attendance, ranging from young to



old, it was the best-attended conference that we have had in our region for several years.

The Kansas State Grange complied with the National Master and Lecturer's wishes for a Nationwide Grange Gathering and held a picnic on July 17th. Twelve people braved the 100-degree heat. Even with the heat, we were able to enjoy the picnic, pitch some horse-shoes and have time to pose for a photo before the heat became unbearable.

Saturday, August 13, 2011, the Farm Aid concert was in Kansas City, Kan. I inquired about possibly having a Grange information booth at the 2011 concert. We spoke for a while about the Grange, what we stood for, what our values are, how we have been a family farm organization for nearly 150 years, and our ongoing commitment to rural America. On Friday afternoon, August 5, a week before FarmAid, I received a phone call asking if the Grange was still interested in having a display. Special thanks go to Joe Fryman, Nebraska State Grange Master, Donna Keeton, Oklahoma State Grange Master, and Amber Bell for the work they did to help get display items together and make this successful. Of course thanks to my family for taking time out of their already strapped schedules. On Saturday morning, we headed to KC for the day. At 12:00 the gates opened. The concert didn't start until 1:00, so people had an hour to visit the displays with nothing else going on. After a short time there were several radio stations and newspapers asking for an interview. On occasion I had to leave the booth in the hands of the Kansas State Grange Youth. At this point, they were no longer my daughters helping out Dad in a pinch; they were the Youth of the Grange. They are the young face that our organization needs to put out in front of the community. It is from the youth that our organization will receive the rejuvenation it needs. They must be utilized as the strong voice of the Grange that they are. FarmAid, to say the least, was a learning experience not only for the people who visited the Grange booth, but for us as well. We learned that there is interest in the Grange; we learned that as an agricultural organization we should be working with other organizations to benefit rural America and family farmers; and I learned the true value of our Youth.



Fraternally submitted,  
Roger Bostwick, Master

## **Massachusetts**

Greetings and Salutations from Massachusetts!

As I write my first report as Master of the Massachusetts State Grange, I am still trying to recuperate from our Annual Session, which was held in Milford, MA, from October 27-30. We were honored to have National Master Ed Luttrell as our official national representative. We also had Michael Martin, Leadership/Membership Director, and Diane Szutak, Junior Director, in attendance for our Session. It was filled with laughter, tears, and promise. It also ended with a brutal Nor'easter that snapped trees and left many members without power.

As we enter a new Grange year, I find it important to focus on our future goals rather than mull over our past issues. Certainly we did some good things over the past year: Granges continue to support the Words-for-Thirds program and Massachusetts is still a contributing partner of the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. We also took a giant step by partnering with the FFA and 4-H in our state. We contributed gener-

ously to both organizations and have chosen to continue to this year. Our donation to the FFA allowed them to fund their Chapter FFA Officer Training Conferences, their Greenhand Member Conference, various FFA awards, and a \$500 scholarship. The 4-H used their funds to restore the 4-H Ambassador program, which had been idle due to lack of funding. We also became a “Heart Sponsor” for their 9th annual golf tournament, which raises money for the 4-H Foundation. Not only was it a donation to a worthwhile cause, but also was great publicity for the Grange. The Executive Committee and Delegates have chosen to contribute to these two organizations for a second year. In my Overseer’s address, I recommended that each Subordinate Grange attempt to partner with either an FFA or a 4-H chapter in their area. After a certain age, young adults grow out of these organizations and don’t have a lot of ways to continue helping the community and stay involved in agriculture. If the Grange can provide that smooth transition, we would have a limitless supply of potential members.



In my address, I challenged all Grange members of Massachusetts to become “tailors” in their Granges; to make a new and exciting garment that they can wear and show off. I did warn them not to become too comfortable with that garment, because it will always need altering to keep up with the ever-changing times and needs of the community. By the end of our Session, people were excited and willing to become “tailors.” There was even a deputy who had all her “gear” ready to go. I pledged to Brother Ed that Massachusetts would have two to three new/reorganized Granges in the next two years. Yes, it is a big commitment, but I believe it can be done.

This is a very exciting time! We have many new Officers, Deputies, Committee Chairs and members. Along with those new people come new ideas, new attitudes, and new thinking. I am excited, honored, and proud to be the 38th Master of the Massachusetts State Grange, and I cannot wait to jump in, tackle our issues, and grow our Grange!

Fraternally,  
Matthew Johnson, Master

## **Maryland**

Sister Donna and I extend our warmest greetings to all who have assembled here for the 145th National Grange Session in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We in Maryland are proud of our past and hopeful for continued success in our quest to eliminate that nagging questions, “What is the Grange?”

This past year, Brandywine Grange was revitalized, gaining fifteen new members. Once this was accomplished, the first item on their agenda was the renaming of their Grange. Because they changed their meeting location and hardly anyone lived near Brandywine, this seemed appropriate. They are now called River View Grange. Thanks to River View Grange, Maryland had a net gain in membership this past year.



We continue to work with 4-H and FFA to help promote their cause. Grange Halls serve as a meeting place for 4-H. Many Subordinate Granges co-sponsor Community Shows with the FFA held at schools and some in Grange Halls. “Change 4 Grange” continues to

be successful; the fun part is collecting it at State Session. Community Involvement, under the direction of Roger Troxell, continues to be an important and successful project for Subordinate Granges. Prying community involvement reports out of Subordinate Granges for state competition continues to be a challenge.

Words-for-Thirds continues to be a bright spot for third graders and Grangers, as both look forward to the event. I recently overheard a teenager say, "I still have my dictionary the Grange gave me." Unsolicited, favorable testimony is music to your ears.

Everybody knows Maryland is not a big state, and everyone in the Grange circle knows it is not overrun by Subordinate Granges or members, yet none of us knew that within our great state we have a Grange Elementary School. We found the news to be very exciting. What is more mindboggling is the fact that this year, 2011, they celebrated their 50th anniversary. How wonderful it was for the Maryland State Grange to be invited to join the celebration and try our best to figure out the connection between the school name and the Maryland State Grange. It was indeed a great day for all who attended.

Our Cabin Fever Dinner and Fundraiser continues to be a fun evening with great food, wonderful fellowship, and lots of laughing.

We continue to support MAEF (Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation). Our Youth supported local food banks by holding a Rock-A-Thon that raised \$1,100 in one day.

In closing, 2011 was an exciting, growing year for the Maryland State Grange and we look forward to more success next year!

Fraternally,

Maurice Wiles, Master

## **Maine**

Greetings from the Maine State Grange!

Having been newly elected and installed as State Master a little earlier than I had anticipated, I welcome the challenge of this position. I am also humbled by the support of Grangers in this beautiful state.

As State Master, I will continue the fight to increase membership statewide. By traveling throughout the state and actively participating with Granges in areas that need help the most, I hope to increase publicity, and thus invoke interest from members in their communities to join the Grange. Over my thirty-plus years as a Grange member, I have had the privilege to personally know many of the former State Officers as well as the present ones that I am blessed to be working with as State Master. In our active days as youth members, we would get our date books out at youth nights and discuss upcoming events at other Granges so that we could meet again. Later, we found ourselves performing the many Installations of Officers across the state, which led to Kathy and I both being elected to State Office. You can't beat that with a stick. The honesty, friendship, loyalty, and compassion all make it worthwhile in the life of a Grange member.

The Grange shouldn't be about personal accomplishments; it should be about learning to work together through thick and thin for the betterment of your community, county, state and country. We must strive for hope at all levels of the economy. We must persevere for our youth and elders, giving them the highest quality of life that we all deserve. I believe in this Organization and will do my best to make us all proud to be called Grangers.

A Grange Master is only as good as the people working under him or her. That means

each and every one of us, regardless of what position we hold, must strive to do it well.

Brothers and Sisters, I look forward to serving my State Grange as Master and to personally meeting as many members of this State, as well as those from other States, in the years to come. Maine has had 138 State Sessions; there is no reason why we cannot have another 138.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Patrick Brewer, Master

## Michigan

Worthy Brothers and Sisters:

Early in the year, the Michigan State Grange Foundation officially gained possession of the old office building property. While this has alleviated a big financial burden for the State Grange, the fact remains that we are still not out of the woods and on our way to financial stability. The members of the Executive Committee worked diligently this past year towards our goal of not taking any money from the funds invested in supporting the day-to-day operations of the Michigan State Grange. However, we have not yet met that goal.



One thing we must improve that will make the biggest difference in the outcome of our budget is our ability to grow our Granges through membership. We had a meeting in May at our Community Grange Hall that was designed to assist us in that very process. The Grange Growth Summit, put together by our then National Grange Membership Director Rusty Hunt, was not as well attended as I hoped it would be. Rather, the people that were there were the ones that I had expected would be there. Although there were some differences of opinion, all members were still there for the same purpose of ensuring the future of the Grange in the state of Michigan.

Sister Jackie Bishop, our Membership Director, and I sat down and talked over some BHAGs, also known as Big Harry Audacious Goals, of mine. Though my BHAGs are not impossible, they haven't been achieved at this time. My goals were to have a net increase in membership of 25 percent in the state of Michigan, to revitalize one Grange and to reorganize two Granges.

Though we have learned a lot from the Grange Growth Summit, we have not yet been able to get our schedules together in order to get the job done. With that having been said, don't be surprised if by the end of the weekend either Jackie or I have talked to you about helping us out in one way or another this coming year.

Since I know you are all still shocked by my goal of achieving a 25 percent increase in membership, let's think about it for a minute. If your Grange has a total membership of 20 members, over the course of a year, your Grange would need to take in 5 new members to achieve a 25 percent increase. If your Grange has 180 members you would need to bring in 45 new members to achieve a 25 percent increase. Now what is the likelihood that a Grange is going to take in 45 new members in a year? Slim, but it can be done! Granges that need five new members only need to bring in one new member every other month. Can that be done? Absolutely! So it all boils down to how you look at things when deciding whether or not a BHAG is really as big and audacious as it sounds.

The legislative aspect of the Grange has always intrigued me. This spring I had the

opportunity to go to Washington D.C. for the Legislative Fly-In hosted by the National Grange. During my visit, I sat down with Representatives from Senator Levin and Senator Stabenow's office, as well as Representative Roger's, and discussed the position of the National Grange on House Resolution 872, which would reduce regulations on pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and rodenticides for farmers. While in town, we met with some individuals from the AT&T innovation center who showed us the capabilities of a remote doctor. The remote doctor is a machine that an individual is connected to and able to communicate with through video conferencing. With this technology, a doctor from Main Street Alaska doesn't have to travel 500 miles to visit a patient in the middle of winter. This technology is currently available, but not yet being practiced.

More recently, Jeff Swainston and I were asked to travel to Washington D.C. again for the purpose of pursuing legislation for the development of Broadband Internet access to rural America. The Fall Fly-In was sponsored and funded by DCI, a Washington D.C. firm, in coalition with the National Grange and U.S. Cattlemen's association. Broadband access would allow the virtual doctor system to become a reality in areas of the country where access to medical care facilities is not currently available. During our short visit to our Nations Capitol, we had the opportunity to sit and talk with Representatives from Senator Stabenow's office and several of our Representative's staff.

Earlier this year, I was able to participate at the Great Lakes Grange Leaders' Conference in Illinois. Although this conference was initially created for the Lecturers, it is now focused on Grange Leaders, and I highly encourage you to attend next year's conference. Each year they have a Master's Panel, where all the Masters or representatives from each Midwestern state answers questions from the participants. There is a lot of information collected from it. It's not all work though, there are fun and games involved.

Brothers and Sisters, I am excited about how things are shaping up for this coming year, and in the words of our Membership Director and the theme of the Juniors, "We gotta wanna make a difference; let's have some fun; let's have some fellowship; and let's get to work."

Faternally Submitted,  
Christopher D. Johnston, Master

## **Minnesota**

Brothers and Sisters:

2011 proved to be an interesting year. It began with a long winter that brought lots of snow and cold temperatures. Then came spring; May and June proved to be cold and rainy. In July, the State Government shut down, but we finally got warmer weather, and the rain stopped in August. Now, the farmers are working hard to get the crops harvested, but that also has been challenging. It is so dry that some fields have caught fire and were a total loss. I wish all Grange farmers well in their efforts to finish out the year, and I hope that next year proves better for them.

We had Rusty Hunt, National Grange Membership/Leadership Director, in Minnesota for two days in March. He hosted two meetings on revitalizing our Granges. The first one was at Byron and the second was at Atkin. There were approximately 12 people at each meeting. I was very pleased with this attendance. We had four





out of the six Granges attend, and I want to thank everyone for participating. They were great meetings and I hope everyone took something away from them that they can use in their Subordinate Granges.

In April, four of us, Karen Jensen, Ann Bercher, Claire Field, and myself, traveled to Illinois for the Great Lakes Leaders Conference. The topic was appreciation and it was a great conference. Each state was in charge of doing a workshop and picking a topic in relation to appreciation. Karen did a great job of putting together the Minnesota workshop. It was a great place to meet other State Grange leaders from our region and exchange ideas. They also had a break out session for all the Masters and Lecturers, as well as the Youth, Junior, and Membership Directors, so it encompasses all of the Grange leaders. Next year the conference is April 27-29 at Camp Abe Lincoln, Blue Grass, IA. I hope that we can have more people go next year since Minnesota will be hosting the 2013 conference. Evie, Karen, and I looked at the Girl Scout Camp at Elk River as a site for 2013. The other states wanted to take advantage of their time in Minnesota and visited the Kelley Farm, which is why we are looking around that area. We will be booking a site soon after this State Session and are thinking of setting the date for the second weekend in April.

June brought the Minnesota State Grange Picnic to the Kelley Farm. We had approximately 25-35 people attend. Each Grange was supposed to bring a poster that showed what they have been doing in their communities. It made a great display for the visitors of the Kelley Farm to see. I heard that some of the Granges took them home and used them at other events after the picnic. What a good way to show the public what we are doing. Keep up the good work!

The National Lecturer designated July 16th as a Grange Activity day. The plan was to have every Grange across the country have some kind of activity on the same day. Some Granges got together with others and had a combined activity. Others did things on their own. I hope that each of the Minnesota Granges had something planned.

I want to thank all the Officers and Members of the Minnesota State Grange for all of their hard work and support in making this year a successful one. I would also like to thank the Kelley Farm for all of their hospitality and help with the Gleaner. The Gleaner continues to be a challenge to publish. Thank you Ann for being the Editor of the Gleaner.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Donna Champion, Master

## Montana

Greetings from Montana!

As the newly elected State Master, I am pleased to report that we as a State Grange have been working diligently to revitalize Subordinate Granges statewide. We are very proud of the fact that we have made some significant progress in many areas. We had a successful State Session and saw a large increase in attendance at our Jr. Grange Camp this year. Our Youth department is also slowly emerging from the ashes, thanks to a tireless Youth Director.

I am looking forward to serving as Montana State Grange Master and hope that I can carry on in the tradition of those who have come before me.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Scott Nicholson



## Nebraska

Brothers and Sisters:

I would like to extend greetings to all Grangers and friends of the Grange, especially those attending the 145th Annual Convention of the National Grange in Tulsa, OK in 2011. Nebraska, Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, and Colorado are proud to make up the Grange Great Plains Region, which is hosting this 2011 Session. We hope all of you find it to be a pleasant and rewarding experience. Thank you to Jeannie Jeary and Margaret Smith for co-coordinating our Nebraska efforts for the Convention. Thanks to Judy Hansen and Darlene Janing for volunteering with me to help confer the 6th Degree at the National Convention.



I must begin this report by saying thank you to all who have made 2011 a successful year for the Grange in Nebraska. I am proud to say that Nebraska Grangers are a group of folks that work very well together. It is always a pleasure to gather to work, have fun, and enjoy our fraternity. The support from Subordinate Granges to the National Grange has been encouraging and helpful.

I want to congratulate and thank Nebraska Membership Director Edgar Hicks for organizing a new Nebraska Grange in the Omaha area. It is the Carver Grange, named in honor of George Washington Carver. We wish these folks success and look forward to working with our new brothers and sisters. Our new goal is to get a Grange organized in the Grand Island area.

The Nebraska Grange continues to be involved in the legislative process, giving input to our State Legislature on a number of issues. Grange views were expressed through testimony at a legislative hearing, direct contact with our senators, and written correspondence. Letters written by individual Grangers comprise another very important part of this process.

Nebraska continues to expand its role in the Words-for-Thirds Dictionary Project. This has been a very rewarding activity in many communities.

In July, Nebraska Grangers participated in a bus trip through northeast Nebraska and southeast South Dakota. We saw first-hand the devastating flooding along the Missouri River and the tremendous amount of water being discharged at the Gavins Point Dam on the river. Fish hatcheries, a music museum, Niobrara State Park, a nursery, a bed and breakfast, and an outdoor church service were some of the sites and activities we experienced while traveling.

The Nebraska State Grange set up and staffed a booth at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island again. This is always an opportunity to tell folks about the Grange, discuss their concerns, and recruit new members. Literally hundreds of folks stopped by the booth.

Our State Convention was held in Grand Island again, at the Howard Johnson/Riverside Inn last September. We were honored to have National Grange Executive Committee member Phil Prelli and Maureen from Connecticut represent the National Grange at our Convention. I only hope they enjoyed Nebraska half as much as we enjoyed having them with us.

At the session, Nebraska Grangers decided to participate on a state level with American Income Life to provide benefits to Nebraska Grangers.

The Nebraska Grange also voted to support a new group, "We Support Agriculture," that has been organized in Nebraska. This group is generating support for agriculture, es-



pecially animal agriculture, and is being proactive in the battle against those who would choose to overregulate livestock production in the state, which would ultimately put an end to livestock production entirely. Our members spoke forcefully against any compromise with these radical groups. Nebraska farmers are very concerned about the proper care of livestock, as it is the source of livelihood for many of our members. It is in their best interest to see that their animals are well taken care, and they don't need outside groups with personal agendas telling them how to raise and care for their animals.

While the economy of the United States struggles, the agriculture economy in Nebraska has been experiencing relatively good times. In spite of some regional weather problems, i.e. hail and flooding, not to mention a small earthquake, producers are generally operating in the black, and debt is being paid down. Cash rents are increasing and land prices seem to be increasing with each sale that occurs. Farming communities are for the most part prospering. Nebraska is fortunate to have the second lowest unemployment rate in the nation.

This past year included trips to National Grange Executive Committee Meetings in Washington D.C., the State Master's Conference in Nevada, and the Great Plains Corn States Lecturers/Membership/Youth Conference in Oklahoma. Tammy and I were honored to be invited to serve as National Grange Representatives for the Texas State Grange Convention last July. Texas gave us a very warm reception.

What opportunities and enjoyment the Grange has afforded us! We are blessed in so many ways! I will repeat what I have said many times before: The people Tammy and I meet and associate with through the Grange are a pleasure that we fully enjoy and treasure. Our goals for the Nebraska Grange are substantial for the coming year:

- Organizing another new Grange and revitalizing present Granges are priorities.
- Encouraging members is necessary.
- Keeping the Grange relevant in today's world is a challenge that may require changes in the way we do things.
- Deciding on and implementing projects in our communities is essential.
- Publicizing our efforts and achievements is important to let folks know we don't just talk, we do.
- Work with other groups and organizations to achieve common goals.

I wish all of you continued success in the coming year, as we move forward with the Grange.

Fraternally submitted,  
Joe Fryman, Master

## **New Hampshire**

To the Officers and Members of the National Grange:

It is an honor for me to deliver my first report as Master of the New Hampshire State Grange. Let me start by saying, this entire year has been a whirlwind. When I became Master of this State Grange, I laid out a set of priorities: Improve Grange growth and communications, focus on ritualism, and increase fundraising efforts.

Our focus during the past year has been about these three issues that were identified by the group of incoming leaders. These will,



again, be issues that Grange's in New Hampshire will be focusing on in the coming year.

I was pleased to have seventeen Community Granges and one Pomona Grange report net gains in membership. As we focus on growing the Grange, it is my hope that this list be even longer next year. I have set a membership goal for every Pomona Grange that challenges each to take on at least three new members. I am requesting each Grange member to invite at least one person to join the Grange this coming year. Part of this challenge is to know who was invited. I am providing pre-addressed post cards so each member can drop me a quick note on who they invited and the outcome! I have also asked Pomona Masters to assist struggling Granges within their areas.

As we start our new Grange year, we must fill the gaps left by the retirements of several long serving Deputies. I thank them for their loyal service to the New Hampshire State Grange! We are also pleased that Brother Dick Patten, Past State Master, is returning to the leadership team as Co-Director of the Family and Community Department. With a special focus on community service, we are looking forward to many great projects.

The New Hampshire State Grange just completed a very successful 138th Annual Session held in Gorham, NH! The Officers of the New Hampshire State Grange did a wonderful job exemplifying the 6th Degree. Our session was highly successful due to the team effort of the Officers and Directors. They worked very hard to ensure that our session was highly informative and valuable.

Fraternally,

Jim Tetreault, Master

## **New Jersey**

Greetings from the Garden State!

2011 was a great year for the New Jersey State Grange. When I was first installed as Master one year ago, I set two goals for 2011:

1. Be more visible in the Community and Pomona Granges.
2. Continue the partnerships with the various agricultural organizations that the State Grange has worked with.

I visited one-quarter of our Granges this year and saw firsthand the desire to grow the Grange and provide our communities with financial support and programs that will strengthen our local communities.

We continue to financially support various agriculturally based organizations across the state, as well as the FFA, by donating two jackets and having a representative attend our Annual Session.

A Degree Day was held in the northern portion of New Jersey in April and 22 new candidates witnessed the conferral of the first four Degrees of our order. That day's success prompted our Executive Committee to sponsor a conferral of the Fifth and Sixth Degrees, which was held in September. Twenty-one candidates witnessed the Degrees and there were over 85 in attendance.

Our biggest success story for 2011 is from one of our Subordinate Granges. One year ago, the Master of Columbus Grange #58 came to the Executive Committee and requested assistance, as they were facing with the prospect of selling their Grange hall and probably surrendering their charter.

Word leaked out of the plight in the village of Columbus, and two local women organized a fundraiser at a local restaurant, which raised over \$2,500 to help pay their in-

surance. Since then, they have hosted several pancake breakfasts and other fundraisers, received assistance from volunteers in making repairs to the building, and have taken in over 20 new members. The two ladies who helped Columbus get back on their feet were awarded the newly created “Grange Builder of the Year” award at our Fifth and Sixth Degree Day, and Columbus Grange was awarded “Grange of the Year.” Another Grange that has been “less than active” for several years had 15 new members join, so there may be competition for our “Grange of the Year” award in 2012!

For every success, there is usually at least one failure. The Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Museum of Agriculture voted to close the museum due to decreased funding and increasing expenses. The New Jersey State Grange and its members have supported the museum both financially and with volunteer hours for many years. Many of the items in the various collections were donated to other non-profit organizations, while the main collection that started the museum reverts back to Rutgers University, as does the building.

I am excited by the great things I see happening in our Granges. Several Granges have set up pages on Facebook and other social networking websites to publicize their events. The enthusiasm in our Granges is catching on, and I see good things happening in New Jersey in 2012!

Fraternally,

John M. Benedik III, Master

## **New York**

Worthy Master, Officers, and Fellow Delegates:

It is indeed a pleasure to present my first report to the National Grange. The importance and profound significance of the Office of Overseer became very real and personal when I received a call to come to Cortland to be installed as Master of the New York State Grange. As Overseer, while this is always a possibility, one is never quite prepared for it until it happens. It was a satisfying and humbling moment when the Delegates to the recently completed 139th Session of the New York State Grange acquiesced in their election choice for Master.



At the last Session of the National Grange, Brother Oliver Orton committed to the revitalization of Pomona Granges. Subsequent to the National Pomona Summit, committee meetings were held to discuss the national questionnaire and to develop ideas for Pomona revitalization. During the month of July, eight regional meetings were held, covering the entire State. The survey results were discussed, a new streamlined business agenda was introduced, and a new style for Community Granges to report their data and activities was presented. In each Session, ample opportunity was given for open discussion. For the most part, there was a realization that changes needed to be made along with a willingness to try new concepts.

Our Officers and Department Chairman were very active this year. As this past year was a new handbook year, a weekend planning and program development session was held at our Headquarters to develop the 2012-2013 programs in a way that would integrate each into a unified end product. In addition to this, several of the departments held regional meetings to promote their current year's programs/projects. The results of these efforts were manifested in the increased participation in many of our project areas. Our State Offi-

cers made visits to a large percentage of our Community and Pomona Granges. We believe that a strong State Grange presence that reaches out to Local Granges with encouragement and assistance, combined with an understanding of their concerns, is essential in order to build stronger Grange units that will reap the benefits of that strength. We will continue these efforts.

We were pleased to host the Northeast Leaders Conference this past January and were delighted with the attendance, despite a significant snowstorm. The quality and timeliness of the various presentations, along with the opportunity for fellowship with Grange leaders not seen on a regular basis, made the conference worthwhile.

The highlight of the year was the 139th Annual Session of the New York State Grange. Despite a potentially major problem with our planned facility and all the attendant minor situations occurring almost up to the dropping to the gavel, the Session went very well. Included in our Session's activities this year was an "Idea Fair," designed for our departments and related networks to showcase their programs and projects while offering suggestions on how to make them work. There was a huge turn out for the fair, which included some hands-on participation. It was a big hit. Hopefully this will translate into the necessary knowledge and enthusiasm needed to move individual Granges in a positive direction in their home communities. We were also very pleased to enjoy the input and company of our National Grange Representative Sister Betsy Huber. She was an inspiration and delight to all of us. Delegates considered nearly 80 resolutions and wrestled with financial issues, caused in part by membership losses. In addition to all of this, there was time for fun and fellowship, as well as the educational and entertainment aspects of our speakers and programs.

In the year ahead, we plan to be very aggressive in our membership activities, as we feel that we have the necessary tools to accomplish this end. We appreciate the leadership of the National Grange in this area. The materials developed along with a strong leadership presence have provided a strong foundation on which to build. We presently have one reorganization and a new organization in the works, both of which we hope to have in place in the next few months. We also hope to awaken anew in our rank-and-file Grangers the realization of what our organization is and has to offer to them personally, as well as to those outside our gates. We wish for you all success in the year ahead.

Fraternally submitted,  
Stephen C. Coye, Master

## **North Carolina**

Brothers and Sisters:

It has been an exciting year for the NC State Grange as we continue to carve out our role as a viable organization in North Carolina. One major accomplishment of this year was the passing of House Bill 168, which the State Grange initiated and ushered through the General Assembly. This important legislation protects farms in two ways: First it prevents municipalities from regulating farms that are located within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of those towns. Secondly, the law prevents the involuntary annexation of farms. Now, the only way that farms can be annexed into municipalities is if the owner agrees to do so. It is a significant piece of legislation for



agriculture in our state, and we are proud that the North Carolina State Grange led the way.

The Blue Cross / Blue Shield Program continues to be a valuable asset for the North Carolina State Grange. A network of approximately 125 agents across the state is affiliated with the Grange program, which is headed up by Mark Davis, the Insurance Coordinator for the State Grange. In addition, our Grange Life Benefits program continues to grow, which provides life and long-term care insurance products.

We have an outstanding youth program that is developing skills for our leaders of the future. Our camp, winter conference, and caravan are key components of our leadership training efforts. It is gratifying to watch these young people develop and grow into effective young adult leaders. We are especially proud that one of our participants, Caroline Tart, was elected as State FFA Vice President this year. The North Carolina State Grange has a great relationship with the FFA, and this relationship is growing stronger.

The State Grange is heavily involved in the agricultural community of North Carolina, working with other groups, universities, and agencies. The following are some of the more significant efforts that are underway in which the State Grange is involved:

Market Based Conservation – An effort to preserve military training routes from development

Animal Agriculture Coalition – An effort to protect animal agricultural production

Agricultural Development & Farmland Protection Trust Fund – An effort to preserve farms and farmland

Agricultural Alliance – A coalition that works with crop protection and pesticide issues

Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation – Supports soil and water conservation activities in the Conservation Districts

NC Cooperative Extension Foundation – Supports the Agricultural Extension service

Family & Consumer Sciences Foundation – Supports this division of Agricultural Extension

Agricultural, Dairy, and Tobacco Foundations – Supports agricultural research at NC State University

Cooperative Council of NC – Supports co-ops in the state

Agricultural Infrastructure Committee – Examines ports and transportation improvement

Tobacco Research Commission – Supports tobacco research in the state

NC Food Policy Council – Works on establishing local markets in the state

Because the Grange is an agricultural organization, we believe that it is important to be involved in all agricultural related initiatives in the state if we are to be effective in providing a voice for our membership. It involves a lot of travel and time spent in meetings, but it is necessary in order for the NC State Grange to remain a known and viable entity in our state. We look forward to the year ahead.

## Ohio

Brothers and Sisters:

Linda and I bring you greetings from the “Buckeye State,” where we, like other states, had a rather strange growing season this past year. While some areas were dry enough for farmers to get in the fields during the usual planting season, a large majority was forced to wait six to eight weeks past their normal schedule. However, the rest of the year was much better. With the exception of some areas that saw rather little rain during the early summer,





most had adequate rainfall for their crops, and a somewhat dry and long harvest season apparently made up for the earlier delays.

I want to express my sincere thanks to Duane Scott, National Grange Executive Committee Member and Wisconsin State Grange Master, for serving as the National Grange's representative to our 139th Annual Session in Columbus. It was truly a job well done. Throughout the Session, he shared his views, thoughts, and ideas with us from the National Grange perspective. We also enjoyed a few moments of some good Big Ten football rivalry!

We made a minor change to the structure of our State Session this year by regularly scheduling it in central Ohio. This will eliminate one hotel night's stay for many attendees, thus reducing their expenses. By delaying our Session's opening from Thursday evening to Friday morning, by streamlining our meeting format, our committees were able to begin their meetings in the afternoon instead of the morning. This outline allotted the afternoon and evening for meetings, providing ample time for their committee not only to finish their work entirely, but also to be able to work more effectively, which allowed delegate floor work to go smoothly. That did happen!

Ohio hosted the Mid-Atlantic (or Eastern Regional) Lecturers' Conference this past May in Canton. Lecturers and representatives from seven different states attended. OSG Lecturer, Dorothy Eckert, and her very capable committee planned and carried out a fine conference.

Ohio will be hosting the Eastern Regional Youth Conference, April 13 to 15, 2012, at Friendly Hills Grange Camp, just north of Zanesville. OSG Youth Directors, Mike and Debbie Russell, our SYC, and others will be planning to provide an educational experience for the Eastern Regional attendees.

In addition to our normal annual Grange events, we added a Degree demonstration to replace our ritualistic contest in which participation has been declining recently. We began with our Ohio State Junior Grange Officers exemplifying the Junior Degree, then moved on to the presentation of the First through Fifth Degrees in succession by different teams throughout Ohio. This was an opportunity for those in attendance to experience the beautiful ritualistic work of our Order.

I appreciate the opportunity to work with my fellow National Grange Delegates and look forward to being with you in Tulsa. I wish you all a great Grange year!

Fraternally Submitted,  
Gary Brumbaugh, Master

## Oklahoma

Greetings from the Oklahoma Sooner State Grange!

It has been an exciting year working toward the 145th National Grange Convention. All of our members have been busy getting all the details ready for the big event. This is the first time that the National Grange Convention has been held in Oklahoma. We hope that you will enjoy some of our beautiful state while you are here.

Our State Officers exemplified the first four Degrees in April. The Prairie Grange at El Reno, Oklahoma, hosted the event. There were 54 members in attendance, and six members took the four Degrees.





This year, we hosted the first annual Great Plains Leaders' Conference, where the Lecturer, Membership, Youth, and Junior Departments all participated in workshops. We had several members from the National Grange attend the meeting whom I would like to thank for providing workshops at the conference: National Grange Overseer Jimmy Gentry, National Grange Lecturer Pete Pomper, National Grange Youth Director Charlene Espenshade, and National Grange Junior Director Diane Szkutak. There were 107 members that attended the Great Plains Leaders' Conference; they came from all over our region. Thank you Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas and Oklahoma for participating.

On July 16th, we participated in the Grange Gathering. It took place at the Woolaroc Museum Activity Center. There was lots of fun, fellowship and food for all. A total of 54 members participated.

Brad and I attended the following State Conventions: Texas, Nebraska and Kansas. We went to encourage their members to come to the National Grange Convention and Party on the Prairie!

We had an overall membership increase of 177 members. Bluejacket Grange had a 70% increase in membership. I am so proud of our Granges and of our Membership Director, Jerry Taylor, for all of his hard work.

Our state is still involved with the Oklahoma Wheat Research Foundation as well as the Cattlemen's Association. The Highway Users Foundation has dissolved from lack of interest.

This year we presented six scholarships to our youth: Landry Volz, Tanner Volz, and Kyle Volz of Thompson Grange #352, Camille Krehbiel, Mitchel Nutter of Cherryvale Grange #221, and Colton Evans of Ketchum Grange #357. These youth are involved in our state, and it is an honor to be able to help them with their college funds.

Each year, we give the Granger of the Year award to one individual. This year the award went to Paul Matthews, our past State Legislative Director. Paul has been our State Legislative Director for many years and has represented us on the Highway Users Foundation. He has dedicated his career to representing the Oklahoma State Grange.

On Saturday Evening of our State Session our youth exemplified the Fifth Degree and our State Officers exemplified the Sixth Degree to 14 candidates.

Thank you, National Master Ed Luttrell, for representing the National Grange at our State Convention. Also, thank you to our Kansas State Masters, Roger & Melanie Bostwick, for all of your help and for exemplifying the Sixth Degree at our State Session.

On behalf of Oklahoma, I wish you a successful Grange year in 2012.

Faternally Submitted

Donna Keeton, Master

## Oregon

We hosted the Western Region Pomona Conference this spring at Cottage Grove and had an excellent turnout of 145 in attendees, the largest group to date according to the National Grange. Brothers Rusty Hunt and Ed Luttrell regaled the crowd and their message was well received.

Sister Sarah Kingsborough volunteered to organize Oregon's Pomona Masters. At this year's State Session, we included a conference for Pomona Masters. Plans are to make this conference a



regular part of the State Session.

Half of our State Session is devoted to the State Fair and the other half to the conference. Members are complaining about the length of the Session. Perhaps in the future we can group events in a way that allows members to attend either the conferences or the business sessions without committing to a weeklong event. We are currently planning sessions two years in advance, so schedule changes won't be immediate.

There was one common complaint being heard on the visitation circuit: "You folks up at State make these bylaws and force us to behave." My response is: "No, the bylaws originate in the Subordinate Granges, and you expect me to enforce the bylaws. If you want to change the bylaws, please submit a resolution and join the debate at State Session."

We initiated a Veterans' Committee as a standing committee at the last Session. We must urge Congress to give our veterans first priority in health care, employment, and psychological care. This should also extend to the veterans' families. Let's take care of our troops. We can make it happen.

Here are some statistics from 2011: we have 181 active Granges, 21 active Pomonas, and zero Junior Granges. Our national pledge was to organize at least two Junior Granges. We have two potentials working on their documentation paperwork, but that effort seems to have stalled. We must move forward with our Junior Granges.

We have committed to hosting the Western Regional Conference in Oregon in 2012. I am excited about the efforts being made by the committee to plan a "family reunion" at Eagle Crest in Central Oregon. You will hear more about these plans in the coming days.

Unfortunately, I could not attend the National Session in Tulsa, OK, this year, but we were well represented. Take time to say hello to the folks from Oregon.

Faternally,

Larry Rea, Master

## **Pennsylvania**

Brothers and Sisters:

It is my privilege to present my second annual report to the National Grange as the Pennsylvania State Grange Master. Let me begin with the bad news:

I am very aware of the devastation that occurred this year in Pennsylvania due to natural disasters. After Tropical Storm Lee came through, we at the State Office reached out to our members, both to find those in need of assistance and to locate those willing to help others, and will be continuing to do so.

Now on to the good news:

One of the first items on my agenda at the State office was to hire a new Membership/Public Relations Director/Editor to replace my old position. I am very proud to tell you that Stacy Ebersole-Bruker, has filled this spot and done fantastic work on the Farm Show, updating the Advocate, working with Granges to help increase membership and so much more.

I was able to negotiate a new contract with our lobbying firm, Versant Strategies, which freed up sufficient funding to allow me to hire Betsy Huber as a part-time "Legislative Liaison." Versant Strategies still tracks legislative bills and various regulations pertinent to our State Grange Policies. They also assist us in coordinating various legislative programs and events as well as advising us on the legislative "climate." Betsy is now the direct liaison



with our legislators in the Capitol as well as my direct resource for Grange information. I also asked her to continue to represent the Grange on many of the various committees that the Grange has been involved in throughout the Commonwealth, including continuing to serve on the Board of Trustees at the Penn State College of Agriculture.

Our Annual Departmental Planning Meeting was held in late January, and we had a fantastic turnout from State Officers and Committees. Your State Officers assisted me with accomplishing one of my priorities for that weekend – creating a PA State Grange Mission Statement, which reads, “The PA State Grange supports the Local Granges to help members grow as individuals, unify their communities and create opportunities through legislation and service.”

At the end of February, I had the opportunity to attend the National Grange’s “Masters’ Conference” outside Las Vegas, NV, which was very informative, especially in explaining the ways in which we can use social networking to promote the Grange.

Shortly after George Greig, a very active Crawford County Granger, was appointed by the Senate as our new Secretary of Agriculture, I had the opportunity to meet with him in his office. Brother George will be a definite asset to the Grange in his new position.

The Youth and Junior Departments worked together again this year to hold their “Lock-In.” This year they met for the weekend at Perry Valley Grange #1804 in Perry County.

Betsy, Stacy, Gerry and I worked together to have an informative and “tasty” table at the annual “Cornucopia” held at the Capitol. This is another opportunity for the Grange to make direct connections with the legislators as they finish their day and let them know that the Grange is involved in the legislative process.

Grange Day was held on May 3rd this year. It was difficult to follow last year’s successful “Pie Day,” but Betsy and Versant Strategies put together a top-notch program that included visitations with legislators in their capitol offices where we provided them with homemade cookies. Also in May, I had the opportunity to visit Berks County’s Junior Grange Camp for a day prior to preparing for our annual National Grange Fly-In. This year we took a van full of Grangers to D.C., stopping at the National Grange Headquarters, Mount Vernon and the Capitol for visitations with our Congressmen.

I met with Boots Hetherington, Special Ag Advisor to the Governor, at our office in early June. I also had the opportunity to host the Royalty Trip to Harrisburg. Our Junior and Youth Royalty joined us for a morning at the State Office, then we headed over to the Capitol for tours and meetings with their legislators.

We also held two PA State Grange Family Picnics in June and July this year: the first at DelGrosso’s Park in Blair County and the second at Knoebels Park in Northumberland and Columbia Counties. At Knoebels, we had a fantastic turnout of over 50 Grangers, family and friends.

In August our big event is Penn State’s Ag Progress Days. With help from Stacy, her Dad Ray, and our State Lecturer Lorena, we set up our display and booth and talked to thousands of people about the Grange.

Several Grange representatives were privileged to be invited to attend a Legislative Fly-In in Washington, D.C. for “Broadband Works in Rural America,” where we explained our unique perspectives on the transformative potential of high-speed broadband to Federal lawmakers.

I am anxiously awaiting the final results from the work of two of our Community Granges, Elizabethtown Area Grange #2076 in Lancaster County, and Jefferson Grange #1384 in Schuylkill County. They are both on the verge of forming new Junior Granges!

Special activities, events and places that I enjoyed in the past year:

Hyndman Grange #1954's Charter Presentation; PA Fair Association Banquet; Hamburg Grange #2103's Pot Pie Dinner; Bucks County Pomona #22; Berks County Pomona #43; Council of Farm Organizations meetings; Farm Show Committee meetings; Juniata-Mifflin-Franklin County Pomona #35 Legislative Dinner; Lehigh-Northampton County Pomona #68 visitation at Trexlertown Grange #1755; Progress Grange #96 Open House; Valley Grange #1360 Appreciation Dinner; Hayfield Grange #800's 125th Anniversary; Blair County #37 & Huntingdon County #6 Pomona; Montour- Northumberland-Union County Pomona #31 Legislative Banquet; Elizabethtown Grange #2076; Chester-Delaware County Pomona #3 Legislative Banquet; Fleetwood Grange #1839 Open House; Lawrence County Pomona #65's Legislative Banquet; Eastern Regional Youth Conference in Delaware; Virginville Grange #1832 Open House; Lycoming County Pomona #28; Valley Grange #1360 Membership Awards; Berks County Junior Grange Camp; Turbot Grange #249; Greene County Pomona #63; Sewickley Grange #1897; Erie County Pomona #4; Mountain Grange #567; Bradford-Sullivan Pomona #23; Jefferson Grange #1384's picnic; Cumberland Valley Grange #2104's 5th Anniversary; Mt. Nebo Grange #1872's 90th Anniversary.

And a special note: Pennsylvania did not close a single Grange during this past fiscal year! We also had 24 Candidates for 6th Degree Conferral at our 139th Annual PA State Grange Session in Harrisburg.

I am extremely excited about the years to come and how we will find ways to take advantage of new technologies and social media outlets, along with other ideas that will be introduced throughout the coming year.

We as an organization have proven that we can be relevant within our communities. Given the opportunity to learn about our organization, we have seen how communities that previously had no Grange quickly realize its relevancy and frequently decide to organize a new Grange in their community. This is evident from the five new Granges we have chartered in the past five years. I believe that this strongly reinforces our belief that the Grange in Pennsylvania is alive and growing! We look forward to finding new and innovative ways to let people in all parts of the Commonwealth know that the Grange is not just alive and well, but is ready to charge forward to be the preeminent organization that we have been for 139 years and plan to be for at least another 139 more!

Faternally submitted,  
Carl H. Meiss, Master

## **Rhode Island**

Worthy Master, National Officers, Brothers and Sisters:

On behalf of the Officer Team and all the members of the Rhode Island State Grange, Claire and I bring greetings, and I am delighted to make my second report to you.

We began the Grange year with training, training and more training to work together as a team to achieve our goal of "Grange Growth." It began with the Northeast Leaders Conference, where we had thirteen representatives learning leadership skills relevant to their respective departments. One of the highlights was the workshop held by our National President, Ed Luttrell, who presented his usual inspirational and informative message of the National Grange's goals and accomplishments.





We also received excellent training from Brother Rusty Hunt, Membership Director of National Grange. Working with Brother Jody Cameron, the Connecticut State President, we setup a joint workshop with the Connecticut and Rhode Island Granges at the North Stonington Grange Hall in Connecticut. There were over 60 Grangers that enjoyed two outstanding workshops from Brother Rusty, titled “Pomona: What and Why” and “Grange Growth from the Master’s Perspective.” The most interesting part of the event was learning the results from a poll that was taken, which asked attendees what they expected from the State Grange – First was leadership, second was support, third was communication, information and training, and in fourth was assistance with Pomona and Community Granges. We also voted on what was expected of the State Master – in first again was leadership, followed by communication at all levels and third was support. It was truly a great day, and we really appreciate Rusty flying in to put this on for us.

Soon after the workshops, Claire and I were off to the Master’s Conference in Henderson, Nev. Our National Master had a full schedule of workshops and discussions. I particularly enjoyed the Media Strategy workshop. We learned how important it is to develop a good relationship with our local media personnel, which will benefit us when we need to get coverage. In order to get in the news, it’s important that we send our information in a specific format. We must also be prepared for crisis management, in the event that an article is written that paints our Grange in a bad light. We have been extremely fortunate to have only had excellent articles published about us, which have expressed the importance of the Grange in Rhode Island and its outstanding contributions to respective communities.

April was full of celebrations for Grange and Granger recognition Awards, Community Service Awards, and open houses. All these events were held to promote the Grange and recognize all that serve so faithfully. Then of course there was our Degree Day. What a great day! What great teamwork – from those that prepared the dinner, the Pomona’s that did an excellent job of exemplifying each of the four Degrees, the candidates that received the Degrees, and to the witnesses that observed.

The great Old Fashioned Grange Picnic, sponsored by the Rhode Island and Connecticut State Granges, was our way of answering the Worthy National Lecturer’s call for a Nationwide Gathering Celebration on July 16th. The Picnic was held at the Washington County Pomona Grange Fairgrounds in the Southwestern part of Rhode Island near the Connecticut border. It was attended by close to 200 Grange members, potential members, relatives, neighbors and friends. Everyone had a great time, promoted the Grange and certainly got enough to eat! To witness and be a part of such a large group of people, together in fellowship and fun, was an experience that I will remember for a long time, and I was told by many others that they felt the same. It was truly the Grange at its best!

Our 125th annual State Session is over now and we are beginning a new Grange Year. We were honored and greatly pleased to have Brother Daniel Bascom, Priest Archon, and Sister Kimber as our National Representatives this year. Their attendance and participation was greatly appreciated by all the members of the Rhode Island State Grange.

Although we did not have a gain in membership this year, our losses were significantly smaller than in the past, which I believe at least gives us a glimmer of hope. As we continue to pursue our goal of “Grange Growth,” we are hoping that teamwork will prevail and that we will overcome these past shortfalls to move our organization into the future for many, many years to come.

Faternally,

Stephen Logan, Master

## South Carolina

The founders of the South Carolina Grange were too early in time to understand the joy of bringing a classic car back to life. A classic car could be restored to exact specifications. For example, an exact original '67 mustang could run on unleaded gas; however, pre-1971 engines -- made for leaded gas -- could not be driven hard. If driving the engine hard was the fun part, then the part missing from an exact restoration would be the fun.



The fun in the Grange – including completing projects, acquiring new resources, building knowledge, growing influence, and welcoming new members – is derived from opportunity. The opportunity seized by the South Carolina Grange during the original organization and the depression era reorganization is still omnipresent; however, it has become what Chabris and Simons of Harvard University describe as the “invisible gorilla.” The “invisible gorilla” phenomenon was the result of a psychological experiment where observers were asked to watch a video and count the number of times a basketball was passed. With the number of basketball passes as a focus, attention became selective and observers failed to recognize a guy beating his chest while wearing a gorilla suit. If a guy in a gorilla suit could be missed so easily, then opportunities vital to keeping the Grange fun could be missed just as easily.

Vague, or worse yet nonexistent, bylaws divert attention away from opportunity. For example, the rule for a baseball strike is not exactly black and white and a passionate player may get mad enough with a close call to wreck the opportunity of enjoying a game for everyone. To reduce the chance of a similar occurrence in the South Carolina Grange the state bylaws have been replaced with a new peer-reviewed set one third of the size of the original.

Things have gone well for South Carolina in 2011. Grangers from outside of South Carolina including a good number from North Carolina as well as others from Florida, Tennessee, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Illinois and the National Officer team have helped us to nurture hope for the Grange in South Carolina. In February, two growth conferences were held in both the upper and lower parts of the State. In July, South Carolina hosted the South Eastern Leadership conference which was restarted after a number of years. In August, new state officers were elected in the 82nd consecutive annual session.

The South Carolina Grange Growth Goal for 2012 is “simplify.” Staying in line with this goal, and balancing the traditions of an old organization with twenty-first century time management strategies the 126:6 growth plan is being introduced in South Carolina.

Psalms 126:6 (KJV) “And they that goeth forth weeping, bearing precious seed shall come again rejoicing, bringing the sheaves.”

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry H Martin II

## Tennessee

Worthy Master, State Delegates, National Officers:

Greetings from the Volunteer State of Tennessee. We just completed our 103rd Annual Session hosted by the Granges in the tri-county area of East Tennessee. All meetings, meal functions and contests were held at Volunteer Grange Hall in Knox County. Scott Sherman, National Grange Gatekeeper, was the National Representative for our Session.



Also attending was Rhode Island State Grange Lecturer Jeanette Kenyon who was visiting some sites in Tennessee with her daughters. Scott and Jeanette helped in many ways, and their attendance was an excellent addition. Unfortunately, there were no candidates for the Fifth and Sixth Degrees at this year's Session, so we spent the time wisely by holding a question and answer session. Topics included proper Grange procedure, new National Grange member benefits, and programs with cd's that are available for Lecturers. The new Officers filling their chairs for the first time since the Fall 2010 elections were instructed in the proper way to present and retire the flag.



In January, I represented the Grange as a voting member on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Agricultural Hall of Fame. The board members met at the Ellington Agricultural Center in Nashville to consider the nomination of the late Ed Jones, former Congressman and author of landmark federal farm legislation. Mr. Jones was only the 13th member to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. This honor was well deserved, as he made outstanding contributions to agriculture throughout his life.

In May, the State Lecturer and I attended the Mid-Atlantic Lecturer's Conference in Ohio, and in July four Grangers from Tennessee traveled to the Southeastern States Leader's Conference in South Carolina. This was an attempt to reestablish the leadership training conferences that had been held annually for many years in our region. Our Grangers were successful and the conference will be held again next year at the same location in South Carolina.

There is no doubt that we are struggling through these tough economic times. Recently, the news was filled with debate over raising the U.S. debt ceiling and what programs can be cut in order to get spending under control. We hear more and more about what these cuts could mean to people who are still looking for jobs. We are told that the unemployment rate is declining but at an ever-so-slow rate. Although mortgage rates remain extremely low, banks are hesitant to give out loans to purchase homes. It's this kind of turmoil that can lead neighbors to help each other – to pull together to face similar issues. What better place to get together to discuss these problems and, more importantly, solutions to them than the local Grange Hall with community-minded people? The Grange can serve as the focal point for people in your community to gather and work toward solutions to any variety of challenges, economic and otherwise. People are looking for answers and support. Invite neighbors, friends, and acquaintances to your Grange.

Membership continues to be our biggest obstacle. I realize the challenges ahead, but am encouraged by members across the state who have pledged to make the Tennessee State Grange the best it can be. By keeping positive attitudes in each of our Local Granges, the goals we have, both of increasing membership in our current Granges and of organizing a new Grange in our State, can be achieved in the coming year. Because we have identified low membership as a problem in some of our Granges, they have now accepted that they must increase their membership, and we are better able to work toward a solution. The future is contingent on our current membership working toward a goal of increased membership.

Fraternally,

Judy Sherrod, Master

## Texas

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates, and members of the 145th National Grange Session:

Greetings from all our great members of the Texas State Grange. We were honored to have Brother Joe and Sister Tammy Fryman as our National Representatives at our Annual Session in July. We were also honored to have our good friends, Brother Brad and Sister Donna Keeton from Oklahoma attend our Session. With the assistance of the Frymans and Keetons, we had a very successful State Session. It was certainly a pleasure to have them in attendance.



We enjoyed another good year with our community service programs – continuation of the rabies clinics in five Granges resulted in over 800 animals receiving rabies vaccinations. Some of our Grangers are also involved in food banks for the hungry and “clothes closets” for needy families. Four of our Granges also participate in the “Words for Thirds” program.

Texas had an increase in membership for the second consecutive year, and we are on the way to doing the same for a third consecutive year.

This past June, ten members attended the Great Plains Youth, Lecturer, and Membership Conference in Broken Arrow, OK. This was the first time that any Texas members have participated in it in approximately ten years. We have a new Youth Director, and I am confident that he and his wife will improve the youth program.

We held some good fundraisers to help offset the expenses for our members attending the National Session this November. Texas has chartered a 56-passenger bus to transport our members to the event. We are excited that Texas will be responsible for the exemplification of the 6th Degree at the National Session. The Texas Rose Drill team will perform during the it. Sister Peggy York and myself are working diligently with other states, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska, to make the National Session enjoyable and fun for everyone in attendance. Texas members are looking forward to attending the National Session and being involved in the various activities.

Another first for Texas: we had our first e-member from Austin, TX sign up on line, and he attended part of our Annual Session. I’m hoping that another 2,000 e-members sign up this year. Just thinking positive.

We continue to publish our state newsletter quarterly and furnish it to members via e-mail and the postal service for those without e-mail. Our goal is to improve its quality and make more information available to our members. We are exploring the possibility of acquiring local businesses as sponsors. May we have a most successful Session. God Bless our Grange. God Bless the USA.

Fraternally submitted,  
Jack Smithers, Master

## Virginia

I have the pleasure to bring you greetings from the Commonwealth of Virginia and the members of the Virginia State Grange.

This Grange year in Virginia has seen its ups and downs. We were proud to be one of the host states for the National Grange Convention in Charlotte, NC. Our members who worked

the hospitality room enjoyed meeting and greeting members from across the nation. Unfortunately, during that time we also experienced the death of our State Overseer and past Master, Brother Jerry Hancock.

Our Granges continued to work hard on being involved with various community service projects. All of our Granges submitted reports this year. We take pride in being involved with and servicing the needs of the communities where our Granges are located.

We didn't meet our goal of achieving a net growth in membership for the sixth year in a row, but we were close. We plan to double our efforts this coming year in hopes of sparking another streak of net gains in membership for years to come. Active Granges have renewed their interest in helping the communities and joining a winning team.

During the spring and summer, Virginia endured Mother Nature's wilds, experiencing tornadoes, earthquakes and hurricanes, after a winter with lots of snow. Some of the weather affected Grange activities, but our Grangers persevered.

We concluded our Grange year with our State Convention, which was held at Goodwill Grange, located in the beautiful Grayson Highlands area of southwest Virginia. Goodwill Grange was able to show off its renovations and progress on their computer center at the Grange hall. We had the pleasure of having Calvin and Linda Chase as our National Grange representatives.

We are looking forward to the new Grange year, new projects, and even greater accomplishments.

Fraternally,

James Taylor, Master



## **Vermont**

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates and Patrons of the National Grange:

I am honored to once again bring greetings from the Grangers of Vermont. This year we celebrated the 140th anniversary of the first Grange in New England, chartered at St. Johnsbury in 1871, and we look forward to many more years of Grange work in the Green Mountains.

We were very pleased to have Sister Phyllis Wilson, National Chaplain, as our National Representative this year. We were impressed by her unfailing graciousness and her interest in how Vermonters conduct Grange business. We, in turn, learned how things are done in Oregon. Sister Phyllis was scheduled to visit us two years ago, but due to health concerns was unable to come.

Vermont was honored to host New England's "Go to Church Sunday." The event, traditionally held in New Hampshire's Cathedral of the Pines, was held this year at The Rockingham Meetinghouse, a venerable structure that has stood on Meetinghouse Hill since 1787. Brother Lester Gibbs, Vermont State Chaplain and New Hampshire State Musician, did double duty by playing the organ and delivering the sermon.

My goals for the past year, pledged at last year's National Convention, were to revive



our State Grange newsletter, re-create our website, give relevance to our new Pomona structure and reverse membership decline. I am pleased to report success on two of these issues and modest progress on another.

This year we were able to resurrect our newsletter, *The Green Mountain Granger*, and so far have published five bi-monthly issues. These have been sent to every member and have been posted on our newly revived website. It has been well received, and I hope it will be expanded in the coming year.

Thanks to Deborah Ploof, State Ceres, and others, we now have an attractive and useful website. At this point, it is still a work in progress, but we are excited about having a user-friendly medium where we can share news and information among our membership and the public as well. A big-screen demonstration of the website at our State Session convinced some of our more skeptical members that this is going to be a tremendous resource, with applications that we haven't even thought of yet. The website can be visited at its new address [vtstategrange.org](http://vtstategrange.org).

For many years, the Grange in Vermont has suffered membership losses. While the decline during the past couple decades has been alarming, figures for the past year provide some encouragement. Although we had a net loss in 2011, it was half of what we were experiencing five years ago. This year, two-thirds of our Granges reported no loss in membership, and a dozen others have reported gains! We are cautiously optimistic that Vermont may see an overall positive gain in the near future.

Progress in regard to our Pomona Granges has been slow, but with new leadership in place, I see improvement. We are redoubling our efforts to encourage subordinate members to take the Fifth Degree, and thereby increase Pomona membership and effectiveness.

Agriculture in Vermont suffered catastrophic losses this year. Record spring rains delayed planting and early haying, and once the season finally appeared to be in recovery, Tropical Storm Irene struck. There were tragic losses of livestock, cornfields, hay and produce, of homes and farm structures, of bridges and highways, and of the land itself. The fallout of this destruction will be with us for years to come.

A number of Grange Halls were flooded or surrounded by floodwater, while others were used as emergency shelters or as centers for the distribution of aid. Some Grangers lost their homes, others had to be evacuated, and many volunteered to feed responders. Few of us were unaffected.

We are encouraging everyone who can to make contributions to the Vermont Farm Disaster Relief Fund, a cooperative effort between the Vermont Department of Agriculture and the Vermont Community Foundation. We were able to raise over \$1000 with a silent auction and collection jar at our State Session. Additional contributions and pledges have doubled this figure. Support for this worthy cause will continue through the winter, culminating in a statewide day of fundraising events during next year's Grange Month.

Fraternally submitted,  
Errol Briggs, Master

## **Washington**

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates and members of the National Grange:

It is my honor to bring greetings from the State of Washington. This is an exciting time for the Washington State Grange. I am thrilled to report that many different areas of

involvement in our organization are trending upward. In terms of membership, we held our own this past year, with 141 Community Granges taking in new members, and are looking forward to a membership increase this coming year.

Effective October 1, 2011, Brother Rusty Hunt assumed the role of Membership Director for the Washington State Grange. Special thanks to Brother Ted, Sister Zula Bryan, Brother George and Sister Wilma Penner for leading our state membership team the past couple of years. We will be building on their efforts and targeting not only our Community Granges, but also our Pomona Granges. Our membership has shown a renewed interest in the Pomona level, evidenced by the more than 70 Washington State Grange members who attended the Pomona Summit in Cottage Grove, OR in April.



This past year saw the addition of two Junior Granges in our state — the reorganization of Haynie Junior Grange #27 in Whatcom County and the addition of Camp David Junior Grange #408 in Clallam County. I look forward to building on this success and continuing to grow our Junior Granges.

We are pleased to have five Distinguished Granges for 2010-2011, improving on the three we had from the inaugural 2009-2010 year. We will be working hard to keep this number steadily rising in years to come.

After decades of our State Deputy Masters serving on a county or Pomona-wide basis, I am now utilizing our Deputies in an at-large capacity. So far, I am very pleased with the results.

Our 122nd Annual Convention was held in Moses Lake this past June. We enjoyed having Brother Pete Pompper, National Grange Lecturer, as well as Brother Don and Sister Mary Johnson, Master and First Lady of the Idaho State Grange, as our guests. We were especially privileged to have Brother Pompper install our State Officers. Another significant note, we had an increase in voting Delegates from the previous year, a trend we will be working hard to continue.

At Convention our Delegates voted to change the title of our Women's Activities Department to The Family Living Department. We look forward to a fresh start under the leadership of Sister Cec Hamilton, our newly elected Director of Family Living.

Under the experienced and very capable leadership of State Lecturer Tom Gwin, our Lecturer's Department is strong and thriving. Our members enjoyed viewing more than 1,200 items on display at our State Convention in Moses Lake during June.

Over the summer, our six Junior Grange camps were attended by around 500 campers between 9-14 years of age. Over the last several years, State Junior Director Carol Evans has expanded the activities for the Junior Grangers attending our State Convention to include ritualism, drill work, educational activities, arts and crafts, tours and just good old active play time. Getting these kids in the habit of attending State Grange Convention, interested in joining the Youth Group and excited about Subordinate membership is critical to our long-term success.

Our Youth Department is now under the leadership of two directors: Sister Lisa Bowen continues as the Director for our young adults and young marrieds and Brother Jerry Gwin is now the Director for our younger youth (ages 14 through high-school). By providing special emphasis to both of these age groups, we hope to focus more on programs and leadership development that is relevant to their needs and abilities. The Washington State Grange has a proud legacy of developing its leaders from within our Youth Department,



and the intent of this modification is to ensure the continued growth of our youth.

I look forward to working with the other states in the Western Region to keep the lines of communication with the Grange Insurance Association (GIA) open and active for the benefit of the State Granges and GIA.

The members of the Washington State Grange are excited to be part of the host region for the 2012 National Grange Convention in Boise. Many of our members are, and have been, working hard on committees, and many others are planning on attending. This will be a great opportunity for those of us out West to showcase our states and members.

Sister Chris and I wish you all the best in the coming year.

Fraternally yours,

Duane J. Hamp, Master

## **West Virginia**

As I review my report for 2010, it could be copied and submitted for 2011. This has been a very difficult year for the West Virginia State Grange. We closed one Grange by suspending its charter. With the hope that one of the 18 active members would come forward and reactivate the Grange. So far this has not happened. We were pleased that the National Grange Membership Director took the time to visit West Virginia and assist us in membership development.

Two meetings were held and both were well attended. We decided that we would host a Growth Summit and invite surrounding states to attend. There were problems securing a place for the meeting, and the Subordinate Grange that was going to serve the meal had a problem with their sewer line, which was destroyed by the highway department. The conference was scheduled shortly after the Mid-Atlantic Lecturer's Conference, which also was a problem. Registration did not attract many participating Granges, and a very small number of West Virginia Grange members chose to attend. After the cancelation of the Growth Summit, the National Master requested that we select a later date for our conference.

In July, we had a statewide picnic where members were asked if they would be willing to support a Growth Summit at a later date. The majority chose not to have a summit in West Virginia this year. We will see what the future brings.

On a more positive note, we are talking with people in Southern West Virginia about starting a new Grange and information has been forwarded. We have a member who works in the area and is willing to assist with the new Grange. Also a new Junior Grange is being established. An organizational meeting has been held and was well attended. We hope to have it operating by year's end. Like all Granges, we have our ups and downs, but we will persevere.

Fraternally,

James H. Foster, Master



## **Wisconsin**

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegates, and members attending the 145th Annual Convention of the National Grange:



It is with great pleasure that I am again permitted to attend this 145th Annual National Convention as Wisconsin's Delegate and member of the National Executive Committee. The past year has been filled with great triumphs as well as disappointments. I greatly appreciate the fact that National Membership Director Rusty Hunt has visited the past two years and put on presentations in Wisconsin. The programs and information presented were extremely beneficial to our members. However, it has proven difficult to persuade members to actually bring all of the information back to their Granges and put the theories into practice. I see this lack of commitment from our members as the greatest threat to our organization. Neither the State Grange nor the National Grange is going to come in and save us; we must remember that if we are going to save the Grange, it needs to start at the local level.



Being elected to the National Executive Committee at last year's Convention was definitely a surprise for me. It is very humbling to me to think that my fellow Delegates have enough faith in me to put me in this position. I have enjoyed the challenges of serving on the Committee and learning more about the working of our headquarters. The Grange staff is definitely a special group, and their conscientious efforts make our organization better.

One of my high points this year was attending the Legislative Fly-in in May. I utilized the Choice Hotels benefit to find a room the day before, rented a bicycle and rode a 37-mile bike route around the DC area. The route was supposed to go past the White House, but was detoured past the National Grange headquarters. 5,000 bicyclists rode by our building and only I knew the significance, even though most of those riders' lives had probably been touched by an action of the Grange in the past. This is the message we need to spread.

The continued loss of membership in Wisconsin is a serious problem that I have not yet been able to solve. However, Local Granges do seem to understand the need to bring in new members. My goal for next year is to turn this trend around through a concerted effort to educate and encourage our Grange members on how to increase membership.

I look forward to another year of challenges with less disappointment.

## Wyoming

Greetings from the great state of Wyoming!

We continue to be in a stage of research and development. My heartfelt thanks goes out to National Master Ed Luttrell, his wife, Celia, Past National Membership Director Rusty Hunt, Betsy Huber and the Executive Committee, and other team members for all the hard work they have done for Wyoming. Without them, I would have been lost. Each one of them has traveled to Wyoming, along with other team members, to help promote the Grange here in the state. Two teams attended county fairs: one in Buffalo and one in Wheatland. Another team came to the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. Numerous contacts were made, and information was given to individuals about the Grange and what it has to offer. We are looking forward to a year of new growth and continued success.

Fraternally Submitted,

Lee Johnson, Master

**NATIONAL GRANGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT  
2010-11**

**National Grange Board of Directors  
February 25, 2011  
Comfort Inn Suites  
Henderson, NV**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 8:30 a.m. on February 25, 2011 by Chairperson Huber at the Comfort Inn Suites in Henderson, NV.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli.

We were led in opening prayer by Chairperson Huber thanking for a safe arrival of the Board, assistance in our work and safe travel to all those attending the Master's Meeting.

The minutes of the Nov. 6, 2010 and Nov. 12, 2010 minutes were approved on a motion from Jimmy Gentry, second from Joe Fryman and vote of the Board.

Ed Luttrell made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved.

Jimmy Gentry moved that we leave Executive Session, it was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved by the Board.

*Department Reports*

Discussion was held on the Communication Department Report.

During the discussion of the Information & Technology Report, the issues of the website changes as well as proposals for implementing a new website to offer sites for all Granges were discussed, as well as the progress and status of the E-Membership project.

The Legislative Fly-In is scheduled for May 22 to 24. The department is looking into sponsors for the program.

Last year's budget was discussed. The good news is that we have a surplus in excess of \$105,000.

Under the Membership department discussion was held on the planning for the Grange Growth Summit as well as planned actions in the states.

It was announced that the digital Grange cookbook, consisting of the three latest out of print cookbooks, was available and ready for sale. The Worthy Master demonstrated how it could be used and the ease of finding a recipe. Master Luttrell also reported that more than \$134,000 has been paid out to members' beneficiaries from American Income Life Insurance Co.

Under Youth Department, it was pointed out that donations to Youth Fund in the Foundation are not keeping up with needed expenses at the Convention.

The status of lease renewals and outstanding leases were discussed.

*Master's Report*

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Duane Scott and vote of the Board, the Board went into Executive Session.

The board adjourned the Executive session on a motion from Joe Fryman, second from Ed Luttrell and vote of the board.

Phil Prelli made a motion directing the President (Master) of the National Grange to contact the District of Columbia Protection League (DCPL) to ascertain what advan-

tages there are to having the building place on the heritage registry and asking that they postpone the submission of their application until we can have further discussion with the league. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and adopted.

Phil Prelli moved to approve the proposed “Complaint and Reporting” policy. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and adopted.

Jimmy Gentry moved to approve the proposed “Conflict of Interest” policy. It was seconded by Duane Scott and adopted.

Phil Prelli moved to adopt the proposed “Retention” policy. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and adopted.

The Board was made aware by a memo from the Comptroller that the National Grange is holding the last quarterly payment of the funds received from GIA due to the Wyoming State Grange totaling \$7,777.50. This had previously been directed as an action of the board.

On a motion by Jimmy Gentry, second from Joe Fryman and vote of the Board the flag design that incorporates the traditional Grange symbol was approved.

Ed Luttrell made a motion to approve the amended “Code of Conduct” as presented. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved by the Board.

The board meeting recessed at 12:10 p.m. for lunch.

The meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

It was moved by Jimmy Gentry and seconded by Ed Luttrell that the schedule for annual meetings be modified to have the 2015 Annual Session hosted by the Great Plain States and the 2016 Session hosted by the Eastern States. It was approved by vote of the Board.

### *New Business*

Duane Scott moved that the Monday after National Session be given as a scheduled Holiday for all employees instead of Columbus Day. It was seconded by Phil Prelli. Phil Prelli offered an amendment to remove the phrase “instead of Columbus Day.” The amendment was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved. The amended motion was then adopted by vote of the Board.

Joe Fryman made a motion to approve the proposed “Management Agreement between the National Grange and the National Grange Foundation” including a \$100 management fee. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and adopted by the Board.

Jimmy Gentry moved that we do not serve as a sponsor for the Agriculture History movie project. It was seconded by Phil Prelli and adopted.

Ed Luttrell made a motion to accept M Squared Strategies, a company which currently leases offices in the building, proposal to make the front entrance to the National Grange Building handicap accessible, including them paying half the cost and that our half of the cost be paid from the building maintenance fund. Phil Prelli seconded and it was approved by vote of the Board.

Next meeting is scheduled May 24 and 25.

On a motion from Ed Luttrell, second from Fryman and vote of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

**National Grange Board of Directors  
May 24, 2011  
National Grange Headquarters  
Washington, D.C.**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 3:20 p.m. May 24, 2011 by Chairperson Huber at the National Headquarters Washington D.C.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli.

We were led in opening prayer by Jimmy Gentry asking for spiritual assistance in our decision making.

The minutes of the Feb. 25, 2011 minutes were approved on a motion from Duane Scott, second from Betsy Huber and vote of the Board.

**Department Reports**

*Communications*

Amanda Leigh Brozana, our new Communication Director, joined the meeting to introduce herself to the Board as well as discuss the programs she is working on as director. Further discussion was held on the Web Site situation and the need for updates and improvements. Amanda provided ideas and suggestions.

*Information Technology*

E-Membership was discussed. The National Grange Web-Site has been updated to make it easier to find the information on E-Membership. To move the program forward and receive the best result, it will be necessary for the State Granges to take the lead and promote it. This would be an asset in providing funds to the states.

*Legislative*

Questions were raised on the need to print the Legislative Guide as has been done in the past this year due to other priorities. It was suggested that a less intricate guide could be produced as well as having it available on the web. Discussion was held on the fly-in that was being held at the same time as this meeting. It appears to be a great success.

*Executive Assistant & Meeting Planner*

The Board was updated on the plans and status of the future annual conventions.

*Financial Reports*

The Board reviewed the financial reports including the balance sheets. Discussion was held on the attorney fees as well as the positive net result thru 4 months.

*Leadership/Membership*

The process, direction and efforts in the priority states were discussed. The board was also brought up to date on the activities in Nevada. Discussion was held on the Leadership Conference and planned Grange Growth Summits.

The Board recessed at 5:30 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

*Sales, Benefits & Programs*

Discussion was held on existing programs including Community Service, Distinguished Granger and Deaf Awareness Grant. The Board was brought up to date on Grange sales with an intricate itemized sale report. The Board also discussed new pro-

posed benefit programs including Affinity Marketing, which includes various programs for insurance, travel, wireless cellular and electric services, and a new drug program from National Affinity services.

*Others*

Reports were also received and discussed from the Youth and Junior Departments and on the Building.

*Master's Report*

On a motion from Ed Luttrell, second from Joe Fryman and vote of the Board; the Board went into Executive Session.

Ed Luttrell moved that we come out of Executive Session. It was seconded by Phil Prelli and approved.

*Unfinished Business*

Jimmy Gentry moved that we spend money from Wyoming's GIA funds held in trust to pay the expenses for the membership booths planned at three Wyoming Fairs. It was seconded by Duane Scott and adopted.

It was reported that all the states have paid their assessments for last year to the National Grange Session Fund.

*New Business*

Master Luttrell updated the Board on the status of the possible sale of the Saunder's collection, including what criteria may be set up for our use.

Recessed at 9:42 p.m.

Reconvened on May 25 at 8 a.m.

Chairperson Huber led us in prayer asking for guidance in our decision making.

Discussion was held on the storage area in the sub-basement including the need to re-arrange it, build a new wall as well as a problem with mold in the current area and what steps are planned to remove it. A secondary benefit from the move will be a better storage system to assist in finding documents.

The Affinity Market proposal to offer discounts on insurance as well as travel, energy and wireless options was discussed. Several questions were raised including allowing states that already have agreements with insurance companies. It was decided that we needed further information before making a decision.

A motion was made by Ed Luttrell to accept the National Affinity Services Prescription Drug Plan. It was seconded by Phil Prelli and approved by vote of the Board.

Jimmy Gentry moved that when a new Grange is formed in a state which does not have a State Grange, that the amount usually paid to State Granges and forwarded to the new Grange, be paid directly from National to the newly formed Grange. It was seconded by Joe Fryman. Phil Prelli to set on the table this issue, seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved.

Sarah Cammiso and Marin Cammiso of the Cammiso Group affiliated with Merrill Lynch and Amber Casey Bell of National Grange Staff joined us to discuss our investment portfolio and their proposal for a change in firms to handle our portfolio. After discussing their proposal and answering questions the Commisos left the meeting. Jimmy Gentry moved that we move our invested funds to the Cammiso Group of Merrill Lynch, Joe Fryman seconded it and it was approved by vote of the Board. Amber left the meeting.

After the Board toured the sub-basement, we were joined by our Trademark Attorneys, Jim Bikoff and Leroy Watson, to discuss Trademark Protection Issues and the status of outstanding claims. After the discussion, both Jim Bikoff and Leroy Watson left the meeting.

Phil Prelli moved to take the issue of payment to newly organized Granges located in states with no State Grange off the table, seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved. The original motion was then approved.

Next meeting is scheduled August 26 and 27.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

**National Grange Board of Directors  
June 6, 2011  
Teamspeak Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 p.m. June 6, 2011 by Chairwoman Betsy Huber.

Present were Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Joe Fryman and Phil Prelli.

Discussed the questions on the Met-Life Insurance proposal as part of the Affinity Marketing Group and that we can opt out states that do not want to participate or who may have conflicts with other Insurance Carriers.

It was decided that since all Board Members were not present, Chairperson Huber would conduct an E-Mail vote on the Affinity Marketing Group proposal.

The Board asked the National Master to provide us with a copy of the GIA agreement.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

**National Grange Board of Directors  
August 26, 2011  
National Grange Headquarters  
Washington, D.C.**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 9:35 a.m. Aug. 26, 2011 by Chairperson Huber at the National Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli.

We were led in opening prayer by Betsy Huber asking for guidance and a productive meeting.

The minutes of the May 24, 2011 Board meeting and the Teamspeak meeting of June 6, 2011 were approved on a motion from Joe Fryman, second from Jimmy Gentry and vote of the Board.

**Department Reports**

*Communications*

Amanda Leigh Brozana, Communication Director, joined the meeting to discuss the website redesign. She went over the status and current redesign format. She also discussed the planned procedure for local Grange page access. Testing will be expanded in September with a planned roll out date of Nov. 1, 2011. Amanda also discussed the planned new Membership comic book. As part of her report she informed us that a new



intern has been hired to assist in the Communication, Event Planning, Sales, Benefits & Programs and other departments.

*Information Technology*

Information was presented on the procedure for inventorying the front door pass key usage as well as the current website.

*Junior*

The board was informed about the Regional Conferences as well as plans to revamp the merit badge program.

*Legislative*

Discussion was held on a proposed Fall D.C. Fly-In for early October, working with a coalition of rural voices to deliver the message to Congress that Rural America stands to benefit from the deployment of high speed broadband. It is proposed that National Grange and the Cattleman's Association will take the lead.

*Executive Assistant and Convention Planner*

The Board was updated on the Bonding program as well as the plans for the upcoming National Conventions.

*Financial*

The Budget was reviewed. Currently we are showing a surplus of \$268,526. A major improvement from last year. The Board also reviewed the financials on the building.

*Leadership/ Membership*

Discussion was held on planned upcoming events and areas where additional time and work are needed as well as the areas where positive results are seen.

*Sales, Benefits and Programs.*

The director's report highlighted current sales figures, inventory and the current benefits being offered.

*Youth*

The Board was brought up to date on the plans for the upcoming session as well as some of the activities held at the Regional Youth Conferences.

*Building Report*

The Board was updated on the D.C. Historical Preservation Review Board's plan to have the Building placed on the historic registry. So far, there is nothing new to report as it has not been on any of their agendas. We will continue to monitor. We also reviewed the status of the building leases and discussed which are up for renewal.

*Trademark*

Discussion was held on the status of outstanding existing cases, a potential new case as well as a review of some of the past cases. The need to protect our domain names was also discussed.

*Master's Report*

Ed Luttrell moved that we go into Executive Session, it was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and adopted.

Board recessed at 12:35 p.m. for a joint pizza lunch with National Grange staff.

Reconvened at 1:25 p.m.

On a motion from Phil Prelli, second from Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board, the Executive Session was ended.

*Unfinished Business*

Betsy Huber moved that we do not file notice of opposition to GRANJERA Cheese use of name. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and adopted.

A motion was made by Jimmy Gentry that we approve our Trademark Attorneys securing additional trademark category registration for Musical and Theatrical Production subcategory. It was seconded by Betsy Huber and adopted.

Ed Luttrell moved that we recommend the following three locations for further investigation for the 2015 Annual Session: Lincoln, NE, The Cornhusker, A Marriott Hotel; Irving, TX, Sheraton DFW Airport; and Houston, TX, Crowne Plaza. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved.

Phil Prelli moved that we affirm our e-mail vote to pay the expenses of the Wyoming Fair booths from the GIA funds being held in trust for the Wyoming State Grange. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved.

The Board reviewed the recommendations for the Heroes of the Grange awards and decided on those who will receive the awards this year.

#### *New Business*

Ed Luttrell made a motion that we send a letter of appreciation to the Hermosa Arts and History Association for the historical information on the South Dakota State Grange. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and adopted.

It was moved by Phil Prelli that we block the following Grange Trademark names from the dot xxx suffix: Grange, National Grange, Junior Grange, and Youth Grange. It was seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

Amber Bell joined the meeting to discuss her evaluation of Employee salaries and the benefit package. This is part of the preliminary budget preparation.

Next meeting is scheduled November 6, 2011 at Tulsa, OK.

On a motion from Joe Fryman, second from Jimmy Gentry and vote of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

### **National Grange Board of Directors October 17, 2011 Teleconference Call**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 p.m. Oct. 17, 2011 by Chairperson Huber.

Present were Joe Fryman, Jimmy Gentry, Betsy Huber, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott and Phil Prelli.

Ed Luttrell moved to go into Executive Session to discuss State Grange issues. Duane Scott seconded the motion and it was adopted.

On a motion by Phil Prelli, second by Ed Luttrell and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

### **National Grange Board of Directors November 5, 2011 Marriott Hotel Tulsa, OK**

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 9:20 p.m., CST, November 5, 2011 by Chairperson Huber at the Marriott Hotel in Tulsa, OK.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli.

We were led in opening prayer by Betsy Huber, expressing our thanks for getting us

all here safely, asking for His help in assuring that all others attending National Session arrive safely and seeking guidance for us all in our meeting.

Our new Leadership/Membership Director, Michael Martin, was introduced to the Board. Michael then gave us an overview of his department, including some preliminary goals, and informed us of the States who achieved net gains in membership for the past year. After some questions Michael left the meeting.

The Board then reviewed the proposed budget and asked for some clarifications and revised numbers.

Ed Luttrell made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session. It was seconded by Joe Fryman and approved by vote of the Board.

On a motion by Jimmy Gentry, second by Joe Fryman and vote of the Board, the board adjourned the Executive Session.

After further discussion of the budget, it was decided to postpone action until the requested information was received.

The Board recessed at 11 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:05 a.m. CST.

Jimmy Gentry led us in prayer asking for safe travel for all those coming to the session today as well as guidance in our efforts and decisions.

The minutes of the Aug. 26, 2011 Board meeting and the Conference Call of Oct. 17, 2011 were approved on a motion from Ed Luttrell, second from Jimmy Gentry and vote of the Board.

## Department Reports

### *Communications*

The Board was informed that the new redesigned website was up and running and the official announcement will be made to the Delegates during the Convention. It was also reported that due to the tight budget next year, the only New Grange that will be mailed out is the one prior to the National Convention. The other version will be available in electronic form.

### *Executive Assistant/ Meeting Planner*

The building is currently 100 percent occupied. There is a possibility that one tenant may be moving out at the close of the year, but that we have a waiting list of potential tenants. She is checking in to location and time for Master's Conference and will update Board when specifics are known.

### *Junior*

It was pointed out that questions had been raised about the Junior schedule at National Session, and that there was a need for better communications. The Director is working with the Junior Directors in the regions for different needs at the Convention.

### *Legislative*

The Fall Fly-In on the expansion of broadband in rural areas was a success with about 150 in attendance.

### *Sales, Benefits & Programs*

More effort and better communications to local Granges are needed to increase donations to offset National Granges' donations to the Kelley Farm. If more money is not raised, the fund will soon not have enough to cover our pledge. The profit from the sale of Yankee Candles at the session will be used for this purpose. The Yankee Candle sale is

a benefit that State & Community Granges may use as a fundraiser.

#### *Trademark Protection*

After repeated efforts to have Brooklyn Grange Farm, LLC stop using our name or agree to a licensing agreement with no response, it was decided to sue them for improper use of our name. Since the suit was filed and a press release issued on the matter, they have contacted our attorney and are looking to solve the issue. More info will be coming in the future.

#### *Youth*

Discussion was held on the Youth Ambassador Program and the lack of funds currently coming in to support the youth activities.

#### *Master's Report*

Further discussion was held on the Name Protection issue including the status of outstanding cases as well as the efforts to keep controlling cost.

Ed Luttrell moved that the board go into Executive Session. It was seconded by Duane Scott and approved.

Duane Scott moved that we adjourn the Executive Session. It was seconded by Phil Prelli and so voted.

Pete Pompper, National Grange Lecturer, joined the meeting to discuss a proposed new program. The program would be a quilt block contest leading up to the 150th anniversary. Pete would be working with Samantha Johnson, Sales, Benefits and Program Director, to work out the details and promote the contest.

The Board approved the concept of a "quilt block contest" leading up to the 150th anniversary on a motion by Jimmy Gentry, second from Joe Fryman and affirmative vote.

#### *Unfinished Business*

There is no news about the Washington D.C. historic preservation group's effort to place the building on the historical record list.

GIA responded to the request from the National Grange and the Western State Grange Masters to include information on the new Grange e-membership in their mailings to their policyholders. They responded that due to privacy issues and that the information sent out would have to go through their independent agents, as they are the owners of the contact info, they would not be able to send the info. Discussion was then held on what actions we should take to further promote the e-membership. Master Luttrell will meet with the Western Masters to discuss the issue and the Board is also invited.

#### *New Business*

There is no news on the possible sale of the Saunder's Collection.

Phil Prelli made a motion that we reimburse employees, except National Officers, the IRS approved reimbursement rate for all business use miles. It was seconded by Jimmy Gentry and approved.

Recessed for lunch with the freshmen Delegates at 11:55 a.m.

Reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Phil Prelli moved that we present the proposed budget to the Audit & Budget Committee. It was seconded by Ed Luttrell and approved.

Discussion was held on the preliminary plans for the 150th Anniversary to be held in the D.C. area.

On a motion from Ed Luttrell, second from Jimmy Gentry and vote of the Board, it was decided to no longer pay a per diem to the Board Members and the High Priest of Demeter.

Next meeting of the Board to be held in conjunction with the Master's Conference in February.

On a motion from Joe Fryman, second from Jimmy Gentry and vote of the Board the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

**National Grange Board of Directors  
November 11, 2011  
Marriott Hotel  
Tulsa, OK**

The organizational meeting of the Board for the new year was called to order at 4:40 p.m. CST Nov. 11, 2011 by Chairperson Huber at the Marriott Hotel in Tulsa, OK.

Present were Betsy Huber, Jimmy Gentry, Ed Luttrell, Duane Scott, Joe Fryman, and Phil Prelli.

Joe Fryman made a motion that Betsy Huber be re-elected Chairman and Phil Prelli be re-elected Secretary. Jimmy Gentry seconded it and it was so voted.

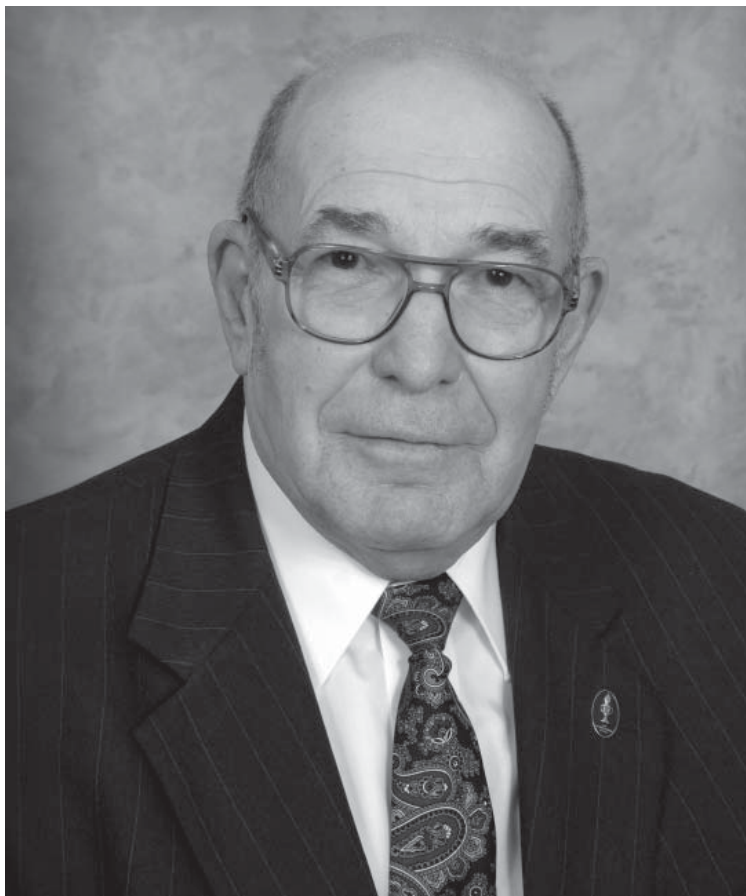
On a motion from Ed Luttrell, second from Duane Scott and vote of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.



👁️ This page is dedicated 👁️

to

Thomas F. Severance  
High Priest of Demeter  
Past Priest Archon of the Assembly of Demeter  
Past Massachusetts State Grange Master



*“Well done, good and faithful servant.”*

✧ This page dedicated ✧

to Past Officers of the National Grange

Edgar L. Hall  
Past Priest Annalist of the Assembly of Demeter  
Past West Virginia State Grange Master

Howard Caldwell  
Past National Grange Gatekeeper  
Past Ohio State Grange Master

👁️ This page dedicated 👁️

to Past Delegates of the National Grange

**Rita Morgan**

Past Delegate, New Hampshire  
State Grange  
National Grange  
Ambassador to India

**Jerry Hancock**

Past Virginia State Grange  
Master

**Marion Beecher**

Past Delegate, Connecticut  
State Grange

**Charles E. Buell**

Past Wyoming State Grange  
Master

**Don McKee**

Past Honorary Delegate, Alaska

**Wilma Purdy**

Past Delegate, Oklahoma State  
Grange

**Doris Saturley**

Past Delegate, New Hampshire  
State Grange

**Jessie Rae Scott**

Past Delegate, North Carolina  
State Grange

**Walter Thomas Smith**

Past Florida State Grange  
Master

**John Odell Swadley**

Past Maryland State Grange  
Master

**Reta Mae Tate**

Past Delegate, Idaho State  
Grange

**Freda Wolverton**

Past Delegate, Oregon State  
Grange

**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY  
(PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL MASTER'S OFFICE)  
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSMENTS  
1/1/10-12/31/11**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sixth Degree Fees-\$897.50

Golden Sheaf Certificate Fees-\$4,940.00

**Membership Recognition  
1/1/10-12/31/11**

Sixth Degree Certificates: 359

Golden Sheaf Certificates: 494

40 year seals:	402	55 year seals:	487	60 year seals:	300
65 year seals:	196	70 year seals:	137		

75 year certificates: 167

80 year letter:	11	85 year letter:	1	90 year letter:	1
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**Organization and Reorganization  
7/1/09-6/30/10**

**Subordinate Granges**

State	Organized	Reorganized
California	9	3
Indiana	1	0
Maine	0	2
Nebraska	1	0
Oklahoma	2	0
Oregon	0	1
Pennsylvania	0	1
Washington	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>

**Junior Granges**

State	Organized	Reorganized
California	1	1
Florida	0	1
Michigan	0	1
New York	0	2
Oklahoma	1	0
Washington	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>

**Pomona Granges**

<b>State</b>	<b>Organized</b>	<b>Reorganized</b>
California	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

State	Quarters	Subordinate Charter Fees	Junior Charter Fees	Sixth Degree Certificate	Golden Sheaf
CA	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$300.00	\$20.00	41	13
CO	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			4	13
CT	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			9	37
DE	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			7	1
FL	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>		\$10.00	0	1
ID	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			4	0
IL	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			5	4
IN	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$25.00		2	0
IA	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	1
KS	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			2	1
ME	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$25.00		42	34
MD	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			6	2
MA	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$25.00		10	18
MI	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>		\$10.00	8	2
MN	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	0
MO	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	0
MT	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			2	3
NE	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$25.00		0	0
NV	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$50.00		0	0
NH	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			11	15
NJ	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	5
NY	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>		\$30.00	21	27
NC	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			37	9
OH	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			11	38
OK	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$50.00	\$10.00	14	0
OR	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$25.00		29	22
PA	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$25.00	\$10.00	24	61
RI	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			10	6
SC	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	0
TN	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	0
TX	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			3	0
VT	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			6	11
VA	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			8	0
WA	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$50.00	\$20.00	40	167
WV	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			3	0
WI	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	3
WY	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	0
AK	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>			0	0
Potomac	1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup>				69
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>494</b>

**No Junior or Subordinate Dues were collected in any state.**



**NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY**

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**Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2010**

**NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY**

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## ERIC BOLIN CPA P.C.

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry  
Washington, DC

I have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry (a non-profit corporation) as of December 31, 2010, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Grange's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry as of December 31, 2010, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

*Eric Bolin CPA, P.C.*

March 21, 2011

## NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

### Statement of Financial Position

*December 31, 2010*

	GRANGE OPERATING ACCOUNT	GRANGE BUILDING ACCOUNT	TOTAL NATIONAL GRANGE
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash on hand and on deposit (Sch. I)	\$ 316,765	\$ -	\$ 316,765
Investments (Note 4)	363,087	-	363,087
Accounts receivable (Sch. II)	34,876	-	34,876
Prepaid expenses and Deposits	4,807	-	4,807
Inventory - sales (Note 2)	113,801	-	113,801
Building (at cost)	-	1,174,014	1,174,014
Accumulated depreciation - Building	-	(1,174,014)	(1,174,014)
Equipment and Improvement	56,112	812,516	868,628
Accum. Depr.- Equip & Improvements	(56,112)	(669,624)	(725,736)
Land	-	255,238	255,238
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 833,336</b>	<b>\$ 398,130</b>	<b>\$ 1,231,466</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable	\$ 88,577	\$ -	\$ 88,577
Convention Assessment	167,377	-	167,377
Grange bonding	209	-	209
Security deposits - tenants	-	27,611	27,611
Due to (from) building account	6,948,998	(6,948,998)	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>7,205,161</b>	<b>(6,921,387)</b>	<b>283,774</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Unrestricted - building	-	7,319,517	7,319,517
Unrestricted - operating	( 6,371,825)	-	(6,371,825)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(6,371,825)</b>	<b>7,319,517</b>	<b>947,692</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 833,336</b>	<b>\$ 398,130</b>	<b>\$ 1,231,466</b>

*See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements.*

## NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

### Statement of Financial Position

*December 31, 2010*

#### **Schedule I - Cash on Hand and on Deposit**

Operating account	\$ 2,179,930
Payroll account	47,717
Nation Convention Bank	21,560
Petty cash	350
Building Reserve - Money Market Fund	29,208

<b>Total Cash on Hand and on Deposit</b>	<b>\$ 316,765</b>
--	-------------------

#### **Schedule II - Accounts Receivable**

Foundation, Deaf	\$ 858
Youth Leadership	10,933
Other	1,294
National Convention	18,748
Potomac Grange	598
Sales	2,445

<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$ 34,876</b>
----------------------------------	------------------

*See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements.*



## NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

### Statements of Activities - Operating Account

*For the Year Ended December 31, 2010*

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Dues and Fees	
Subordinate Grange Dues	\$ 814,007
Subordinate Grange Charter Fees	380
Junior Grange Charter Fees	95
Sixth Degree Fees	988
Seventh Degree Fees	1,040
GIA	112,500
Sponsors, Grants	74,000
Sales Income	85,515
Interest, Dividend Income	9,828
Fund Raising Donations	30,376
Other Income	7,953
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,136,682</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
General and Administrative	305,218
Gen & Admin - Professional Services	340,989
National Master	92,129
National Secretary	1,000
Board of Directors	6,407
Communication Publication	117,810
Youth Activities	15,450
Junior Grange	22,341
High Priest	2,099
Membership, Leadership	69,835
Legislative	120,603
IT/ Systems	68,835
National Convention	124,379
Marketing/Sales	194,550
Representatives to State Conventions	3,313
Pres Mtg	13,371
Simple IRA	8,301
Depreciation	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,507,436</b>
<b>DECREASE IN NET ASSETS - OPERATING</b>	<b>(370,754)</b>
Unrealized Gain—Investment	0
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - January 31,</b>	<b>(6,001,071)</b>
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - December 31,</b>	<b>\$ (6,371,825)</b>

*See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements*

## NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

### Statements of Activity - Building Operations

*For the Year Ended December 31, 2010*

#### INCOME

Rent	\$ 891,655
NG Building – Expense Allocation	106,509
Storage, Other	14,840

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,013,004</b>
---------------------	------------------

#### EXPENSES

Salaries and Payroll Taxes	70,823
Real Estate Taxes	139,324
Electricity, Gas and Water	101,956
Building Supplies	4,286
Service Contracts, Inspection	156,725
Repairs and Maintenance	59,691
Employee Insurance	936
Insurance	12,597
Miscellaneous, Commissions	2,976

<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>549,315</b>
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<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>463,689</b>
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<b>Provision for Depreciation</b>	<b>53,497</b>
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<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS - Building</b>	<b>410,192</b>
--	----------------

<b>NET ASSETS - Building Operations – January 1,</b>	<b>6,909,325</b>
--	------------------

<b>NET ASSETS - Building Operations - December 31,</b>	<b>\$ 7,319,517</b>
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*See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements*

## NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

### Statement of Cash Flows

*For the Year Ended December 31, 2010*

#### CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Decrease in Net Assets - Operating	\$ (370,754)
Increase in Net Assets - Building	410,192
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,438</b>
Adjustments to Reconcile Decrease in Net Assets to Cash (Used) by Operations	
Depreciation	53,497
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable	26,515
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses, Supplies	483
Decrease (Increase) in Inventory	12,357
Increase (Decrease) in Grange Bonding	125
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable	(210,642)
Increase in Convention Assessment	167,377

<b>NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>91,508</b>
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#### CASH USED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES

(Increase) in from Investment Account	(105,573)
---------------------------------------	-----------

<b>NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(105,573)</b>
--	------------------

<b>CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>0</b>
--	----------

<b>NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH</b>	<b>(14,065)</b>
--	-----------------

<b>CASH - January 1,</b>	<b>330,830</b>
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<b>CASH - December 31,</b>	<b>\$ 316,765</b>
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*See Accompanying Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements*

**NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY****Notes to Financial Statements***December 31, 2010*

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**NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION**

The National Grange is a non-profit organization comprised of four distinct divisions. The mission of the National Grange is to improve the quality of life in America's families and communities. The National Grange provides representation for its members on agriculture and rural/urban issues, encourages and supports grassroots community and organizational leadership.

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES**

Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables, payables and other liabilities.

The accounts of the Organization are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Under fund accounting, resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund; however, in the accompanying financial statements, funds have been combined and presented for the Organization as a whole in accordance with the provisions of Accounting Standards Codification Section 958, *Not for Profit Entities* (Formerly Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 117, "*Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations*").

Cash and Cash Equivalents - For purposes of the statements of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are considered to be unrestricted highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less at the time of acquisition.

Inventories - Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market, with cost determined on a first-in, first-out basis and market based on the lower of replacement cost or realizable value.

Investments - Items that may be included in this category are equity securities, debt instruments, including certificates of deposit with maturities greater than three months, bonds, notes and mortgages, limited partnerships, land and buildings not used in the operations of the Organization, cash value of annuity and life insurance contracts and coins and bullion.

**NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY****Notes to Financial Statements***December 31, 2010*

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**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (Continued)**

It is the Organization's policy to hold bonds and notes to maturity. Accordingly, interim declines in market value which are not considered permanent are not recognized.

Property Assets and Depreciation - Property assets are those assets used in the operations of the Organization. They are recorded at cost or, if donated, at the estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

Depreciation is recorded using the straight-line method at various rates calculated to allocate the cost of the respective items over their estimated useful lives.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions. This will affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Income Tax Status - The Organization is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). However, income from certain activities not directly related to the Organization's tax-exempt purpose is subject to taxation as unrelated business income.

Net Assets - Net assets of the Organization consist of the following:

Unrestricted: Property—These net assets reflect the total carrying value after accumulated depreciation of all land, buildings and equipment used in the building.

Unrestricted: Undesignated—available for general activities—These net assets are available for general obligations of The National Grange.

Temporarily Restricted: Specific purposes—These net assets are restricted by donors to be used for some specific purpose.



## NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

### Notes to Financial Statements

*December 31, 2010*

#### NOTE 3 - INVESTMENTS

Investments include equity securities, mutual funds and certificates of deposit with maturities greater than three months. Investments are recorded at cost or, if donated, at the estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

Investments are shown at fair market value in these financial statements. This carrying amount is equivalent to their fair market value at December 31, 2010.

Investments include:

Money Funds	\$ <u>363,087</u>
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#### NOTE 4 - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property, equipment and accumulated depreciation are as follows at December 31:

	<u>2010</u>
Depreciable Assets	
Equipment	\$ 56,112
Building	1,174,014
Building Improvements	<u>812,516</u>
	2,042,642
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,899,750)</u>
	<u>\$ 142,892</u>

#### NOTE 5 - UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS- BUILDING

Building unrestricted net assets is comprised of:

December 31	<u>2010</u>
From Operations	\$6,348,287
Contributions	260,745
Provided from Exchange of	
Former Building	396,936
Bicentennial Cookbook	<u>313,549</u>
	<u>\$7,319,517</u>

## NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

### Notes to Financial Statements

*December 31, 2010*

#### NOTE 6 - PENSION PLAN/SIMPLE IRA

In March 2002, The National Grange established a SIMPLE IRA employee benefit plan covering substantially all employees who have completed one year of service and met minimum age requirements. Employees are allowed to defer up to 15% of annual salary with a 3% match by The National Grange. As of December 31, 2010, the matching portion was \$8,301.

#### NOTE 7 - CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

The National Grange maintains its operating cash in a financial institution insured up to \$250,000 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). At times the funds in this institution exceed the insured limit. At December 31, 2010, this excess was \$0. The Organization maintains its capital reserve and investment account in non-FDIC insured accounts with reputable firms. The balance in these accounts a December 31, 2011 totaled \$392,295.

#### NOTE 8 - LEASE COMMITMENTS

The National Grange has entered into an operating lease for a copier. The lease for the copier was signed on December 28, 2007 for 60 months starting in January 2008. The monthly payment for the copier is \$757.

Minimum lease payments for the years ending December 31 are:

2011	9084
2012	<u>9084</u>
 Total	 <u>\$18,168</u>

**THE GRANGE FOUNDATION**

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**Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2010**

**THE GRANGE FOUNDATION**

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## ERIC BOLIN CPA P.C.

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Board of Directors  
The Grange Foundation  
1616 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

I have reviewed the accompanying Statement of Financial Position of The Grange Foundation (a nonprofit corporation) as of December 31, 2010 and the related Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets and Cash Flows for the year then ended, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All information included in these financial statements is the representation of the management of The Grange Foundation.

A review consists principally of inquiries of Company personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion.

Based on my review, I am not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

*Eric Bolin CPA, P.C.*

April 08, 2011

## THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

### Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2010

<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash – Operating	\$ 13,777
CD Investments	60,000
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>73,777</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>	
Endowment Fund (Restricted)	206,346
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 280,123</b>
<b>LIABILITY</b>	
Accounts Payable- Due to National Grange	\$ 11,791
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Unrestricted	27,586
Temporarily Restricted	34,400
Permanently Restricted – Endowment	206,346
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>268,332</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 280,123</b>

*See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements*



## THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

### Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2010

	TOTAL
<b>CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</b>	
Revenues:	
Contributions	\$ 655
Interest and Dividend Income	1
Total unrestricted revenues	656
Expenses:	
National Convention	-
Public Speaking Scholarship	-
Total unrestricted expenses	-
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	<b>656</b>
<b>CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS :</b>	
Contributions, Interest, Grants	29,041
Expenses	(46,965)
<b>(DECREASE) IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(17,924)</b>
<b>CHANGES IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</b>	
Contributions	3,550
Increase in FMV	3,033
Interest Earned	9
Expense	-
<b>INCREASE IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</b>	<b>6,592</b>
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(10,676)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS – JANUARY 1,</b>	<b>279,008</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - DECEMBER 31,</b>	<b>\$ 268,332</b>

*See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements*

**THE GRANGE FOUNDATION**

**Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets**

**For the Year Ended December 31, 2010**

**Schedule I – Temporarily Restricted Net Assets**

	OH Kelley Historical Prog. Fund	Junior Leadership Program	DC Experience	Youth Leadership Fund	Program For the Deaf	Grow Club
Balance- January 1	\$ 5,648	\$ 4,571	\$ 2,332	\$ 16,564	\$ 20,950	\$ 2,259
Contributions	1,943	4,019	11,502	3,742	50	781
Grants	-	-	-	7,000	-	-
Interest Income	1	1	-	1	1	-
Expenses	(3,513)	(2,738)	(13,834)	(24,748)	(1,632)	(500)
Balance- December 31	\$ 4,079	\$ 5,853	\$ 0	\$ 2,559	\$ 19,369	\$ 2,540

*See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements*

**THE GRANGE FOUNDATION****Statement of Cash Flows****For the Year Ended December 31, 2010****CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

(Decrease) in Net Assets	(10,676)
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets to Cash flow from operating activities:	
(Decrease) Increase in Due to The National Grange	9,837

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**NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES** (839)**CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES**

Increase in Endowment Fund	(6,592)
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**NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES** (6,592)

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**CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES** 0

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**INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH** (7,431)

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**CASH – January 1,** 21,208

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**CASH - December 31,** \$ 13,777

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*See Accompanying Accountant's Report and Notes to Financial Statements*

## THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

### Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2010

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#### 1 - ORGANIZATION

The Grange Foundation is a non-profit organization affiliated with The National Grange through common officers and management. The National Grange acts as trustee for funds received on behalf of The Grange Foundation.

#### 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables, payables and other liabilities.

The accounts of the Organization are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Under fund accounting, resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund; however, in the accompanying financial statements, funds have been combined and presented for the Organization as a whole in accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations".

Cash and Cash Equivalents - For purposes of the statements of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are considered to be unrestricted highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less at the time of acquisition.

Inventories - Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market, with cost determined on a first-in, first-out basis and market based on the lower of replacement cost or realizable value.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions. This will affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Net Assets - Net assets of the Organization consist of the following:

Unrestricted: Undesignated—available for general activities—These net assets are available for general obligations of the Foundation.

Temporarily Restricted: Specific purposes—These net assets are restricted by donors to be used for some specific purpose.

**THE GRANGE FOUNDATION****Notes to Financial Statements****December 31, 2010**

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**2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Permanently Restricted: Endowments—These net assets are permanently restricted by donors and cannot be used by the Organization. Income and capital gains may or may not be used depending on the endowment agreement.

Contributions - Contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted or permanently restricted support, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions.

Gifts of cash and other assets are reported as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or a purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Donations of property and equipment are recorded as support at their estimated fair value at the date of donation. Such donations are reported as unrestricted support unless the donor has restricted the donated asset to a specific purpose. Assets donated with explicit restrictions regarding their use and contributions of cash that must be used to acquire property and equipment are reported as restricted support. Absent donor stipulations regarding how long those donated assets must be maintained, the Organization reports expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired assets are placed in service as instructed by the donor. The Organization reclassifies temporarily restricted net assets to unrestricted net assets at that time.

Donated marketable securities and other non-cash donations are recorded as contributions at their estimated fair values at the date of donation.

No amounts have been reflected in the financial statements for donated services. The Foundation pays for most services requiring specific expertise.

Unconditional promises to give are recognized as revenues or gains in the period received as assets, decreases in liabilities or expenses depending on the form of the benefits received. Conditional promises to give are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. The Foundation has not received any promises to give.

Income Tax Status - The Foundation is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). However, income from certain activities not directly related to the Organization's tax-exempt purpose is subject to taxation as unrelated business income.

## THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

### Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2010

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#### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

The Foundation is also a public charity under the IRC Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). This allows for donations to the Foundation to be deductible as charitable contributions on income tax returns.



**NATIONAL GRANGE DEPARTMENT REPORTS****2011 Report of the Communications Department****Tulsa, Oklahoma****Nov. 10, 2011**

Dear Patrons,

Since coming on board with the National Grange on March 29, I have felt very welcome and been quite busy. Prior to working at the Grange, I worked as a journalist, taught communication, journalism and public relations at three colleges, and completed my doctoral coursework at the University of Alabama. All of those jobs and experiences have come together to prepare me for my daily tasks as Communications Director.

Prior to my arrival on March 29, a few things were completed in the department including the creation and mailing of materials for Grange Month. However, National Grange Programs Assistant Grace Boatright had produced much of the day-to-day materials and provided other departments with support for most of the first few months of 2011. Grace was also a key player in the 2011 Master's Conference, preparing and presenting a program about using social media. This program was very well received and is considered a great success. Also, former Communications Director Jennifer Dugent-Wolff and independent contractor Dick Weiss produced publications and assisted in public relations efforts.

**Major projects**

This year there have been several major projects spearheaded by the Communications Department. An identity campaign, new website and comic book projects have all been both time-consuming and initially successful. On Nov. 1, the National Grange launched a brand new website complete with a modern look, more logical navigation, and a social feature that allows members to create online accounts in order to post information that will appear to other Grange members. In early October, a comic book to support membership recruitment was completed after a few short months of conception, script writing, design and editing. At this convention, we are rolling out the new tagline, "American Values. Hometown Roots." This is the visual and verbal cue that should assist in consolidating all the things we love about the organization into a succinct phrase that embodies the Grange. All of these are major initiatives and should be examined further.

**Website Redesign**

Before I interviewed with the Grange, I checked out the website. I wanted to know more about the organization's structure, the role of the Communications Director, the current issues, policies, and more. I wanted to know if the Grange was the place for me. I am not alone. According to the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies, 77.3 percent of Americans use the Internet, and of those who use the Internet, the vast majority cite it as the number one source to find out information about something they know little or nothing about and as the best place to get updates about things they are interested in. Clearly, then, what we present on the National Grange website is very important to our public perception.

What I found in March when I visited the National Grange site was something that would become my first priority if I should be hired: build a better way to communicate

our values and our news with the public. In April, I completed and prepared a preliminary website analysis and spoke with Master Luttrell and board members about a complete redesign. After meeting with all departments to discuss the current website and the needs of departments for the site, a Request for Proposals was drafted and proposals were solicited from more than two dozen website design companies in order to begin the monumental task of redesigning and developing our national website with the help of the IT Department. I worked with IT Director Stephanie Wilkins to sort through the proposals submitted and in May, along with Stephanie, recommended AJS Website Solutions be hired to complete the redesign of the website.

A key component of the site is the individual webpages for every Grange in the country. In a busy world, people come to the website to find out where the Grange is in a town they are visiting or when the Grange in their area meets. Expecting individual Granges to create and bear the cost of putting up their own webpages in order to move the organization as a whole forward is unrealistic. Asking all Granges to use our pages is also unfair as many have purchased domain names and put significant effort into websites they created. Instead, this site allows us to link directly to individual Grange pages upon request, but still have some level of management, ensuring positive messages about the Grange are displayed and that Granges are being held to a high moral standard for their web content. In order to create these microsites, the department requested each State Master provide information through an online database about the local Granges in their state by July 15. Only a few states completed this, several more provided printed rosters and a few still have not provided information. To date, we have received information on only 800 Granges. This poor showing may limit the number of Subordinate Granges that have splash pages immediately when the new site is unveiled.

From May through November, the IT and Communications Departments worked to develop the layout, logic and navigation, basic content and design for the site with the designer. Content was solicited for specific pages from different departments and individuals and sent to the designer, when edited, to post. The Communications Department created a look for the website that corresponds with the rebranding.

Today the website is based on a content management system that allows for easier changes and provides greatly expanded features. It serves the general public as a resource and the members as an area to get more detailed information, specific forms, presentations and documents as well as a hub for our members to connect with one another in a much deeper way. The website has turned into a resource our members can use daily, see up-to-the-minute news of interest and developments within our organization, listen to audio files and more. The goal of the Communications Department is to add at least two new pieces of Grange content per week, be them press releases, podcast episodes, videos, membership information, blog entries or other material.

In preparation for the new site, the department has taken many photos, conducted several interviews for use as part of the web-based documentary series, invested in equipment and developed a plan that will allow us to recreate the web-based podcast series, now called "Grange Radio." We are asking individuals with photos of agriculture and rural America to submit them with permission to use them on the new website and in other promotional material in order to cut costs for purchasing stock photography. We will be taping interviews and gathering testimonials from Grange members, something we started in October and will continue at this National Session and beyond. The department is working hard to keep telling the Grange story in new and compelling ways

to the public.

With all of these changes, the biggest impediment to success may be the reluctance to change and lack of understanding within our own membership. In order to stem that, over the course of the next two months, the department hopes to develop a “How to” brochure that will be sent during Grange Month and become available for each Grange member. The brochure will include screenshots and step-by-step directions for setting up individual and Grange profiles, adding and deleting information, finding documents that are helpful for Grange members and local chapters, and more. This should help bridge the gap between those comfortable with the web and those who are just getting started so the site can be useful to all members. In addition, an updated version of the Public Relations Guide will be created. This new guide will be entitled the “The Grange and the Public: A Public Relations Primer, Style Guide and Graphics Manual.”

### **Comic Book - “A Grange Story: Finding My Place”**

In July, the department brought to then Membership Director Rusty Hunt and National Master Ed Luttrell the idea of creating a comic book as a recruitment tool. Along with Rusty and Ed, a script was created with settings for each page. Based on the City Mouse/Country Mouse theme, the main character, a city mouse named Jen, finds out about the Grange, becomes a Grange member, has many representative experiences and feels more fulfilled. The comic is designed to appeal most to an audience between 20 and 40 years old, but can be a fun and well-rounded way to introduce the Grange to anyone. The comic is 20 pages with a full color front and back cover. It includes informational pages on the Grange and has an open area on the back page to include Subordinate, Pomona or State Grange contact information.

The comic was completed in October and will be available for sale through the Grange Store beginning at National Session. The department is also providing several copies of the comic for review and use to Delegates and attendees of the National Session. Local, Pomona and State Granges can also order copies for distribution at a very low rate of \$550 per 5,000 copies; other rates will be available upon request. These can be customized to include information on the back page about the purchasing Grange’s name, date and time of meetings, contact information, website address and more.

The contract the department negotiated with the artist also stipulates that we will be able to use the mice in advertising and promotional products such as T-Shirts, web graphics, comic strips for the New Grange and more. This allows us to use the mice as veritable Grange icons, similar to Geico’s gecko or Aflac’s goose. I encourage each member of the Grange to find ways to help Jen tell our story to children and adults.

### **Rebranding: “American Values. Hometown Roots.”**

When I arrived at the Grange in March, I discussed the need for a sustained campaign that raises the profile of the Grange. In this sustained campaign, several areas of emphasis were identified, including the need for a rebranding of image; the creation of a tagline to better indicate the organization’s mission and identity; and a consistent use of the tagline – or the mental images and constructed reality it creates – in our various messages and mediums.

The entire staff contributed ideas, reacted to possible suggestions and came up with potential uses for each tagline as it was presented. In late July/early August, we settled on “American Values, Hometown Roots,” as a tagline that emphasizes the positive message

of the Grange, its focus as a premiere grassroots organization and commitment to building local leadership and community service. The tag also hints to our strong dedication to democracy and the American way of life, is a tip of the hat to a simpler time and place, has strong undercurrents of family values and much more. The mental images the tag stimulated included generic Americana, neighborhoods and small town streets, children playing, lemonade stands, catching lightening bugs, fishing, Friday night football games, Little League, community picnics and parades, flags flying, voting, hard work, fields and farms, families gathered around dinner tables, rural scenic views, and more.

When we argue positions, the tagline allows us easy reference to an implied rationale: We are patriotic. We believe in the best America possible. We want to leave a prosperous and proud America for our children. We want to protect the small towns that have built this country and made it great. We want the best for the hometowns from which we hail.

Consider when we argue for a merger that will expand broadband. When we are asked how we can support such a position, we can move back to statements that harkens the overall image from the campaign (i.e. “I want the people back home to have a level playing field in business, in services and in education, just as I have in the city.”). As people hear this while visually cued by our images that trigger thoughts of American values and hometowns/small towns, they are more likely to not only believe, but also respect our position even if they do not ultimately support it.

We have chosen several images that have had positive feedback, representing rural/agricultural interests and American spirit/pride. One such image that is the cornerstone of the identity campaign will be the background for the website.

It is important to use images that reflect this message to “rebrand” our print products, such as our individual, family, and E-Member brochures, our benefits brochure, our Junior and newly-created Youth brochure, our 2012 Grange Month posters, our 2012 Legislative Policy Book, our Youth and Junior Guidebooks and much more. A consistent theme across all products will help to increase awareness and recognition of the organization and assist in creating a more harmonious message across levels of the organization.

To go with this, the department proposed related programming for the entire Grange – Adult, Youth and Junior. This programming may include contests, challenges, events or other awareness-raising efforts that affect Grangers and non-Grangers. It is the department’s deepest hope that in the coming year you will find a way to tell everyone in your community that the Grange is an organization built on American Values but grown out of Hometown Roots.

### **General Department Functions**

Along with these major projects, the department completed its standard duties including:

- The work from conception to production of four New Grange newsletters, two of which were electronic-only in order to save about \$16,000. The November/December issue will appear online in the first week of December and include coverage of Convention. The department has suggested that the number of issues be reduced from six to four per year, printing on a quarterly basis. The decision for change has not yet been made.
- Editing, design and printing of three issues of View from the Hill, distributed to members of Congress and our email list group in May, August and October.
- The editing, layout and production of the 320-page 2010 Journal of Proceedings

and the 2011 Legislative Policy Book.

- Designed several new products for use across different departments such as the Issue Brief template, a Grange Youth brochure for an external audience, new business cards and more
- Prepared all printed products used at the 145th Annual Convention
- Secured a three minute advertising spot on American Airlines' "The Innovators" radio that is airing November and December 2011, months that see a great deal of travel. Information will also appear in print in the November and December American Way Magazine in a section called "The Executive Report," with more than 3.2 million readers each month.
- Worked with Acting High Priest Dan Bascom and Sales Director Samantha Johnson to create a design for a pin to honor the late High Priest Tom Severance. These are currently on sale for \$10 from the Assembly of Demeter members, and all proceeds will go to creating a digital presentation of the Degrees. Also, a seal was created to commemorate the 145th Annual Convention Seventh Degree Candidates as the Tom Severance Class.

### **Public Relations & Media Coverage**

The department has also expanded our public relations efforts in 2011 and from that we have seen great results. In August, we purchased a media monitoring and list service for the National Grange that allows us to track all mentions in the media of the National Grange as well as individuals associated with the Grange and State Granges. Each morning the Communications Department receives an email with links to all appearances of our name, something that assists the Trademark efforts as well, because we are able to find new potential infringements earlier by using just the word "Grange" as a search term. We have also begun to use this to track topics of interest to our Legislative Department, such as stories about developments in the areas of rural broadband, IPAB, the Right to Repair Act and much more.

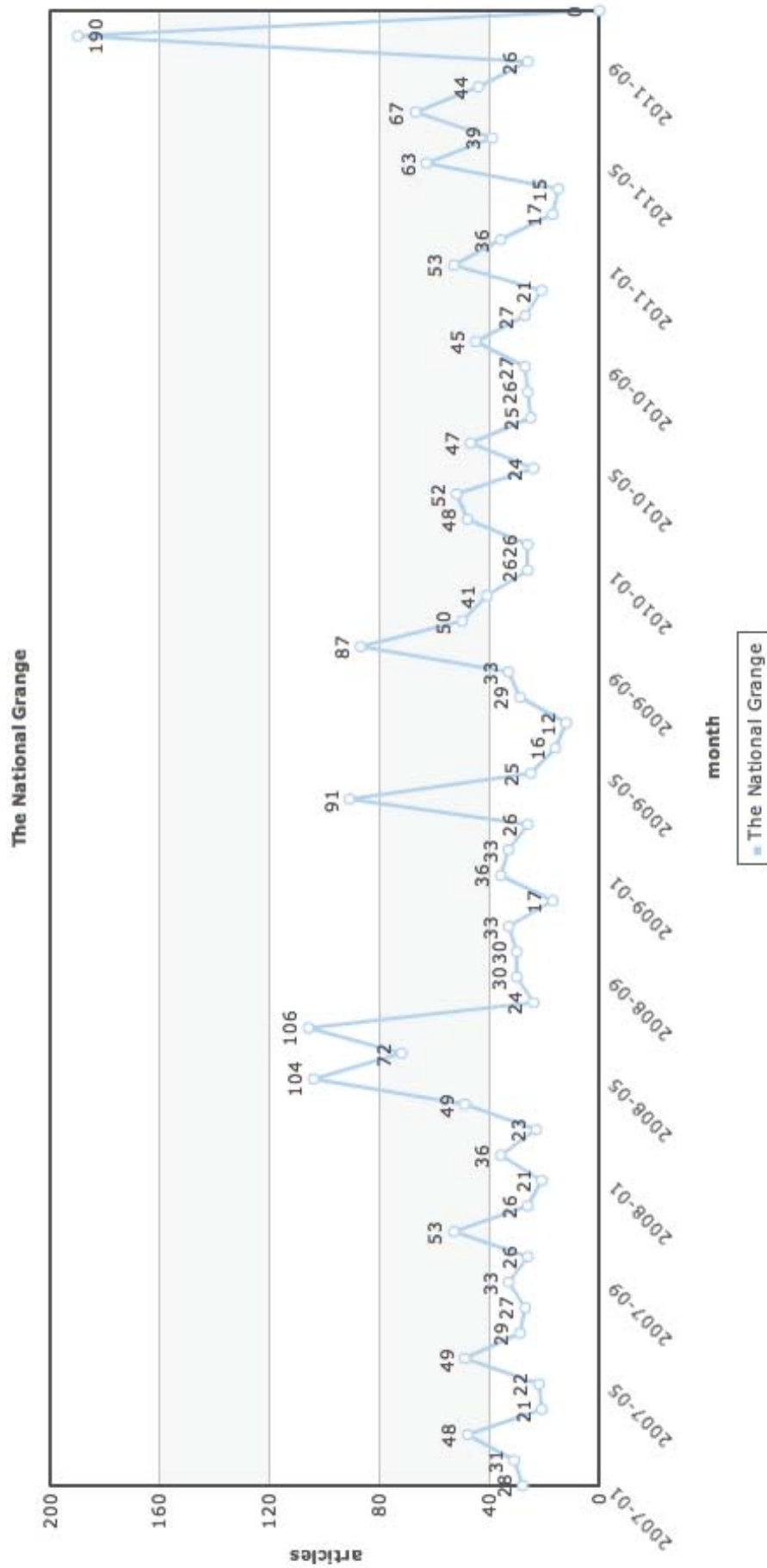
From that service, we were able to generate a report that shows the number of "hits" each month for the past five years. In October 2011, we reached an all-time high number of press hits with 190. Previously, our best month showed 106 press mentions of the National Grange in July 2008. Much of the press coverage in October surrounded the Rural Broadband Works Fly-In, in which the Grange partnered with the Cattleman's Association. Efforts to get Grange members who participated to appear in interviews for their hometown media were successful, as were efforts to highlight the National Grange's focus on expansion of rural broadband.

In 2011, the National Grange was able to get the message of our members out to the public through many channels of communication. Specifically, in print and online media, the National Grange had more than 550 hits from Jan. 1, 2011 through Nov. 1, 2011. The following breakdown of public relations materials released from the Communications Department from March 29, 2011 through Nov. 10, 2011 is as follows:

- 42 Press Releases
- 7 Media Alerts
- 12 Op-Ed pieces

Since the time of my last board report, the department also produced several press releases and opinion-editorials (op-eds) on issues such as the support of the AT&T/T-Mobile merger due to the expansion of broadband in rural areas, the Right to Repair





DEPARTMENT REPORTS



Act, the Universal Service Fund, participation in the Legislative Fly-In and more. We were able to place these in several publications, from small weekly newspapers to large circulation outlets such as The Washington Times. This success is encouraging and tells us the moves we are making are correct and we must dutifully build upon them.

I want to thank my colleagues, the National Executive Committee including National Master Ed Luttrell, and the various Grangers I have had the privilege of meeting in my first few months with the Grange for making me feel very welcome, openly discussing the organization and their visions for it, and all of the various assistance they have offered. It is also important to thank former Communications Director Jennifer Dugent-Wolff for her assistance in learning specific technologies and tasks, as well as her excellent design skills that she has quickly and effectively used to create several pieces for the department all year. I look forward to receiving your feedback on the new products and services introduced by the department in the coming weeks and months and to meeting as many of you as possible.

Fraternally Submitted,

Amanda Leigh Brozana  
National Grange Communications Director

**2011 Report of the Executive Assistant/Meeting Planner  
Tulsa, OK  
November 10, 2011**

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates and Patrons:

I have served in the position of Executive Assistant and Meeting Planner at the National Grange Office for the past two years and nine months. I report to you my activities in the following areas:

*Bonding*

Currently, Granges from 21 states participate in the National Grange's bonding program. The bond is issued through the National Grange Mutual Insurance Company of Keene, New Hampshire. In the year 2011, 693 individual Granges were covered by the policy, a 3.4% increase over the participation in 2010. With the exception of Granges in Alaska, California and Minnesota, all Subordinate, Pomona and State Granges are eligible to participate. The bond coverage extends beyond the Officers of any given Grange, and includes all members of the Grange and all volunteers at Grange functions. Coverage rates will significantly increase for 2012. This is the first rate increase in 20 years, since the origination of the policy. Information about the bonding program is available for download from the National Grange website and all State Masters are encouraged to share this information with their Granges. This program provides an inexpensive and convenient way for Granges to obtain the bonding coverage required by the Digest of Laws.

*Convention*

Preparations are underway for the 146th Annual National Grange Convention in Boise,

Idaho, November 13-17, 2012. The host committee has been working diligently. The National Grange Staff will make a site visit to The Boise Centre and The Grove Hotel in early 2012 to finalize the details of the program.

The 147th Annual National Grange Convention will be held November 12-16, 2013 in Manchester, New Hampshire at the Radisson Hotel Manchester. The year 2013 marks exactly 100 years from the last time the National Grange Annual Convention was held in New Hampshire. It will be exciting to celebrate that milestone.

The 148th Annual National Grange Convention will take place November 11-15, 2014 at the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio. There is so much to offer at this location that everyone will want to bring their entire families. The resort features newly expanded spacious meeting areas, great amenities, low room rates and the world's largest indoor water park! Free water park tickets come with every hotel room stay.

A location has been chosen for the 149th Annual National Grange Convention. The Cornhusker, A Marriott Hotel, in Lincoln, Nebraska will host the Grange in November of 2015. The National Grange staff is working hard to find a location in the Washington, D.C. area to celebrate the milestone 150th Annual Convention.

### *Meetings and Events*

Meeting and event tasks include preparing meeting materials, planning hotel and meal logistics, and handling registration processes. Support was provided for the following meetings and events in the past year: the 2010 National Grange Convention; three Executive Committee Meetings; the 2011 Master's Conference in Henderson, Nevada; and four Grange Growth/Leadership/Pomona Summits.

The annual Master's Conference took place February 25-27, 2011 at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Henderson, Nevada. Public Relations was the focus of the weekend with 57 individuals attending the Conference. This was a 32% increase from the previous year, which had lower attendance due to inclement weather. After the Conference, a group stayed behind for a bonus Grange Growth activity—an organizational meeting to begin forming Pahrump Grange in Nevada.

### *Grange Building*

The National Grange Building at 1616 H Street NW, Washington, D.C., requires daily management to run smoothly. The Executive Assistant's responsibilities as part of the management team include responding to tenant issues and concerns, overseeing the contract cleaners, coordinating with the building engineer and security, managing the schedule for the Goss Conference Room, and coordinating some building maintenance projects. In addition to daily management of the building, I also work with the National Master and the Grange's Legal Counsel to successfully negotiate lease renewals or extensions. Currently in the Grange Building, there are 17 separate leases for office space, housing over 25 companies and organizations. At the writing of this report, the office space in the National Grange Building is 100 percent occupied.

Fraternally Submitted,

Jessie Cope

National Grange Executive Assistant/Meeting Planner

**2011 Report of the Information Technology Department  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
November 10, 2011**

### **Security System**

The National Grange has maintained a complete inventory of all front door pass cards that access the National Grange building. This inventory confirms the names of individuals that enter the building, their access level as well as the company they are associated with. It is pertinent that this information remain current so that there is accurate information in the database that can be retrieved in the unfortunate event of fowl play. As of 11/26/11 the National Grange has a total of 234 pass cards assigned to a combination of National Grange employees, building tenants, subtenants, vendors, etc.

The front door card reader was replaced as well as an extremely damaged front door access remote control, which is operated by the front desk security guard. An order of pass cards was also purchased.

### **Computer Hardware/Software**

The National Grange has renewed its ACE Certificate with Identrust. This certificate is used to file the National Grange Lobbying Reports every quarter.

Due to the lack of storage space on the National Grange server, the IT Department purchased and installed NETGEAR ReadyNAS NVX, a network storage system. This system is the most affordable award-winning advanced network storage product for business users. Server files were migrated to the new system during non working hours to minimized disruption to employee work production. This upgrade has increased The National Grange server space by adding 1TB of storage space with superior performance.

The National Grange purchased Peachtree Premium Accounting 2011 to replace the outdated 2005 version. This software has a multi-user license which was installed on three office computers: the Accountants, the Sales & Marketing Directors, and the Sales Assistant's. The National Grange, the Grange Store, the National Grange Foundation and other various accounts were backed-up prior to the upgrade to ensure a successful installation of this new software. Peachtree Premium Accounting 2011 will provide advanced accounting and financial reporting for the National Grange.

Additional memory was purchased and installed for nine National Grange office computers after an assessment was made that they were operating with an insufficient amount of memory. All office computers are currently operating with a minimum of 2GB of memory. This increase in memory will improve speed and productivity for all staff.

An external hard drive was purchased to increase hard drive space on the computer designated for the Program Assistant. This device provided an additional 160GB of space.

The National Grange purchased an Okidata C9600 printer to be used in the Communications Department. This printer was obtained because the previous printer, that was 8 years old, failed to burn plates needed for the Printing Department. This new and efficient printer will serve as an office printer as well as print plates needed to produce newsletters, sale items, stationary, brochures and more.

In an effort to prolong the life of the Xerox Phaser 6250 color printer, scheduled service, cleaning and maintenance has been done, and a new fuser was installed, which improved overall performance.

The National Grange purchased and replaced the APC-UPC battery. This battery replacement was needed to supply power to the National Grange server in the event of an

electrical power outage.

The National Grange purchased a 21.5 inch (2.5GHz) iMac desktop computer for the Program Assistant. This iMac replaced the previous six year old iMac G5 computer that was failing to power on. By purchasing this computer prior to the 145th Annual Convention, it will not only serve as the primary desktop computer for the Publication/Communication Department, but it will also alleviate the cost associated with renting an iMac for the same function. An AppleCare Protection Plan was also obtained for this Mac and is good for the first three years.

Symantec Endpoint Protection was upgraded to the latest version of 11.0.6300.803 on the National Grange server for all desktop computers.

The National Grange is looking to upgrade its current version of TeamSpeak 2 to the new and improved TeamSpeak 3. The National Grange currently has a server license with TeamSpeak and can upgrade to the latest version at no additional cost. This new version of TeamSpeak will offer additional features to our online conference meetings, such as improved voice quality, as well as sharing of documents and files.

No other computer hardware/software was needed.

### **Email Notices and Announcements**

The following email notices and announcements were formatted for distribution in 2011:

- “View from the Hill” Newsletter
- “New Grange” Newsletter
- Memorial Notices
- Fraternal Concerns
- Promotional Sale Items
- Member Benefit Alerts
- Press Releases
- Legislative Action Alerts
- Membership Tips of the Month
- Leadership Tips of the Month
- Leadership TeamSpeak Announcements
- Youth TeamSpeak Announcements
- View from the Hill Legislative Updates
- Important Grange Announcements, etc.

The National Grange is now distributing notices and announcements via “Constant Contact.” Sending emails via Constant Contact allows the National Grange to easily track sent emails, as well as those that have been opened and any links that are being clicked on. Members also have the ability join our mailings as well as easily and safely unsubscribe. We look forward to submitting online surveys to evaluate the needs of our members and how we can better serve them. Since April 18th, 2011, the National Grange has distributed 84 email notices to an array of Grange Members, E-Members and Media Relations.

For 14 years, Constant Contact’s email marketing, online surveys and event marketing tools help all types of small businesses and organizations create professional-looking electronic newsletters and insightful online surveys.

### **Grange Websites**

The National Grange uses Go Daddy as its primary provider for web hosting. Go Daddy not only provides hosting, but also maintains a total of 42 domains for the National Grange.

After taking into consideration the number of domains to be renewed, the National Grange enrolled in the Domain Discount Club offered by Go Daddy. This club will allow all domain names registered to the National Grange to be renewed at a discounted price.

.com	35% savings
.net	56% savings
.org	51% savings

#### **www.nationalgrange.org**

The National Grange is scheduled to unveil its newly renovated website during the 145th National Grange Annual Convention. The site is constructed via an online web content management system call WordPress.

We anticipate WordPress to be used not only for the National Grange website, but also for the websites of a number of State and Local Granges across the country. Each Local Grange will have its own webpage with basic information about that Grange, which can be edited and updated by a designated member of that Grange online. With widgets and add-ons, each Grange will have the power to enhance their designated page with ease. Visitors wishing to find out information about a Grange in their area will be able to do so by utilizing the “Find A Grange” tool, which will access a database of all local Granges.

The newly redesigned website will feature a members log-in section as well as a visitors section. Visitors can simply learn about the Grange, whereas registered members can log-in and access more information, including a social network section where members can communicate online with other Grangers. Grange members will also have the ability to comment on written articles and posts.

The National Grange will regularly update various sections of its website with news and upcoming information, keeping it fresh and offering valuable information to our members, while also encouraging our visitors to join.

Online registration for events online payments via PayPal have been a successful this year.

The following Grange domains have been renewed with Network Solutions:

nationalgrange.org – 10/10/13  
nationalgrange.net – 12/07/12

The following Grange domains are set to automatic renew with Bulk Register/Enom:

nationalgrange.com – 11/11/12  
nationalgrange.info – 11/14/12  
nationalgrange.biz – 11/13/12  
nationalgrange.us – 11/13/12

#### **http://www.grangestore.org**

The online Grange Store is functioning and accepting orders. The Grange Store website features a thumbnail image of each item for sale. An enlarged picture of these items is also available as well a detailed description. The Grange Store features a shopping cart and checkout section where visitors can purchase items with a major credit card. Purchases can also be made by calling the National Grange Sales Department or submitting an order through the mail. New items for sale are added to the Grange Store when available.

The Grange Store showcases a total of 307 items for sale at this date.

The following Grange domains have been renewed with Go Daddy:

grangestore.com – 02/08/12



grangestore.net – 02/08/12  
grangestore.org – 02/08/12  
nationalgrangestore.com – 02/08/12  
nationalgrangestore.net – 02/08/12  
nationalgrangestore.org – 02/08/12

**<http://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org>**

Updates to the National Junior Grange website are ongoing. This website includes the monthly newsletters, “Keeping Up with Junior Grange,” as well as activities, reports and forms, Junior Grange brochures, merit badges, current programs, community service information, and more. The 2011 Program Book “I Make a Difference” is available online and features various programs, contests, awards and more.

The contact information for all forms, reports and letters throughout the Junior Grange website were updated to reflect the new Junior Grange Director, Diane Szkutak. The site also features an introduction video of the new Director.

The following Grange domains have been renewed with Go Daddy:

juniorgrange.com – 03/24/12  
juniorgrange.net – 03/24/12  
juniorgrange.org – 03/24/12  
nationaljuniorgrange.com – 03/24/12  
nationaljuniorgrange.net – 03/24/12  
nationaljuniorgrange.org – 03/24/12

**<http://www.nationalgrangeyouth.org>**

Updates to the National Grange Youth website are ongoing. This site features various important information for Grange Youth. It offers a list of programs and contests (regional and national), Youth Awards, and 2011 Youth Conference information for Midwest, Northeastern, Western, Eastern, Great Plains and National Convention. It also offers Youth videos, program updates and changes, a full year calendar, the monthly newsletter, “Grange2.0,” from Youth and Young Adults Director Charlene Espenshade, and more.

The following Grange domains have been renewed with GoDaddy:

grangeyouth.com – 03/24/12  
grangeyouth.net – 03/24/12  
grangeyouth.org – 03/24/12  
nationalgrangeyouth.com – 03/24/12  
nationalgrangeyouth.net – 03/24/12  
nationalgrangeyouth.org – 03/24/12

**<http://www.grangefoundation.org>**

Updates to the Grange Foundation website are ongoing. This website features history, projects, current support and the ability to donate to a number of dedicated funds. The income and principal for these funds may be spent for the dedicated purpose only. The funds featured on this website are the Deaf Awareness Fund, the Kelley Farm Fund, the Trademark Protection Fund, the Youth Leadership Fund, and the Junior Grange Fund. Visitors have the ability to make an online donation to a fund via PayPal.

The National Grange has joined and is now an affiliate of the Amazon Associates Program. As an Associate of a company like Amazon, a leader in Internet e-commerce, the



National Grange has the ability to earn money on the sale of books, music, toys, electronics, kitchenware, apparel, jewelry, DVDs and more. Money earned from this program will benefit the Grange Foundation. Grange members can purchase everyday items while contributing to a valuable foundation.

The following Grange domains have been renewed with Go Daddy:

grangefoundation.com – 04/20/12  
grangefoundation.net – 04/20/12  
grangefoundation.org – 04/20/12  
thegrangefoundation.com – 05/02/12  
thegrangefoundation.net – 05/02/12  
thegrangefoundation.org – 05/02/12

### **Domain Registrations**

The following domain names were assumed as a result of the National Grange Trademark Protection settlement.

brooklyngrange.com – 05/26/13  
grangefood.com – 05/21/12  
grangefood.info – 05/21/12  
grangefood.net – 05/21/12  
grangefood.org – 05/21/12  
grangefoodco.com – 05/21/12  
grangefoodco.net – 05/21/12  
grangefoodco.org – 05/21/12  
thegrangefoodco.com – 05/21/12  
thegrangefoodco.net – 05/21/12  
thegrangefoodco.org – 05/21/12  
thegrangefoodcompany.com – 05/21/12  
thegrangefoodcompany.net – 05/21/12  
thegrangefoodcompany.org – 05/21/12

### **E-Membership**

The National Grange successfully launched a new class of membership, which opened to the general public Nov. 15, 2010. E-Membership allows individuals who are interested in the Grange to connect with others and offers access to many of the quality financial benefits that Grange members have traditionally enjoyed for years. It informs members of legislative work from a non-partisan point of view, as well as reports the latest achievements of the Grange, with the added benefit of being a part of America's oldest family-based organization.

E-Members can sign up online and pay for a one year subscription. Upon sign-up, each individual will receive a username and password to login to a designated website. On this website E-Members will be able to view upcoming events, blogs, polls, Grange news, and more. E-Members will also receive the bi-monthly newsletter, "The New Grange," and the highly-respected monthly legislative newsletter, "View from the Hill," delivered directly to them via email.

Information captured by these E-Members of all demographics will be used to determine how the Grange can better serve them. At the completion of their one year subscription, an email notice will be sent to the E-Member giving them an option to renew their subscription.

Membership Report Nov. 2010- Nov. 2011

	New Memberships	State Grange @ \$7.50	Nat'l Grange @ \$4.50
November 2010	4	\$30.00	\$18.00
December 2010	1	\$7.50	\$4.50
January 2011	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Feb. 2011	3	\$22.50	\$13.50
March 2011	5	\$37.50	\$22.50
April 2011	2	\$15.00	\$9.00
May 2011	2	\$15.00	\$9.00
June 2011	1	\$7.50	\$4.50
July 2011	2	\$15.00	\$9.00
August 2011	1	\$7.50	\$4.50
September 2011	5	\$37.50	\$22.50
October 2011	1	\$7.50	\$4.50
November 2011	To Be Determined	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>\$202.50</b>	<b>\$121.50</b>

### National Database

Individual files were made for each State Grange containing their respective Officers (Masters, Lecturers, & Secretaries). These files were created as an online Google document providing access to State Masters and Secretaries only for editing. This gives State Granges the ability to update their own Officers and members using a basic Internet connection and without purchasing any specific software. Once the Google document has been edited, an email notification is sent to the IT Manager stating the change, which then will reflect the National Grange Database. This process should prove to maintain an accurate and functioning database used to communicate with grassroots Officers in Local Granges. This process will also be used to retrieve Grange membership information. The following states have submitted their updated members and Officers list. More states are expected to provide this information in coming months.

State Grange	Last Update	State Grange	Last Update	State Grange	Last Update	Member Count	Last Update
Alaska	11/03/10	Iowa	10/06/09	New Hampshire	04/27/10	Rhode Island	05/21/10
California	09/14/11	Kansas	10/06/09	New Jersey	10/09/09	South Carolina	10/06/09
Colorado	02/18/11	Maine	10/13/09	New York	06/21/11	Tennessee	02/16/11
Connecticut	02/16/11	Maryland	10/20/09	North Carolina	08/17/11	Texas	09/27/11
Delaware	11/25/09	Massachusetts	02/18/11	Ohio	08/01/11	Vermont	10/06/09
Florida	10/15/09	Michigan	11/06/09	Oklahoma	12/01/10	Virginia	10/24/11
Idaho	11/07/09	Minnesota	11/20/09	Oregon	11/03/09	Washington	06/10/10
Illinois	10/24/11	Montana	10/25/11	Pennsylvania	08/01/11	West Virginia	11/21/09
Indiana	10/27/11	Nebraska	08/05/10	Potomac #1	08/10/10	Wisconsin	11/22/10
						Wyoming	09/09/11

Note: State Granges that do not update their officer information are likely to not receive direct mailings of pertinent information throughout the year for their Subordinate and Local Granges.

Fraternally Submitted,

Stephanie J. Wilkins  
National Grange Information Technology Director

**2011 Report of the Junior Department  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
November 11, 2011**

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegates, and Fellow Grangers:

As I write my very first report to you as your National Junior Director, it does not seem possible that only just a few months ago I agreed to take on this position. Might I first say thank you to all of you who put your confidence in me, trusting that I would be able to fill the shoes of previous directors. The task was a challenge, but with a little help along the way, I managed to come through.

This has been a good year for the National Junior Grange Department. I have high hopes that next year I can report even further improved results. I certainly have not done this job alone, and I would like to take this time to thank the many Junior Leaders, State Junior Directors and the many State Masters who stand behind these Juniors in all that they do to keep them going. You truly make a difference. Each year we strive to make our programs better and without a doubt this is happening. So, remember, Junior Grange programs help bring success to every Junior Grange member. Success at this level leads to a strong Community Grange, and, in turn, a successful National Grange.

**2011 “I Make A Difference” Theme for the National Junior Grange Department**

- Program booklets were distributed throughout the regions to Leaders, Directors and Parents.
- There were many positive and supportive comments from the Leaders and Directors about the program, with many states choosing to use this as their state theme.
- The new theme encouraged Juniors to get out and help around their community, whether it be recycling, walking dogs, or lending a hand at a soup kitchen. Each Grange that participated received a certificate. We had well over 500 participate and many of them went on to National for viewing.
- Our Creative Writing Contest (Theme: How I make a difference in my community.)
- Creative Art Contest (Draw a picture of yourself helping the community.)
- There were two new contests added this year to the program: Scrapbook Page and Foot Craft. Each had very exciting entries, which will be presented at National Session for the Delegates to see just what these Juniors can do.

**Regional Youth Conference - Faces of Agriculture**

- This year, I was able to attend the six Regional Conferences for the first time: Delaware, Michigan, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Idaho, and Northeastern.
- At each Conference we put on a workshop entitled “Faces of Agriculture.” It was a great opportunity to encourage everyone to learn about the roots of our organization, dating back to the 1800’s. In addition, we showed the DVD of the Kelley Farm. This gave us some background on what life was like back then and how different it is today.
- This year, the National Junior Grange Department, in conjunction with the National Youth Department, held several contests: Public Speaking, Sign-a-Song, Sign the Alphabet and Talent Contests. Although we did not have as many entries as previous years, we did have top notch participation.

## 2011 National Junior Grange Regional Winners

### *Eastern Region - Delaware*

#### Public Speaking

##### 11-12 Years Old

1st Place –Paula Cothrum, OH

2nd Place- Grace Wadsworth, PA

##### 13-14 Years Old

1st Place – Jenna Sattazahn – PA

2nd Place – Derek Snyder – PA

### *Midwest Region – Michigan*

#### Impromptu Speech

1st place – Madelyn Johnson – Prairie  
Junior Grange

### *Great Plains – Oklahoma*

#### Impromptu Speech

##### 10-12 Years Old

1st Place – Olivia Shufeldt – OK

##### 13-14 Years Old

1st place – Kaitlyn Jones- OK

### *Northeastern – Maine*

#### Sign-a-Song

##### 8-14 Years Old

1st Place – Quinton Tarbell- NY

2nd Place – Jomni Tarbell – NY

Group - Mary Burlette, Noelle Burlette,  
Angelina De Dominics- CT

#### Alphabet

1st place – Mary Burlette-CT

2nd place- Angelina De Dominics – CT

3rd place – Jomni Tarbell – NY

#### Public Speaking

##### 8-10 Years Old

1st place – Angelina De Dominics- CT

2nd place – Jomni Tarbell –NY

##### 11-12 Years Old

1st place- Mary Burlette – CT

##### 12-14 Years Old

1st place- Quinton Tarbell- NY

#### Impromptu Speeches

1st Place – Savannah Hallowell – ME

### *Southeastern – South Carolina*

#### Sign a Song

Group – Michael Bethany , Joshua Bethany  
– Florida

#### Public Speaking

1st place – Michael Bethany – FL

1st place – Joshua Bethany – FL

### *Western – Boise Idaho*

#### Public Speaking

1st place – Jacob Gwin – WA

## 2011 National Junior Grange Ambassador Program

- This was a new program added in 2008 that allows us to select two outstanding Junior Grangers who exemplify what a true Junior Granger should be.
- Juniors are required to submit an application and letters of recommendation. Many candidates applied, and the judges had a very difficult time with their decision. We should be very proud of the outstanding Juniors we have in our states.
- 2011 National Junior Grange Ambassadors: Jacob Gwin, WA; Clayton Rapp, NC

### **Grange Foundation – Junior Grange Fund**

This year we had a very exciting time in the Junior Grange Department. We teamed up with the Youth Department again to create an appeal letter that was sent to all community Grangers in the nation. The Junior Department received several donations, which will provide many opportunities for our Juniors to attend functions and also help cut expenses of the National Junior Grange Ambassador Program. A huge thanks goes out to all of you who made donations.

It has been more of a “get your feet wet” kind of year for me since I took this position over in January. I hope to accomplish more in the next year, improving our current programs, creating new ones, and eliminating those that are not working anymore. With how many Junior Granges we have in this organization, I was rather disappointed with the outcome of the projects that were received. I would personally like to thank the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Florida, Washington, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, North Carolina, Connecticut, and South Carolina for participating and sending me your entries for the National Department. Let’s hope that next year we’ll see more entries, especially from the states that did not participate this year. I look forward to hearing from the committee formed to critique the Junior Department’s program and see how I, your National Director, can improve it so that we can prosper for many more years to come.

As no one person can do this job alone, I just want to take this opportunity to thank some people who have helped me along the way: Brother Ed, for having faith in me to fill Ann’s shoes; Charlene, who showed me the ropes; the many State Masters who provided me transportation at the conferences; Pete, for the many suggestions and compliments that you gave me along the way; Linda and Cal Chase, I love you both for taking me under your wing after the loss of my dad and showing me that I had what it takes to make a great National Junior Grange Director; last but not least, to my family, for the many times I needed help with something and you were there to pitch in; and especially Christopher, for all his help this past month and this week with my Junior Program and setting up my displays.

No report can be complete without the greatest thank you of all: to our State Directors and Leaders, because without your time and support, we would not have the Junior Granges we have today.

Fraternally Submitted,

Diane M. Szkutak  
National Junior Grange Development Director

**2011 Report of the Legislative Department  
Tulsa, OK  
November 10, 2011**

Working with our new Communications Director, a highly effective level of collaboration has been achieved, making the regular distribution of legislative, regulatory and grassroots messaging a reality. Between the New Grange, the View from the Hill Newsletter and Blog, and our Legislative Updates and Action Alerts, we are able to be in front of the news and truly inform our members of national events that we can play an active role in shaping.

The Legislative Department organized and implemented two Fly-Ins this year. One was hosted in May and had 30 attendees. The second was held in collaboration with the U.S. Cattleman's Association and the Internet Innovation Alliance during the first week of October. It boasted 150 attendees from rural areas all across the U.S. asking for the immediate expansion of broadband in rural America. Over 90 meetings were held on Capitol Hill, three of which were Cabinet level meetings that I attended to represent the National Grange. Due to the time and commitment we have made on this issue, I was the lead in two of these meetings and it served to establish the National Grange as a leading advocate on this issue.

In addition to this, I was asked to serve on a panel with other telecom organizations such as OPASTCO, the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunication Companies, National Telecom Cooperative Association, USTelecom and Windstream. These briefings were held on the Hill before the House and Senate Congressional Rural Caucus Staff, where we provided details on our support of the America's Broadband Connectivity (ABC) plan for USF and ICC reform. We also had a brief Q&A, where the National Grange was the only rural advocacy group at the table.

Although we continue to be active on the Hill, most of our attention has been focused on the budget and debt ceiling negotiations. It is my belief that this logjam on the passage of freestanding measures will continue throughout the end of the year. Legislators will focus on submitting their suggestions to the Super Committee by the end of October. November will be consumed by deliberations of the Super Committee, as their debt reduction package must be submitted and passed by both chambers by Thanksgiving. This is particularly important regarding the establishment of a baseline for the 2012 Farm Bill. Between raising funds and cutting my operation budget, I am trying to secure membership to a new group called the Farmers and Ranchers Alliance. This group will be the main player on the 2012 Farm Bill and should be able to provide the up-to-date information and contacts we cannot obtain on our own.

I was also able to break away from the office to serve on a panel before the Council of Pennsylvania Farm Organizations. This panel consisted of the National Farmers Union, Sustainable Agriculture, Congressman Glenn Thompson and other Congressional Staff educated on agriculture. The group debated the 2012 Farm Bill. I was also honored to serve as the National Representative for the Maryland State Session.

Almost every Friday, a new edition of the View From the Hill Blog is posted on the website dealing with federal legislation, regulatory movements and other current events on the national stage that impact the daily lives of Grangers. In addition to the 34 VFTH blogs that were posted by Grace or I, four hard-copy issues of the VFTH were published and legislative and regulatory updates have been posted on the website on a regular basis. I am looking forward to the launch of the new website and seeing our Policy Department represented in a much clearer and easier format. I tip my hat to Amanda, Grace, Stephanie and all other integral parts that have made this website renovation a reality.



## **Overview of Activities Year to Date:**

Attended Meetings with the following strategic partners:

- Sponsored the 2011 Pollinators Conference at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History
- Met with AT&T Staff to discuss AT&T/T-Mobile merger and press releases, in particular their Chief Lobbyist and VP of Federal Relations, Peter Jacoby
- Attended several meetings with strategic relations staff at Verizon to discuss FCC proposals, as well as Congressional briefings, in particular with Mark Keam, Maggie McCready, their Regulatory and USF expert, and their Chief USF Lobbyist, Mark Rubin
- Attended Stakeholders Briefings at USDA
- Attended meetings at American's for Tax Reform
- Attended PhRMA and Health Leadership Council meetings to discuss the Independent Patient Advisory Board (IPAB), to be established by President Obama under the Affordable Care Act (PPACA)
- Organizations Concerned with Rural Education (OCRE) meetings
- Attended meetings of the Coalition to Promote U.S. Agricultural Exports and weighed in on actions to be taken on the Hill regarding 2012 Farm Bill issues
- Met with Alliance Strategy Directors from Verizon to discuss and confirm grant opportunities
- Met with Noralisa Leo from DCI Group on several occasions to collaborate on issue development and public relations strategies, press releases and state-targeted legislative letters related to the AT&T/T-Mobile merger
- Attended meetings of the Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA)
- Attended National Pollutants Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and FIFRA Coalition meetings

## **Grassroots Outreach**

### *Executive Branch Outreach*

- Met with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and his Assistant, Lizzie Marsters, to discuss rural broadband initiatives and the current ABC reforms before the FCC
- Met with Deputy Under Secretary Doug O'Brien of the USDA, Rural Development to discuss rural broadband deployment and the RUS programs, as well as Jonathan Claffey and David Villano, both USDA Rural Development Administrators
- Prepared and presented a speech to a group of trade representatives from China, organized by the U.S. Department of State. The group was focused on rural development and rural economic tools and showed great interest in the advocacy side of the Grange role in policy making. Q&A was also conducted via translators

### *Legislative Branch Outreach*

- Sent letter to Super Committee (Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction) to ask for fair treatment of cuts of to Medicare Part B treatments
- Sent letters on behalf of Partnership to Protect Medicare part B and seek more investment in fraud detection
- Sent letter to the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Herb Kohl (D-WI) and Ranking Minority Member Roy Blunt (R-MO) in support of MAP and FMD that was delivered to all subcommittee members last month
- Sent letter to House Judiciary Committee Leadership urging their support of H.R.

1860, the Digital Goods and Services Tax Fairness Act, which seeks to establish a national framework to prevent a patchwork of multiple and discriminatory taxation schemes in over 8000 state and local taxing jurisdictions

- Sent letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Leader Senator Mitch McConnell to discourage the inclusion of FAA user fees on small planes used for agriculture, in any debt reduction package
- Sent letter to Senators Patrick Leahy and Charles Grassley to ask for their support and consideration of the AT&T/T-Mobile merger that will assist in and expedite the build-out of broadband for rural America
- Sent letter to Senate members asking for their support and vote on the NPDES (National Pollutants Discharge Elimination System) and FIFRA fix, H.R. 872 as the measure was set for a vote before the debt ceiling expiration

#### *Regulatory Branch Outreach*

- Drafted and submitted comment to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) on "Regulatory Guidance: Applicability of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations to Operators of Certain Farm Vehicles and Off-Road Agricultural Equipment," [Docket No. FMCSA-2011-0146]
- Drafted and submitted comment to the Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission in the matter of Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 07-135; High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket 01-92; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Lifeline and Link-Up, WC Docket No. 03-109
- Drafted and submitted comment to the Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission on Certain Issues in the Universal Service-Intercarrier Compensation Transformation Proceeding, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109; CC Docket No. 01-92, 96-45; GN Docket No. 09-51

#### **Media and Grange Member Education Efforts**

- National Grange Digest of Laws ---Work completed
- Grange Month packet materials ---Legislative contribution completed
- Blueprint for Rural America 2011 ---Work completed
- Journal of Proceedings 2010 ---Work completed
- Legislative Policy Book 2011 ---Work completed
- Legislative Issues Survey ---Work Completed
- View From the Hill ---4 Print and Electronic Editions Completed
- View From the Hill Blog ---Published 35 blog article posts

#### **Alliance Development and Coalition Building**

We continued to make the National Grange relevant with Alliance partners: AT&T, Verizon, PhRMA, Pfizer, TracFone/Amplify Public Affairs, DCI, Health Leadership Council, and Croplife.

We have become partners and members on several new coalitions: Partnership to Protect Medicare, Fight Fraud First. Both coalitions are dedicated to protecting Medicare and fighting the fraud that inflates healthcare costs. We have also joined Keep USF Fair, which aims to preserve the mission of the Lifeline programs under the Universal Service Fund.

### Legislative & Strategic Sponsorships

It should be noted that grant opportunities are beginning to be more structured as to how funds can be used and the amount of time I am spending compiling grant applications is growing immensely. Our partners still benefit from our relationships but more documentation is needed.

### 2011 Legislative Department Fundraising Final and Use Guide

Strategic Partner	Amount	Use Guide	Allocation
AT&T	\$14,500	<b>Rural broadband build-out support, issue outreach, NO meals, transportation or lobbying</b>	General Fund
AT&T	\$35,000	<b>General Fly-In Support</b> , grassroots, public education and information activities related to telecommunications issues	General Fund
Amplify Public Affairs	\$5,000	USF Issue Outreach	General Fund
PhRMA	\$6,000	grassroots, education and information activities related to pharmaceutical access, patient assistance and health care issues affecting rural America	
Pfizer	\$5,000	Capacity Building, Public Policy Health Education	General Fund
Potomac Grange	\$3,000	May Fly-In	General Fund
Verizon	\$15,000	Fly-Ins, Outreach	<b>Foundation</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$83,500</b>		
<b>Foundation Only</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>		
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$68,500</b>		

### 2012 Legislative Fundraising Forecast and Use Guide

Strategic Partner	Amount	Use Guide	Allocation
AT&T	\$45,500	<b>General Fly-In Support</b> , grassroots, public education and information activities related to telecommunications issues, <b>NO meals, transportation or lobbying</b>	General Fund
PhRMA	\$10,000	grassroots, education and information activities related to pharmaceutical access, patient assistance and health care issues affecting rural America, Biggest Loser Award	General Fund
Pfizer	\$6,000	grassroots, education and information activities related to pharmaceutical access, patient assistance and health care issues affecting rural America, Biggest Loser Award	General Fund
Verizon	\$20,000	Fly-Ins, Outreach	<b>General Fund</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$81,500</b>		
<b>Foundation Only</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$81,500</b>		

Fraternally Submitted,  
 Nicole Palya Wood  
 National Grange Legislative Director

**2011 Report of the Leadership/Membership Department  
Tulsa, OK  
November 10, 2011**

To the Officers, Delegates, Directors and Staff of the National Grange of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry:

It is my honor to report as your new Leadership/Membership Development Director. I look forward to working with you to expand the leadership capacity and membership of Community Granges across the nation.

Since assuming my current role in September, I have traveled to Oregon for orientation with the Worthy National Master and my predecessor, Mr. Rusty Hunt. I also attended the Pennsylvania and Massachusetts State Grange Sessions. Sincere thanks to Rusty Hunt for all of the positive strides taken during his tenure with the National Grange. I look forward to partnering with him in his new leadership capacity with the Washington State Grange, as we endeavor to turn the tide on Grange membership.

The encouraging news is that eight states realized net gains in membership this year! Once again, California tops the list with a net gain of 377 new members. Our host state of Oklahoma had the highest percentage growth of 11.57% resulting from 177 net new members. Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, Texas and Wisconsin also had net gains in membership. We have 79,398 Fraternal Members, 75,568 Supportive Members (including 2,430 Associate Members) and 27 E-members for a total membership of 154,993 as of the second quarter of 2011.

Three states experienced growth in the number of Subordinate Granges during the past year: California has eight new Granges, Oklahoma has two new Granges, and Wisconsin has the highest percentage growth at 10.00%. Congratulations to these states and to additional states that are on the verge of experiencing net gains in membership. Sixteen states were stable during the past year; that is, they neither gained nor lost a local Grange. Five additional states lost one Grange. We have 2,102 Local Granges as of the second quarter of 2011. Based on these statistics, we are poised on the precipice of growth!

At the local level, kudos to Morgan Hill #408 in California with a net gain of 59 new members. A close second was Myrtle Creek #442 in Oregon with a net gain of 55 new members. Fruitdale #379 in Oregon had the highest percentage gain. Their 39 new members resulted in growth of 278.57%. Nationally, 495 Granges had net gains in membership totaling 3,347 net new members, and we know many more members joined our 2,102 Community Granges. This leaves us just 1,010 members shy of achieving a net gain at the national level as of the 2nd Quarter reports for 2011.

Last year, the Membership Department facilitated Grange Growth Summits and training sessions in several locations across the country. Grange Growth Summits were conducted in Michigan, Kansas, New Hampshire and a combined one-day session for Connecticut and Rhode Island. The first-ever Pomona Summit was held in Oregon with nearly 150 participants. Rusty Hunt assisted with the Master's Conference in Nevada, the Western Regional Leaders' Conference, and the Southeast Leaders' Conference in South Carolina. Brother Jimmy Gentry represented the Membership Department at the Great Plains Leaders' Conference in Oklahoma.

Plans for 2012 include continuing monthly TeamSpeak conferences on topics of Leadership/Membership Development. I will attend a Grange Growth Summit in Washington State, which will be facilitated by their talented State Grange Membership Director, Broth-

er Rusty Hunt. I will assist with the State Masters' Conference, Regional Leadership Conferences, a Pomona Summit in New York and Grange Growth Summit in Vermont. Other sessions will be scheduled with State Masters and Membership Directors. I encourage you to visit with me during this National Grange Session to schedule additional training opportunities for your Granges. I especially encourage you to collaborate with your neighboring states to create multi-state or regional opportunities.

Many thanks for the leadership provided by Randy and Linda Lewis targeting Grange growth in Nevada. They have organized two new community Granges thus far and are working with several additional communities to create local Granges. The ultimate goal is to charter the Nevada State Grange. I also thank Henrietta and Norm Keller for their efforts in Missouri and Jessica Horton for her readiness to assist with Grange growth in Georgia.

Our goal is to reorganize or charter new Granges in every state that has ever had a Grange presence. If you are interested in joining our team to expand our Grange footprint, I would like to speak with you about the potential for becoming a National Grange Deputy.

I encourage each member to take a new look at the National Grange website. Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana and IT Manager Stephanie Wilkins have revised many of the membership materials, especially the membership brochures. You will note a new combined application for both individual and family membership, as well as a revised E-member brochure.

As I embark upon this new chapter in my Grange journey, I thank Master Ed Luttrell and the members of the Executive Committee for inviting me to join the National Grange staff. Many thanks to the staff at 1616 H Street NW, Washington, D.C., for welcoming me to the team. I thank my wife, Wendy, for her understanding and support and for becoming the first new Grange member under my watch!

Let's grow the Grange!

Fraternally Submitted,

Michael J. Martin

National Grange Leadership/Membership Development Director

## **2011 Report of the Sales, Benefits, and Programs Department**

**Tulsa, OK**

**November 10, 2011**

### **PROGRAMS**

The National Grange has continued to promote current programs as well as develop new programs, for Local Granges. Current programs include: Dictionary Project, Meth Labs, the Kelley Farm, the Building DVD - "The National Building: 50 Years of Service," Dogs for the Deaf, Deaf Materials, and The National Grange Building Rededication Ceremony: The Essentials DVD. Around 466 Granges in 31 Grange States participated in the Dictionary Project and provided 78,550 dictionaries for the 2010-11 school year. The National Grange received \$2,533.00 in donations for the Kelley Farm as of October 2011.

#### *Community Service*

The Community Service program continues to be supported by the National Grange. The National Grange awards certificates to all first, second, third, and fourth place winners,



and all participants in all states. New rules were put in place this year for the prize money: States were required to have 25% of the Subordinate Granges in the State submit reports to qualify. This year, the National Grange recognized 591 Granges in 32 States. The Community Service Program continued with the National Community Service Program based on all first-place winners from each state. The Community Service Books were judged at the National Grange headquarters. Twenty-four books total were judged for the competition. The winners will be announced at the Celebration Banquet and the prize money for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place winners will be awarded as well. The Grange Foundation is sponsoring and awarding the prize money which totals \$1,000.

#### *Distinguished Grange*

This was the second year for the Distinguished Grange Program, and we did see an increase in participation. There were four states that applied but only three State Granges qualified: the Maryland, New York, and North Carolina State Granges were our Distinguished State Granges for 2010-2011. Seventeen Subordinate Granges applied but only 16 qualified. The Subordinate Granges that qualified: Burns Grange #160 (MI), Chepachet Grange #38 (RI), Deer Lagoon Grange #846 (WA), Elizabethtown Area Grange #2076 (PA-2<sup>nd</sup> Year), Five Mile Prairie Grange #905 (WA-2<sup>nd</sup> Year), Haynie Grange #169 (WA), Humptulips Grange #730 (WA-2<sup>nd</sup> Year), Kuna Grange #59 (ID-2<sup>nd</sup> Year), McIntosh Grange #1001 (WA), Mica Flats Grange #436 (ID), Prairie Grange #1832 (IL), Redland Grange #796 (OR-2<sup>nd</sup> Year), Russellville Grange #91 (PA-2<sup>nd</sup> Year), Sequim Prairie Grange #1108 (WA), Stanford Grange #808 (NY-2<sup>nd</sup> Year), and Uxbridge Grange #200 (MA-2<sup>nd</sup> Year). Ribbons and certificates will be given to the recipients during the Distinguished Grange Ice Cream Reception. The Distinguished Grange Program will continue and the 2011-2012 applications were put in Delegate packets and are available at the Idea Fair and can be downloaded from the National Grange website.

#### *Deaf Foundation*

**Deaf Awareness Grant:** Six applications were received for the Deaf Awareness Grant. The Grange Foundation chose two applicants to receive grants in August and awarded Washington State Grange \$500 and to Iowa State Grange \$250. The following are the two projects that won for 2011:

#### *Washington – American Sign Language (ASL) Silent Weekend*

ASL Silent Weekend Event is being hosted by Washington State Grange and the Southwest Washington Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The March event will be at a retreat and conference center outside of Vancouver, WA and can accommodate 100 people (20 staff and 80 participants). WA State Grange is providing staff for the event along with sending participants for the event. The weekend will feature ASL workshops at various levels and include typical camp type activities that many hearing people take for granted such as ice breakers, bonfires, and storytelling. The goal of this weekend is to improve participants' American Sign Language (ASL) receptive and expressive skills without using voices. Interpreters will only be allowed at the Friday evening orientation, after that all communication for the remainder of the weekend is silent. WA State Grange believes this project will help rebuild the states' reputation with the deaf community in Washington.

#### *Iowa – Conversations through Sign Language and Techniques*

Bloomington Grange #2057 is promoting *Sign With Me*, 3 Volume Series: "Build-



ing Conversations, Building Concepts and Positive Parenting.” This DVD series will be passed along to families with hearing impaired children, and other copies will be distributed to the children’s daycare facility. The distribution to the daycare center ensures hearing and non-hearing children are exposed to the same material and help them learn how to better communicate with each other. Bloomington Grange expects at least 50 people to be involved in this program, both Grangers and non-Grangers. This project is very important to this Grange because one of their members has a 1 1/2 year old who is hearing impaired. They believe this program will help a future Grange member effectively communicate once he learns sign language, and it will allow Grangers to communicate with him and their older members whose hearing is diminishing.

The application process for 2012 will be announced soon.

**Gallaudet University:** The Deaf Foundation endows an internship fund with Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. Gallaudet University was founded in 1864 and is one of the only universities specifically designed for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. This fund is intended to assist interns with living expenses, including transportation, housing, and meals. The internship is strictly used for career-related work activities. Examples of the internships that students have participated in with our help include: the Library of Congress, the White House, and Booz Allen Hamilton. National Master Ed Luttrell, Communications Director Amanda Brozana, Program Assistant Grace Boatright and I went to Gallaudet in July for a tour of the campus and to tape Ed’s President’s Message. We had a wonderful tour and were excited to make contacts that will allow us to do some more filming there in the upcoming year. To learn more about Gallaudet University, go to [www.gallaudet.edu](http://www.gallaudet.edu).

#### *Digital National Grange Cookbook*

*The Bicentennial Cookbook*, *The Family Cookbook*, and *The Glory of Cooking*, three of the National Grange Cookbooks that are out of print, have been digitized and put on a CD-ROM to make the Digital National Grange Cookbook. The digital cookbook allows users to look through all three cookbooks and use the search function to find recipes. The Digital National Grange Cookbook is available for \$12 per copy, or \$10 per copy if bought in lots of 25, plus \$2.50 shipping for Granges to use as a fundraiser. So far, 117 Digital Grange Cookbooks have been sold for a total of \$1,354.

#### *Rededication Essentials*

This DVD for Grangers is complete and was sent out in September to all State Masters and State Lecturers. It gives Grange members a chance to see the Rededication Ceremony, but shortened so Lecturers can create a program for their local Grange. It is about 15 to 20 minutes long with bonus features. These bonus features include: The Memorabilia, The Visitors, and the audio interview between Herschel Newsom and President Eisenhower. If you don’t have a copy, come by the Idea Fair to get one or contact me at [sjohnson@nationalgrange.org](mailto:sjohnson@nationalgrange.org).

#### *Text4Baby*

Text4baby was created just over a year ago to give expectant families and new mothers health and nutritional information through the first year of the baby’s life. Anyone can sign up for free using their cell phone. Pregnant women, new moms, family members or any interested party can enroll by texting BABY to 511411. Subscribers will receive up to three free text messages each week, timed to their due date or baby’s date of birth, which will

provide them with information on how to improve their health and the health of their baby. The only information interested parties need provide is their due date or their child's birth date and their zip code. So far, over 135,000 users have signed up for this great program. Text4baby is backed by community health organizations, cell phone providers, health care providers, government health agencies, businesses, and various community organizations. The Grange will be supporting this program by encouraging expectant families to sign up for the free service. We have already included an article about it in the New Grange and sent out an e-mail to State Lecturers. In addition, we will add Text4 baby information to our website and/or partner up with our local health agencies or clinics. You can visit their website, [www.text4baby.org](http://www.text4baby.org), to see a list of their partners and to learn more about the program.

#### *Lifeline Screening*

The Life Line Screening Program continues to provide access to life-saving health screening to our members and hosts screening events in Grange Halls wherever possible. If your Grange would like the opportunity to host, please contact the National Grange. The Grange has received \$1,661.74 in commission.

#### *Christmas Trees*

The National Grange in coordination with the Great Plains Region Hosting Committee is decorating six Christmas trees at this year's National Session. The trees will be decorated with handmade ornaments donated by Grange members across the country. The Christmas trees will be donated to local charities and hospitals in the area.

#### *Idea Fair and Best of Show*

The National Grange is pleased to continue the Idea Fair and the Best of Show. This year, the exhibits will showcase local Grange program ideas, National Grange department information, Junior Grange projects, community service state winners, and various craft products from around the Grange. This year's Idea Fair will feature over 15 different displays and program ideas.

### **SALES**

The Sales Department reordered the outdoor Grange Flag, 1<sup>st</sup> Dues Envelopes and the Grange Record Book. These items had not been reordered in several years, and this led to an increase in price. The Gavel was also reordered and the price was increased as well. The Roll Book is now a pdf document that can be downloaded for free on the National Grange website or purchased at the Grange Store for \$4.00. The Convention T-shirt and Convention Pin for 2011 are now available. A brand new Grange Key Chain, Grange Mug, Grange Travel Mug, Grange Hat, Junior Grange Polo Shirt, and the Grange "Esto Perpetua" Button (76+ year member button) were ordered for the fall. The sales catalog will be updated and available in 2012.

Total Sales	2011*	2010*	2009*	2008*
January	\$2,389.65	\$3,362.98	\$4,430.98	\$5,108.23
February	\$5,156.83	\$2,425.75	\$4,663.87	\$3,037.20
March	\$6,662.53	\$6,071.71	\$4,602.03	\$6,238.83
April	\$4,771.86	\$6,655.16	\$5,666.86	\$5,561.57
May	\$4,648.80	\$4,883.93	\$4,456.75	\$4,751.80
June	\$3,924.72	\$8,029.12	\$4,499.63	\$3,648.68
July	\$3,619.91	\$3,080.44	\$4,027.20	\$3,249.69
August	\$2,889.42	\$2,678.67	\$3,802.33	\$5,120.55
September	\$4,926.20	\$4,879.21	\$3,430.34	\$4,543.30
October as of 10-26-11	\$4,439.34	\$4,327.57	\$3,046.46	\$4,925.52
November		\$12,251.15**	\$4,657.36	\$23,526.48**
December		\$2,613.27	\$11,380.32**	\$3,694.85
Total:	\$43,329.26*	\$61,258.94*	\$47,283.81*	\$73,406.70*
**Includes Na- tional Conven- tion Sales				
*Includes freight charges				

Sales figures do not include membership seals and certificate fees.

#### *Future Conventions*

The 2012 Convention Logo has been designed and approved by the Western States and was sent to them for their use. The 2013 Convention Logo has been undecided and we will continue to work on the design concept.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### *Membership Recognition*

Membership Recognition, including seals and certificates, is handled by Beverly Mitchell, our Marketing Coordinator. The following certificates and seals have been prepared and sent this year:

Silver Star Certificates – 495

40-Year Seals – 290

Golden Sheaf Certificates – 510

55-Year Seals – 442

60-Year Seals – 227

65-Year Seals – 171

70-Year Seals – 152

75-Year Letters – 162

80-Year Letters – 19

85-Year Letters – 1

### *Grange Recognition*

The National Grange honors Granges that have existed for 100 years and 125 years. The following recognitions were issued this year:

Centennial Year Plaques: 13

125-Year Plaques: 4

### *Charters*

The National Grange issues charters to newly organized Granges and reorganized Granges. The number of Granges organized or reorganized this year is:

Junior Granges: 7

Subordinate Granges: 13

Pomona Granges: 2

### *6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Degree Certificates*

Over 600 6<sup>th</sup> Degree Certificates were sent to State Secretaries. One hundred and eight 7<sup>th</sup> Degree Certificates were printed and mailed from the National Office to the 2010 7<sup>th</sup> Degree Candidates.

## **BENEFITS**

### *New Benefits*

We have added various member benefit programs this year with National Affinity Services and the Affinity Marketing Group. We also dropped Enterprise Rent-A-Car, T-Mobile, and Club Quarter as benefits. A new member benefits brochure is being created to reflect these updates, along with a member benefits PowerPoint that is part of the Member Resource CD.

### *National Affinity Services (NAS)*

In July, we launched our partnership with National Affinity Services, which is providing our new prescription plan with CVS/CareMark (RxSavingsPlus). This prescription is also good for your pet prescriptions. Each State Master received 200 pamphlets about this new benefit, and an article was placed in the July/August issue of the *New Grange*. Grange members can contact the National Grange office to get a RxSavings Plus card. So far, the response to this program has been wonderful.

### *Affinity Marketing Group (AMG)*

I have been working with the Affinity Marketing Group for the past four months preparing to launch our new benefit package. The information for this new benefit was in the September/October issue of the *New Grange*. In October, Grange members received a direct mail piece from MetLife about our partnership with them for auto and home insurance. You can learn more about MetLife by calling them for a free quote. You could save up to 15% automatically with your member group discounts by calling 1-877-491-5089. No direct mail piece for MetLife was sent to any states that are covered by GIA, as requested by the Executive Committee. Grange members in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Illinois, and Washington D.C. received a direct mail piece from Constellation Energy (CEG). Grange members in New Jersey will receive a CEG postcard in November. Constellation Energy is a leading supplier of energy products and services. Enjoy price protection against rate volatility, hassle-free switching, no service interruption, no sign-up fees, and a single utility bill—as you’ve always had—but now featuring your new low electricity price. To sign up, have a copy of your current electric bill; log onto [home.constellation.com](http://home.constellation.com) and enter your

member promo code NATIONAL GRANGE, or call 866-577-4700 and choose the plan that best fits your need. An e-mail blast was sent to Grange members about CEG, Wirefly, and the National Grange Travel Center. The website for both the National Grange Wireless Center (powered by Wirefly) and the National Grange Travel Center are up and running. Wirefly includes discounts from a whole range of cell phone carriers; you can use this benefit at [www.wirefly.com/?r=GRANGE](http://www.wirefly.com/?r=GRANGE). The National Grange Travel Center includes discounts with the Wyndham Hotel Chain, Avis, Budget, Orlando Theme Parks, Cruises, trips to Europe and various other locations, and you can check out all these benefits at [www.nationalgrangetravelcenter.org](http://www.nationalgrangetravelcenter.org). Our last benefit with AMG is our improved discount with Beltone which will now earn you a 20% discount. To learn more or find a location near you, visit <http://www.beltone.com/Grange-program.aspx> or call 1-800-446-2350. Be sure to mention your National Grange membership or print out a coupon!

#### *Medical Air Service Association (MASA)*

Medical Air Service Association (MASA) is included in the member benefits brochure. MASA is a prepaid emergency transportation assistance program. To date, the National Grange has received \$414.40 in royalties from Med Air Services.

#### *American Income Life Insurance*

I continue to work with Larry Lozano from American Income Life to preserve this benefit. This program allows all National Grange members in good standing to receive a \$2,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit (AD&D), provided by American Income Life Insurance Company at no cost to Grange members. American Income Life provides other benefits as well to Grange members. Connecticut, Nebraska, New York, and Tennessee have opted out of the program.

#### *Allied Services*

The joint website with Allied Service is up and running. The National Grange has collected \$80.00 in royalties since August 2011.

#### *LTC Outreach and Education Program*

Our new member benefit with Long Term Care (LTC) Financial was introduced last September. Washington State, Nebraska State, and North Carolina State Granges did opt out, and Pennsylvania State Grange made the decision to only offer the educational portion of the program. A second article for the *New Grange* was in the January/February issue. LTC Financial was a part of the Texas State Grange Convention and again apart of the National Grange Convention. LTC Financial will also be holding an educational workshop, Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> for all Grange members.

#### *Bank of America Credit Card*

The Bank of America Credit Card will continue to bring the National Grange revenue until November 1, 2011, after that this benefit will cease to exist. I have sent an e-mail out to all State Masters informing them that this benefit is no longer available to Grange members and current members who have the card will not lose access to their card.

Quarter	2011	2010	2009	2008
1	\$2,118.13	\$2,574.62	\$2,381.43	\$3,159.36
2	\$2,143.62	\$2,817.58	\$2,615.97	\$3,492.66
3		\$2,359.11	\$2,700.66	\$3,140.61
4		\$2,665.06	\$3,306.54	\$3,526.67
Total	\$4,261.75	\$10,416.37	\$11,004.60	\$13,319.30

*Prescription Card (Scrip Pharmacy)*

Prescriptions			Prescriptions		
Royalty			Royalty		
Jan-10	47	\$11.75	Jan-09	45	\$11.25
Feb-10	53	\$13.25	Feb-09	59	\$14.75
Mar-10	42	\$10.50	Mar-09	53	\$13.25
Apr-10	57	\$14.25	Apr-09	51	\$12.75
May-10	41	\$10.25	May-09	58	\$14.50
Jun-10	45	\$11.25	Jun-09	59	\$14.75
Jul-10	47	\$11.75	Jul-09	55	\$13.75
Aug-10	48	\$12.00	Aug-09	44	\$11.00
Sep-10	44	\$11.00	Sep-09	40	\$10.00
Oct-10	48	\$12.00	Oct-09	39	\$9.75
Nov-10	45	\$11.25	Nov-09	42	\$10.50
Dec-10	42	\$10.50	Dec-09	0	\$0
Total:		<b>\$139.75</b>	Total:		<b>\$136.25</b>

*Choice Hotels*

Our program with Choice Hotels continues to provide Grange members with a discount on hotel stays. The non-dues revenue we receive from Choice Hotels and consumption of rooms for 2011 is on pace to outdo last year's numbers.

Rooms consumed	Commission
2006	177 \$610.93
2007	198 \$752.00
2008	431 \$1,886.29
2009	749 \$2,748.60
2010	759 \$2,747.14
2011	<b>576</b> \$2,186.35



<b>2011</b>	<b>Nights Consumed</b>	<b>Commission</b>
January	38	\$129.48
February	65	\$217.77
March	67	\$238.14
April	82	\$284.42
May	87	\$326.75
June	76	\$239.86
July	55	\$216.54
August	98	\$499.80
September	8	\$33.59
October	0	\$0.00
November	0	\$0.00
December	0	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>\$2,186.35</b>

<b>2010</b>	<b>Nights Consumed</b>	<b>Commission</b>
<b>January</b>	38	\$141.80
<b>February</b>	50	\$231.21
<b>March</b>	60	\$196.86
<b>April</b>	44	\$152.19
<b>May</b>	56	\$227.01
<b>June</b>	85	\$297.49
<b>July</b>	74	\$276.16
<b>August</b>	122	\$463.76
<b>September</b>	50	\$199.63
<b>October</b>	81	\$253.10
<b>November</b>	65	\$204.23
<b>December</b>	34	\$103.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>\$2,747.14</b>

Other benefits offered to Grange members include: Hertz.

*Other Projects*

Other projects this department is currently working on include:

- Convention 2013 Logo
- Rebranding Material for Media Campaign
- Fresh Start and 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project
- Updating Grange Store Website
- Trademark DVD – Big E

- Member Benefits DVD
- Community Service
- Distinguished Grange Program 2011-2012
- New Benefit Programs
- New and Reordered Sales Items
- Kits for Subordinate and Junior Granges
- Ideas for New Programs: Women in the Grange, Know Your Food Campaign
- Fundraising for the Kelley Farm Foundation

Fraternally Submitted,

Samantha Johnson  
National Grange Sales, Benefits, and Programs Director

**2011 Trademark Management Activities Report**  
**Tulsa, OK**  
**November 10, 2011**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Number of trademark management cases resolved since 12/31/07-49

Number of open trademark management cases as of 11/01/11-17

Number of new cases opened during 2010-11

Number of successful/pending cases resolved or abandoned by other party during 2011- 13

*Number of licenses*

Grange Café, Duval, WA

Grange Bar and Grill, Ann Arbor, MI

Grange Restaurant, Sacramento, CA (RENEW)

Old Grange Restaurant, Cape May, NJ

Maine Grange Store, ME (RENEW)

Home on the Grange Daycare Center , Middletown, CT (RENEW)

Meadows Neighborhood Association, Castle Rock, CO, Grange In the Meadows  
Cultural Center, ( RENEWAL PENDING)

La Granja Wine, Los Angeles, CA (NEW)

Monroe Classics (RENEW)

Number of pending new license or joint marketing agreements-6

Number of cases in current litigation-1

Number of cases before the U.S Trademark Trail and Appeal Board-3

Number of cases under investigation-6

Number of new Grange trademark registrations finalized in 2011-7

**COMMENTARY**

This is my third report on activities to protect our Grange trademarks. This year has seen a significant shift in the infringement activities we have encountered. Instead of defending against attempts by major corporations to gain control of our general trademarks, we have primarily had to respond to attempts by many smaller and medium sized compa-

nies to register or infringe on our general trademarks for limited or specific commercial purposes.

Financially, this was another challenging year for our trademark program as Grange resources that could be used for other pressing priorities were utilized to defend our trademarks. We continued to deploy our primary cost control strategy by shifting a greater portion of the responsibilities for trademark protection and brand management “in house,” under the guidance and supervision of our trademark attorney. This allows us to identify and respond to unintentional infringements earlier and hopefully when these small business owners are more willing to negotiate either a change of name or a license.

Our results, however, for the money we have spent, is impressive for any trademark management program, anywhere, non-profit or corporate. Over the past four years, we have cleared and won more than 50 trademark infringement cases or an average of more than one per month. This is a staggering number considering just the basic number of legal notices we have had to prepare and disseminate, legal responses we have had to review and negotiations that have had to take place, not to mention the legal complexity of several of our major cases. The composition of our cases is also shifting from primarily corporate trademark registrations cases, which tend to be more expensive for us, to incidental and unintentional small and medium sized business infringements on our trademarks, which can consume time but don’t burn financial resources at the same rate as litigation or trademark office hearings. So, while the financial results don’t show as much progress as we had hoped last year at this time, the trend is toward more trademark infringement cases that we will be able to handle with more cost effective means.

Unfortunately, this year we had to take the last resort step to protect our trademark by filing a Federal suit for monetary damages and injunction under the Lantham Act and New York State general business law. A New York City profit-based, agribusiness, calling itself Brooklyn Grange Farm LLC, has been using our trademark protected term GRANGE in their business name, their marketing and their business product names since early 2010. Brooklyn Grange primarily sells produce, eggs and apiary products at the wholesale and retail level in the New York City area that the company produces on about 80,000 sq. feet of rented space in Long Island City, New York, a part of the Borough of Queens. We attempted for many months to resolve this issue by asking Brooklyn Grange to obtain a cost efficient license that we have developed especially for entrepreneurial businesses like theirs. In the alternative, we asked them to cease using National Grange trademarks in their business name and their business services. All of these pleas fell upon deaf ears. Instead of negotiating in good faith, Brooklyn Grange elected to expand their business offering, under the name Home on the Grange, to include prepared food meal service and provide all-you-can drink alcohol sales to consumers at their primary business location. Our complaint, filed in the jurisdiction of the Southern District of New York, calls on the federal judge to immediately rule in our favor and issue an injunction to require that this so called Brooklyn Grange cease using National Grange protected trademarks in the business name and commercial advertising, turn over all advertising materials with National Grange Trademarks to us and fully reimburse the National Grange for all attorney fees and court costs in this case. Filing a suit to defend our trademark rights, especially in this economic climate, is always our last resort. We take no joy in endangering a viable commercial business that employs people and provides goods and services to many others in their community. But make no mistake, the trademarks owned by the National Grange are owned primarily for the benefit and use of our members and local Grange chapters who utilize those trademarks to build on the 145 year old reputation of our organization in service to US agriculture and

rural communities. We will continue to vigorously defend our trademark rights using all resources at our disposal.

One of our long term cost control strategies to avoid this situation in the future is to give greater notice to the general public of our intention to vigorously defend our trademarks by increasing our trademark registrations to include sub-registrations for various areas of commerce where we have clear and convincing evidence of both historical and contemporary use of the name GRANGE and our GRANGE LOGO in promoting goods and services sold to the public. This year our applications for trademark sub-registration of GRANGE and the GRANGE LOGO under the categories for cookbooks, farmers markets, catering and food-related services, fairs and exhibition facilities, community meeting and social function facilities, and wine making and vineculture services were all approved by the U.S. Trademark Office. These new sub-registrations were added to our existing inventory of trademark sub-registrations for affinity credit cards and restaurants as well as posters, publications, newsletters, brochures, pamphlets and other publications. Our sub-registrations for clothing and for jewelry are still pending before the U.S. Trademark Office. We will continue to aggressively explore filing additional sub-registrations to put potential infringers on notice that the general trademark word GRANGE and our GRANGE LOGO are widely used in numerous areas of commerce in the United States.

One previous priority that we decided to continue to set aside for the time being is the pursuit of federal legislation to give us enhanced enforcement authority to protect our core trademarks against corporate encroachment. We reached this decision for several reasons. First, in 2011 our infringement challenges continued to shift from large corporations to small and medium sized businesses. For example the number of corporate trademark registration cases we are currently contesting at the U.S. Trademark Office has declined from 13 last year to 3 this year. As such, the legislative solution would be less effective against the numerous, small infringement situations we are facing today. Legislation to provide us with enhanced enforcement rights would still require a significant commitment of time and financial resources for each individual instance of infringement. Suspending our trademark legislation goals was also one way to continue to control our monthly legal expenses. Fortunately, this decision has not precluded us from pursuing this legislation in the future if the situation changes, as our costs stabilize and the prospects of success are better.

As we move forward, the most exciting and encouraging area of this work is what I like to call “brand management.” By brand management, I am referring to additional ways to generate new products, services and partnerships to market goods and services to the general public under the brand name Grange that will contribute to growth and development of the Order. This year we have had more positive discussions about licenses and joint marketing agreements with potential licensees than any time in the past. We are seeing good, viable commercial ideas to market new goods and services to the public under the brand name GRANGE by entrepreneurs across the nation who honestly want to work with us to build a brand for their products and services. Some of these entrepreneurs have broad ambitions to reach regional, statewide and even national markets, while others are focused on providing their goods or services to a specific community. Our responsibility in this environment should be to facilitate these entrepreneurial activities as much as possible while maintaining ownership and control of our intellectual property. Prudent promotion and management of the brand name GRANGE will not only eventually provide additional sources of revenue to the Grange at all levels, but also will increase the recognition of our volunteer community service and non-partisan legislative activities as well.

Unfortunately, three “legacy” Grange companies, that I am aware of, either ceased operation or merged and changed their name this year. Grange Nursing Home in Illinois and the PA State Grange Credit Union both merged into larger organizations this year. The PA State Grange Service Company also decided to terminate operations this year. These companies have faithfully and diligently offered various commercial and financial services to members and non-members for many years. However, the vagaries of market conditions, especially in the current economic environment, means that their boards have had to make tough decisions. One future goal that I have for your Trademark Management Program is to reach out to other surviving legacy Grange companies to try to bring them into the discussion about how to best manage our trademark so as to improve their chances of survival in these tough economic times. We should seek to provide assistance and guidance to both new entrepreneurial companies who are seeking to use the name Grange as well as the established companies that have been operating under the brand Grange for quite some time.

I want to thank Worthy Master Ed Luttrell and the members of the Executive Committee for their advice, counsel and support this year, especially when they didn’t always understand all of the intricacies of trademark law I was trying to explain to them. My colleagues in the National Grange Office, as well as our Field Directors, have been equally supportive and encouraging and have all given me the benefit of their counsel and talent, as we strive to create an effective program to manage what may be the most valuable asset of the Order, our good name. As such, I believe that Grange members can look forward to using the lessons we have learned from our experiences in trademark management to promote the growth and development of our Order.

Fraternally Submitted,

Leroy Watson  
National Grange Trademark Protection Manager

1. Fifty-one cases concluded or closed to date:
  - a. 19 registration cases before the Trademark board
  - b. 30 cases of general infringement in commerce
2. Seventeen cases open or pending:
  - a. 3 cases before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board
  - b. 13 cases of general infringement in commerce
  - c. 1 case in Federal litigation
3. New license and re-license activity since last year:
  - a. New license for Queensway, Ltd. to market and sell wine under our LA GRANJA trademark
  - b. Licensed renewed for HOME ON THE GRANGE Daycare Center, in CT
  - c. Licensed renewed Maine GRANGE Store
  - d. License renewal suspended for PAMOLA GRANGE CENTER in ME pending confirmation that Pamola Grange Center is still operating
  - e. License renewal pending for GRANGE Cultural Arts Center as part of the Castle Rock Housing community in CO
  - f. License renewed for Monroe Classics
4. One new US Trademark NAME registration and related category registration acquired since the May 2011 board report:

- a. LA GRANJA for wine and viniculture services
5. Six new Trademark category registrations of our existing trademarks acquired since the 2010 annual convention:
  - a. Wine and viniculture services
  - b. Cookbooks
  - c. Farmers markets
  - d. Catering services
  - e. Community meeting or social function facilities with/without food service
  - f. Fair or exhibition facilities that serve food
6. Trademark office NAME registrations and category registrations of our existing trademarks to since January 2008 but prior to November 2011:
  - a. OLD GRANGE RESTAURANT
  - b. Restaurant services
  - c. PALOMA GRANGE CENTER
  - d. Affinity credit cards
  - e. General publications related to family and farm programs
7. Two additional US Trademark office category registrations of our existing trademarks pending:
  - a. Jewelry
  - b. Clothing
8. Grange affiliated “legacy” companies, merged, sold or closed down this year:
  - a. Grange Nursing Home (IL)
  - b. PA State Grange Credit Union (PA)
  - c. PA State Grange Service Company (PA)

## **OVERVIEW OF CASES, TRADEMARK OFFICE SUB-REGISTRATIONS AND SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES, YEAR-TO-DATE**

Information Presentation Key for OVERVIEW OF CASES:

Infringing party, INFRINGING LANGUAGE, action taken or pending

### **OVERVIEW OF CASES IN CURRENT FEDERAL LITIGATION**

1. Brooklyn Grange Farm, LLC (NY), BROOKLYN GRANGE, HOME ON THE GRANGE. Negotiations in for license or change of name were halted by the National Grange after name infringements expanded beyond initial BROOKLYN GRANGE business as a wholesale and retail distributor of produce to include retail meal and “all-you-can-drink” alcohol service under the product name HOME ON THE GRANGE. The National Grange filed a Federal suit for monetary damages and injunction under the Lanham Act to protect our trademark rights and to force the New York City based agribusiness, Brooklyn Grange Farm LLC to cease using National Grange trademarks in their business name and advertising, turn over all advertising materials with National Grange Trademarks and reimburse the National Grange for all attorney and court costs.



**OVERVIEW OF CASES CONCLUDED/TRADEMARK OFFICE**

1. Tyson Foods, GRANGE AND GRASSLAND, US Trademark office decision against Tyson foods
2. Hickman Egg Ranch, POLO LA GRANJA, US Trademark decision against Hickman
3. Bialetti, SA, GRANGRILL, letter of assurance executed
4. Prairie Farms Dairy, DE LA GRANJA, voluntary withdraw of registration
5. Arden Grange International, ARDEN GRANGE, voluntary withdraw of registration
6. Aldi Inc., GRANGER, voluntary withdraw of registration and current use
7. Chateau Lagrange, CHATEAU LAGRANGE WINE, no further action by National Grange due to preexisting geographic place name
8. Winery at LaGrange, WINERY AT LAGRANGE, no further action by National Grange due to preexisting geographic place name
9. New Grange Wind Farm, GRANGE, voluntary withdraw of registration.
10. Leisure Electronics Technology Co., G-RANG, letter of assurance executed
11. Lidl Stiftung & Co., GRANGEDALE, voluntary withdraw of registration
12. Nikland Entertainment, LLC., LAGRANGE GOOD FOR ALL NIGHT, letter of assurance executed
13. Grangers International, GRANGERS, letter of assurance executed due to preexisting business use of name in England and geographic place name
14. Olivet Grange, OLIVET GRANGE, letter of assurance executed limiting registration to CA, to the Olivet Company (no licenses) and to a specific geographic location
15. Pamola Grange Center, PALOMA GRANGE CENTER, ownership of trademark registration turned over to National Grange. Business licensed to use our trademark
16. La Granja Franchising LA GRANGA RESTAURANT, letter of assurance limits use of newly registered trademark to Hispanic style restaurants and beverages
17. Queensway Ltd., LA GRANJA WINE, new trademark registration for wine completed by Queensway then transferred to National Grange; National Grange licenses use of LA GRANJA WINE trademark back to Queensway for ten years
18. James Lanzillo, GRANGA PRIMAVARA, brand name registration for dairy products and hispanic style sausages; Grange opposed registration and demanded that Mr Lanzillo drop his application; Mr. Lanzillo complied and dropped his application
19. Willowsford, LLC, THE GRANGE housing development; trademark registration dropped; negotiations pending on license

**OVERVIEW OF CASES CONCLUDED/GENERAL INFRINGEMENTS IN COMMERCE**

1. Grassland Grange Ranch (OH), GRASSLAND GRANGE, letter of assurance executed, name phased out
2. Sweetwater Grange Development, (ID) GRANGE, letter of assurance executed, name removed
3. Gran-Jer Apparel on line clothing sales, GRAN-JER, letter of assurance executed limiting further use of name
4. Grange Public House (GA), GRANGE PUBLIC HOUSE, letter of assurance ex-

- ecuted, name changed
5. Grange Food Company (NY), GRANGE FOOD COMPANY, letter of assurance executed, domain names transferred to National Grange, name changed
  6. Grange Restaurant (CA), GRANGE RESTAURANT, license executed
  7. City Grange Restaurant (PA), CITY GRANGE, letter of assurance executed, name changed
  8. Old Grange Restaurant (NJ), OLDGRANGE, license executed
  9. Grange Café (WA), GRANGE CAFÉ, license executed
  10. Home on the Grange Child Care (CT), HOME ON THE GRANGE, license executed
  11. Grange Kitchen and Bar, GRANGE KITCHEN AND BAR, license executed
  12. Grange Party (WA), GRANGE PARTY, attempt to register potential candidates for public office under the “Grange Party,” Grange Party “disbanded” after intervention by WA State Grange
  13. Southcorp Wines, Ltd. GRANGE, preexisting use, incontestable
  14. Columbia Granger’s World of Poetry (NY), COLUMBIA GRANGER’S WORLD OF POETRY, preexisting use based on an individual’s name, incontestable
  15. Granger Art on Demand on-line art sales business, GRANGER ART ON DEMAND, on-line extension of preexisting use based on an individual’s name, incontestable
  16. La Salamandra, GRANJA, matter dropped, no future intention to sell in US
  17. Grange Sonoma Restaurant and Country Store (CA), GRANGE SONOMA, letter of assurance executed, name changed, domain name scheduled to expire 3/11
  18. Bill Granger (FL), GRANGERS BAR AND GRILL, matter dropped after it became apparent it was a personal name
  19. Village Soup Website, GRANGE, letter of assurance executed, name dropped
  20. High Country News Blog, GRANGE, letter of assurance executed name dropped
  21. George Anagnos, GRANGE1.COM, letter of assurance to cease use, no agreement to abandon or transfer domain name
  22. Nutmark-Gesto de Direitos, LAGRANJA, letter of assurance to not use name in U.S.
  23. Esty Resellers Webstore, GRANGE, letter of assurance executed to remove use of name Grange from client clothing retailer “breadandroses” portion of the Esty webstore
  24. “Breadandroses” online clothing retailer, GRANGE, no answer to repeated contacts but no recent evidence of online sales activity either
  25. Alaska Broadcasting Co- KTVA Channel 11 (AK), VIEW FROM THE HILL, letter of assurance executed to change the name of their public affairs broadcast
  26. Maine Grange Store, MAINE GRANGE STORE, license executed
  27. Zynga, Inc. “Frontierville” on line game, CRUSTY OLD GRANGER, Zynga has agreed to cease all use of the term GRANGER in their game and replace it with the term RANGER.
  28. Grange Disc Golf (VA), GRANGE DISC GOLF, owners have agreed to change the name of their business
  29. Frederic Lardinois (OR) NEWSGRANGE.COM, web based newsletter business supported through advertising proceeds for internet related technology issues; owner has changed name

30. Old Grange Craft Business (VT) OLD GRANGE and GRANGE LOGO; C&D letter sent; reply received; name change proceeding

#### **OVERVIEW OF JOINT MARKETING OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BUSINESSES OR PRODUCT SALES AGREEMENTS**

1. Grange Hall Bratwursts (WI); joint marketing agreement signed with local Grange; proceeds support preservation of local Grange building
2. CT State Grange fundraising committee; authorized by CT State Grange; sales of preserves, jams, relishes, etc.; proceeds support the CT State Grange
3. New England Grange building Store; authorized by CT, ME, MA, NH, RI and VT State Granges; sales of preserves jams relishes etc.; proceeds support New England Grange Building at Eastern States Exposition Fair Grounds in Springfield, MA

#### **OVERVIEW OF PENDING CASES/TRADEMARK OFFICE**

1. Wing Hing Lung, Ltd., GRANGE AND MCCAUL, formal trademark application by Canadian company for oriental sauces filed with US Trademark office; Grange opposition filed with Trademark Trial and Appeal Board; National Grange is compiling evidence of similar products offered for sale by Maine Grange Store, New England Grange Building Store, by our chapters and licensees; response brief due September 3, 2011
2. Casa Ithalat Ithracat, GRANJA CLOTHING, negotiations in progress, registration is suspended pending outcome of negotiations
3. S Coop. Vitvinicola de Longares, LAGRANJA 360 WINE, negotiations in progress pending outcome of negotiations to transfer the Queensway registration to National Grange

#### **OVERVIEW OF PENDING CASES/GENERAL INFRINGEMENTS IN COMMERCE**

1. Urban Flower Grange Hall, (TX) GRANGE HALL, negotiations ongoing pending production of evidence by National Grange requested by opposing party that the generic phrase "Grange Hall" is associated with Grange owned facilities across the country and in Texas
2. Grange Realty (OR), GRANGE REALTY, trademark registered under state law as business name but currently not used in commerce
3. Grange Capital (OR), GRANGE CAPITAL, two informal letters sent in 2010 related to infringement; no response; National Grange will probably have to produce evidence of actual use of name Grange by us (not legacy companies) associated with financial services and/or financial education services in order to pursue further action
4. Socco River Grange Hall Performance Center (ME), SOCCO RIVER GRANGE HALL, negotiations in progress for license or letter of assurance
5. Thicketty Mountain Grange Farm (SC) THICKETTY MOUNTAIN GRANGE; C&D letter sent; no reply; name change may be proceeding
6. Free Grange Music Productions (ME) FREE GRANGE PRODUCTIONS; C&D letter sent; reply received; license negotiations proceeding
7. Portage Bay Grange Urban Chicken Feed Supply Store, PORTAGE BAY GRANGE; C&D letter sent; draft license sent; licensee is reviewing the license

contract

8. Honeysuckle Grange Farm (IN) HONEYSUCKLE GRANGE FARM; C&D letter sent; no reply as of yet
9. Stone Craft Inn (CT), GRANGE BUILDING; C&D letter sent; no reply as of yet
10. Rochdale Grange Housing Development (CA) ROCHDALE GRANGE; C&D letter sent; license negotiations proceeding
11. Grange Hall Burger Bar (IL) GRANGE HALL BURGER BAR; C& D letter sent; license negotiations proceeding
12. Willowsford, LLC, THE GRANGE housing development; trademark registration dropped; negotiations pending on license
13. Town of Durham, NH, redevelopment of former Grange property in the business district; negotiations pending on a license to use the name GRANGE on the building

**OVERVIEW OF EXISTING, SUPPLEMENTAL SUBREGISTRATIONS FOR NEW REGISTRATIONS AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL USES IN COMMERCE FOR THE TRADEMARKS “GRANGE”, “NATIONAL GRANGE”, “NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY” AND “THE SEVEN SIDED GRANGE LOGO”**

1. Registered 5/10 - Restaurant services
2. Registered 5/10 - Restaurant name THE OLD GRANGE RESTAURANT
3. Registered 4/08 - Facility retail marketplace and workshop rental services for artists and craftspersons, PAMOLA GRANGE CENTER
4. Registered 7/93 - Foundation name THE GRANGE FOUNDATION for general philanthropic services
5. Registered 7/93 - Legislative newsletter name VIEW FROM THE HILL
6. Registered 1/94, 3/94, 1/95 - Member Services and educational material related to:
  - a. Affinity Credit cards
  - b. Posters, publications, newsletters, brochures, pamphlets related to:
    - i. family life in farm, rural and suburban communities
    - ii. legislative and public policy education
    - iii. educational, medical, charitable and recreational programs for deaf and hard of hearing individuals
    - iv. song books demonstrating sign language
7. Registered 6/11 - Food sales, food production, products and services and banquet facilities including:
  - a. Cookbooks
  - b. Farmers markets
  - c. Catering services
  - d. Community meeting or social function facilities with food service
  - e. Fair or exhibition facilities that serve food
8. Registered 7/11 - LA GRANJA for wine and viniculture services

**OVERVIEW OF PENDING, SUPPLEMENTAL CATEGORY SUBREGISTRATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL USES IN COMMERCE FOR THE TRADEMARKS “GRANGE”, “NATIONAL GRANGE”, “NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY” AND “THE SEVEN SIDED GRANGE LOGO”**

1. Application submitted 10/10, response anticipated 9/11 for jewelry and clothing, including:
  - a. Ornamental pins
  - b. Dress shirts
  - c. Hats
  - d. Jackets
  - e. Short and/or long sleeved t-shirts
  - f. Sweatshirts
  - g. Ties
  - h. *Excludes all footwear*

Fraternally Submitted,

Leroy A. Watson  
National Grange Trademark Protection Manager

**2011 Report of the Youth Director  
Tusla, OK  
November 10, 2011**

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegates and Fellow Grangers:

I want to begin with a thank you to the National Grange Leadership and Staff, State Masters, State Youth Directors and our Members for their continued support of Youth Department activities.

It is my privilege to announce continued growth in our Youth Achievement Award Program. For the third year in a row, we have exceeded the previous record level of participation. A total of 818 seals were issued at the time of this report submission, an increase of 131 seals from last year. This new record was due in part to several states utilizing the recognition program as part of their body of work. I would like to specifically thank the states of New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Washington for submitting detailed reports of their certificate counts. Several of these states requested more than 100 certificate seals. The state of Ohio also utilized the National Grange Trivia Challenge as a workshop at their state camp.

I will also issue more than 30 achievement and leadership pins this year.

*Regional Conferences:*

This year we welcomed a new format for several of the Youth Conferences. At the Great Plains and Western Regional Conferences, several departmental regional meetings, including the Lecturer's and Membership Department, expanded our meetings to more of a "Leadership Conference" concept. In addition, a Southeastern Regional Leaders Conference was added to the schedule.

Attendance estimates for each of the conferences included as follows:

Eastern Regional: 90  
Northeastern: 100  
Midwestern: 30  
Great Plains: 105  
Western: 60

Southeastern: 35

At the Eastern Regional conference, we hosted a Drill Exhibition where the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania and North Carolina displayed a drill of their own creation. A drill competition was hosted at Northeastern Regional, with teams from New Hampshire, Connecticut and New York participating.

At each of the conferences, we hosted a Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song Contest.

We had a total of six entries across the country in the Sign-a-Song Contest. I would like to strongly encourage states to evaluate this program to see how they can encourage increased participation in this unique program.

We had 68 contestants in the Regional Public Speaking Contest.

I want to thank the states of Delaware, Maine, Michigan, Oklahoma, Idaho and South Carolina for hosting a Regional Conference in 2011. I would like to formally invite everyone to attend the 2012 Conferences in Ohio, Kansas, Connecticut, and Oregon. At the time of this report, a host state is still needed for Midwestern. I encourage everyone to attend a Regional Conference.

#### *Achievement Awards:*

As noted in my introduction, I am pleased to announce that participation in the National Grange Youth Achievement Awards program increased this year. Many states took advantage of the program to recognize the work of their youth at state meetings.

I would like to thank all of the states that applied for certificates to recognize their youth and young adults.

For 2012, there are several new award programs and updates to several programs.

New awards for this year include the William Saunders Agricultural Achievement Award, the John Trimble Legislative Achievement Award, and the John Thompson Ritual Achievement Award. The Aaron B. Grosh Mentoring Achievement award was revised to recognize youth support of the Junior Grange programs. Other awards include the Drill Achievement Award, the Caroline Hall Achievement Award, the Oliver H. Kelley Public Speaking Achievement Award, the Frances McDowell Trivia, the Current Events Achievement Award, and the William Ireland Deaf Awareness Achievement Award.

#### *Youth Contests and Recognition Programs*

For this year's National Session, the Youth Recognition Program participants are as follows:

Serving, as the Youth Mentors for 2011, are Camille Harrison of North Carolina and Joseph Stefenoni of California.

#### *State Ambassadors:*

- Ariel Van House – Kansas
- McKenzi Taylor – New Jersey
- Sara Recktenwald – New York
- Ana Mari Parker – North Carolina
- Andrew Martin – North Carolina
- Camille Krehbiel - Oklahoma
- Mitchel Leon Nutter – Oklahoma
- Hannah Yost – Ohio
- David Corll – Ohio
- Patrick Wadsworth – Pennsylvania

Young Couple: Derek and Barbara Schoeder of Pennsylvania.



Legislative Experience: Nathan Strawder of Kansas

National Youth Officer Team:

Master – Caroline Tart – North Carolina

Overseer – Sarah Kingsborough – Oregon

Lecturer – Jimmy Smith – Washington State

Steward – Courtney Gray – North Carolina

Assistant Steward- Matt Clark – New Hampshire

Lady Assistant Steward – Lynn Clark – New Hampshire

Chaplain – Emma Edelen- Iowa

Treasurer – Dewayne Craft – North Carolina

Secretary – Corey Spence – Massachusetts

Gatekeeper – Benjamin Wadsworth – Pennsylvania

Ceres- Allissa Estes-New Hampshire

Flora – Amy Schunemann – New Hampshire

Pomona – Molly Welsh - Kansas

Executive Committee: Alexa Suing – Oregon; Christopher Szkutak – Massachusetts; Justin Knight - Oklahoma; and Clayton Krehbiel – Oklahoma

Pianist: Clyde Mooney – Idaho

*Youth Leadership Fund*

Each year, the Grange Youth Leadership Fund is used to support Grange youth and young adults to attend National Session. This comes at a cost of about \$300 per youth for a Horizon Leadership or National Youth Officer Team member. It is slightly higher for the National Mentors and Legislative Experience. The Youth Department was able to secure a grant for \$5,000 from the Farm Credit Foundation. In addition, the Grange Youth Foundation has received \$6,066 for 2011 in response to our annual appeal letter. Again I say thank you to the Subordinate and Pomona Granges for your continued support of the program.

While the Youth Department continues to look for additional revenue streams, it is important to note that, without increased support, the National Grange department may have to cut some of its support for youth to attend National Session.

*Grow Club*

The GROW Club board includes Doug Baldwin, Midwest; Jennie Gentry, Eastern; Marta Kroger, Western; Callie (Stiles) Ballinger, Great Plains; and Matthew Clark, Northeast. The club continues to sponsor a \$500 scholarship. Unfortunately, we did not receive an applicant for 2011.

*Grange Youth: The Leadership Difference*

Looking across the leadership of our State and National Grange, there is a profound connection between many of these leaders and the Grange Youth Department. Many of today's state and national leaders have served as part of the ambassador or young couple program, or national prince/princess program. There is no doubt of the impact of having youth serve a year in an ambassador program or young couple program. Each state has the ability to send a young couple and a pair of youth ambassadors to participate in the National Session activities. However, very few do.

This coming year, I want to work with states to revitalize their Youth Ambassador Programs. In talking with several states that have active Youth Royalty Programs, each one

of these youth/young adults will donate between 100 to 200 hours of service to the State Grange in a year.

Independent Sector is a nonprofit, nonpartisan network of charities and foundations. Through their detailed analysis, they have valued the hourly rate of volunteers at \$21.36. So, for the states with a full Youth Royalty Team, their service is the equivalent of more than \$16,800 in volunteer hours to the State Grange! Is your state taking full advantage of this opportunity? Being part of a Royalty Team also gives Grange youth and young adults real world experiences in leadership, public speaking, teambuilding, and communication – key life skills.

The National Mentor Program is also being retooled with a new name: National Youth Ambassador. The name change better reflects the mission of the National Youth Representatives and will help when these youth are promoting Grange in non-Grange settings.

Moving forward, I will continue to look for opportunities to develop the National Mentor program to continue to advocate for Grange Youth as well as utilizes State Grange Youth Royalty.

As stated in the past, I believe a successful Grange has a strong youth component. For this year, my overall focus is to assist Granges to revitalize Grange youth programs. In this organization we can provide youth with the life skills they seek and the framework to make a difference on the farms, in the towns, and beyond.

I would like to issue a challenge to all of the State Granges. If your state does not have a Youth Ambassador, seek youth to participate and host the contest. An ambassador serves as the spokesperson of your State Youth Program. Use the ambassadors to help lobby on Grange issues, reach out into the community and develop membership.

This year, several State Youth Directors have concluded their service as the leaders of the State Youth Program. For those who have moved on, thank you for your countless hours of service to the program. To the new Directors, I look forward to working with you during your term of service.

To close, I would like to say it has been my honor and privilege to work with the Grange youth and young adults across this country. I look forward to another year of service and continued growth.

Fraternally Submitted,

Charlene M. Shupp Espenshade  
National Grange Youth Director

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION INDEX**

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>FLOOR ACTION</u></b>
NC-102	Education on GMO's	Agriculture		Adopted as Amended
MD-106	Medical	Education & Health		Adopted
NY-105	Classic Literature Protection	Education & Health		Adopted
NY-108	Inexpensive Children's Jewelry Containing Cadmium	Education & Health		Adopted
NY-120	(VA) Health Care Enrollment	Education & Health		Adopted
OH-112	Animal Research	Education & Health		Adopted
OH-113	Oppose Changes to Medicare Part- D	Education & Health		Adopted
Grange Growth – 102	Junior Grange Review	Committee Resolution		Adopted
NY-116	Caroline Hall	Growth & Development		Adopted
NY-124	RFD TV	Growth & Development		Adopted
PA-107	Record Retention	Growth & Development		Adopted
IL-103	USDOT Licenses Regulations	Agriculture		Adopted
NC-101	Animal Husbandry	Agriculture		Adopted
NE-101	GIPSA Rule	Agriculture		Adopted
OH-102	SNAP	Agriculture		Adopted
VT-104	Bill H.R. 3092 IH Local Goods Act	Agriculture		Adopted
AG-101	Dairy	Agriculture		Adopted
AG-102	Honey Bee Colony Collapse	Agriculture		Adopted
MI-105	Broadband Works for Rural America	Citizenship		Adopted
OH-105	Telemarketers Cell Phones	Citizenship		Adopted
OH-117	Earmarks in Federal Spending	Citizenship	*	Adopted
OH-118	Personal Projects	Citizenship		Adopted
PA-101	Social Security Deduction	Citizenship		Adopted
PA-111	Federal Special Committees	Citizenship		Adopted
24 Hour Consent	Elected Officials - National Grange Policy Book, Page 36 #3	Citizenship		Adopted
24 Hour Consent	Telecommunications - National Grange Policy Book, Page 40, #6	Citizenship		Adopted

<u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u>	<u>FLOOR ACTION</u>
24 Hour Consent	Term Limits – Legislative Policy Book, Elected Officials, pg 36, #1	Citizenship		Adopted
AB-101	Covered Expenses for Officers & Delegates	Audit & Budget		Adopted
AB-102	Authorized Travel Reimbursement	Audit & Budget		Adopted
AB-103	National Grange Compensation	Audit & Budget		Adopted
Grange Law-103	Grange Gender Requirements	Grange Law		Adopted
Grange Law-101	Elimination of Term Limits	Grange Law		Adopted
Grange Law-102	Subordinate Granges	Grange Law		Adopted
Grange Law-104	1873 Degree Conferral	Grange Law		Adopted
NH-102	Elimination of Term Limits for National Grange Executive Committee	Grange Law		Adopted
PA-106	Granges in U.S. Territories or DC	Grange Law		Adopted
OR-103	Klamath Basin Aid	Conservation	*	Adopted
Conservation-101	Insect Killed Timber	Conservation		Adopted
Conservation-103	EPA Language Clarification	Conservation		Adopted
ID-105	Farm Labor Laws	Labor & Judiciary		Adopted (Covers MI-103, NC-105)
MI-104	Safer Act 2010	Labor & Judiciary		Adopted (Covers NY-113, PA-112)
MI-103	Child Labor Law Changes in Agriculture	Labor & Judiciary		Adopted (Covers ID-105)
NY-113	SAFER Act of 2010	Labor & Judiciary		Adopted (Covers MI-104)
PA-112	SAFER Act	Labor & Judiciary		Adopted (Covered by MI-104)
L&J-101	Investment Blind Trusts for Congress	Labor & Judiciary		Adopted (Covers NY-107)

<u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u>	<u>FLOOR ACTION</u>
OH-122	Family Act of 2011 (S.965)	Education & Health		Adopted as Amended
OH-114	Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act of 2011	Education & Health		Adopted as Amended
WI-102	Medicare Home Health Care Services	Education & Health		Adopted as Amended
Grange Growth -101	Memorial to Tom Severance	Committee Resolution		Adopted as Amended
VT-101	Promoting the Use of Electronic Media	Transferred from Conservation		Adopted as Amended
OR-104	National Grange Membership Database	Growth & Development	*	Adopted as Amended
NC-103	Raw Milk Sales	Agriculture		Adopted as Amended
NY-101	Nutrient Management Plan	Agriculture		Adopted as Amended
OH-101	Ending Federal Standards on Animal Care	Agriculture		Adopted as Amended
Citizen-ship-102	Federal Budget Approval	Citizenship		Adopted as Amended
ME-102	Paper Ballots	Grange Law		Adopted as Amended
MT-101	Family Definition	Grange Law		Adopted as Amended
WV-101	Sale of Real Property	Grange Law		Adopted as Amended
MD-103	Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)	Conservation		Adopted as Amended
OH-110	Keystone Pipeline	Conservation		Adopted as Amended
OR-102	Energy Conservation	Conservation		Adopted as Amended
PA-102	National Medical Criminal Registry	Labor & Judiciary		Adopted as Amended
NJ-102	Postal Service Reform	Taxation & Transportation		Adopted as Amended
NY-106	All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Injuries	Taxation & Transportation		Adopted as Amended
CT-104	Crosswalks	Taxation & Transportation		Adopted as Amended
CT-106	USDOT Decision to Uphold States' Rights to Regulate Farm Operators	Taxation & Transportation		Adopted as Amended
NY-114	Postal Service Closing	Taxation & Transportation		Adopted as amended
OH-123	Debt Free America	Taxation & Transportation		Adopted as Amended

<u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u>	<u>FLOOR ACTION</u>
PA-113	Tractor Trailer Rear & Side Impact Guards	Taxation & Transportation		Adopted as Amended
OH-106	Veterans Information	Taxation & Transportation		Adopted as Amended
CA-104	Ban on BPA Sales Receipts	Education & Health	*	Adverse
OH-116	Congressional Health Care	Education & Health		Adverse
WA-105	Freedom of Choice	Education & Health		Adverse
MD-107	Elder Care	Taxation and Transportation		Adverse
TX-102	Remembering Past National Grange Delegates	Growth & Development		Adverse
TX-103	Horizon Leadership Ambassadors	Growth & Development		Adverse
CA-101	Food Sovereignty	Agriculture	*	Adverse
CA-106	Labeling Genetically Modified Foods	Agriculture		Adverse
CA-108	Preserve America's Right to Uncontaminated Soil & Seeds	Agriculture		Adverse
WA-106	Executive Orders	Citizenship		Adverse
Citizen-ship-101	Term Limits	Citizenship		Adverse
OH-119	Piggybacking Legislation	Citizenship		Adverse
WA-107	Selective Service	Citizenship	*	Adverse
IA-102	Term Limits for Elected Officials	Citizenship	*	Adverse
OH-108	Term Limits for Congress	Citizenship		Adverse
WI-101	Representative's Term Limits	Citizenship		Adverse
CA-102	National Convention Assessment Tax	Grange Law		Adverse
NJ-103	Voting Rights for Potomac Grange #1	Grange Law		Adverse
PA-105	Annual Password	Grange Law		Adverse
TX-101	25 & 50 Year Pins	Grange Law		Adverse
ID-103	Change to National Grange By-Laws	Grange Law		Adverse
WA-102	Incandescent Light Bulbs	Conservation		Adverse
MD-102	Chesapeake Bay Cleanup	Conservation		Adverse
OH-109	Smart Meters for Electricity Use	Conservation		Adverse
WA-108	New Parks	Conservation		Adverse
OH-115	E-Verify	Labor & Judiciary	*	Adverse



<u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u>	<u>FLOOR ACTION</u>
OR-105	Card Check Legislation	Labor & Judiciary		Adverse
IA-103	Congressional Pay Raises	Citizenship		Adverse Transferred from Labor and Judiciary
CA-103	Ban Neonicotinoid Pesticides	Agriculture	*	Agriculture Resolution 2
MI-102	Honeybee Colony Collapse	Agriculture		Agriculture Resolution 2
CO-101	Bug Killed Timber	Conservation		Covered by Conservation 101
NC-105	Farm Labor	Labor & Judiciary		Covered by ID-105
NY-107	The Stock Act	Labor & Judiciary	*	Covered by L&J-101
ID-104	Postal Service Reform	Taxation & Transportation		Covered by NJ-102
CT-103	Military Pay	Citizenship		Covered by Citizenship 102
ID-102	Government Shutdown & the Military	Citizenship		Covered by Citizenship 102
NY-122	Cuts to Military Pay & Benefits	Citizenship		Covered by Citizenship 102
PA-108	Services to Military	Citizenship		Covered by Citizenship 102
PA-109	Pay to Legislators	Citizenship		Covered by Citizenship 102
PG-101	Check & Balance Preservation	Citizenship		Covered by PA-111
MD-101	Long-Term Care Insurance	Education & Health		Current Policy
NY-121	Pancreatic Cancer Detection, Treatment & Research	Education & Health	*	Current Policy
MI-101	Dust that is Generated When Harvesting	Agriculture		Current Policy
MD-104	Methane Digesters	Conservation		Current Policy
OR-107	Carbon Dioxide	Conservation		Current Policy
MD-111	Flavored Milk	Education & Health		Policy Statement
ME-101	Fluoridated Water	Education & Health	*	Policy Statement

<u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u>	<u>FLOOR ACTION</u>
NC-104	Insurance Coverage for Disabilities	Education & Health	*	Policy Statement
NY-118	K-2	Education & Health	*	Policy Statement
NY-119	Counterfeit Medications	Education & Health		Policy Statement
WA-104	“Bath Salt” Drugs	Education & Health		Policy Statement
VT-102	Made in America	Growth & Development		Policy Statement
WA-103	Grange Effective Marketing Assistance	Growth & Development		Policy Statement
NY-117	Pledge of Allegiance	Transferred from Grange Law		Policy Statement
CT-101	Special Needs Youth	Growth & Development		Policy Statement
CT-102	Youth Chaperone	Growth & Development		Policy Statement
KS-103	“Manufactured” Meat Products	Agriculture		Policy Statement
IA-101	Star Spangled Banner	Citizenship		Policy Statement
NY-123	Social Security Increase	Citizenship		Policy Statement
IA-104	Operation Fast & Furious	Labor & Judiciary		Policy Statement
MD-108	Social Security	Citizenship		Present Policy
ME-103	Balanced Budget	Citizenship		Present Policy
ME-104	Commemorative Forever Stamp	Citizenship		Present Policy
OH-107	Social Security System	Citizenship		Present Policy
OH-111	Social Security Funds	Citizenship		Present Policy
PA-110	Convicted Congressmen	Citizenship		Present Policy
TX-104	Congressional Action	Citizenship		Present Policy
TX-106	Medicare and Social Security Cuts	Citizenship		Present Policy
TX-107	Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO)	Citizenship		Present Policy
VT-103	National Grange Sesquicentennial Postage Stamp	Citizenship		Present Policy
RI-106 (2010)	Flag Presentation Ceremony	Grange Law	Tabled in 2010	Present policy
NY-103	Employment of Migrant Farm Workers	Labor & Judiciary		Present policy
NY-115	United States Made Souvenirs	Labor & Judiciary		Present policy

<u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u>	<u>FLOOR ACTION</u>
TX-105	Foreign Aid	Labor & Judiciary		Present policy
NY 110	Telephone Records	Labor & Judiciary		Present Policy
OH-120	Tax Exemptions for Charitable Benefactors	Taxation & Transportation		Present Policy
OH-121	Mexican Trucks	Taxation & Transportation	*	Present Policy
OR-106	Shipping by Rail	Taxation and Transportation		Present Policy Transferred from Conservation
NY-111	"Taps" as Song of Remembrance	Growth & Development		Referred to Citizenship
OH-103	Youth Dues	Growth & Development		Referred to Grange Law
Conservation 102	New Parks	Conservation		Rejected
OK-101	Eminent Domain	Conservation		Rejected
TN-101	Strobe L.E.D. Brake Lights for All New Cars	Taxation & Transportation		Rejected by Delegate Body
IA-106	Patrolmen for State Highways	Labor & Judiciary		State Issue - Returned to the state
IA-105	Required Medical Testing for School Children	Education & Health		State Issue
IL-101	United States Census	Citizenship		State Issue  Transferred from Labor and Judiciary
NY-102	Hydraulic Fracturing	Conservation		State Issue
OR - 101	Dust Pollutant Regulation	Conservation		Transfer -Current Policy
NY-117	Pledge of Allegiance	Grange Law		Transfer to Grange Growth
NC-105	Farm Labor	Agriculture		Transfer to Labor and Judiciary
CA-109	Labeling Genetically Modified Food	Education & Health		Transferred to Ag
OR-101	Dust Pollutant Regulation	Conservation	*	Transferred to Agriculture Committee
IA-103	Congressional Pay Raises	Labor & Judiciary		Transferred to Citizenship & Public Affairs

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>FLOOR ACTION</u></b>
IL-101	United States Census	Labor & Judiciary		Transferred to Citizenship & Public Affairs
VT-101	Promoting the Use of Electronic Media	Conservation		Transferred to Growth and Development
MD-107	Elder Care Insurance Coverage	Taxation & Transportation		Transferred to Health & Edu.
NY-110	Telephone Records	Citizenship		Transferred to Labor and Judiciary
OR-106	Shipping by Rail	Conservation		Transferred to Transportation Committee
PA-103	Prescription Companies Merger	Education & Health	*	Withdrawn
PA-104	Family Restrooms	Education & Health		Withdrawn
WA-101	Honey Purity	Agriculture		Withdrawn
MD-110	Crop Insurance	Agriculture		Withdrawn
24 Hour Consent	Social Security- National Grange Policy Book, pg 38 #8	Citizenship		Withdrawn
NY-111	Taps as Song of Remembrance	Citizenship		Withdrawn  Transferred from Grange Growth
CA-107	Returning Congress to the People	Citizenship	*	Withdrawn
ID-101	Baseline Budgeting	Citizenship		Withdrawn
OH-104	Reform the U.S. Congress in View of the Current Budget Crisis	Citizenship		Withdrawn
CA-105	National Grange Fees for Grange Month	Grange Law		Withdrawn
CO-102	Term Limits for Officers	Grange Law		Withdrawn
CT-105	Student Grangers	Grange Law		Withdrawn
KS-101	Restoring the Junior Pledge Wording	Grange Law		Withdrawn
MA-101	Junior Grange Membership	Grange Law		Withdrawn
NH-101	State Granges	Grange Law		Withdrawn
OH-103	Youth Dues	Grange Growth		Withdrawn
KS-102	Incandescent Light Bulb Ban	Conservation	*	Withdrawn
NY-109	Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Bulbs	Conservation		Withdrawn
IL-102	Flood Control	Conservation		Withdrawn

<u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u>	<u>FLOOR ACTION</u>
NY-112	Enforcement of Immigration Laws	Labor & Judiciary		Withdrawn
CO-103	Closing of Rural Post Offices	Taxation & Transportation		Withdrawn
MD-105	Real Estate Tax	Taxation & Transportation	*	Withdrawn
ME-105	Cent Lines	Taxation & Transportation		Withdrawn
MN-101	Delivery of Mail	Taxation & Transportation		Withdrawn
MT-102	Postal Service Reduction	Taxation & Transportation		Withdrawn
NJ-101	Sales Tax Collection for Online Shopping	Taxation & Transportation	*	Withdrawn
PA-114	Federal Fuel Tax	Taxation & Transportation		Withdrawn

**AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>FLOOR ACTION</u></b>
IL-103	USDOT Licenses Regulations	Adopted	Adopted
NC-101	Animal Husbandry	Adopted	Adopted
NE-101	GIPSA Rule	Adopted	Adopted
OH-102	SNAP	Adopted	Adopted
VT-104	Bill H.R. 3092 IH Local Goods Act	Adopted	Adopted
AG-102	Honey Bee Colony Collapse	Adopted	Adopted
NC-103	Raw Milk Sales	Adopted	Adopted as amended
NY-101	Nutrient Management Plan	Adopted	Adopted as amended
OH-101	Ending Federal Standards on Animal Care	Adopted	Adopted as amended
NC-102	Education on GMO's	Adopted	Adopted as amended
CA-101	Food Sovereignty	Adverse	Adverse
CA-106	Labeling Genetically Modified Foods	Adverse	Adverse
CA-108	Preserve America's Right to Uncontaminated Soil & Seeds	Adverse	Adverse
CA-103	Ban Neonicotinoid Pesticides	Combined with MI-102	Covered by AG- 102
MI-102	Honeybee Colony Collapse	Combined with CA-103.	Covered by AG- 102
KS-103	"Manufactured" Meat Products	Policy Statement	Policy Statement
MI-101	Dust that is Generated When Harvesting	Present Policy	Present Policy
OR - 101	Dust Pollutant Regulation	Transferred from Conservation	Present Policy
NC-105	Farm Labor	Transferred to Labor & Judiciary	Transferred to Labor and Judiciary
AG-101	Dairy	Adopted	Withdrawn
WA-101	Honey Purity	Adverse	Withdrawn
MD-110	Crop Insurance	State Issue	Withdrawn



## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Agriculture is the backbone of America. It is the base of our economy and an important reason that we've enjoyed so many decades of prosperity as a nation. American farmers and ranchers are the foundation of an abundant, safe and efficient food source. The Grange continues to pledge its support for rural America and family owned and operated farms and ranches.

All in agriculture must find common ground and recognize that there are different business plans and practices and that both protect the environment while providing people with the food, fiber and fuel they need. If we fail to unify on the big issues and fail to educate our fellow citizens about the reality of agriculture, the anti-agriculture groups will win. If we continue to allow these groups to spread fear and fact-less propaganda, American farmers will be robbed of the ability to feed ourselves and the world. We must engage those who speak against us and work together to educate our national, state and local leaders on the vitality of our daily work.

Farmers and ranchers have depended on increasing production year after year in order to make a decent living. We feel that the farmer must consider alternative products and markets. There has never been a more crucial time in agriculture to have a unified voice. We must work together with others in a cooperative effort to advocate for agriculture. We have the responsibility to educate and convince all people in this country that they are receiving something of value in return for their support of agriculture.

Due to the difficult economic situation of our federal and state governments, the Grange like other agricultural groups should be vigilant in focusing attention on the 2012 Farm Bill. Those in Washington D.C. must resist setting a new course in agriculture policy and allow the market to guide our American farmers.

Some of the areas of concern will be in the following:

1. We must ensure that credit is available to farmers regardless of size.
2. Rural development issues must continue to be a priority in order to provide necessary infrastructure to get our product from field to table.
3. Research and funding of the Extension program must be continued if we wish to ensure innovative practices and new tools beneficial to agriculture and society are available.
4. The creation, improvement, and implementation of both primary and secondary sources of energy through agriculture must remain a priority to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.
5. Crop insurance and disaster relief must be adequately funded in order to serve as a primary way of helping farmers deal with unforeseen weather and market fluctuations.

Free trade agreements are not always fair when some segments of the economy are sacrificed. Free trade agreements have been negotiated on a bi-lateral and regional basis, which have the potential to be harmful to farmers and the economy. We need to be aware of and educate ourselves on this major issue. The National Grange advocates for the creation of trade agreements that will be beneficial and flexible while protecting not only agriculture but also the American dream. The movement of agricultural products across our country as well as exports to foreign countries is vital to the economy of the nation.

The National Grange must continue to articulate our farm policy goals and then to communicate those goals to our elected leaders in Congress. It behooves America to maintain the family farm system as the cornerstone of agriculture. We must promote policies which allow our current generation of family farmers to retire with dignity, and draw on their past experiences to attract new generations of family farmers.

We must be aware of the significance to U.S. agriculture of the advancements being made in other countries in their agriculture production and export technology. We must advocate for the education of our members and the general public on agricultural issues.

With the rapid population growth in our country, it is important that our rural areas are prepared for the influx of new residents. Progressive policies will be needed that will allow people to maintain the lifestyle that they desire, while preserving the character of rural America. Growth will place added pressure on the availability of public services, and we must ensure that these needed services are available to rural citizens. Having said that, we must also ensure that we have adequate land and water available for agriculture in the future.

Farmers continue to adopt new technologies such as GPS precision agriculture production practices and multi-stacked, genetically-modified crop varieties. They are employing double or even multi cropping and grazing strategies to increase total output per acre. Livestock producers are controlling costs by relying more on alternative feed sources such as forage/grass and distillers dried grains (DDGs), a by-product of ethanol production.

We often don't create our own messages – messages that could improve the image of our industry. Instead we allow the messages to be created by people who know little or nothing about the day-to-day operations, needs and stewardship of those involved in agriculture. As an increasing number of consumers have little or no understanding of the farm, the need grows for everyone who cares about agriculture to become educators and creators of public opinion. We need to communicate through all the mediums used by the consumer to ensure that agriculture is judged on facts, not myths.

The issue of food safety is becoming an increasing concern to the public. We understand the need to provide safe and healthy food for ourselves and the rest of the world, however we must ensure that there is not an overreaction by the government in developing rules and regulations that make it more difficult or impossible for farmers to operate efficiently.

One of the major issues facing animal agriculture in our country is the effort for certain “Animal Rights” groups to define “Humane Treatment” of animals. The National Grange should work together with other like groups, to ensure that sound science is used in determining humane treatment of animals.

We recognize that research is being conducted to produce meat products in laboratories. While this may create some concern, the National Grange is not in a position to prevent such research in private laboratories. The National Grange advocates that the term “meat” be defined as a product that is obtained from animals.

The National Grange supports a federal policy to allow the use of biotechnology in agriculture. We recognize that genetic engineering of plants and animals has already had a positive impact by increasing the availability of food, preservation qualities, and decreasing the environmental impact of agriculture.

The National Grange insists that the Environmental Protection Agency rely only on up-to-date scientific methodology and real world data in making accurate assessments of the risk to human health posed by the use of pesticides/herbicides. We favor expanded approval of generic pesticides and herbicides for use in agricultural production.

The Grange has always been a strong advocate for agriculture in the United States. We strongly support the research of many different and new agricultural products. Some of these products include wood pulp, bio-char and switch grass. The Grange supports the education and research of these and other new agricultural products.

Many proposals are being put forward to control the volatility of milk prices to farmers. The National Grange should be actively involved to ensure that the best possible method of milk pricing is adopted.

The National Grange urges Congress and the Office of Management and Budget to consider the administrative costs in implementing government programs affecting the agricultural producer. The funds appropriated for these programs should be used to benefit the producer and not to support the administration. We need to continue to support the producer-approved commodity check-off program.

The National Grange encourages increased participation with youth organizations such as 4H and FFA from the local to the national level, to draw on and develop the wonderful leadership abilities of these people. Local Granges should be encouraged to work in partnership with cooperative extension or other local agencies. We strongly support the work of cooperative extension and agricultural experiment stations and ask Granges to support funding of these departments at all levels of government. We as Grange members must enlist our farm, rural and urban neighbors to join us as Grange members and increase our voice in the legislature.

The National Grange supports Country of Origin Labeling and strongly urges the implementation of the program on all food products by the USDA. The National Grange encourages educating the consumer on the benefits of this program. The traceability and point of origin need to be a coordinated effort by the USDA and the Department of Homeland Security in order to reduce the administrative burden.

The National Grange is well positioned to address the constantly changing challenges that arise with agricultural and rural issues. By adopting innovative policies, the Grange can play a pivotal leadership role in providing support and guidance to farmers and rural citizens, and enhance our efforts to maintain the viability of agriculture as a significant economic force in our country.

We believe that congress should look into conflicting legislative reporting dates in different sections of the USDA, such as Farm Services Agency and Risk Management Board. We should encourage that the agencies within USDA work more closely to reduce duplication of record keeping and reporting by farmers. These offices should be diligent in making sure the information they collect is made available to decision makers.

The National Grange believes in our democratic process. Our answer must be to join with all interested parties to educate the public about the realities of agriculture and the principles of nature. Legislators, judges, and our citizens need to understand how and why certain methods are used and how agriculture is an essential component in protecting and improving the environment.

The health of agriculture in America is dependent upon our fellow citizens viewing producers as good stewards of the earth and ethical people who care for the livestock they raise. Both small local producers and large production farmers are necessary to meet the needs of the coming decades. American consumers are demanding more locally grown products as well as many specialty products. At the same time, the population of the world continues to grow and the need for American ingenuity and skill in feeding the world's hungry grows. The Grange believes that both small and large producers are filling important roles, one in meeting local demand, and the other feeding the starving around the world. Both are to be commended and we encourage producers in both groups to acknowledge the vital role that all play in feeding and clothing their fellow beings.

*This policy statement covers: KS-103, and portions of the Master's Address*

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

*USDOT Licenses Regulations*

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) had considered having farm equipment operators obtain commercial drivers licenses (CDLs) if they used public roads to haul their grain and equipment, and

WHEREAS, farmers who rent their land for a share of the crops and haul their own and the landlord's crops to market should have access to the agricultural CDL exemptions, and

WHEREAS, this would have added burdens to an already over-regulated industry, and

WHEREAS, the USDOT has listened to the Ag community and has currently decided to refrain from imposing these new regulations, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange continue to monitor very closely the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) in the future to ensure farmers and ranchers that they will not be imposed with having to have commercial drivers licenses (CDLs) to transport their crops and their landlord's crops on the public highways.

This resolution covers IL-103.

*Animal Husbandry*

WHEREAS, the Grange has a history of caring for the proper treatment of domesticated animals; and

WHEREAS, the Patrons of Husbandry believe in providing the consumers of our country with the highest quality, safest, and most humanely raised meat product possible while doing it in a way that is friendly to the environment; and

WHEREAS, abuse and mistreatment of livestock is unacceptable and counterproductive to proper management and the goals of animal husbandry; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange encourages all livestock operations to follow the goals of the Beef Quality Assurance Program and the Pork Quality Assurance Program. These actions will help manage their herds with respect to the following:

- a) proper use of pharmaceuticals;
- b) management of their feed sources;
- c) low stress animal handling techniques;
- d) proper housing and living standards;
- e) proper transportation techniques and transport space requirements;
- f) culling strategies to maintain optimum herd health; and
- g) numerous other management tools that help to make the animals healthier, more comfortable and as a result, more productive.

This covers resolution NC-101.

*GIPSA Rule*

WHEREAS, the past 30 years of research has resulted in great improvement in the genetics of swine and cattle; and

WHEREAS, the improvement in genetics has resulted in increased production, efficiency and quality of product; and

WHEREAS, under marketing agreements, value is determined by individual carcass quality; and

WHEREAS, some producers have chosen to not make the investment in improved genetics; and

WHEREAS, GIPSA would abolish carcass pricing in favor of one value fits all;

therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Grange vigorously oppose any effort that would abolish the current practice of carcass quality pricing of beef and swine in favor of one value fits all price concept.

This covers resolution NE-101.

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Formerly Food Stamp Program)*

WHEREAS, businesses are required to fill out considerable information to accept SNAP, and

WHEREAS, the criteria to accept this assistance should match more favorably with the businesses that have the more acceptable products, examples: fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, eggs and dairy products, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation to simplify the business application of the current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

This covers resolution OH-102.

*Bill H.R. 3092 IH Local Goods Act*

WHEREAS, the recent introduction of Congressional Bill H.R. 3092, the Local Foods Act, on October 4, 2011 by the Vermont U.S. Representative Peter Welch to allow certain States the option to seek a grant from the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to participate in the pilot program to buy local fruits and vegetables, instead of obtaining commodities under the Department of Agriculture Programs, and

WHEREAS, bill H.R. 3092, the Local Foods Bill Act, is a pilot program with the initial budget of not more than 1 million dollars, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports legislation granting a pilot program to certain states supporting efforts to buy local fruits and vegetables.

This covers resolution VT-104.

*Honey Bee Colony Collapse*

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support research efforts aimed toward solving the problem occurring with Honey Bee Colony Collapse. A particular cause for this syndrome has not been identified, but research suggests that colony collapse may be caused by a combination of many factors, one of which is the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in agriculture production. If a definite link is established between the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and the death of honey bees, immediate action should be taken to curtail or eliminate the use of these pesticides where bees are used for pollination.

This resolution, Ag-102, covers CA-103 and MI-102.

*Raw Milk Sales*

WHEREAS, in some circles the argument is being made that the pasteurization of milk results in the loss of certain vitamin and minerals; and

WHEREAS, this information has led some to promote an effort to return to the use of raw milk at home; and

WHEREAS, the reason for pasteurization is to kill bacteria and allow for the safe consumption of milk products over several days; and

WHEREAS, the threats to health from consuming raw milk are just as prevalent now as in the past; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange should actively participate in educational activities



which are focused on informing the public of the value and protection provided by the pasteurization process.

This covers resolution NC-103.

*Nutrient Management Plan*

WHEREAS, new regulatory standards are being proposed by the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS Code 590) which would prohibit winter manure spreading in environmentally sensitive areas such as, but not limited to, perennial water bodies, areas of concentrated flow, surface inlets, Karst topography, wellhead protection areas, flood plains and coarse textured soils, and

WHEREAS, scientific tests conducted in the New York City Watershed pursuant to the present Code 590 regulations resulted in significant water quality improvement without such a prohibition, thus making the new regulation arbitrary and capricious, and

WHEREAS, forcing farmers to build manure storage facilities to avoid winter spreading would place further burdens upon them, raising the possibility of spillage, as well as forcing spreading during inappropriate times, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange urge each State Grange work with their respective Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agencies in the development of proposed changes to Nutrient Management plans proposed in NRCS Code 590.

This covers resolution NY-101.

*Ending Federal Standards on Animal Care*

WHEREAS, the Federal Government, Congress in particular, is in the process of passing legislation for livestock standards that are crafted by The Humane Society of United States, and such legislation would make any standards adopted by individual states null and void, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange believes that the regulation of livestock and poultry care should be a state's issue and does not support the establishment of federal standards.

This covers resolution OH-101.

*Education on GMO's*

WHEREAS, the use of genetically modified organisms (GMO's) in the United States is widespread; and

WHEREAS, the use of GMO's has been shown to be safe and productive; and

WHEREAS, markets in Europe and Africa are limited due to concerns over GMO's; and

WHEREAS, much of the fear of GMO's comes from wrong or purposeful misinformation developed in the United States; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports providing correct and scientifically verified information on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) to news media and other outlets to enhance the availability of truthful information and ultimately provide more information to the world community.

This covers resolution NC-102.



## **PRESENT POLICY**

### *Family Farm Policies and Farm Preservation Programs*

1. The National Grange believes that policies that promote a viable family farm structure in America's agricultural sector are in the best interests of all citizens. We reaffirm our support for farm commodity programs that serve the best interests of producers and consumers. The purpose of the Federal Farm Program is to ensure Americans an adequate supply of safe and wholesome food, provide some income protection to the food producers and protect our environment by providing incentives for soil and water conservation. The National Grange supports programs that will stimulate interest and appreciation for an expanding agriculture industry that provides an abundant supply of reasonably priced food and fiber to meet our domestic needs and still export the products of one out of every three acres into the world markets.
2. The National Grange continues to strongly support family farms as an integral and important contributor to a stable agricultural production and rural communities. We call upon the President and Congress to support programs and policies that will help sustain and enhance family farms - by increasing the net farm income, providing economic and tax incentives, and credit and/or tax credits for soil and water conservation - without escalating the advantages to non-farm investors.
3. The National Grange believes that a family farm is a business or enterprise involved in the production of food, fiber and related products or services that is owned and operated by the members of a family who make the management and financial decisions and supply at least part of the labor.
4. The National Grange will continue to support the use of lands for the production of food and fiber as long as the enterprises are operated under best management practices as established by the Farm Program Division and the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
5. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture to maintain the Agriculture Cooperative Service (ACS) as an agency in order to enhance its critical roles in supporting farmer - owned cooperatives and the rural communities they serve.
6. Federal, state, and local agencies should work for efficient economic development policies that treat the agriculture industry on equal terms with other businesses and industries such as small business loans, tax incentives, marketing practices, and other programs that would help small farmers. The National Grange supports government rural development programs that provide local off-farm employment for rural people and that provide an improved income for small and medium-sized farms.
7. The National Grange supports public relation programs that disseminate accurate information on the efficiency and productivity of American agriculture as well as the contributions it has made in providing an adequate supply of food and fiber, and the important role the food and agricultural industry plays in the nation's economy. A coalition of farm and commodity organizations working together on common problems is in the best interest of agriculture and rural communities. Such a coalition will strengthen and preserve the economic well being of the family farm. The National Grange will continue to support and take an active role in maintaining an effective national farm coalition. We support efforts to

organize farm-city meetings, farm-city visits, as well as efforts to enlist the cooperation of the news media in presenting agricultural news. We endorse the efforts of the Agriculture Council of America, Livestock and Meat Board, Animal Industry Foundation, National Milk Producers Federation, and other agricultural organizations in a united program to tell agriculture's story to the American public. We will cooperate with and support the efforts of other agricultural organizations in their educational programs pertaining to false, unproven, and misleading statements about the production and safety of agricultural commodities in order to present a true picture of environmentally safe farm and ranch best-management practices.

8. The State Granges and the National Grange urge state and federal government to strengthen, expand, and enforce farmland protection programs to save our farmland for food and fiber production by designing tax laws to enable farm families to pass their land on to future generations. The National Grange supports a reduction in capital gains for retiring farmers who are willing to sell to beginning farmers. The National Grange will also work with Congress to find additional ways to contain urban sprawl through the use of purchasing development rights and conservation easements on agricultural land. However, we oppose the development of agricultural land trusts by financial institutions. We further oppose land purchase programs that involve the federal government as the purchaser and leaser of farmland.
9. The National Grange supports Farmers' Markets, family farms and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's) producing and selling homegrown agricultural products. Additionally Grange policy supports the creation of pilot programs which endorse the buying of local fruits, vegetables and produce.
10. The National Grange urges the USDA to strictly enforce the Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act. We further oppose the use of public funds and/or the services of government agencies in the development of U.S.-based, foreign-owned agricultural enterprises.
11. The National Grange urges that a high-level staff position with appropriate resources, targeting the prevention and minimization of agro-terrorism be appointed as part of the Department of Homeland Security.
12. The National Grange encourages federal, state and local governments to protect agriculture against bio-terrorism.
13. The National Grange supports the return to former Farm Bill regulations allowing farm parcels with less than the new 10-acre minimum, but which have a previous history in the federal farm program, to continue to receive federal farm program payments.

#### *Federal Programs, Commodity Loans, Target Prices, & Farm Storage Programs*

1. The National Grange supports legislative and administrative actions that will obtain an economic return for the farmer on his investment of capital, labor, and management that is equal to that of the other segments of the economy. We support permanent programs for cotton, tobacco, peanuts, rice, corn silage, wool and mohair. Farm programs should be based on units of production, not acreage, and provide the individual farmer with maximum flexibility in their planting and production decisions. Target prices for major commodities should be based on economic need; set in relationship to the national average cost of production;

and set at a level that will not encourage over-production. Marketing loan programs for major commodities, including soybeans and minor oilseeds, wheat, feed grains, cotton, rice, and other government-supported commodities should provide for a loan rate that is set at the national average cost of production and that redeems the loan at the lesser of the original loan or the state's monthly, weekly, or daily average market price as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. The difference between the regular loan rate and the marketing loan is to be retained by the farmer, provided the loan differential is subject to the \$50,000 payment limit. In the absence of a marketing loan, the traditional loan rate should be set at or near the cost of production.

2. The National Grange supports re-instituting the Farm Storage Facility Loans Program and a farmer-owned reserve program that will place limits on the total amount of a specific commodity that is to be held in reserve as well as place limits on the amount of a commodity that any one farmer can place in the reserve. Storage rates should be commensurate with the cost of on-farm storage to enable farmers to be in a better position to take advantage of storage payments. The Secretary of Agriculture should have discretionary authority to waive the interest charges on reserve loans. We further urge that there be a strict monitoring of grain stored under loan contracts by county, state and national USDA officers, and State Departments of Agriculture.
3. The National Grange supports port terminals and storage facilities for feed grains.
4. The National Grange encourages Congress to develop new farm programs that take into consideration the cross sector effect of such programs. We urge that competitive sectors be consulted in an effort to lessen the cross sector impact. We will continue to study the concept of the "Revenue Assurance Plan" as an alternative to present farm programs as a means of assisting family farmers.
5. The National Grange continues its long-standing support of the County and Community Committee System as the proper means of supervising and administering all farm programs. We pledge our full support for the federal government in investigating incidences of discrimination and in implementing action that will bring about changes to end racial discrimination in USDA policies. We urge stricter monitoring and enforcement of the Farm Service Agency's farm programs in order to eliminate any abuse of farm program regulations. The Grange supports funding and staffing of the Farm Services Agency at levels that are consistent with congressional mandates. In meeting these mandates, we will support co-location and cross-agency use of personnel from various agricultural agencies within counties where offices now exist.
6. The National Grange encourages the United States Department of Agriculture to enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act.
7. The National Grange supports immediate legislation by Congress, enacting the "Constructive Receipt" exemption in the 2002 Farm Bill, and in all future Farm Bills, to exempt advance program payments from taxable income for the year they are received and, instead, treat those payments as potentially taxable income for the year they were intended to cover.

#### *Production Management Programs*

1. The National Grange supports voluntary production control programs as a way of balancing supply with demand. Production control programs should be based on

controlling the number of bushels (amount of product) allowed to qualify for price supports and by the requirements to set aside a specific percentage of a farm's crop production. We support eliminating any offsetting compliance requirements between farms related to production control programs but support maintaining cross compliance requirements for crops grown on the same farm. We support paid production diversion, with payments made in cash or in-kind, if farmers first comply with set-aside and other non-paid production control programs. We further recommend that any land diverted from agricultural production under farm programs remain eligible for conservation cost-share practices. Program benefits, i.e., loans, deficiency payments, etc. should be set at a level that is sufficient to accomplish the program's objectives and should be made available only to producers who comply with the program's requirements.

2. Production yields should be based on the proven yield of the land on that farm. We support allowing farmers to re-establish their proven yields but we further support requiring all crop production bases to be established using a soil suitability criteria rating rather than past crop history and changing farm programs so that a farmer will not lose their farm base from under-planting.
3. The National Grange supports allowing small farmers to have more than 1 plot of less than five acres per farm enrolled in set-aside programs.
4. The National Grange supports the concept of a Cover Crop Program that is voluntary and incentive-based for all farm programs that involve government funding.
5. Surplus food purchased by the Government should in no way be sold at reduced prices to be in competition with ongoing farm prices. Instead, we encourage surplus foods to be given to charitable organizations. The National Grange encourages increased USDA purchases of surplus agriculture products to be given away through various food assistance programs.
6. The National Grange supports the planting of Roundup Ready Sugar Beet Seed contingent on approval by the USDA.

#### *Conservation Reserve and Agriculture Conservation Programs*

1. The National Grange supports a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that will provide long-term solutions to natural resource concerns on our nation's farms. We believe that CRP programs should be integrated with other environmental protection programs and should have a high environmental benefit to the cost-ratio by accepting only highly erodible land for 10 years at a rental rate that is in relationship to its productive value. We believe that the commodity base acres in CRP land should remain as a production reserve and only be transferred to other production acres to meet increased export demand. However, we favor eliminating the offsetting and cross compliance provisions as they relate to the Conservation Reserve Program.
2. The National Grange recommends that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) enforce the inspection of CRP land for noxious weed control. CRP payments should be withheld from the owners of the CRP tracts that are infested with noxious weeds until the FCA or NRCS certifies that the noxious weed control program is being carried out by the landowner. To assist landowners in their responsibility to control noxious weeds,

we further urge the USDA to change the date, when mowing to control noxious weeds is allowed on CRP lands from July 15 to at least as early as June

3. The National Grange supports federal funding for soil conservation, including sufficient funding to retain technical assistance for conservation. Annual Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) appropriations should be maintained at a level that will significantly help meet the conservation needs of America's farmland. Federal ACP guidelines should provide authority to the local committees so they can best meet conservation needs. Conservation contracts should follow land ownership with penalties assessed for destruction of said practices before the final contract date. In the event any federal conservation cost-share funds are granted to states, all such funds should be made available to farmers for cost-share payments. ACP funds should be used for the cost-sharing program for which they have been appropriated and none of these funds should be diverted for administrative costs of the states' delivery systems. The Farm Service Agency should update its State ACP funds distribution formulas to help address the most serious long-term conservation needs.
4. The National Grange urges each State Grange work with their respective Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agencies in the development of proposed changes to Nutrient Management plans proposed in NRCS Code 590

#### *Dairy Policy, Milk Marketing Orders, Dairy Prices, and Inspections*

1. The National Grange supports a milk supply management program that recognizes regional differences based upon the cost and amount of production, availability of markets, percentage of production that is allocated to CCC stocks, and the percentage of Class I use.
2. The National Grange supports the Northeast Dairy Compact, and the proposed Southern Dairy Compact, and other regional compacts that may be advantageous to producers and ultimately, the consumers.
3. The National Grange supports the use of Basic Formula Price (BFP) in determining the base price for dairy products, as well as multiple-component pricing for all classes of milk.
4. We support the continued payment of Class I differentials and oppose any effort to form a national pool of Class I milk differentials.
5. The National Grange opposes any change in the classification of reconstituted milk and the depooling of Class III milk.
6. The National Grange requests of all appropriate agencies, associations, and boards that milk prices received by dairy farmers be quoted in terms to which consumers can relate, such as price per gallon rather than price per hundredweight.
7. The National Grange urges Congress to pressure the USDA to raise the support price of milk to a level for the benefit of both the producer and the consumer. The National Grange supports legislation which is geared toward controlling volatility of month to month milk prices.
8. The National Grange also supports efforts that assist struggling dairy farmers by revising the national milk pricing system. We believe that a federal order system for milk pricing should include such concepts as: (1) supply side controls, (2) using the Chicago Mercantile Exchange cheese price as a replacement for Class III milk price rather than the Minnesota/Wisconsin cheese price, (3) charging Class



I processors an assessment to fund the cost of cooperatives that balance the pool of milk in their areas, (4) keeping multiple component pricing, (5) declassifying Class I prices from other classes, (6) revamps the Dairy Product Price Support and Milk Income Loss Contract programs (7) creates a new dairy producer income insurance program (8) replaces the Cooperatives Working Together program with a mechanism to more quickly respond to changing market conditions and reduce price volatility. This would include a growth management program that is flexible and responsive to market conditions while providing producers with the ability to grow; (9) provides that any Growth Management Program must contain a minimum time period of 5 years before a total buy-out of a dairy operation can be restarted or if a partial buy-out of a herd, before an increase in production from the operation will be allowed.

9. The National Grange supports the implementation of a forward contracting pilot program for all classes of milk other than Class I. We support close monitoring of this program to assure that forward contracting does not adversely affect dairy farmer profitability. However, any monitoring or review of the forward contracting policy program must be sensitive to, and protect the privacy of, individual dairy farmers participating in the pilot program.
10. The Grange continues to seek an increase in exports of milk and milk products. We support funding of the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) to the full limit permitted by WTO agreements. We urge milk cooperatives and other associations to become actively involved in the development of export markets for dairy products. We support additional funding for USDA to provide technical assistance to private sector dairy export trading entities.
11. The National Grange opposes the importation of caseinates and urges the adoption of tariff rate quotes on Milk Protein Concentrates entering the country. The National Grange supports having milk used to produce Milk Protein Concentrate (MPC) included in the total milk produced in the area Federal Milk Marketing order and urges the adoption of standards on how MPC is used and inspected to ensure compliance.
12. The National Grange continues to support the National Dairy Product Promotion Program as a means to promote and increase the consumption of dairy products. We urge the USDA to periodically account to the public for any monies that have been collected from dairy farmers under any assessment programs.
13. The Extension Service, nutrition educators, farm organizations, processors, and vendors should promote the nutritional value of “Real” dairy products and should promote use of the “Real Seal” merchandising program.
14. The National Grange continues to support government purchases of dairy for domestic programs.
15. The National Grange opposes the Food and Drug Administration’s proposal to allow products with the “nutritional equivalency” of a food to be labeled “substitute.” We suggest that any “imitation” or “substitute” product which resembles a dairy product, whether or not nutritionally equivalent, yet includes substitute dairy ingredients, may not in any manner be allowed to bear the name of the dairy product which it is purported to resemble. This also includes imported “imitation” or “substitute” products. The National Grange supports Federal Government oversight to enforce strict labeling regulations concerning



organic milk, ensuring that all milk labeled organic comes from certified organic farms only.

16. The National Grange opposes legislation that requires the labeling of milk/milk products as it relates to rBST.
17. The National Grange supports legislation that would extend the present pay and trust provision of the Packers and Stockyards Act to the dairy industry. We further support a national security fund, funded by processors or secured by bonding, to protect against processor bankruptcy if the fund does not preempt a stronger state program.
18. We recognize the need for dairy farm and dairy plant inspections to help insure the highest quality of dairy products, but insist that duplication of inspections by the several government entities (city, county, state and federal) be discontinued, where possible. The several levels of government should agree to accept uniform and reciprocal dairy farm and dairy plant inspections.
19. The National Grange supports passage of the National Dairy Equity Act.
20. The federal government should extend past September 2005 cut off and refine the MILC program with the intent of supporting dairy farmers during these times of low prices without encouraging increased production.
21. The National Grange at all levels encourages the Dairy Co-ops to voluntarily initiate a program that allows membership of the Co-op to vote on any program that takes money out of the farmer's pocket with a yes vote for approval
22. The National Grange urges the Food and Drug Administration to keep dairy as a separate food group, and assure a place on the Food Pyramid or daily recommendations for dairy and meat products.
23. The National Grange supports efforts to convince the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to finalize the rule that would exempt dairy farmers from the oil spill intervention requirement.
24. The National Grange should actively participate in education activities which are focused on informing the public of the value and protection provided by the pasteurization process.

#### *Tobacco Policy*

1. The Grange continues to support a quota system and price-support program for flue-cured and burley tobacco as well as research on methods to make tobacco marketing more efficient. The tobacco price support program should be adjusted annually by the Secretary of Agriculture. The price support formula should be amended to include carry over tobacco in determining the next year's effective quota. We recommend that CCC tobacco loans be repaid on the same basis that other commodity groups pay loans. We further support programs for flue-cured and burley tobacco that are no-net-cost to the federal government and provided assessments that are charged to growers and manufacturers to covers the entire cost of tobacco programs. We support efforts within the tobacco industry to reduce the no net cost assessments paid by producers and purchasers in the future.
2. The National Grange supports continuing the lease and transfer program. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture should establish rules to permit the combining of allotments of one farm where a tract of land is owned in a contiguous operation in adjoining counties. We further support an amendment to the existing tobacco

law that will provide for emergency lease and transfer in the fall season to address natural disasters when these disasters result in a 10% or greater loss of their quota being produced. Such emergency transfer should provide that growers could lease no more than 110 percent of quota.

3. The National Grange recommends that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture use simple regulations in requiring cigarette manufacturers to report only the total use of domestically-grown and imported tobacco by class or kind of tobacco, thus leaving manufacturers the flexibility to adjust blends for their various brands of cigarettes to meet their customer demand.
4. The National Grange supports programs at the federal level to help tobacco farmers diversify their farming operation by raising and marketing of alternative crops and will support new research programs to discover new uses for tobacco, such as a new source of protein.
5. The National Grange supports negotiations, regulations, or legislation to control the importation of low grade, inferior quality tobacco.
6. The National Grange supports steps to make U.S. tobacco more competitive in the world market. We urge that all tobacco that is exported as U.S. tobacco must be certified as 100 percent U.S. tobacco.
7. The National Grange continues to support the Tobacco Auction System, and support necessary improvements to modernize the Auction System to meet new packaging ideas and technology in order to facilitate the movement of tobacco through the Auction System.

#### *Horticulture, Beekeeping and Honey*

1. The National Grange recommends continuing research to improve the development of more freeze-resistant nursery stock and methods of frost control.
2. The National Grange recommends that a realistic tariff be placed on imported honey to protect the financial position of the U.S. bee industry that is necessary for the pollination of U.S. agricultural crops. We support the enactment of federal laws that will provide for the inspection of honeybees and honeybee hives that are transported across state lines in an effort to better control the spread of honeybee diseases and parasites. We urge Congress to set up a “bee zone” and appropriate the necessary funds to stop or at least slow down the northward invasion of the killer bees. We further recommend that the USDA promote a program to educate the general public on the importance of bees, and on the destructive Africanized bees now invading the southern United States.
3. The National Grange supports increased research through the states in growing mushroom spawn.
4. The National Grange supports expansion of Federal Crop Insurance and Multi-Peril Insurance Programs to include horticultural crops.
5. The National Grange calls upon the Department of Agriculture, Land Grant universities, and industries to continue research efforts to determine expanded uses for surplus fruits and vegetables.
6. The National Grange supports research efforts aimed toward solving the problem occurring with Honey Bee Colony Collapse. A particular cause for this syndrome has not been identified, but research suggests that colony collapse may be caused by a combination of many factors, one of which is the use of neonicotinoid

pesticides in agriculture production. If a definite link is established between the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and the death of honey bees, immediate action should be taken to curtail or eliminate the use of these pesticides where bees are used for pollination.

#### *Cotton, Soybeans and Peanut Policies*

1. The National Grange supports continuing the peanut program with no further reductions in -price supports . We recommend closer communication between the USDA and the peanut growers associations.
2. The National Grange urges the President of the United States to allow foreign grown peanuts and peanut by-products to enter this country only if severe growing conditions in the United States have depleted the peanut supply such that the system cannot supply the peanut and processed peanut market over a six month time-frame and that the peanuts and peanut by-products imported meet the same quality standards as U.S. peanuts.
3. The Grange will support a cotton program that provides for a marketing loan at a level that will encourage the continued exportation of cotton, as well as research into the eradication of detrimental insects.
4. The National Grange supports the use and promotion of soybeans.

#### *Livestock Production and Animal Care*

1. The National Grange supports effective regulations to require interstate transporters of livestock to maintain transport vehicles in a sanitary condition in order to prevent the spread of the disease.
2. The National Grange seeks a federal indemnification standby program for livestock and poultry diseases that are not presently covered. Such a program would apply only in cases that require condemnation and slaughter to eradicate or control the given diseases. We further support federal indemnity programs to indemnify farmers against loss through no fault of theirs in cases such as radioactive fallout, chemical contamination, and bio-terrorism.
3. The National Grange opposes any effort of the federal government to require individual identification of farm animals sold for processing.
4. The National Grange supports legislation and rulings that will strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act to ensure producers have adequate price discovery, price transparency, and fairness in the marketing of U.S. livestock.
5. The National Grange supports exotic animal farming provided it does not create a health hazard for the domestic livestock industry.
6. The National Grange continues to support the beef promotion programs. We urge State Beef Councils to join in cooperative efforts to target Beef Check-off Funds to larger consumer audiences. However, the National Grange recommends that the National Beef Promotion Board consider eliminating the \$1 “Beef Check-off” on any animal that, when sold, the farmer would receive \$20 or less.
7. The National Grange strongly supports the livestock, poultry and dairy industries as suppliers of food and fiber that are so necessary for today’s standard of living. We will continue to inform the public of the economics and importance of the livestock industry and their contributions to a balanced nutritional diet.

We will continue to cooperate with the Animal Welfare Coalition to combat misleading statements made by animal rights organizations regarding animal agriculture.

8. The National Grange believes that the regulation of livestock and poultry care should be a state issue and does not support the establishment of federal standards.
9. The National Grange supports using animals in animal agricultural research in order to advance the science of animal husbandry in the most humane and economic fashion. The National Grange opposes efforts to declare animals to be “sentient beings,” and all efforts to give animals the legal protections to which humans are entitled. We support the development of educational programs that demonstrate the advantages and humanness of modern animal husbandry. We oppose any legislation and/or regulations that would hinder good animal husbandry practices. Instead, we support developing a code of “best management practices” for the care and maintenance of agricultural animals and other animals that are under human control. We also support efforts to severely punish any individuals and organizations that commit illegal actions against animal agricultural producers and animal agricultural and biomedical researchers and facilities. We support the voluntary efforts of farmers in reducing the number of injured or downer animals. We encourage livestock auction markets to continue their programs of not accepting animals that are injured or are too weak to stand. We support the efforts of commercial processing facilities to continue the humane disposal of unwanted agricultural animals.
10. The National Grange strongly opposes legislation calling for the severe curtailment of the veal industry by such measures as eliminating confinement stalls and crates. However, the Grange will work with the National Veal Association to correct or remove the veal production practices that are not within the guidelines of best veal management. We further recommend that a USDA grader be assigned to all veal calf slaughtering plants so that a farmer or seller receives a fair price from the packing plant for their veal based on the grade that was determined by the inspector and not the plant manager.
11. The National Grange supports rodeos, the use of animals in rodeos, and the great heritage rodeos represent.
12. The National Grange supports efforts to deal with concentrated animal feeding operations issues emphasizing sensible control and enforcement, the development of nutrient management plans, developing cost efficient odor reduction technology, and the zoning of agricultural districts. We recommend the development and use of “the best management practices” for the handling of animal and poultry wastes. We support liability protection for farmers who follow the appropriate regulations and “best management practices.” We also support strict laws that regulate large livestock enterprises so that they apply nutrients according to an approved nutrient management plan to assure that excess nutrients will not contaminate the waters of the United States. We also recommend strict construction standards to new earthen manure lagoons and set a phase-in period after which existing lagoons would have to meet appropriate standards. We support prohibiting indefinite storage of animal

waste by requiring treatment according to federal wastewater standards if the waste is not applied to land or used in another environmentally sound matter. We further support regulations or other provisions to prevent animal owners from using contracts or similar arrangements to avoid responsibilities for animal waste management. We support imposing tough new penalties on the worst polluters. However, we believe that the implementation of any rules and regulations forcing compliance with the Clean Water Act for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations should not become mandatory until all technical expertise and funding is secured and available for the timely compliance with these directives.

13. The National Grange believes the Environmental Protection Agency should not be empowered or allowed to levy fines, fees, or any other monetary pressure based on natural emissions of livestock which may ultimately affect greenhouse gases.
14. The National Grange encourages Congress to restore the original cost-share funding of three million dollars for manure pits.
15. The National Grange at all levels seeks legislation to accomplish a national identification for livestock and poultry. The program should include safeguards to protect the privacy of the farmers and the Grange will work at all levels to have farmer privacy provisions included in the national identification for livestock program legislation.
16. The National Grange encourages all livestock operations to follow the goals of the Beef Quality Assurance Program and the Pork Quality Assurance Program. These actions will help manage their herds with respect to the following:
  - a) proper use of pharmaceuticals;
  - b) management of their feed sources;
  - c) low stress animal handling techniques;
  - d) proper housing and living standards;
  - e) proper transportation techniques and transport space requirements;
  - f) culling strategies to maintain optimum herd health; and
  - g) numerous other management tools that help to make the animals healthier, more comfortable and as a result, more productive.

#### *Livestock and Poultry Disease Control*

1. The National Grange supports continued efforts to eradicate Brucellosis, Johnes Disease, Hoof and Mouth disease, Bovine Leukemia virus, tuberculosis, and screw worms, as well as the continued monitoring of our nation's borders against re-infestation of these and other infectious livestock diseases.
2. The National Grange supports funding of increased research to control and eradicate poultry diseases and parasites, the National Grange also urges the USDA to work with State Departments of Agriculture on a cooperative effort to enforce and inspect egg production, including egg grading and egg safety.
3. The National Grange supports blood testing for Johnes' disease in cattle. We further support the development of a test that can isolate the causal organism of Johnes' disease in a shorter time frame.
4. The National Grange requests that health charts show freedom from TB and



Brucellosis when dairy cattle are either sold or shown.

5. The National Grange opposes any ban on the use of antibiotics in livestock and poultry feed unless the Food and Drug Administration or other agencies have scientifically established and determined that the use of these antibiotics are detrimental to human health. We oppose any proposals to reclassify over-the-counter animal drugs as prescription-only drugs unless scientifically based information suggests drugs should be reclassified on a drug-by-drug basis. We strongly recommend that all producers who use antibiotics, growth stimulants and other feed additives abide by the directions for the use of, and withdrawal provisions for, such products
6. The National Grange supports the establishment of firm guidelines for the management of bison and elk in the National Parks to control the spread of brucellosis and the high risk of undulant fever in humans.

#### *Food and Meat Inspection Programs*

1. The National Grange urges an increase in inspection regulations on all livestock, feed, meats, dairy products and all by-products being imported from all countries to the United States for the protection of our animal industry. We support extending mandatory inspection regulations to seafood. We support legislation to implement pathogen detection and reduction strategies based on sound science that targets micro bio-contamination by pathogens that may be harmful to consumers. We request the USDA to strengthen the inspection process for meat and poultry that is being imported into the United States. However, we will oppose adopting “user fees” to pay for inspection services and or any changes in the system that will result in less than continuous inspection during processing of meat and poultry for human consumption.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to eliminate the unfair prohibition against the interstate shipment of state inspected meat and poultry products if the state meat and poultry inspection service is equal to or better than the federal meat and poultry inspection service system.
3. The National Grange urges Congress to fund, and the USDA to develop and disseminate, educational programs relative to safe handling of foods.
4. The National Grange will seek legislation to have the uniform expiration date stamped, not coded, on all processed food.
5. The National Grange strongly urges that the USDA work with State Departments of Agriculture on a cooperative effort to enforce and inspect egg production including egg grading and egg safety. Furthermore, the National Grange supports the effort where USDA and FDA work more closely together on food safety issues and that the two agencies should be given more power to order food recalls and close down firms with records of serial contamination violations.
6. The National Grange supports legislation requiring more open notice to the consumer on products containing M.R.M (machine removed meat).
7. The National Grange opposes federal legislation that would presume that all food, including food produced for local market sale and consumption, should be treated as potentially hazardous and would require family farmers to produce and maintain onerous amounts of paperwork indicating what production inputs were purchased and when food produced on an individual farm will be consumed, in



order to reach an unattainable goal of total traceability of all food produced in the United States, all the way through the food system. Additionally, the National Grange opposes federal legislation that would add an unwelcome layer of national bureaucratic paperwork to the business of producing food to meet local demand without demonstrating any commensurate food safety benefits to consumers, or cost reductions that benefit family farmers or their local customers.

8. The National Grange supports the establishment of additional mobile slaughterhouses meeting USDA standards.

#### *Farmer Credit Programs and the Farm Credit System*

1. The primary function of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) should be a lender of last resort for farmers who are unable to acquire needed capital from conventional lending sources. Caution must be exercised to avoid granting undue advantage to large operations at the expense of family-sized farming units. The Grange urges the FSA to strengthen farm loan programs and assist borrowers in “graduating” to conventional credit sources. Loan programs should provide needed short and long-term low interest credit for soil and water conservation. We believe that the local committees should have the legal authority to act upon all farmer loans. We support providing emergency loans and management assistance during times of natural disasters, commodity embargoes, or economic setbacks to expedite the application, review and granting process for these loans. During situations of economic stress facing FSA farm borrowers, we support maintaining the right of mediation on farm loan foreclosures. We further believe that the present owner/operator or beginning farmer should be given the first consideration of sale or lease in disposing of foreclosed farms.
2. The National Grange supports the separation of the truly agricultural production and farm ownership lending programs from lending programs generally associated with rural development such as the Business and Industry Loan Program, water and sewer loans, and non-farm family homes, to free Farm Service Agency county office staff to better supervise agricultural production loans. Business and Industrial Loan Guarantee Programs should be administered so they do not interfere with providing credit to family farmers.
3. The National Grange supports Farm Credit System programs that will service the needs of farmers who are actively and directly engaged in the production of agricultural commodities. We support retaining the present tax exemptions that apply to the Farm Credit System, and we specifically recommend that the Farm Credit System create policies and programs that will assist young and beginning farmers. We oppose efforts by the Farm Credit System to increase its activities regarding insurance coverage for its farm borrowers.
4. The National Grange recommends that the lending authority of the Farm Credit System be expanded to address the total needs of rural communities, including rural economic development. We support the financing of on-farm and off-farm facilities that add value to agricultural commodities or provide services to agricultural production and marketing as well as financing for agricultural exports to all foreign markets. We further support FCS financing directed toward the development of rural enterprises engaged in the development of alternative uses for agricultural commodities and the development of rural infrastructures, such as

water and sewer systems and the creation of state of the art telecommunication systems for rural areas.

5. The National Grange supports requiring all agricultural lending institutions, including those under the Federal Reserve System, to consider the security and payment history of the applicant rather than relying entirely upon his/her cash flow.

#### *Agriculture Trade Policy*

1. The National Grange continues to support legislation, trade agreements and other measures that will lead to the freeing of world trade between nations on a mutually beneficial basis. We support “fast track” trade legislation to provide the President with sufficient legal authority to negotiate effectively for a reduction in trade barriers, both tariff and non-tariff. We continue to favor the principles set forth by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and will support amendments to the WTO that will call for swifter remedies to trade disputes. The Grange must continue to work for sound trade agreements for agriculture by encouraging the Administration and Congress to aggressively ensure that American farmers achieve access to all markets covered by trade agreements.
2. The National Grange supports the permanent appointment of a Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. We support the strong representation of U.S. agricultural interests in all negotiations regarding U.S. trade relations, and to ensure that the cost of research and development is not born solely by the American farmer.
3. The National Grange continues to work for an adequate food supply for the entire world. We encourage increased food production in developing countries. To that end, we support an international food program that provides for the support of all nations in a cooperative endeavor to meet current and projected food needs in deficient areas and ensures that food will be available and efficiently distributed. All nations should give more support for research, education and development of programs designed to improve the capability of farmers in food deficient areas to meet more of the food needs of their people.
4. The National Grange supports the development of a consistent policy on the use of sanctions by the U.S. government. The Grange opposes trade embargoes as a first choice of action, but should all choices fail, short of military action, and a trade embargo becomes the only alternative, the Grange urges the federal government to embargo all products- agricultural, industrial and technical- instead of specific agricultural commodities. If sanctions become necessary as a tool of foreign policy, then sanctions should be used only as a consequence of multilateral sanctions.
5. In any new trade negotiations or discussions in re-opening any existing trade pacts, the National Grange strongly supports the inclusion of policy to protect state laws, including defense of such laws by the proper authorities in any trade court.
6. The Granges at all levels pressure our Federal Legislators, both the House and Senate, to vote No on FTAA. We believe it will only lower the standard of living in the U.S. by forcing the job market to move to other countries.
7. The National Grange insists that representatives of USDA and the Dept. of Homeland Security be present at all Free Trade negotiations to insure that an

adequate supply of domestically produced dairy products be maintained. Congress should diligently scrutinize all Free Trade Agreements to protect agriculture production in the event of serious food shortages caused by natural disaster, disease or terrorism before voting the Trade Agreement “up or down.”

#### *Agriculture Imports*

1. The National Grange supports strict enforcement of laws regulating the importation of harmful species of plants and animals. We further support measures which will require tighter oversight and control at port of entry and market outlets in an effort to control the importation of exotic fowl, pet birds, and the establishment of procedures for the treatment of imported cargoes to prevent the importation of plant or animal insects or diseases.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would require the USDA to certify that food products coming into the USA for human consumption have not been grown or treated with products that are not currently registered for use on food products in the United States.
3. The National Grange does not approve of using inspections, grading, health, and sanitary or labeling standards as non-tariff barriers to trade. We do support placing import quotas and/or import tariffs on agricultural commodities as a means of protecting domestic markets from seasonal and over trend market penetration surges. We urge Congress and the President to investigate dumping of food products from other countries to the US market that affect the agriculture industry in the United States. We insist that all imported agricultural products, including value-added commodities, meet the same strict inspection, unapproved pesticide residues, grading, and labeling standards as domestically-produced products and that these standards be strictly enforced, and the country of origin supply certification that the imported product is free of harmful diseases and pests. We specifically recommend that all imported products be labeled with the name of the country of origin until the consumer purchases it. We further support the elimination of all export subsidies on agricultural products imported into the United States or the imposition of countervailing duties to offset the subsidy value.
4. The National Grange supports strict enforcement of existing countervailing duties to offset the subsidy value on certain agricultural and timber products being imported from Canada to protect the agriculture and timber industries in states along the Canadian border.
5. Imports of animals, meat, meat products and bone meal into the United States from any country having Mad Cow Disease should be stopped until scientific data shows otherwise.

#### *Agriculture Exports & Embargoes*

1. The National Grange encourages its members to work through their commodity export promotion organizations on increasing the producers’ participation in export market development. We strongly support retaining the present system of private enterprise and cooperatives in export sales. We continue to support government export credit programs, including blended credit, and propose the establishment of a revolving export credit fund. We further support the formation of a national marketing federation of regional marketing cooperatives to cover

all agricultural export commodities and better serve the world's markets. We encourage all segments of the agricultural community to increase their private investment in export market development for American agricultural commodities

2. The National Grange supports legislation or administrative action that will continue to maintain and increase the exporting of agricultural commodities. We recommend new emphasis on cash sales for agricultural products along with aggressive exportation of high value-added products. Consideration should be given to greater participation by the USDA in the administration and distribution of United States' food-aid programs.
3. The National Grange urges the Grain Inspection Service of the USDA to take all necessary steps to insure that only grain of the quality specified in the purchase be moved into the export markets.
4. The National Grange supports increasing market development programs conducted through the USDA and AID with emphasis on financing and development of the infrastructure of recipient countries to facilitate the receiving and distribution of U.S. agricultural products.
5. The National Grange will oppose restrictions being placed on imports into the United States that could result in retaliatory action being taken against U.S. agricultural exports by the exporting country. We recommend that further legislative and/or administrative actions be taken to enhance the exportation of U.S. agricultural commodities. We strongly support keeping the authority to determine national agricultural export policy in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We support all efforts to maintain the sanctity of export contracts. We support monitoring and full public disclosure of information concerning sales to foreign countries. We support negotiations to eliminate all tariff and non-tariff trade restrictions against United States' agricultural exports.
6. The National Grange will oppose any attempt to embargo, restrict or otherwise burden the export of logs or any other privately grown agricultural commodity by a complete or partial ban, quota, or tax of any nature.
7. The National Grange supports swift implementation of the Taft-Hartley Act's provisions against workers who refuse to load agricultural commodities for export.
8. The National Grange supports developing agricultural trade with Cuba. We seek means whereby Cuba might be extended loans and/or credit to purchase U.S. agricultural products.

#### *Marketing and Cooperatives*

1. The National Grange opposes any repeal of the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922, and strongly supports agricultural cooperatives and the special legal status granted to agricultural cooperatives under this Act.
2. Agricultural cooperatives should be owned and controlled by farmers. We support tax law changes that would allow cooperatives to raise additional equity capital to expand cooperative operations as long as such equity does not undermine farmer ownership and control of their cooperative. We support allowing grain-marketing cooperatives to receive commodity loans.
3. The National Grange supports purchasing, processing, and marketing rural electric and telephone cooperatives that are providing high quality products and services to their members.
4. The National Grange urges the USDA and other appropriate agencies to

continue their educational programs for farmers on the use of the futures market through hedging and other marketing options to increase farm profitability.

5. The National Grange continues to support the efforts of commodity organizations to improve the promotional activities for their products.
6. The National Grange endorses federal and state legislation to protect the bargaining status of cooperatives. Purchasers should be required to recognize and negotiate in good faith with the designated representatives of their producers. The right of producers to control by democratic means the selection of bargaining cooperatives to represent them should be guaranteed by law. Processors of agricultural products should be prohibited from intimidating growers or withholding growers' contracts because of membership in a bargaining association.
7. The National Grange supports extending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1937 to include all agricultural commodities. Following the marketing order approval by a referendum of respective producers, regulations covering allocating aggregate market supply among markets in time, space, and form; trading practices; grading standards; container and other terms of sale should be issued under the order. The USDA should have the administrative responsibility to implement Federal Marketing Orders.
8. The National Grange urges the USDA to cooperate fully with the states in developing direct farmer to consumer marketing programs.
9. The National Grange recommends that the provisions of any check-off be approved by a majority of the producers of that commodity in a national referendum. Following producer approval, the programs shall be mandatory, without refunds, and that no more than 5% of the check-off funds can be used for administrative costs. The funds shall be under the control of the promotion board with oversight responsibility in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
10. The National Grange supports a study to determine the feasibility of a check-off program for wheat to fund a research, educational and promotional program on the nutritional benefits of wheat flour products.
11. The National Grange supports increased research by government and industry to discover and develop new uses and markets for agricultural commodities, including the development of value-added products with the aid of non-farm groups. We further support a national agricultural marketing policy which would encourage farmers to retain important production and marketing decisions in their own hands and that would encourage domestic regional marketing cooperatives to develop a cooperative marketing federation that is capable of entering into the international market for selling farm commodities.
12. The National Grange supports integrating and coordinating existing state and federal governments' export marketing programs, such as the Market Access Program, the Market Promotion Program, and other similar programs that are designed to develop and expand foreign markets for U.S. farm products. We believe that these programs should be limited to domestic firms and targeted to new exporting companies, small businesses and individual farmers who sell directly into export markets. We urge Congress and the USDA to reinstate the Export Enhancement Program in order to meet the price competition in world markets. New efforts should be made in the development of marketing programs to expand agricultural exports that encourage the participation of new export



marketing groups, such as farm cooperatives and export trading companies. Farmers selling commodities directly into the export market should be subject to all of the protections and restrictions that apply to corporations and other commercial ventures that are selling into the export market.

13. The National Grange supports retaining present state standards for maple syrup, and opposes any mandatory federal regulations that would be less stringent than present state regulations.
14. The Grange vigorously opposes any effort which would abolish the current practice of carcass quality pricing of beef and swine in favor of one value fits all price concepts.

*Chemicals for Agriculture: Weed, Pest and Predator Control*

1. The National Grange urges the EPA to consult with state, industry, and user groups when developing policy and regulations that relate to pesticide industries. The National Grange also urges the EPA to use a reasonable approach in carrying out the provisions and requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. We recommend relying on impartial scientific research data that is based on the normal human consumption patterns of a product before suspending or canceling the use of a particular chemical. We urge more review and study of a chemical before the public is advised that an agricultural chemical may be harmful to their health. We support increased research and education being done by the USDA and EPA to improve integrated pest management. To that end, we support the reinstatement and full funding of the USDA's Pesticide Data Program. We further recommend that Congress provide additional funds for Land Grant Colleges and Universities to be more actively involved with biological pest control research.
2. The National Grange supports efforts to provide information to growers and farmers on actions that can be taken when adverse public statements are made questioning their use of agricultural chemicals that are legally registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We support legislation which would allow producers and handlers to seek criminal and punitive damages from people or organizations that disseminate false or unsubstantiated information which causes punitive harm to a grower or handler of an agricultural product, including seeking equal media time. We further seek legislation that would protect a farmer from criminal or civil liability regarding that farmer's use or disposal of an EPA-registered and approved herbicide or pesticide in accordance with the manufacturer's printed instructions.
3. The National Grange supports the reasonable and practical use of agricultural chemicals as well as reasonable and practical standards for reentry to fields or areas treated with agricultural chemicals. We urge the USDA to establish a certification program that encourages herbicide applicators to use best management practices to prevent damage to adjacent property. We further support adequate funding for increased research by all appropriate government agencies to develop, improve, and disseminate information on alternative or sustainable agriculture. We support developing educational programs for farmers on the safe use and disposal of agricultural chemicals, including their containers, in an environmentally safe way.
4. The National Grange supports certification and re-certification programs for all restricted use pesticides. All applicators of restricted-use pesticides should be



certified in the application of restricted-use pesticides.

5. The National Grange supports allowing the continued and appropriate use of the following farm chemicals: 2-4-D for weed control; triazines as a crop protectant; Elgetol for thinning apples; Compound 1080 for predator control; Methyl bromide for controlling insect infestations in stored commodities and any chemicals found to be effective in controlling fire ants. We further encourage the EPA to reevaluate their restrictions on certain pesticides that are used for grasshopper control so that a more effective environmental control program may be offered to farmers and ranchers.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that provides increased and continuous funding for the IR-4 minor use pesticides program. We recommend streamlining the approval process for minor use pesticides by reducing the cost and time necessary for registration or re-registration.
7. The National Grange supports a federal Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) that updates standards pertaining to pesticide and chemical residue in food be revisited, utilizing new technologies for determining food safety based on the negligible risk standard. We specifically urge the Environmental Protection Agency to implement the FQPA by using sound scientific data based on actual use of pesticides and agricultural chemicals and by providing a transition period for agriculture to adjust to the withdrawal of an approved pesticide.
8. The Cooperative Extension Service and the State Departments of Agriculture, in cooperation with retail and wholesale dealers of lawn and garden pesticides, should conduct special pesticide application classes for homeowners to ensure the proper use and disposal of unused chemicals and their containers. The sale of lawn and garden pesticides should be monitored closely by local and state authorities to insure that restricted use pesticides are not sold to uncertified applicators.
9. The National Grange opposes the EPA classifying plants as a pesticide based upon genetic engineering.
10. All fertilizer manufacturers using toxic, heavy metal, chemical or radioactive wastes should be required to list those components on the package label.
11. The National Grange will support a high priority program for the control of noxious weeds on all lands including Witchweed, Tartanian Honeysuckle, Russian or Autumn Olive and Multiflora Rose.
12. The National Grange urges the USDA to continue funding for the control of the Asian Gypsy Moth; Pine Beetle; Tussock Moth; and the Asian Long Horned Beetle. We support additional funding and legal authority to restrict the importation of foreign pests into the US. We urge USDA to alert the general public to the potential threat that foreign insects pose to our native species.
13. The National Grange supports legislation allowing farmers, ranchers and others to protect their property from predators, including endangered species.
14. The National Grange urges Congress to prohibit all sales of any form (live, dried, seeds) of any plant that has been placed on a state, regional or national noxious weed list.

#### *Research and Extension*

1. The National Grange strongly supports the cooperative Extension Service (ES), as well as the land grant universities in their effort to maintain a quality extension program in their respective states. The ES should continue to provide leadership

to the agricultural and rural sectors with programs directed primarily to improving the quality of rural life. We recommend renewed federal funding for the State Farm Safety Specialist position and farm safety programs, establishing a job retraining program for displaced, disabled, or injured farmers and ranchers, maintaining a viable 4-H Program, and increased funding by all government entities so that the ES can provide information on alternative and sustainable agricultural practices and marketing methods.

2. The National Grange continues to strongly support adequate funding for basic and applied agricultural research from federal, state and private sources. We specifically recommend full funding of the federal share of agricultural research, especially in cases of emergencies when increased research is required. We strongly support additional research to provide the technology that is pertinent to small-scale agriculture, including more emphasis on research in the areas of marketing, insect control, disease control, energy use, improved product quality, and soil and water management.
3. The National Grange supports increased funding for the National Seed Storage Laboratory in an effort to preserve plant material and seed germ plasm.
4. The National Grange will support the goals of sustainable agriculture research and education programs that will promote the most efficient and effective Best Management Practices (BMT) to reduce soil loss due to erosion, protect water quality from degradation by substance discharge from agricultural operations, and to identify methodologies that will result in higher profitability from production through market development.
5. The National Grange supports expansion of precision agriculture practices to include poultry and livestock production to make animal nutrition more effective, reduce the amount of waste, and reduce the nutrient levels in the waste.
6. The National Grange endorses existing organic farming research and education.
7. The National Grange urges the USDA to grant the New England Agriculture Innovation Center \$1,000,000 the first year and \$1,000,000 the second year.

#### *Biotechnology Policy, Research and Application to Agriculture*

1. The National Grange supports a federal policy to allow the use of biotechnology in agriculture. We recognize that genetic engineering of plants and animals has already had a positive impact on increasing the availability of food, decreasing the environmental impact of agriculture and creating foods that are safer, longer-lasting, more nutritious and better tasting. We further support continued research on biotechnology and genetic engineering, including further scientific research into non-human cloning. We support an approval process for genetically modified plants and animals which utilizes science-based decision making to assure the safety of agricultural products. To that end, the National Grange philosophically supports the efforts of National Science Foundation (NSF) concerning their Plant Genome Initiative.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that provides that patented plants and livestock that have been developed through biotechnology (gene-splitting, cloning, genetic engineering, etc.) will be made available to farmers by provisions that will not result in a concentration of the patented livestock in the hands of a few large firms and will not interfere with their availability to all farmers.
3. The Grange urges the FDA, EPA, USDA, and other national farm organizations

to publicize the safety of GMO's to help reduce the resistance to the use of this technology providing correct and scientifically verified information on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) to news media and other outlets to enhance the availability of truthful information and ultimately provide more information to the world community.

#### *Anti-Trust Issues*

1. The National Grange recommends that Congress investigate the possibility that very large corporations that own and operate livestock/poultry slaughtering plants as well as very large livestock/poultry feeding facilities are violating anti-trust laws. We question whether or not those firms are engaged in price manipulation resulting from their control of an extremely large portion of the market; their lack of competitive bidding because of the regionally specific location of the slaughtering plants that are owned by these corporations and their access to their own large numbers of fed animals or poultry in their own feeding facilities. If any firms are found to be in violation of anti-trust laws, the Department of Justice or the Federal Trade Commission should take the necessary action to uphold the laws.
2. The National Grange calls on the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the agricultural supply, agricultural transportation, grain handling, pricing policies and the potential anti-competitive marketing practices of all large corporations in the food processing and food marketing industries. We oppose the concentrated growing, marketing and distribution of agricultural production by large corporations other than farm co-operatives in the US. We call upon the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the pricing policy of the food industry and anti-competitive marketing practices, such as the purchasing of shelf space and product location that places new and less expensive generic brands at a marketing disadvantage. We express deep anti-trust concerns regarding the control of the U.S. seed supply to both Congress and the Department of Justice and urge both to conduct a close review of recent acquisitions and mergers.
3. The National Grange urges the Secretary of Agriculture to appoint a study committee composed of representatives from farm organizations, commodity groups, and integrators to study the terms of grower contracts to determine fairness to both parties and their acceptance by lending institutions. We further support better nationwide reporting of price and contract information, including forward contract prices, and on-going studies of the relationship between farm gate prices and retail prices. We urge the USDA to fully fund these efforts.
4. The National Grange urges continued awareness of the address issues related to the Internet trading of grain and other agricultural production. We urge the imposition of necessary regulations on Internet trading of grain where appropriate to protect the farmer.

#### *USDA Responsibilities, Authorities & Organization*

1. The National Grange strongly supports the U.S. Department of Agriculture remaining as an independent agency with the Secretary of Agriculture as a member of the President's Cabinet.
2. The National Grange supports the repeal of the USDA's personnel regulations that forbid USDA employees from actively participating in the meetings and other activities of farm organizations, from holding office in farm organizations, from

participating in membership recruitment campaigns, or from acting as a volunteer financial or business agent of a farm organization. This should not change or alter the USDA's other regulations concerning general employee conduct.

3. The National Grange strongly urges the USDA to devise plans to reduce the paperwork for farmers to participate in federal farm programs. We urge the USDA and its agencies to format all reports, applications and paperwork that are to be filed by farmers, so that they may be filled out via computer media using commonly accepted word processing programs, and returned to the agency for processing.

#### *Disaster Assistance and Risk Management*

1. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of the multi-peril federal crop insurance program (FCI) that provides coverage on all program, non-program and specialty crops on a nationwide basis. We support changes in the FCI program that would include multi-peril insurance for all crops. We recommend that federal crop insurance coverage be updated annually to reflect the cost of production. We further believe that area coverage should be dropped and a realistic production base should be established for each tract of land.
2. The National Grange urges the USDA Risk Management Division to take steps to accelerate the processing and payment of claims. We support using uniform standards for grading fruits for market, hail and other damage payments.
3. The USDA Risk Management Division should discontinue providing insurance coverage on a percentage basis. Coverage should be changed to insure crops on a dollar amount of loss per acre (or unit). The National Grange recommends removing any percent cut on estimated yields if weather conditions prevent timely planting. In addition, the USDA Risk Management Division should delete all of the current footnotes and should clearly state all exceptions, limitations and other provisions concerning crop coverage in the insurance policy.
4. The National Grange supports disaster aid relief that is based on individual rather than countywide losses. We urge the federal government to distribute surplus stored grain, at no cost and on a need basis, to limited resource farmers in disaster stricken areas as well as make available a recourse loan on a need basis for damaged commodities.
5. The National Grange urges the USDA Risk Management Division to allow an option that will permit wheat producers covered by the USDA Risk Management Division's crop insurance to obtain a replant payment if replanting is required.
6. The National Grange urges the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to streamline procedures that will expedite implementation of the disaster and market loss program payments. Funding for these payments must be "emergency" and not otherwise reduce any other farm bill program spending.
7. The National Grange supports the Farm and Ranch Risk Management (FARRM) account program allowing farmers and ranchers to deposit a set-aside amount of pre-tax dollars into an interest-bearing account to average income fluctuations.
8. A farm yield or county average yield history for any government farm programs shall not be influenced when a yield is less than 50% of the normal yield of a given crop and is caused by any God-given weather related disaster (drought-heat, flood,

wind, hail, etc.) that is out of a farmer's control.

#### *Farm Labor*

1. In the organization of farm laborers on the West Coast and other farm labor-intensive areas, it is evident that the consolidation of production units may lead to increased costs to the consumers and the producer because of possible disruptions caused by labor disputes. Therefore, while we continue to support the rights of individuals to organize, we call for sound approaches when dealing with labor problems in the agricultural industry. Labor and management in the food and agricultural industries should seek solutions to labor problems without striking. To further this goal, we recommend establishing procedures for negotiating labor disputes that will minimize disruptive labor strikes, especially during critical growing and harvesting periods. We also support a prohibition on the exclusive use of hiring halls for supplying agricultural labor and a prohibition on the use of secondary boycotts.
2. The National Grange supports a youth differential minimum wage rate for youth under the age of 18 so agricultural employers will be willing to employ such persons.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that will reduce federal funding of the Legal Service Corporation (LSC), a federal agency that provides legal services to the poor, including migrant farm workers. The LSC legal services should be limited to representing the poor in the courts, not an advocacy group for farm employees that investigate perceived violations of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act.
4. The Workman's Compensation Insurance Program should be the exclusive remedy for work-related injuries under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act.

#### *Farm Safety*

1. The National Grange supports a comprehensive farm-safety training program for operation of farm machinery, use of chemicals, and animal management to be funded through the Cooperative Extension Service at land grant universities.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would require manufacturers of tractors and self-propelled farm equipment that may be used on public highways be equipped with signal lights and reflectors that would be visible from all sides. Machinery and wagons should be equipped with reflector tape. Farmers should be encouraged to use lights and reflectors or a reflective material on all sides of tractors and machinery that is traveling on public highways.
3. The National Grange strongly opposes any attempt by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to require that farmers, farm workers or ranchers have commercial drivers licenses (CDLs) to transport their crops and/or their landlord's crops on the public highways.

#### *Miscellaneous*

1. The National Grange supports the agricultural weather forecasting service.
2. The National Grange continues to support the development of aquaculture. We urge aquacultural farmers to use care and caution in the placement of rearing pens



- in public waterways so as not to interfere with other waterway uses.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would ensure a producer the “right to harvest” any legally planted crop in spite of any environmental or regulatory action arising between planting and harvest time.
  4. The National Grange opposes production, processing, and marketing of Cannabis sativa L. subsp. Sativa var. sativa, industrial hemp products until technology exists which can extract all amounts of the psychoactive chemical tetrahydrocannabinol, thus reducing the potential misuse of industrial hemp for illegal activities.
  5. The National Grange opposes EPA regulations that concern unsubstantiated dust blowing attributed to agricultural operation.
  6. The National Grange actively supports revising the standards, so that all meats in the national school lunch program are required to meet the new standards used by the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service.
  7. The Grange at all levels support initiatives to encourage the use of farm structures as a base for communication antennas.
  8. The National Grange seeks a more aggressive position on the issue of irrigation water shared by the U.S. and Mexico on behalf of the U.S. interest and that the period of payback for the excess usage of irrigation water be limited to two years rather than five years.
  9. The Grange supports legislation which offers a form of reimbursement of student loans for large animal veterinarians committing to work in private practice.
  10. The National Grange supports legislation to simplify the business application of the current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) so that businesses may more easily become participants.

My sincere thanks go to the committee members for their valuable contributions. Our committee had very knowledgeable members who understand the agriculture industry from a variety of aspects. We also thank Tyler Manson for his participation, as well as the entire legislative staff. It was an honor to serve with this committee.

Fraternally,

Don Johnson, ID, Chair

Bruce Croucher, NY, Secretary

John Plank, IN

Maurice Wiles, MD

Joe Fryman, NE

Jimmy Gentry, NC

Jack Smithers, TX

Phil Prelli, CT (H)

Linda Chase, MA (H)



**AUDIT & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT****INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>BACKGROUND MATERIAL</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u></b>
AB-101	Covered Expenses for Officers & Delegates		<b>Adopted</b>
AB-102	Authorized Travel Reimburse- ment		<b>Adopted</b>
AB-103	National Grange Compensa- tion		<b>Adopted</b>

**POLICY STATEMENT**

The members of the Audit and Budget Committee commend the National Master, Executive Committee and National Grange staff for presenting us with a balanced budget while offering value to our membership.

Dues on all levels of the Grange are the lifeblood of our Order and it is imperative that Granges on all levels and in all states make a sincere serious effort to attract new members while working to retain our existing members. Continued decreases in membership will result in difficult decisions in the future to eliminate programs, departments or personnel in the National Grange office.

The Audit and Budget Committee encourages all State Masters to publicize our e-membership program. This program will provide the National and State Granges with much needed income for our Order.

We would like to thank the Granges and Grange members who continue to financially support the National Grange Headquarters Building Reserve Fund. Our National headquarters is a real asset to the Order. The income generated by the rentals provides us with much needed funds to support our many programs. If you are going to be in the Greater Washington D.C. area, please contact the National Grange staff to arrange for a tour of YOUR National headquarters.

Please remember that all donations to the Grange Foundation are tax deductible as the Foundation has 501 (c)(3) tax status. We encourage members and non-members to continue their financial support of the Youth Leadership Fund, Junior Fund, the Kelley Farm, the General Foundation Funds, Name Protection Fund, and the National Grange Endowment Fund. Members and non-members alike may wish to consider the Foundation for memorials or estate planning.

We commend the National Grange Sales, Benefits and Programs Department for the work put into soliciting member benefits to increase our membership and generate additional revenue streams for the National Grange.

We encourage all members to continually monitor the many member benefits that are listed on the National Grange website. At the present time, the programs through Choice Hotels and the National Grange Travel Center provide a small revenue stream to National Grange. The new Amazon.com program will provide income to the National Grange Foundation Youth Fund.

It is vitally important that members on all levels of the Grange take an active interest in

increasing our membership so that we may be able to continue and thus increase the good work of the Grange for many years to come.

## **CREDENTIAL REPORT**

This is the report of the Committee on Audit and Budget that deals with the credentials of the delegate body. The Secretary's records show the following states have 15 or more Granges, have their dues paid for the current year, and the following duly elected delegates are entitled to be seated as representatives of these states at the 145<sup>th</sup> annual Convention of the National Grange.

California	Bob McFarland	Wendy McFarland
Colorado	David McCord	Kay McCord
Connecticut	Jody Cameron	Jodi Ann Cameron
Delaware	William Narvel	Barbara Narvel
Idaho	Don Johnson	Mary Johnson
Illinois	Lyle Lee	Patti Lee
Maine	James Owens	Rick Grotton
Maryland	Maurice Wiles	Donna Wiles
Massachusetts	Matthew Johnson	Calvin Chase
Michigan	Christopher Johnston	Connie Johnston
New Hampshire	Jim Tetreault	Arthur Merrill
New Jersey	John Benedik	Meghan Taylor
New York	Stephen Coye	Mary Coye
North Carolina	Jimmy Gentry	Anita Gentry
Ohio	Gary Brumbaugh	Linda Brumbaugh
Oklahoma	Donna Keeton	Brad Keeton
Oregon	Mark Noah	Phyllis Wilson
Pennsylvania	Carl Meiss	Betsy Huber
Rhode Island	Steve Logan	Claire Logan
Vermont	Errol Briggs	Dale Sanderson
Washington	Duane Hamp	Chris Hamp

The Secretary's records show the following states have the required six to 14 Granges, have their dues paid for the current year, and the following duly elected delegates are entitled to one vote and are entitled to be seated as representatives of these states at the 145<sup>th</sup> annual Convention of the National Grange:

Alaska	John Poirrier	Kate Poirrier
Florida	Barbara Borderieux	
Indiana	John Plank	Susan Plank
Iowa	Dwight Baldwin	Kathy Baldwin
Kansas	Roger Bostwick	Melanie Bostwick
Minnesota	Donna Champion	Karen Jensen
Montana	Scott Nicholson	Marie Nicholson
Nebraska	Joe Fryman	Tammy Fryman
South Carolina	Jerry Martin	
Tennessee	Judy Sherrod	
Texas	Jack Smithers	Margaret Smithers
Virginia	Jimmy Taylor	

West Virginia                      Jim Foster                      Earlene Foster  
Wisconsin                          Duane Scott  
Wyoming  
Potomac Grange #1 is represented by Joan Smith.  
Nevada is represented by Karen Letourneau.

Nathan Strawder (KS) has been selected as the John Trimble Youth Legislative Experience participant for the 145<sup>th</sup> annual Convention, and is entitled to be seated as the Youth Representative.

### **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION**

#### *Covered Expenses for Officers and Delegates*

RESOLVED, that the National Grange pay room costs for the required days at the National Grange Convention for delegates, officers and approved non-delegates for the 2012 National Grange Convention.

This covers resolution AB-101.

#### *Authorized Travel Reimbursement*

RESOLVED, that the National Grange reimburse 30 cents per mile per car to those authorized who travel by car from their home to the convention site, round trip mileage as shown by the AAA, or other reliable source, up to the amount it would be for the lowest available airfare, and be it further

RESOLVED, that those authorized to travel to the 2012 National Grange convention by air or other public transportation be reimbursed for the actual fare provided that it is not first class or business class. Those authorized to travel shall be reimbursed for the first piece of luggage, but will not be reimbursed for oversize or overweight charges.

This covers resolution AB-102.

#### *National Grange Compensation*

RESOLVED, that the Audit and Budget Committee recommends the following compensation for elected officers:

National Master -- \$57,500 salary from \$54,000  
Secretary -- \$500 honorarium  
Lecturer -- \$500 honorarium

This covers resolution AB-103.

Please see income and expense statements on pages 202 and 203.

My sincere thanks go out to the members of my committee and to Amber Bell for her help, advice and insight into the finances of the National Grange. I would like to extend a special thanks to the committee secretary for her work in recording the actions of our committee.

John Benedik, Chairman (NJ)

Judy Sherrod, Secretary (TN)  
Chip Narvel (DE)  
Dwight Baldwin (IA)  
Jim Owens (ME)

Donna Keeton (OK)  
Duane Hamp (WA)  
Beth Merrill (H) (NH)

**NATIONAL GRANGE 2012 PROPOSED BUDGET**

<b>Income</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	<b>2012 Budget</b>
<b><u>Dues and Fees Income</u></b>					
Subordinate dues	773,643	779,266	814,007	817,580	773,889
E-membership	0	0	0	180	33,000
Subordinate & Pomona charter fees	322	255	380	320	250
Junior Grange charter fees	60	105	95	40	50
6th degree fees	1,145	1,150	988	933	1,000
7th degree fees	4,250	2,200	1,040	3,115	2,000
<b>Dues and Fees Subtotal:</b>	<b>779,419</b>	<b>782,976</b>	<b>816,510</b>	<b>822,167</b>	<b>810,189</b>
<b><u>Sales Income</u></b>					
Products	67,423	51,110	56,097	51,556	50,000
Member benefits	16,790	14,710	14,479	12,701	15,000
Certificate sales	9,630	9,983	9,239	8,114	9,000
Shipping and handling fees	6,247	5,067	5,699	5,498	5,000
Program development grants	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sales Subtotal:</b>	<b>100,089</b>	<b>80,871</b>	<b>85,515</b>	<b>77,869</b>	<b>79,000</b>
<b><u>Other Income</u></b>					
Building Income	898,119	909,105	1,013,005	1,067,189	1,077,679
Supportive Memberships	122,500	122,500	112,500	93,750	75,000
Fundraising and donations	20,170	67,418	30,376	8,571	0
License Agreement	100	5,260	1,450	2,300	1,500
Legislative Sponsorships (Grants)	82,000	87,400	74,000	53,000	65,000
Electronic media income	0	0	1,150	153	0
Advertising	0	0	0	0	500
Foundation Management Fee	0	0	0	0	100
New Grange subscriptions	0	0	0	0	0
Bonding Commission					5,000
Interest, dividends	3,770	1,174	9,828	(6,524)	3,500
Miscellaneous	11,282	4,863	5,353	7,915	2,000
<b>Other Subtotal:</b>	<b>1,137,941</b>	<b>1,197,720</b>	<b>1,247,662</b>	<b>1,226,356</b>	<b>1,230,279</b>
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>2,017,449</b>	<b>2,061,567</b>	<b>2,149,687</b>	<b>2,126,392</b>	<b>2,119,468</b>

<b>Expense</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	<b>2012 Budget</b>
<b>Personnel</b>					
Board of Directors	9,812	10,126	6,407	6,409	10,500
National Master Expense	25,737	25,901	32,888	35,163	30,800
National Master Salary	51,500	51,500	54,000	54,000	57,500
National Lecturer	0	0	500	500	500
National Secretary	500	500	500	500	500
Staff Salaries, taxes, benefits	668,573	684,260	717,921	732,407	734,798
High Priest	5,214	3,563	2,099	1,682	3,770
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>761,335</b>	<b>775,849</b>	<b>814,315</b>	<b>830,661</b>	<b>838,368</b>
<b>Departments</b>					
Building expense	399,076	483,566	477,244	400,956	483,754
General Administration	311,779	536,027	436,745	358,877	249,000
Communications/Publications	70,987	73,606	36,445	64,296	62,000
IT Systems	14,891	17,539	16,129	34,067	35,000
Junior Grange	19,415	27,704	22,341	20,017	22,400
Legislative	22,950	25,704	13,919	11,203	102,750
Marketing & Sales	60,233	46,644	59,098	56,683	69,000
Membership/Leadership	23,266	17,885	19,939	31,803	33,300
Youth Development	14,159	15,434	15,449	16,180	20,880
<b>Events, Services, Training</b>					
National Convention	157,287	110,816	124,379	145,286	147,000
Presidents Meeting	10,997	17,111	14,481	7,181	15,000
Reps. to State Conventions	12,235	17,456	3,313	11,508	20,000
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>1,117,275</b>	<b>1,389,490</b>	<b>1,239,483</b>	<b>1,158,056</b>	<b>1,260,084</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>					
Building Reserve Fund	0	0	0	0	20,000
Contributions	122	0	0	3,023	0
Furniture and equipment	0	0	0	0	0
Special Fundraising	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	2,884	1,620	2,148	2,311	1,000
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>3,006</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>5,334</b>	<b>21,000</b>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>1,881,616</b>	<b>2,166,959</b>	<b>2,055,946</b>	<b>1,994,051</b>	<b>2,119,452</b>
<b>Gross Contingency:</b>	<b>135,834</b>	<b>(105,392)</b>	<b>93,741</b>	<b>132,341</b>	<b>16</b>

**CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>FLOOR AC- TION</u></b>
MI-105	Broadband Works for Rural America		<b>Adopted</b>
OH-105	Telemarketers Cell Phones		<b>Adopted</b>
OH-117	Earmarks in Federal Spending		<b>Adopted</b>
OH-118	Personal Projects		<b>Adopted</b>
PA-101	Social Security Deduction		<b>Adopted</b>
PA-111	Federal Special Committees		<b>Adopted</b>
24 Hour Consent-1	Elected Officials - National Grange Policy Book, Page 36 #3		<b>Adopted</b>
24 Hour Consent-2	Telecommunications - National Grange Policy Book, Page 40, #6		<b>Adopted</b>
24 Hour Consent-3	Term Limits – Legislative Policy Book, Elected Officials, pg 36, #1		<b>Adopted</b>
Citizenship 102	Federal Budget Approval		<b>Adopted as amended</b>
WA-106	Executive Orders		<b>Adverse</b>
Citizenship 101	Term Limits		<b>Adverse</b>
OH-119	Piggybacking Legislation		<b>Adverse</b>
WA-107	Selective Service		<b>Adverse</b>
IA-102	Term Limits for Elected Officials		<b>Adverse</b>
OH-108	Term Limits for Congress		<b>Adverse</b>
WI-101	Representative's Term Limits		<b>Adverse</b>
IA-103	Congressional Pay Raises		<b>Adverse</b>
CT-103	Military Pay		<b>Covered under Citizenship 102</b>
ID-102	Government Shutdown & the Military		<b>Covered under Citizenship 102</b>



NY-122	Cuts to Military Pay & Benefits		<b>Covered under Citizenship 102</b>
PA-108	Services to Military		<b>Covered under Citizenship 102</b>
PA-109	Pay to Legislators		<b>Covered under Citizenship 102</b>
PG-101	Check & Balance Preservation		<b>Covered under PA-111</b>
IA-101	Star Spangled Banner		<b>Policy Statement</b>
NY-123	Social Security Increase		<b>Policy Statement</b>
MD-108	Social Security		<b>Present Policy</b>
ME-103	Balanced Budget		<b>Present Policy</b>
ME-104	Commemorative Forever Stamp		<b>Present Policy</b>
OH-107	Social Security System		<b>Present Policy</b>
OH-111	Social Security Funds		<b>Present Policy</b>
PA-110	Convicted Congressmen		<b>Present Policy</b>
TX-104	Congressional Action		<b>Present Policy</b>
TX-106	Medicare and Social Security Cuts		<b>Present Policy</b>
TX-107	Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset(GPO)		<b>Present Policy</b>
VT-103	National Grange Sesquicentennial Postage Stamp		<b>Present Policy</b>
IL-101	United States Census		<b>Returned to State</b>

NY-110	Telephone Records		<b>Transferred to Labor and Judiciary</b>
24 Hour Consent	Social Security- National Grange Policy Book, pg 38 #8		<b>Withdrawn</b>
NY-111	Taps as Song of Remembrance		<b>Withdrawn</b>
CA-107	Returning Congress to the People		<b>Withdrawn</b>
ID-101	Baseline Budgeting		<b>Withdrawn</b>

## POLICY STATEMENT

We the citizens of the United States of America are privileged to live in a country where the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights guarantees each of us the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These rights came at a price and we should honor those that paid the ultimate price and continue to do so, on the battlefields of foreign lands. We must insure our veterans are cared for; this includes access and support of continued education, job training and needed health care.

We must be ever mindful of the blessings and responsibilities of freedom given to us by others. We have the privilege to fly the American flag. The Stars and Stripes are the ultimate American symbol standing for freedom and our history. Our flag should be flown with honor, dignity, and proper respect. We believe the Pledge of Allegiance should be taught and recited in our schools, public functions, and whenever meetings are held. While we respect the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment concerning freedom of speech, we also advocate strong respect for the National Anthem in its original melody.

Our legislatures should continue to open their session with prayer and add a moment of silence to remember our Veterans because it is their sacrifices that guarantee our right to freedom and religion. We can honor them by strongly resisting those who would remove the religious symbols, slogans and beliefs of all religion from our public property.

As citizens of the United States we have the privilege and responsibility to elect the best person for the job, whether it is a local official or the President of the United States. We believe our elected officials need to be held to a higher standard in the political as well as their personal life. Integrity and morality were important to our founding fathers and ensure the survival of the USA. While national and state governments are necessary, we must remind our elected officials and government employees that many issues are ours to solve. The United States must not spend more than we receive over the long-term. We need to communicate to every elected official at the federal, state, and local level that our nation has called for change because of the individual freedoms each American treasures, not because of the hope for government handouts. Fiscal responsibility and simplification of the American tax code must be a top priority.

We rely on the different branches of the government to act in an ethical manner for the best interest of its citizens. The president and congress have no higher obligation than to work together to keep the Federal Government solvent despite their political positions. Continuing resolutions (CR's) only prolong the problem rather than showing strong leader-

ship. In the course of their legislative duties, we urge Congress to read and understand the bills before them and to refrain from attaching frivolous and unnecessary costs to the bills while remembering the taxpayers that they serve.

We continue to advocate a strong Social Security System that maintains solvency, provides adequate support to recipients to maintain a decent living existence, and completes the intent of “social security.”

There are many important issues facing our country today, among them are jobs, health-care, taxes, land preservation, business regulation and climate change. We believe that these issues should be approached with logic, fact-based research, and open debate rather than as partisan issues. We in the Grange are proud of our non-partisan principles and believe that it is the best approach to reaching the important decisions that must be made.

In support of free enterprise, we cannot continue to raise taxes without harming the initiative and strong work ethic of the average American. To insure continued success of Americans competing in the world, public and private partnerships should be created to insure that affordable high-speed broadband access is available to all.

America is a nation of communities. The things that directly benefit most citizens are based in our local community. Schools, healthcare, jobs, charity and daily recreation are provided not by the federal or state government, but by local people working together. When people focus on working together within our local communities, our quality of life is elevated. The Grange believes that community is the essential building block of our great nation. It is to us that falls the task of building our community, whether supporting our neighbor in time of disaster or working with them in a community garden. Today’s challenges are different. Grange members must respond with faith, hope, and charity to bring people together.

Covers MD-108, NY-123, OH-107, OH-111, IA-101  
and portions of the Masters external address.

## **RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY DELEGATE ACTION**

### *Broadband Works for Rural America*

RESOLVED, the National Grange support Legislation that encourages the deployment of high-speed broadband internet access and next-generation technologies to all of rural America, and be it further

RESOLVED, the National Grange support the modernization of the Universal Service Fund (USF) to secure last mile (wireline or wireless) connectivity for rural Americans to broadband, thereby creating jobs, enhancing the economy, and boosting local businesses.

This covers resolution MI-105.

### *Telemarketers Cell Phones*

WHEREAS, cell phone users pay for extra minutes that are used over and above their plan, not the telemarketers, and

WHEREAS, telemarketers, including exempt callers, are currently allowed to call all cell phones, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange lobby for laws to stop telemarketers from calling cell phones.

This covers resolution OH-105.

*Earmarks in Federal Spending*

WHEREAS, earmarks circumvent public scrutiny of Federal spending; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support measures like the Earmark Transparency Act and its mandate for a public, searchable database of all earmark requests.

This covers resolution OH-117.

*Personal Projects*

WHEREAS, some incumbent lawmakers in Congress continue to funnel federal funds toward projects with their names attached; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation to prevent sitting members of Congress from the funneling of funds toward projects with their names attached.

This covers resolution OH-118.

*Social Security Deduction*

WHEREAS, Social Security and Medicare funds are already going bankrupt and those who have been working for many years to secure money for their retirement have not had a raise in their Social Security benefits for two years and have had reduction in their Medicare benefits and are now living on less as their basic expenses have raised; and

WHEREAS, reducing the amount paid into these funds will cause these funds to go bankrupt sooner and is not a way to solve the problem; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we oppose reducing the amount deducted from workers' pay to be paid into Social Security and Medicare.

This covers resolution PA-101.

*Federal Special Committees*

WHEREAS, the Constitution ensures all citizens a system of government comprised of the Executive, Judicial and Legislative branches, where the powers of each branch are checked and balanced by the others; and

WHEREAS, recent bills such as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) contain directives to create commissions such as the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), populated by individuals who were not elected, and which provide mandates to Congress; and

WHEREAS, the directives and mandates of these commissions are not subject to judicial review; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange strongly oppose the use of any commission, council, or other consortium of non-elected appointees to create legislative mandates that Congress must adhere to, that are not subject to judicial review or the American system of checks and balances.

This covers resolution PA-111.

*Amendment to Current Policy: Elected Officials*

National Grange Legislative Policy Book, Elected Officials, Page 36, #3, strike the words "eliminating the current Congressional retirement system and mandating instead."

This is a 24-hour resolution.

*Amendment to Current Policy: Telecommunications*

National Grange Legislative Policy Book, Telecommunications Section, #6, page 40, strike the wording beginning with "To this end" and continuing through "1996 Telecom-

munications Bill be fully implemented.”

This is a 24-hour resolution.

*Amendment to Current Policy: Term Limits*

RESOLVED that the National Grange Legislative Policy Book on Elected Officials, page 36 #1 Sentence 2, to read

“We also favor a maximum of 12 years of consecutive service for senators and representatives.”

This covers resolutions IA-102, OH-108, WI-101. This is a 24-hour resolution.

*Federal Budget Approval Revised*

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Grange strongly advocate for Congress to pass the federal budget in a timely manner to avoid any possibility of Government shut down. We discourage the use of Continuing Resolutions (CR) as stop-gap measures or in place of a budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that National Grange strongly urges the passage of a bill for all military personnel to be paid even during a government shutdown; and be it further

RESOLVED, that social security recipients and funds for other critical social service recipients be continued if the federal budget is not passed on time; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange supports a policy that prohibits national legislators from receiving their salary, expenses and benefits during any time in which a federal budget is not in effect; and be it further

RESOLVED, that no retroactive salary, expenses or benefits for Congress be provided once a federal budget has been approved.

This resolution, Citizenship 102, covers resolutions CT-103,  
ID-102, NY-122, PA-108, PA-109.

**PRESENT POLICY**

*Social Welfare Programs*

1. The National Grange urges enforcement of current food stamp regulations and encourages related social agencies to assist food stamp recipients with information about foods that meet their basic needs. The National Grange asks the food stamp program to allow essential non-food personal articles such as laundry soap and toilet paper to be purchased using food stamps and opposes replacing food stamps with cash distributions.
2. The National Grange supports requiring additional means to facilitate the identification of each child’s father for purposes of welfare recovery.
3. The National Grange supports the continuation of the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program.
4. The National Grange supports federally assisted housing programs that are designed to assist the poor, near poor, elderly, and handicapped. However, we oppose any “shared housing” concept that would force persons to share their federally assisted dwelling with other persons not of their choosing. We further oppose including ‘disadvantaged persons’ including the mentally ill and other categories of people, in government subsidized housing for the elderly.

5. The National Grange supports legislation which protects senior citizens and dependent adults from neglect, physical, and financial abuse.
6. The National Grange encourages states to establish a central adoption information center where information on adoptable children could be recorded.
7. The National Grange strongly urges public transportation carriers to continue Operation Home Free that gives runaway teenagers free transportation home.
8. The National Grange supports legislation in Congress that would help revitalize rural areas by establishing a Venture Capital Fund to aid businesses in rural areas.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would require drug testing to be included in the eligibility requirements for welfare recipients.

*Native Americans*

1. The National Grange supports legislation to impose a statute of limitations on land claims of not more than 40 years on legal actions that are taken by Native American Nations to recover land they sold or otherwise exchanged.
2. The National Grange supports Native Americans in their reservation treaty rights to retain their mineral deposits.
3. The National Grange recommends that non-reservation lands that are purchased by an Indian tribe, or its individual members, should remain on the county's tax rolls. The National Grange also supports legislation requiring the U.S. government to make payments to local governments in lieu of current property taxes for all land purchased for Indian tribes under the Federal Tribal Acquisition Program.
4. The National Grange believes that those Native Americans who use modern technology when they hunt or fish away from established Indian reservations should be subject to the same laws as other citizens.
5. The National Grange supports the continuation of all rights and privileges enjoyed by Native Americans as U.S. citizens, including fulfilling all responsibilities associated with such citizenship.
6. The National Grange supports laws to prevent the robbery or desecration of Native American graves and burial sites and to require newly discovered human remains, grave artifacts and/or sacred items of Native American origin to be returned to the tribes or areas of their origin.

*Elections*

1. We believe that projections and/or final results of national elections should not be reported or broadcast by the news media until the polls have closed in all western states.
2. The National Grange urges all of its members to exercise their right to vote. We further recommend that all ballots and pertinent instructions for all elections be printed in the English language only and that proof of citizenship be required at the time of voter registration. We oppose same day registration voting laws. The National Grange urges legislation that will provide minimum standards for Presidential and Vice Presidential ballots in all states.
3. The National Grange urges the streamlining of the voting process for members of the Armed Forces during election time to make it easier for them to vote and ensure that their vote gets counted on Election Day.
4. The National Grange supports the current Electoral College system for presidential



and vice-presidential elections.

5. The National Grange supports a change in the qualifications for appointment as a United States Supreme Court Justice requiring the candidate to be a citizen of the United States of America.
6. The National Grange supports a change in the qualifications for appointment as a United States Supreme Court Justice requiring the candidate to be a citizen of the United States of America.

#### *Campaign Reform*

1. The National Grange supports campaign reform legislation with definite guidelines regarding limits of spending. We support legislation to prohibit Political Action Committees (PACs) from making contributions to political campaigns. We support the current provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act concerning matching funds for the Presidential election campaign. We urge State Granges to support similar election and campaign reforms in their respective states.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would make it illegal for any candidate, holder of public office, or national party, to accept campaign gifts or contributions from foreign countries and/or citizens of foreign countries—at all levels of government.

#### *Elected Officials*

1. The Grange favors changing the term of office of Congressional Representatives from two to four years. We also favor a maximum of 12 years consecutive service for Senators and Representatives.
2. The National Grange supports a ban on automatic salary increases for elected officials and Members of Congress, separate from those of judges and other federal government employees. All Congressional pay raises should be considered by Congress during normal business hours and on their own merits as a separate entity to be discussed in open committee hearings and voted on by roll call with a three-fourths majority voting in the affirmative as opposed to being attached to an unrelated piece of legislation. Any approved Congressional pay increases should take effect at the next session of Congress. The National Grange further favors strengthening the law limiting the amount of gifts and money that members of Congress can accept.
3. The National Grange urges members of Congress to participate in both Social Security and the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS). We further recommend that all laws, including employment laws, apply to Congressional members.
4. The National Grange recommends that Congress adopt contingency provisions to maintain government continuity in the event of mass casualties among the members of the U.S. House of Representatives and/or the U.S. Senate.
5. The National Grange supports legislation requiring any elected or appointed government official who is convicted of a felony to forfeit their taxpayer-funded pension.
6. The National Grange opposes rules that permit members of the United States Senate to block other members bills from being placed on the floor. However, should this practice be permitted, the dissenter should be required to disclose his/her identity and reason for dissent.

*Government and Legislative Affairs*

1. The National Grange believes: a) that all government-mandated programs and agencies must contain “sunset” provisions, including a target termination date; b) that systematic and continuous reviews of all mandated programs be made periodically by an appropriate board of review; c) that all mandated programs must be funded and financed by the government of origin; d) and that at any point funding is not provided, the mandate will be removed.
2. The National Grange strongly opposes the use of any commission, council, or other consortium of non-elected appointees to create legislative mandates that Congress must adhere to, that are not subject to judicial review or the American system of Checks and Balances.
3. The National Grange supports the present status of Washington, D.C. as both a “federal city” and the nation’s capitol, which is not affiliated with any state government and not a separate state in and of itself. We further favor restricting the Congressional delegates from non-tax paying territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico to being non-voting members of Congressional committees.
4. The National Grange supports legislation that would specifically make protection of private property rights and compensating private property owners for property that is taken for public use as a part of the federal statutes. The National Grange supports strengthening the Constitution’s guarantee that a person owning property has the right to control such property, including restricting trespassers, and excluding liability for injuries to a trespasser.
5. The National Grange calls for a federal Blue Ribbon Study Commission to review all regulations enacted, seek comments from the affected persons or industries, and make needed changes in the regulatory process. We urge federal agencies to make information and forms available to concerned parties about new regulations at least 90 days before the enforcement date of new rules and regulations.
6. The National Grange supports a constitutional amendment that allows the President to exercise a line item veto for budget appropriations and authorization bills.
7. The National Grange opposes all legislation limiting the individual’s ability to lobby and communicate with our elected officials either directly or through organizations such as the Grange.
8. The National Grange will work toward the issuance of a United States postage stamp celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the National Grange, Order of Patrons of Husbandry, to be made available in the year 2017, and be it further that the National Grange sponsor an art contest for this stamp.
9. The National Grange will lobby for Congress to return the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to an independent agency free from the direction of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
10. The National Grange urges the United States Senate to adopt Rules of the Senate prohibiting bills having a monetary impact of more than \$1 million to be passed using a Unanimous Consent procedure.

*Government Service*

1. The National Grange supports efforts to improve the collection and dissemination of accurate and timely statistical data by all federal agencies. The National Grange opposes the decision of the Department of Commerce Census Bureau to cease

- including farm families in the yearly survey report as a separate category.
2. The National Grange urges the U.S. Census Bureau to remain a non-partisan entity within the U.S. Commerce Department. The census should only include people actually counted, not estimates and no organization whose leadership has been found guilty of serious criminal charges should be conducting the census count.
  3. The National Grange supports legislation that would make compliance with regulatory requirements regarding equipment and services for volunteer fire departments contingent upon providing financial assistance to those volunteer fire departments.
  4. The National Grange encourages the federal government to provide assistance within 24 hours following the successful request by a State Governor for a declaration of a national disaster in the United States.
  5. The Grange supports legislation requiring the Federal Emergency Management Agency to document and inventory all temporary housing distributed by the agency to citizens whose residences have been destroyed by a natural disaster so these units can be refurbished and reused after they are no longer needed at the original site.
  6. The National Grange urges Congress to pass legislation that would require any special presidential advisors appointed by the President to be confirmed by the United States Senate.

#### *Government Spending*

1. The National Grange strongly advocates for Congress to pass a balanced budget in a timely manner as to prevent federal government shutdowns. Should a federal government occur, we believe that the issuance of Social Security and other critical social service monetary supplements should not be affected, delayed or reduced, nor the salary, benefits or expenses of our military.
2. During any federal government shutdown, Members and their staff should not receive salary, expenses or benefits until a budget agreement has been reached and passed. Furthermore, these government employees shall not receive any of this compensation retroactively.
3. The National Grange supports a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget as a permanent solution to our deficit problems.
4. We support efforts at all levels of government to reduce costs and excessive paperwork, to review regulations, and to generally reduce any undue influence of government on the private sector. We favor the review of all tax supported federal incentive programs for possible reduction or elimination. We encourage all levels of government to downsize or eliminate jobs where possible.
5. The National Grange supports requiring a two-third vote in the House of Representatives to increase the statutory limit on the public debt.
6. The National Grange believes that all funds left in any federal program budget at the end of each fiscal year or any treasury surplus should be applied to reducing the national debt, provided that such amounts shall not automatically be removed from the next year's program budget.
7. The National Grange opposes the federal government's indiscriminate purchase of physical assets for the public domain. Instead, it should support the retention, protection, and development of the physical domain in the best long-term interests

of our citizens. If these physical assets cannot be used, they should be sold, and the money should be used to decrease the deficit.

8. The National Grange supports the enforcement of regulations to assure that government programs abide by the bidding process, when appropriate.
9. The National Grange supports measures like the Earmark Transparency Act and its mandate for a public, searchable database of all earmark requests. We additionally oppose sitting members of Congress from directing monies toward projects with their names attached.

#### *Monetary Policy*

1. The National Grange continues to support the Federal Reserve Board's independence from congressional and presidential management or control.
2. The National Grange supports reducing the minimum denomination of Treasury Bills and Notes.
3. The National Grange supports the continued use of paper one-dollar bills rather than replacing them with a coin. We favor the continuation of the penny.

#### *Social Security*

1. The National Grange encourages Congress to positively reform the Social Security System to ensure its future solvency. The National Grange urges the continuing investigation of all Social Security programs ensuring that only those who are eligible are receiving benefits. The National Grange supports using Social Security funds for Social Security programs only. We oppose the utilization of any funds from the Social Security Trust Fund to achieve a balanced federal budget or for any purpose other than Social Security benefits.
2. We ask Congress to proceed with caution when proposing changes to Social Security and we request that the public be provided with explicit and concise information concerning any major changes in the Social Security system. We further believe that any increase in retirement age must be on a gradual basis during a preset determined amount of time.
3. Returned and/or un-cashed Social Security checks should go back to the Social Security Trust Fund.
4. We support legislation that would increase the penalties for fraud that involves the use of another person's Social Security number.
5. The National Grange endorses the present computation formula that is used to derive Social Security benefits, and oppose reducing the amount deducted from workers pay and therefore paid into the Social Security and Medicare programs.
6. The National Grange urges Congress to revise Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and other programs for the elderly and handicapped so that an individual's benefits will not decrease if they decide to marry.
7. The National Grange supports legislation that would remove all Social Security "Earning Limits" for individuals.
8. The National Grange supports any and all federal bills that would eliminate the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions, therefore restoring full Social Security benefits to public employees and surviving spouses.
9. The National Grange supports reform that would expedite the application for, and processing of, Social Security Disability benefits for all clients. We further urge

that terminally ill persons be permitted to apply for Social Security Disability benefits upon diagnosis of the terminal illness and the application process be completed within four months of the initial application.

10. The National Grange lobbies to amend the Social Security Act to assure that a beneficiary is paid for the month of his or her death.

#### *Veterans Affairs*

1. The National Grange supports the continued operation of all Veterans' Hospitals and veterans' eligibility for medical care and benefits. We further support continuation of the current Disabled Veterans' Compensation Schedule, maintaining the current benefits and the criteria for qualifying. The National Grange encourages additional federal funds to be appropriated for the Veterans' Administration for the purpose of improving the service and care of servicemen in the Veterans' Administration hospitals.
2. The National Grange supports that management and care of Arlington National Cemetery be placed under the administration of the National Cemetery Administration, who already manages 131 national cemeteries in 39 states; and that the U.S. Army continues to watch over the Tomb of the Unknown and conduct burial honors.
3. The National Grange supports the celebration of Veterans Day as a stand-alone holiday, and not in combination with General Election Day, or any other holiday.
4. The National Grange believes disabled veterans should remain eligible to receive all their service related retirements benefits and any other benefits to which they are entitled without offsets or reductions. Also, the National Grange supports legislation requiring the U.S. Veterans Administration to pay all benefits to veterans, effective the first day of the month that the veteran was diagnosed with the service connected presumptive condition.
5. The National Grange urges all levels of government to protect the parental rights of military personnel such as custody or visitation rights while serving in combat on active duty.
6. The National Grange supports the addition of the phrase "So Help Us God" to President Roosevelt's quote on the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.
7. The National Grange supports allowing all veterans registered in the Veterans Administration health care system and residing in nursing facilities, both private and state owned, to receive their drugs through the VA pharmacies at the patient's co-pay price prior to admission.
8. Tinnitus is a condition caused by inner ear damage from exposure to hazardous noise levels causing constant ringing or roaring in the ear. The National Grange supports legislation allowing for a separate 10 percent disability rating by the Veterans Administration for each ear when veterans suffer from Tinnitus as a result of military service.

#### *Telecommunications*

1. The National Grange endorses and supports the Rural Telephone Bank.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to promote an integrated telecommunications network to assure widely available, high quality telecommunications to all of the nation's users at a reasonable cost as was originally intended by the Communications Acts of 1934 and 1996. We further



believe that access to affordable and reliable broadband Internet service is vital to preserving the quality of life in rural America. The National Grange supports the modernization of the Universal Service Fund (USF) to secure last mile (wireline or wireless) connectivity for rural Americans to broadband, thereby creating jobs, enhancing the economy, and boosting local businesses.

The National Grange supports a national broadband policy that will:

- A) Create a nationwide fiber optic network.
  - B) Remove the regulatory uncertainty that has deterred broadband investment in rural America.
  - C) Provide the incentive for private businesses, government agencies, and private citizens to invest in rural broadband deployment and stimulate broadband competition.
  - D) Spark the creation of new service providers and new innovations that will assist a host of new technologies becoming more affordable, including cutting-edge wireless technologies that promise to deliver broadband to even the most remote parts of our country.
  - E) Allow Public Utility Districts (PUDs), or other public utilities to get involved in establishing the wireless communication systems.
3. The National Grange supports continued strict enforcement of the Federal Communications Commission's national "Do Not Call List." The National Grange supports expansion of the Do-Not-Call list to include computer dialed political telemarketing, including but not limited to charities and political groups, and be it further no one calling a household for commercial or charitable request reasons may use a restricted number or call a phone with a restricted number. Telemarketers, as well as these computer or robo-calls should be prohibited from calling cell phones as well.
  4. The National Grange supports legislation to prevent installation of the microcircuit (dubbed "clipper chip") surveillance devices.
  5. The National Grange urges the Federal Communications Commission to establish pilot programs such as an easy-to-dial phone numbers for non-emergency situations.
  6. The National Grange recognizes the importance of the Universal Service Fund (USF) to the American public, especially in rural communities. The National Grange urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve any petitions by wireless telephone companies that demonstrate their ability to meet the obligations of Lifeline service, especially in rural areas, so they can serve low-income consumers with wireless Lifeline telephone service through the federal Universal Service Fund.
  7. The National Grange recommends the U.S. Congress and the State Legislatures to enact laws that would require the communication industry to continue to transmit information on existing technology for a minimum of 5 years after new technology has been developed and is put into service.
  8. The National Grange will work with telecommunications coalitions to encourage an increase in the number of cellular phone towers in a large amount of rural America.
  9. The National Grange urges U.S. Congress to expedite funding for a resilient, mobile, wireless, data network between local and state first responders and emergency personnel with federal emergency agencies, such as FEMA, Homeland Security and the National Guard.



### Broadcasting

1. The National Grange supports the concept of public broadcasting and urges improved service for our rural communities. The National Grange supports continuing the present level of federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting through self-supporting sources of financing.
2. The National Grange supports the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in its efforts to help rural areas receive satellite TV reception. The National Grange supports legislation to ensure that satellite dish owners in rural areas pay no more for their service than cable TV subscribers in the cities do. The Grange supports regulations requiring satellite television companies to provide rural customers access to more than one predetermined set of local channels including local public access channels in the customer's region.
3. The National Grange believes that the FCC should prohibit the scrambling of the 24-hour weather information. The National Grange encourages the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to issue instructions to all radio stations to include weather alerts, covering the city and state from which they are broadcasting.
4. The National Grange supports the continuation of religious broadcasts on radio and television.
5. The National Grange urges Congress to maintain the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as a watchdog agency to protect the public from unfair practices and monopolies. We oppose media mergers where one company can control all forms of media. We encourage the FCC to provide ample opportunity for new media companies and medium-sized media companies to be able to compete.
6. The National Grange supports elimination of the foul language, obscenities, and vulgar images used on TV, radio, or public places and fully supports the increased penalties for violations imposed by the FCC. The National Grange supports legislation to prohibit advertising the use of the "900" number during children's shows.
7. The National Grange lobbies the FCC to ban the use of emergency vehicle sirens in all radio advertisements to prevent hazards and confusion on the roadway.
8. The National Grange urges Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to require broadcast media to maintain a constant volume level during an entire broadcast, including commercials.
9. The National Grange supports the current financial assistance to support quality, commercial-free educational children's programs.

### Patriotism, Prayer, and Religious Observances

1. The National Grange strongly supports maintaining *The Star Spangled Banner* as our National Anthem. The National Grange supports legislation to maintain the wording of the current *Pledge of Allegiance* including the words "Liberty," and "under God." The National Grange believes that the *Pledge of Allegiance* should be recited in every U.S. school classroom and by members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives during their opening session each day.
2. The National Grange favors making new national cemetery facilities available.
3. The National Grange supports laws prohibiting the desecration of the American Flag. Flag desecration should be classified as a federal felony and the penalty be

strictly enforced with no exception. We urge Congress to pass a constitutional amendment that will ban the desecration of the American Flag. The National Grange supports legislation mandating all United States Flags to be made in the United States from domestically manufactured materials.

4. The National Grange opposes any attempts by any federal, state or local government agency to dictate membership qualifications for any social or fraternal organizations.
5. The National Grange joins with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and other Veteran Service organizations along with churches, individuals to protect our religious freedoms and the First Amendment. Additionally, the National Grange supports the adoption of a Religious Freedom Amendment to the United States Constitution. We support the right to practice the religion of our choice without fear of prejudice or persecution. Until then, the National Grange supports an interpretation of the U.S. Constitution, which allows schools, or any other governmental authority, to permit religious prayer, such as invocations and benedictions, as part of any function, especially at graduation ceremonies. The National Grange further supports the right of children to voluntarily participate in prayer in public schools. We support the words "In God We Trust" remaining on our currency and as our national motto. The National Grange supports all public Christmas functions, displays, and/or songs. We believe that all crosses on city emblems or municipal property should remain intact. We further do not believe that courts of law should have final jurisdiction to consider lawsuits to remove religious displays from city or municipal property. Instead, the majority of the voters in that jurisdiction should determine the final decision.

#### *Miscellaneous*

1. The National Grange supports programs that strengthen families and advocates educational programs that emphasize the importance of families and the prevention of family dysfunction. The consequences of policies and laws should be carefully examined as to their impact on the family unit.
2. The National Grange supports all rights that are granted in the United States Constitution or Bill of Rights and urges Congress not to consider legislation eliminating or repealing these rights.
3. The National Grange supports the definition of marriage to be the union of one man and one woman, and supports the necessary national laws to withhold any legal recognition from same sex marriages.
4. The National Grange opposes the creation of a National Identification Card.
5. The National Grange favors a Constitutional amendment to make English the official national language. The National Grange supports legislation to require that English be used on all forms throughout the United States.
6. The National Grange favors the establishment of a new branch of the Smithsonian dedicated to the nation's food and farm heritage.
7. The Grange supports the establishment of a national tag, collar, or coat identifying a service animal as defined by the American Disability Act (ADA).
8. The National Grange supports a National Weather Service Doppler Station along the coastal area of Washington State allowing weather forecasters the ability to look at weather conditions through the Olympic Mountains and on the coast more accurately.

9. The National Grange encourages Congress to appropriate the necessary funds or to establish a funding plan or program to meet the estimated \$400 million necessary to repair and properly maintain the National Mall in Washington D.C.
10. The National Grange supports legislation that requires all newly constructed and remodeled public hotels to have all handicapped-accessible rooms on the ground floor.

#### Citizenship Thank You

My sincere thanks goes out to the members of the Citizenship committee for their valuable contributions. A special thank you to Donna Champion for serving as committee secretary and Nicole Wood for all the advice and research she provided.

Fraternally,  
Barbara Borderieux, FL

Donna Champion, MN  
Mary Johnson, ID  
Calvin Chase, MA  
Tammy Fryman, NE

Anita Gentry, NC  
Earlene Foster, WV  
Kim Bascom, NH (H)  
Karen Lee Letourneau, NV (H)

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>FLOOR ACTION</u></b>
OR-103	Klamath Basin Aid		<b>Adopted</b>
Conservation 101	Insect Killed Timber		<b>Adopted</b>
Conservation 103	EPA Language Clarification		<b>Adopted</b>
MD-103	Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)		<b>Adopted as Amended</b>
OH-110	Keystone Pipeline		<b>Adopted as Amended</b>
OR-102	Energy Conservation		<b>Adopted as amended</b>
WA-102	Incandescent Light Bulbs		<b>Adverse</b>
MD-102	Chesapeake Bay Cleanup		<b>Adverse</b>
OH-109	Smart Meters for Electricity Use		<b>Adverse</b>
WA-108	New Parks		<b>Adverse</b>
Conservation 102	New Parks		<b>Adverse</b>
OK-101	Eminent Domain	<b>State Issue</b>	<b>Adverse</b>
NY-102	Hydraulic Fracturing	<b>State Issue</b>	<b>Adverse</b>
CO-101	Bug Killed Timber		<b>Covered under Conservation 101</b>
MD-104	Methane Digesters		<b>Current Policy</b>
OR-107	Carbon Dioxide		<b>Current Policy</b>
OR-101	Dust Pollutant Regulation		<b>Transferred to Agriculture Committee</b>
VT-101	Promoting the Use of Electronic Media		<b>Transferred to Growth and Development</b>
OR-106	Shipping by Rail		<b>Transferred to Transportation Committee</b>

KS-102	Incandescent Light Bulb Ban		<b>Withdrawn</b>
NY-109	Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Bulbs		<b>Withdrawn</b>
IL-102	Flood Control		<b>Withdrawn</b>

## POLICY STATEMENT

The National Grange recognizes that the protection of the environment and the conservation of our natural resources are vital national priorities if our country is to remain a pleasant, healthful, and rewarding place to live. However, the zealous pursuit of unrealistic and unnecessary environmental and conservation goals can cause not only economic damage to industries that are important to our nation; they can also distort the important role that private property rights play in maintaining our liberty. We do not believe that Americans must sacrifice their property or surrender their constitutional rights in order to preserve our environment. Property rights should incorporate greater expectations of fairness and due process for individuals within the context of our relationship with government and society.

We insist that the protection for private property ownership derived from the U.S. Constitution, state constitutions and the common law be vigorously protected. To ensure the preservation of farmland for agricultural purposes, we believe in limiting the role of the federal government in setting national land use goals and priorities. Adequate and full compensation should be paid in all cases of the taking of private property by the government or under the color of government authority, including, but not limited to, government grazing permits, water easements and areas designated as critical habitat for endangered species.

We encourage increased efforts to educate the public, through outreach and leadership about the continued importance of, and the responsibility to protect our most vital resources: water and farmland.

We recognize U.S. Agriculture is part of the solution to the energy crisis, for example, there are ways to produce blended fuel using agricultural commodities. Funding should be encouraged for research and development of ample and affordable alternative fuels, ensuring their compatibility with internal combustion engines. Use of ethanol in such engines creates maintenance issues and we recommend additional study to determine how to further its use. Non-ethanol fuel should still be made available until these maintenance issues have been resolved.

The National Grange advocates wider use of wind energy in appropriate areas suited to sustaining wind power development. The equipment used in production of wind power must meet National Electric Association (NEA) standards under the guidelines of state public utility commissions and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). When decommissioned, the wind power generation equipment must be removed and the landscape returned to its pre-existing condition and land use. The National Grange supports respective regional representation in the appointment of qualified individuals to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The Grange encourages responsible stewardship of our natural resources from all who own or use them. Responsible stewardship recognizes a balance between use and preservation. The National Grange supports coordination among federal, state, and local governments when developing land use management plans. In accordance with the National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the customs, culture and economic stability of the local area must be respected and preserved.

The National Grange supports appealing the decision of the 6<sup>th</sup> Federal Circuit Court in the case of *The National Cotton Council, et al. v. United States Environmental Protection Agency* regarding the application of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits (NPDES) to pesticides.

The Grange recognizes the importance of and protection of all watersheds. We also recognize that major watersheds do not adhere to boundaries of private and public lands. There are significant differences in the various watersheds throughout our nation. The National Grange opposes any mandate that suggests all watersheds are to meet the same water quality standards. The Grange also opposes the “locking up” of watersheds or portions thereof for a single use by any person or agency, especially public lands that have historically been utilized for the growing and harvesting of timber, forage, and other renewable resources.

The National Grange urges any farmer interested in entering into a contract for nutrient/carbon trading to investigate carefully all of the potential benefits and risks involved before entering into such a contract.

The 1973 Endangered Species Act can have major impediments to sound environmental practices and natural resource management. The National Grange must continue to work closely with the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition to obtain passage of Endangered Species Act reform. All Americans should share equitably in the cost of species conservation. Cooperative efforts with state and local governments, businesses and individual landowners must be encouraged and current disincentives in the law must be removed. The National Grange will work to ensure the cost of preserving species not fall unfairly on individuals, businesses and communities.

We know the best practices in raising crops or caring for livestock and the best methods of protecting soil and water are learned through study, observation, and vigorous discussion of those findings. In addition, we know those practices and methods must always be updated as new information is discovered. Since the birth of the Grange in 1867, our organization has advocated and taught we are stewards of the land and should leave the Earth in a better condition than we found it.

*This covers portions of the Master’s Address.*

## **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE BODY**

### *Klamath Basin Aid*

RESOLVED, that the Oregon State Grange reaffirms and the National Grange amends their policy to state:

1. The National Grange will work to preserve the way of life of the Klamath Basin farming community as agriculture is the number one industry in the basin.
2. The National Grange will actively work to ensure that the flow of life-giving and life-sustaining water from the Klamath Lake and watershed is restored to the farmers and farm communities served by the irrigation systems.
3. The National Grange opposes the removal of water storage and electrical generation dams in the Klamath Basin for environmental and agricultural reasons.

*This covers resolution OR-103.*



### *Insect Killed Timber*

The National Grange encourages utilization of timber killed by insect infestations as bio-mass fuel to the extent practicable, and supports forest management plans that create conditions unfavorable to future insect infestations.

This is Conservation 101 resolution.

### *EPA Language Clarification*

Whereas, the conflicting language on page 53 in dealing with the classification of the Environmental Protection Agency needs to be clarified, therefore be it

Resolved, that #6 under Environmental Regulations and Controls, on page 53 of the Legislative Policy Book be stricken in its entirety.

This is Conservation-103 resolution.

### *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)*

WHEREAS, everyone in the Chesapeake Bay watershed faces difficult issues under the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), and

WHEREAS, state, local and federal governments face serious budgetary problems that are forcing the need to cut some programs, an example being the EPA cutting funding for a badly needed upgrade to the municipal waste treatment plant in Moorefield, West Virginia, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange urges the state and federal governments to fund conservation programs that will help farmers and municipalities to meet the goals of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) with regard to the Chesapeake Bay cleanup.

This covers resolution MD-103.

### *Keystone Pipeline*

WHEREAS, the Keystone Pipeline system is a pipeline system to transport synthetic crude oil from the Athabasca Oil Sands in Northeastern Alberta, Canada, to refineries in Illinois and Oklahoma and further to the United States Gulf Coast (Houston, TX), and

WHEREAS, the Keystone Pipeline system value to the United States economy would be over \$20 million and will play an important role in linking a secure and growing supply of Canadian crude oil with the largest refining markets in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Keystone Pipeline system will extend from Hardisty, Alberta to Houston, TX in phases – 1) Hardisty to Steele City, Nebraska to the Wood River and Patoka, Illinois, 2) Steele City to Cushing, Oklahoma, and 3) Cushing to Houston and Port Arthur, Texas, and

WHEREAS, the Keystone Pipeline will create jobs, and numerous nationwide manufacturers may benefit from the Keystone Pipeline, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support the building of the Keystone Pipeline system as long as it is built to acceptable appropriate engineering and environmental standards.

This covers resolution OH-110.

### *Energy Conservation Policy*

RESOLVED, that the National Grange policy on Energy Conservation be amended to read:

The National Grange supports voluntary and economically viable energy conser-

vation for agriculture, industry, commerce, and the home, but opposes the use of tax credits and incentives to support energy conservation.

This covers resolution OR-102.

## **PRESENT POLICY**

### *Water Projects*

1. The National Grange recommends that federal, state, and local governments work closely with each other and local landowners in the development and construction of watershed projects, dams, and reservoirs for multiple uses, such as flood control, storing and releasing surplus flood water, replenishing underground water, hydroelectric power generation, irrigation, industrial and municipal use, and recreation. Once a project has been authorized, we believe that it should be constructed, even if a moratorium has later been imposed. We urge both Congress and the President to make the necessary funds available in order to complete all planned and feasible federal water development projects and provide cost-share assistance for the rehabilitation of dams and other flood control structures that were previously constructed with federal assistance. The National Grange supports efforts to provide state and federal funds to pay the recreational share of impoundment facilities on small water development projects.
2. The National Grange believes that the federal government should compensate any loss or diminution of water rights resulting from the exercise of a federally reserved right.
3. The National Grange supports legislation to consolidate the activities of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior to eliminate duplication.
4. The National Grange supports local control over state water projects.
5. The National Grange supports a national water policy requiring all alternate sources of water, including full development of desalination plants for urban uses, must be considered before approval of any water diversion project.
6. The National Grange supports the use of existing multi-purpose dams, creating possible draw downs or transfers of water from productive agricultural lands to waters that could possibly assist in flushing young salmon to the ocean, and urge the development of alternative methods of enhancing the fish population including salmon.
7. The National Grange requests the U.S. Corps of Engineers and all environmental agencies to facilitate restorative dredging of rivers prone to flooding.
8. The National Grange supports the accurate monitoring of water drawn from the Great Lakes Water Basin by industrial and agricultural entities and we believe that agricultural water usage should be exempt from any permits and/or fees resulting from the monitoring of the Great Lakes.

### *Irrigation and Reclamation Act Rules and Regulations*

1. The National Grange supports irrigation rules and regulations that prohibit abuse of the Reclamation Reform Act and assure the fullest measure of benefits from federal irrigation projects for family farmers. The National Grange supports the continued development and widespread utilization of more efficient irrigation systems in addition to legislation outlawing the practice of using trusts, partnerships, corporations, and estates to circumvent the 960-acre irrigation subsidy qualification that favors small farmers.

### *Klamath Basin Aid*

1. The National Grange will actively work to reverse the actions of the Ninth Circuit Court and permanently restore the flow of life-giving and life-sustaining water from Klamath Lake to the farmers and farm communities served by the irrigation systems.
2. The National Grange urges Congress to investigate the closure of irrigation facilities for the benefit of suckerfish in the Klamath Falls Basin and determine the consequences of the loss of irrigation water in the Klamath Falls Basin in Oregon and California.
3. National Grange urges Congress to convene hearings to produce and fund a Klamath Basin Restoration Plan utilizing a stakeholder working group.
4. The National Grange will work to preserve the way of life of the Klamath Basin farming community as agriculture is the number one industry in the basin.
5. The National Grange will actively work to ensure that the flow of life-giving and life-sustaining water from the Klamath Lake and watershed is restored to the farmers and farm communities served by the irrigation systems.
6. The National Grange opposes the removal of water storage and electrical generation dams in the Klamath Basin for environmental and agricultural reasons.

### *State Authority for Water Rights*

1. The National Grange vigorously supports state control of water rights. We oppose any federal plan that infringes on states' water rights. In particular, any water resource planning that is conducted by state or federal agencies must respect both the states' sovereignties and the agricultural sector in establishing priorities for water allocations. The National Grange firmly opposes the inter-basin transfer of water that would diminish the flow of water into downstream states unless such transfer is in accordance with an approved river basin compact.
2. The National Grange supports maintaining minimum water levels along the Great Lakes in order to continue the current amounts of commerce, hydroelectric production and tourism. We support only allowing those states and provinces that belong to the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes to remove and use of the waters of the Great Lakes.
3. The National Grange supports a nationwide grassroots effort to stop federal government agencies' taking of individual water and water rights.

### *Clean Water*

1. The National Grange supports federal clean water laws and regulations that are based upon realistic and obtainable goals and are enforced uniformly between the states. We regard a zero pollution standard as being totally unrealistic and unobtainable.
2. The National Grange recommends that adequate state and federal funds be provided for any soil or water conservation program required by the Clean Water Act, including at least 75 percent of the federal cost share on agricultural best management practices for non-point source pollution abatement administered through local conservation districts. The National Grange urges Congress and the President to clarify Clean Water Act Section 303 (d) so that the Total Maximum Daily Load will be reasonable and attainable without extreme hardships placed on agriculture and other industries. Furthermore, the National Grange urges state and federal governments to fund conservation programs that will help farmers and municipalities to meet the goals of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and Watershed

Implementation Plan (WIP) with regard to the Chesapeake Bay cleanup.

3. The National Grange supports legislation to provide funds to study water quality regarding groundwater contamination. We further support the creation of groundwater protection and management plans that will limit the amount of toxic chemicals in groundwater realizing that a policy of no degradation is unobtainable. We support local control of groundwater management and management plans and support the enforcement of penalties to cities and towns that improperly dump waste in our streams and waterways.
4. The National Grange supports an organized effort to prevent reauthorization of the Clean Water Act that will exclude provisions requiring a state to designate any water with a population of a threatened or endangered species as an Outstanding Resource Water.
5. The National Grange urges the passage of federal legislation that would amend the regulations of the Clean Water Act, to limit the powers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency over inland waters and wetland, thus preserving States and individuals rights. The National Grange supports keeping the words "navigable waters" in the Clean Water Act or any other laws or regulations pertaining to clean water.
6. The National Grange urges the U.S. Government to engage in diplomatic negotiations on the environmental impacts that contribute to air and water pollution before permitting the transfer of electricity across the borders into the United States.

#### *Wetlands*

1. The National Grange supports legislation to improve the wetlands regulatory programs by federal, state or local governments to streamline the permitting process; delineate wetlands by categories based on readily identifiable natural characteristics, environmental value, function, and abundance; refine the wetland mitigation system; improve the system of compensation for private landowners; and increase the role of the states in the wetland permitting process. We further support exempting wetland designations from areas that are artificially created by irrigation, stock water ponds, fire protection ponds or have been cropped for one of the last five years.
2. The National Grange requests Congress to put a moratorium on the funding and design of new wetlands to aid in the control of mosquitoes carrying the West Nile virus.

#### *Soil Conservation and Non-Point Source Pollution*

1. The National Grange supports voluntary programs to control specific known point sources of pollution, as well as non-point sources of agricultural pollution. We support the concept of conservation tillage practices and other types of sediment control. We encourage broad participation in the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act studies in order to assure that quality, locally designed and controlled conservation programs are developed in order to meet the needs of family farmers. We specifically support the continuation of cost-sharing programs to establish grass strips along the boundaries of cropland, fields and waterways to control soil erosion and runoff. We also support programs offering at least 50 percent cost-share assistance to correct agricultural pollution and free technical assistance prior to non-income producing practices that require major expenditures.
2. The National Grange supports the privately financed National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation, the creation of an American Conservation Corps as well as vocational programs to educate and train youths to help in the conservation of our woodlands and other natural resources, using presently established facilities. We believe that all citizens should share in soil conservation costs through

tax dollars that support state and federal programs focusing on technical assistance, research, education, loans and cost sharing programs.

3. The USDA should redefine water conservation in the national soil and water conservation programs to include both irrigation and drainage.
4. The National Grange supports locally developed storm water management programs administered through local conservation districts.

#### *Toxic and Hazardous Wastes*

1. We urge the Environmental Protection Agency to work in conjunction with local government entities to determine when and if superfund cleanup is necessary in any specified parcel of land or body of water. Funding should come from an assessment on companies that produce such wastes and from fines resulting from non-compliance. We further support efforts to overhaul the Superfund program so it will expedite clean-ups and prioritize the sites deemed necessary for clean up.
2. The National Grange supports a program to educate consumers on the proper handling and disposal of hazardous household waste, such as energy saver light bulbs and any other items containing mercury.
3. The National Grange supports levying a fine against any company that is found to be responsible for an oil spill that is equal to the costs that the government incurs in cleaning up the oil spill, including the wages of the government and military personnel, and should not be deductible from federal, state or local corporate income taxes.
4. The National Grange supports realistic insurance coverage plans being made available by the federal government at a reasonable cost for existing and future storage tanks and other causes of toxic and hazardous waste pollution.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require urban sewer sludge disposal to be strictly regulated, i.e. knifing or ground injection as used in agriculture. We only support burning if such burning meets EPA air quality standards.
6. The National Grange supports federal legislation prohibiting the dumping of waste material or raw sewage from foreign countries in landfills located in the United States.
7. The National Grange requests the Federal Trade Commission place a warning label on CCA copper pressure treated wood and to continue research on non-toxic materials in preparing wood for building materials.
8. The National Grange supports public education of the dangers of sodium azide and legislation to set guidelines for the proper storage or disposal of all unused airbags.
9. The National Grange supports agricultural exemptions from the Environmental Protection Agency's Spill Prevention Containment and Control ruling.

#### *Mining*

1. The National Grange urges federal agencies to work with the states to develop surface mining guidelines, giving the states the flexibility to control and supervise the surface mining of coal, gravel, and similar materials. To ensure against the destruction of surface mined areas, a performance and a completion bond should be required of the mining companies that would assure the completion of reclamation plans as they are developed. Such plans should require the return of the land where strip mine operations occur to a reasonable topography and fertility level and should be enforced by law. The deposits that are required under Section 402(a) of the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 should be returned to the states for strip mine reclamation. The National Grange further



supports any regulation or law that holds the coal company liable for subsidence damage to structures caused by underground mining.

2. The National Grange supports changes in the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act that recognize the special conditions of small independent mine operations and provides for greater forbearance in correcting violations.
3. The National Grange supports exempting counties from Federal Mining Standards as pertaining to road building materials and maintenance.

#### *Bottle Bills and Recycling*

1. The National Grange supports legislation that would require a deposit on non-biodegradable beverage containers and urges manufacturers to use recycled materials whenever feasible.
2. The National Grange supports requiring all government agencies to initiate a recycling program for paper, metal, glass, etc. Government agencies should also be required to use recycled paper whenever feasible. The National Grange supports a review of recycling agricultural plastic wastes, such as Cornell University's Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project (RAPP), and encourages funding from the USDA for this type of research in order to help all American farmers with this concern.
3. The National Grange supports legislation encouraging an economical, biodegradable, and resource-efficient approach to product packaging and disposable diapers. We support the use of biodegradable plastic containers, diapers, and packing materials that are made of cornstarch and petroleum and urge all manufacturers to reduce their use of packaging material, while still retaining the quality and safety of their products.
4. The National Grange supports restricting the disposal of tires in landfills in addition to supporting all efforts to recycle all used tires. We also urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to utilize recycled materials containing polymers and other man-made materials to build and repair roads.
5. The National Grange supports the elimination of non-compostable plastic bags by retailers, and promotes the use of compostable plastic, recyclable paper and/or reusable bags.

#### *Energy Conservation*

1. The National Grange supports voluntary and economically viable energy conservation for agriculture, industry, commerce, and the home, but opposes the use of tax credits and incentives to support energy conservation.
2. The National Grange opposes any increase in taxes and/or any decrease in tax credits (i.e. depletion allowance) on natural gas and oil production.
3. The National Grange supports economic assistance to low-income persons and those who are on small, fixed incomes to assist them in paying for the high cost of energy.
4. The National Grange supports all oil and gas price decontrol as a positive step in reducing our need for foreign oil and gas. The National Grange believes that all companies, including farm cooperatives, should be allowed to sell gasoline at both the wholesale and retail levels without divesting. However, we also support standby petroleum allocation measures that would ensure a timely and reasonably priced supply of petroleum products to agricultural producers, transporters, processors, farm cooperatives, and independent refiners in the event of a nationwide or regional shortage.
5. The National Grange supports the following practices to guard against supply



uncertainty and unreasonable high prices: 1) retain one billion barrels of U.S. oil reserve while supplies are adequate; and 2) encourage greater use of natural resources, especially those that are renewable and non-polluting. The National Grange only supports further releases from the U.S. Strategic Oil Reserves in the event of war or interruption of delivery of foreign supplies of petroleum into the U.S.

6. The National Grange supports establishing realistic new fuel economy standards. We support legislation to direct the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to set fuel economy standards at their maximum feasible level, taking into account technical feasibility, safety, and the economic impact to the public. The National Grange urges increased research and development of more fuel efficient, internal combustion engines. We further favor legislation that would prohibit any person or corporation from purchasing a patent with the intent of hindering any inventions that would conserve gasoline and other fuels.

### *Energy Development*

1. The National Grange urges the repeal of laws and regulations that have discouraged United States' energy production by private enterprise. We support a national energy policy that will encourage the development of all forms of domestic energy, traditional and alternative, including solar, wind, geothermal, ethanol, surf/tidal, shale, tar sands, hydroelectric, agricultural products, wastes, peat, wood, coal, coal gasification, oil, natural gas, compressed natural gas, nuclear, hydrogen, bio diesel and methanol in an environmentally sound manner without exploiting our parks and wildernesses in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. The National Grange believes domestic hydroelectric power should be considered renewable green energy. We also promote the use of renewable energy from livestock methane emissions to help reduce the United States' dependence on oil and to help increase the farmers' net income.
2. The National Grange favors the complete utilization of petroleum and the other mineral resources, including the exploration and production of oil reserves on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and from any outer continental shelf lease sales in accordance with the terms of an environmentally sound development plan.
3. The National Grange supports the building of the Keystone Pipeline system as long as it is built to acceptable appropriate engineering and environmental standards.
4. The National Grange supports the adoption of alternative fuels such as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).
5. The National Grange supports legislation requiring the nation's motor fuels to contain a renewable component (Biodiesel and/or Ethanol). We support increased development and use of ethanol and ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE) in gasoline blends with adequate income tax incentives to make the production and use of ethanol and ETBE economically feasible. We further support the goal of at least a 10% blend of ethanol to be used in at least 50% of all gasoline sold for motor fuel to be made available in all states.
6. The National Grange supports regulated oil and gas production in the United States that protects landowners and allows adequate compensation while allowing production to continue.
7. The National Grange supports an examination and reform of environmental laws

so that new oil refineries can be built to supply our fuel needs. New oil refineries should be built, if feasible, in areas other than the Gulf Coast. We further support a study of the need for different mandated formulations for gasoline, and if possible, a reduction in the number of gasoline blends to make it easier and less expensive to refine and transport the finished product.

8. The National Grange endorses the goal of generating at least 25% of domestic energy needs from domestic renewable resources while continuing to produce safe, abundant and affordable food, feed, and fiber by January 1, 2025.
9. The National Grange urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, and any other pertinent federal agencies to develop and strengthen regulations regarding the siting of liquefied natural gas terminals, and consideration should be given to the overall economic impact on the region before any site is approved.

*Rural Electric Cooperatives, Public Power and Rural Electricity Consumers*

1. The National Grange supports the continued application of the existing preference concept of the Federal Power Act being granted to public power utilities in the licensing and re-licensing of federal hydroelectric facilities. We further support granting co-preference in the licensing and re-licensing of federal hydroelectric facilities to rural electric cooperatives.
2. In order to assure adequate electric and telephone service to rural areas, the National Grange actively supports continuation and expansion of the existing USDA Rural Utility Service low interest revolving loan fund to assure the financial stability of rural electric and telephone cooperatives.
3. The National Grange supports continuing electric service to urban areas that are within a rural electric cooperative's service area. However, rural electric cooperatives that provide electric service to predominantly rural areas should continue to have first priority for low interest federal financing. In addition, we urge the electricity industry to charge rates for farmers and small businessmen that are competitive with their large wholesale customers.
4. The National Grange supports legislation to establish solid waste-to-energy plants that will produce power in an environmentally safe manner that can be accessed by public utility districts, rural electric cooperatives, and municipal utilities.
5. We support maintaining the current structure of rural electric systems without forced deregulation of publicly owned plants or any other action that would be detrimental to rural electric consumers. The National Grange supports reform to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act, so that non-utility generating stations operate to sell their output to competitive market rates and eliminate the oppressive rates being passed on to the consumer.
6. The National Grange supports requirements for increased accountability and responsibility on the part of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and power companies in the operation of any nuclear power plant. The National Grange supports the careful selection by the Department of Energy of sites for the disposal of low-level nuclear wastes, excluding prime agricultural, forest, and parkland. The National Grange supports efforts to open the Yucca Mountain site in 2020 for the storage of nuclear waste and opposes actions to delay the project. We urge that the public be involved in the decision to conduct additional research on the long-term consequences to the environment of the disposal of nuclear wastes. The National Grange further urges the Department of Energy to conduct an extensive educational program to inform citizens of the safeguards and hazards that are involved in the disposal of these wastes.

7. The National Grange opposes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's imposition of a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) and Standard Market Design (SMD) on the Northwest Region of the U.S. We support the present cost-based rate system, as determined in the 1937 Congressional Bonneville Power Administration repayment agreement; requiring Bonneville Power Administration to adopt for pricing electricity, instead of a market based repayment pricing system. We support the present federal Power Marketing Administrations. We further recommend the establishment of Power Marketing Administrations in areas of the United States where desired and feasible. We vigorously oppose selling the Western Area Power Administration and Bonneville Power Administration to private power companies. The National Grange also supports the allowance of the Northwest Region to develop an alternate approach to strengthening the transmission system.

#### *Public Lands Management Practices*

1. The National Grange believes that multiple use of non-reserved land should be the cornerstone of the United States' public land policy in order to achieve the following objectives: energy exploration and development; sustained yield management for food and forest production; recreational uses for all citizens; responsible wildlife management; soil conservation and watershed protection. Since it is important for rural economies to keep public land in food and fiber production, we support any regulation pertaining to water rights, lease improvements and contamination remediation that allows for agricultural production.
2. The National Grange supports the maintenance of appropriate conservation practices on all public lands leased to private individuals yet will continue to support placing a moratorium on the acquisition of private land by the U.S. Forest Service. The National Grange recommends that a user fee be implemented for all commercial and recreational use of federal land requiring a permit.
3. The National Grange urges federal agencies to intensify prescribed burning on national public lands as a forest management technique. We support adoption of forest management programs in national parks that specifically exclude the use of natural uncontrolled forest fires, such as those that are caused by lightning, as a forest management technique. All local, state and federal agencies should promptly conduct an economic impact study once a forest fire is declared controlled and move expeditiously to reforest and restore the catastrophically burned landscapes. The National Grange supports the establishment of a maximum two year administrative deadline during which the Department of Agriculture Forest Service must formulate a recovery plan and complete all recovery appeals. We support the efforts of "Communities for Healthy Forests" in mandating immediate restorative action. We further support federal legislation to accelerate the salvage harvest of dead and dying timber on public lands while that timber still has a commercial economic value.
4. The National Grange supports appropriations for the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service to adequately carry out an expanded silviculture program, wildlife management, water and soil protection, weed control, recreational needs, protection of natural, historic and cultural resources, to develop additional forest campgrounds and increase the available spaces in existing campgrounds to keep them open year round where economically feasible. We also urge that U.S. Forest Service campground fees be raised to more nearly cover the costs of operating these campgrounds.
5. The National Grange favors the increased planting of lumber-producing trees on

both national and state forest lands, including increased funding for federal and state tree nurseries, to produce additional seedlings for lumber. We urge the U.S. Forest Service to permit selected timber stands to reach old growth and be harvested on a sustained yield basis. Furthermore, we support prohibiting states from exercising authority to restrict the sale or export of logs that are harvested from state-owned land.

6. The National Grange recognizes the states' rights to own and/or manage Bureau of Land Management (BLM) unreserved lands, not including national forest lands, revenues that are now received by counties should be protected when control of any federal land is assigned to state governments.
7. The National Grange supports legislation to require federal and state governments to pay a proportionate share of monies, in lieu of taxes, to those counties, cities, and communities that provide public services to the parks and recreational areas within their boundaries in addition to supporting federal legislation allowing national parks to keep a major portion of entrance fees to be used for the development and maintenance of recreational facilities.
8. The National Grange calls on federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute incidents of tree and trail spiking and the destruction of logging equipment on federal and state lands.
9. The National Grange supports amending the National Antiquities Act to include public comment.
10. The National Grange encourages the U.S. Forest Service to amend the National Forest plan to remove the 21-inch Diameter at Breast Height rule (DBH) for any National Forest.
11. The National Grange supports that any responding agency to a fire, whether it is local, state or federal, be required to notify adjacent landowners and other authorities with jurisdiction, for their own safety, of all wild and grass fires in the area
12. The National Grange supports the use of state and/or federal funds for the mitigation of loss of land value due to state and federal logging restrictions on riparian land be available only to small landowners and not be available to large corporations, landowners, or trusts.

#### *Federal Grazing*

1. The National Grange supports basing all decisions on federal grazing regulations, including grazing fee pricing formulas, upon solid economic principles, current livestock market prices, and good conservation practices. We favor legislation that would further limit any overall reduction in grazing to 10 percent or less on any given allotment except in the case of emergencies such as drought. We strongly believe that federal grazing permittees should be consulted as grazing plans are developed.
2. The National Grange strongly supports considering the economic impact that restrictions on grazing in riparian areas (areas between the stream banks) may have on farmers before legislation is passed.
3. The National Grange encourages the Bureau of Land Management and National Forest Service to carry out an aggressive program to fill all grazing allotments on Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands. However, we support restricting the selling of federal grazing permits to anyone other than someone using the permit for grazing purposes.

#### *Land Withdrawals and Wilderness*

1. The National Grange supports releasing all public lands not currently designated

as wilderness or wilderness study areas to multiple uses. The establishment of any additional national forest wilderness preserves or any large-scale government land acquisition should be prohibited. All land that is capable of producing commercial timber, farm and grazing lands or commercially-valuable minerals should be prohibited from inclusion into any established park or wilderness area that would erode a county's tax base. The National Grange recommends that in national recreational areas classified other than primitive, the broadest possible range of activities compatible with a forested area be permitted, subject to user fees. The National Grange supports legislation to significantly restrict acreage set aside for parks, wilderness, and wildlife preserves in Alaska in addition to providing access through federal lands.

2. The National Grange supports regulations governing the management of federal wilderness areas should allow for controlled access roads for emergency use as well as the salvage of timber, using modern harvesting techniques where natural disasters such as blow-downs or insect infestations have occurred. We oppose the destruction or obliteration of any Forest Service roads and further oppose designating any roadless areas of the National Forest System as permanently off limits to logging, mining or other development.
3. The National Grange believes any extension of the federal Wild and Scenic River System should not include private property. Should there be a proposed change in the designation of rivers and streams, we favor a vote by the citizens of the jurisdiction.
4. The National Grange supports the property rights of all farmers and ranchers and demands that the owner's consent be given before any action is taken by the Federal Government to acquire private land.
5. The National Grange supports legislation directing mitigation of identified losses of public and private lands from the state tax base due to federal acquisition through transfer of an equivalent acreage from federal land to public or private ownership, or by providing an annual payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT), based on an independent economic impact analysis to be adjusted annually for inflation.
6. The National Grange supports maintaining the management of all federal facilities, like the National Bison Range, by the United States federal government and not by any other sovereign nation or international entity.
7. The National Grange encourages utilization of timber killed by insect infestations as bio-mass fuel to the extent practicable, and supports forest management plans that create conditions unfavorable to future insect infestations.

#### *Wildlife Management*

1. The National Grange encourages Congress to amend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to restore proper perspective by requiring public hearings and economic impact statements on the impacts to the affected areas before a species may be listed. We support changes to the ESA to require that only a pure biological and numerical definition of an endangered species be used without being based on subspecies, distinct populations, or hybridization. We believe that only those species actually threatened with extinction should be listed in the ESA, taking into consideration total populations, available habitats, and recovery areas on the North American continent. We further support a review of the ESA with the following guidelines: focus on keystone species (organisms critical to the stable functions of entire habitats and ecosystems), not minor or reduced species; rely on public lands for preservation; encourage voluntary protection by individuals and corporations; curtail taking of private lands for ESA; balance human costs with ecological ben-



- efits; compensation for private property owners for loss of usage of their property due to the ESA. The National Grange supports legislation legally allowing people to defend themselves or their property from an attack by any animal listed as an endangered species without concern of retribution from government authorities.
2. The National Grange supports legislative and regulatory measures to prohibit further implementation of any Wolf Recovery Plan. We further support the passage of legislation to outlaw the propagation of wolves or wolf hybrids.
  3. The National Grange believes it is the responsibility of the federal government to control the expanding populations of legally protected plants and animals where those plants or animals pose a threat to human life or health, or where those plants or animals pose a threat to established economic activity. We encourage state and federal wildlife conservation agencies to assist farmers in all cases of crop and property damage by wild game.
  4. The National Grange is opposed to any Grizzly Bear recovery plan. We support legislation requiring government agencies to notify property owners when they relocate park bears or other potentially dangerous animals. The property owners to be notified are those who are within the normal range of the animals that are being released.
  5. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of licensed hunting and trapping of game animals, waterfowl, and game birds. However, we favor the levying of stiff penalties for poaching of wildlife. We further support the continued usage of steel jaw traps.
  6. The National Grange believes that wildlife management areas should not be used for recreation or any other development that diminishes the value of the lands for wildlife management purposes.
  7. The National Grange supports legislation to expand the hunting season of Canadian and Snow geese from November 1st - April 1st. We also support increasing the daily bag limit for Canadian and Snow geese.
  8. The National Grange supports any prairie dog management plan that allows people to control the prairie dog population through shooting and toxicants, without the need for a special license.
  9. The National Grange opposes the listing of the eastern oyster on the endangered species list.

#### *Preservation of Fishing Resources*

1. The National Grange urges the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission to support the designation of only those marine sanctuaries that guarantee fishery usage and recognize the fishery management authority of the current sanctuary boundaries.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to reauthorize the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation Management Act. We urge all appropriate federal agencies to work closely with all state wildlife agencies to maintain sustained fishing yields by regulating sport and subsistence fisheries in order to allow for the adequate recovery of fish and aquatic species into many areas where they have declined. We support the United States working with all countries to regulate commercial fishing to allow for the adequate return of fish into many areas where fish yields have declined. We further support an extension of the U.S. territorial sea to not less than 50 miles where foreign commercial fishing may not be performed to aid in salmon recovery.
3. The National Grange favors all reasonable measures to save the Pacific Salmon in the Columbia and Snake Rivers as long as the first priorities for these river systems is power generation, water use, and navigation. We support securing the pas-



sage of a treaty between Canada and the United States to govern the operation of the salmon industries in each respective nation. We support uniform regulation of all net fishing in the Columbia River, Puget Sound, and the Pacific Ocean before drastic economic measures to reestablish wild runs of Pacific Salmon are enacted. The National Grange recommends that fish ladders be included in the planning of any future dam construction on streams or rivers where fish migration may be affected. We favor the transport of juvenile fish, the hatchery propagation of salmon stocks, flow control, and control of the salmon harvest until a final Pacific Salmon recovery plan is in place. We support the establishment of a program to audit the harvest of salmon on the lower Columbia River. We further believe that all salmon fishing on the Columbia and Snake Rivers should be restricted to hook and line methods only. We recommend to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that spawned out salmon carcasses be planted near remote site incubators for smolt releases as a food source for the young fish.

4. The National Grange urges the federal government to continue funding the National Marine Fisheries Service at the current levels to enable them to continue the biological studies that will lead to the elimination of drift net fishing by all nations.
5. The National Grange supports adequate funding of the Marine Mammal Protection Act for use by the various states in developing appropriate marine mammal management plans and policies. In addition, we urge Congress to exclude Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions from the Marine Mammal Protection Act and place them under the control and protection of the states, including a controlled harvest season for Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions, until the yearly run of the Pacific Salmon increases to the point where the salmon will no longer be considered for protection under the Endangered Species Act. We further support efforts to utilize harvested Harbor Seal and California Sea Lion carcasses to avoid waste.
6. The National Grange supports research and long term solutions to prevent the introduction and the spread of invasive and/or destructive aquatic organisms as well as the necessary destruction of established populations of these species such as, but not limited to, Asian Carp and *Pfisteria*.
7. The National Grange favors the regulated harvesting of fresh water clams and mussels.
8. We support legislation requiring all shipping lines to change their ballast water in the open ocean to curtail the further introduction of foreign species, such as the Zebra Mussel, into our domestic waterways.
9. The National Grange supports legislative and regulatory measures to prohibit the National Marine Fisheries Service from taking control of private lands, breaching of dams, and killing of hatchery salmon under the authority of its 4 (d) Rules. The National Grange urges Congress to order the National Marine Fisheries Service to reconsider the proposed setbacks on private property along all bodies of water or to pay for the taking of the property. We urge Congress to intervene and formulate a true scientific basis for establishment of buffers/setbacks and buffer/setback restrictions along all bodies of water. We encourage the National Marine Fisheries Service do more to start identifying corrective measures beyond licensing and regulation to save the fish off our nation's coasts that include avoiding by catch, single-species management, ocean sanctuaries, eco-friendly gear, and consumer alertness. We further believe that alternative sources of fish production i.e. aquaculture, should be encouraged where appropriate.

*Private Timber Land Management*

1. The National Grange supports the voluntary use of good conservation practices and sustained yield management practices on private forestlands.
2. The National Grange believes that in return for public benefits resulting from improved forest management on individually owned forest lands, a portion of the expenses that are involved in management should be borne by the public through assistance programs and cost-sharing incentive payments. Any forest management assistance programs should recognize the multiple use aspects of private forest lands, including timber production, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, recreation, and scenic values.
3. The National Grange supports efforts to establish forests or pastures on appropriate marginal farmland.
4. The National Grange requests Congress to control arbitrary appeals of U.S. Forest Service timber sales assessing penalties to the appellant to cover the costs of failed appeals.
5. The National Grange supports legislation to require each appeal of timber sale to post a security bond.

*Environmental Regulations and Controls*

1. The National Grange supports requiring instigators of court actions brought against properly approved and financed federal, state, or municipal construction projects to post an adequate bond with the court that is sufficient to pay all costs that are incurred due to the delay caused by such action if the action fails.
2. The National Grange seeks legislation to clarify that national environmental impact statements must equitably weigh economic, social, and environmental impacts to reduce the delay these statements impose on many worthwhile and needed projects. Such studies should include the full economic impact on the local, state or national economy.
3. The National Grange supports the EPA's standards on the use of dangerous trace metals. We further support continued EPA programs to monitor the industrial and farm uses of materials that contain dangerous trace metals.
4. The National Grange supports new "Right to Farm" laws at the local, state and federal levels to further protect them against charges of civil or criminal violation of environmental regulations when those charges apply to normal activities that are essential to a farm operation.
5. The National Grange urges Congress to keep the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at its current status as an independent federal agency, and not elevate the agency to a Cabinet level.

*Private Land Use, Planning, Zoning, Farmland Protection, and Eminent Domain*

1. The National Grange urges the USDA, in conjunction with land grant universities, to provide assistance to local governments and citizen groups in educating the public on the importance of keeping land in agricultural production and in developing farmland retention programs which protect the rights of landowners and the prerogatives of local governments. The National Grange supports land use planning and zoning remaining a function of local and state governments.
2. The National Grange urges that the transfer of development rights be used to protect family farms. Whenever land is designated for permanent agricultural use, farmers should receive adequate compensation for the loss in land value. We call for the immediate enactment of regulations or legislation that will require and facilitate the timely payment of fair compensation to private property owners for property losses they have sustained as a result of oil and/or gas explorations on

their property so they are not forced to obtain such compensation through costly litigation and support legislation prohibiting any implementation of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative that would infringe upon private property rights.

3. The National Grange urges the Farm Service Agency or any other agency not to relinquish the use of any farmlands, wetlands, or other lands to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or any other government agency.
4. The National Grange will continue to work to improve locally controlled site-specific resource and environmental management in the Columbia Basin.
5. The National Grange supports legislation reaffirming congressional power over international agreements concerning disposal, management and use of lands owned by the United States and also protects state powers, from federal actions designating lands to international agreements. The National Grange further supports legislation protecting private interests in real property from any federal actions designating lands to international agreements.
6. The National Grange seeks legislation specifying when property is acquired by a federal agency through condemnation or negotiated price for a specific public purpose yet not used for that purpose, the original owner shall have first right of repurchase at the original price or at a lesser price if the value of the property has been decreased. We support legislation that eminent domain be used only for public purposes, such as rights of way for transportation and utilities.
7. The National Grange urges the federal government to replace, whenever possible, condemned private land with public land of equal value/productivity, and to maintain a balance between public and private lands throughout the nation.
8. The National Grange supports changing laws so that, in points of controversy, private property rights take precedence over environmental regulations.
9. The National Grange supports legislation to prohibit the Federal Government or any agency or authority of the Federal Government from exercising its power of eminent domain to be used for private economic development unless there is an immediate danger to the health and/or safety of citizens. Furthermore, the National Grange supports federal legislation to require that no state, political subdivision of a state or any person or entity to which such power has been delegated shall exercise its power of eminent domain, for the purpose of private economic development or over property that is subsequently used for economic development unless there are situations of immediate danger to the health and/or safety of citizens. Any state or political subdivision that exercises the power of eminent domain for private economic development shall be ineligible for any federal economic development funds for any purpose for a period of at least two years.
10. We support the ranchers and other landowners in Southern Colorado who oppose the Army's proposal to take land by eminent domain for the expansion of the Ft. Carson Army Base and urge Congress to pass legislation prohibiting the Base's expansion through the use of eminent domain.

#### *Clean Air*

1. The National Grange supports a clean air policy that will best protect agricultural interests, relieve automotive passengers, freight users and carriers of costly and unnecessary restrictions, and will protect the physical and economic health of industry and the general public.
2. The National Grange proposes that Congress determine state compliance to the Clean Air Act by statute and not by administrative regulations. Until then, we urge state and national administrative flexibility in deadlines for meeting Ambient Air Quality Standards. The National Grange strongly urges the EPA to retain the

- existing National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ground-level ozone.
3. The National Grange opposes any national mandatory motor vehicle emission inspection and maintenance programs. We oppose any national law or regulation that would require the use of “stand alone” vehicle emission testing facilities. The National Grange supports exempting agricultural equipment and machinery manufactured prior to January 1, 1993 from the current Clean Air Act,
  4. 4. The National Grange favors the repeal of the ozone provisions contained in the Clean Air Act to allow the use of freon for refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners.
  5. The National Grange favors reducing sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions from coal-burning plants. The National Grange encourages more research into clean technology and revision of EPA standards for use of coal and gas in building new generating plants. The National Grange opposes any “Cap and Trade” bill or related legislation concerning climate changes that would restrict greenhouse gas emissions.
  6. The National Grange supports changes in the United Nations Climate Change Treaty before it is ratified by the United States. We urge the Kyoto Protocol to include uniform standards for all major countries, developed and developing. In the meantime we support the following measures: expansion of voluntary efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions; scientific research and educational programs on climate; investing in the development and deployment of new technologies and urging utilities to update their older plants bringing them into compliance with the current Clean Air Act.
  7. The National Grange supports a program of government incentives that will reduce commuting by private vehicle, increase subsidies for mass transportation or car pooling, and sponsor more research to make alternative energy cars viable.

My sincere thanks go out to the members of my committee for their help, advice and insight into the resolutions deliberated by the Conservation Committee. I would like to extend a special thanks to Randy Lewis for his work in recording the actions of our committee. Additionally we would like to thank the National Grange Staff for their assistance.

Fraternally,

Stephen Logan RI, Chair

Randy Lewis, CA (H), Secretary  
Jim Foster, WV  
Errol Briggs, VT  
Mary Coye, NY  
Kay McCord, CO

Jerry Martin, SC  
Joan Smith, Potomac  
Allison Fowler, NC Legislative Director  
Nathan Strawder, John Trimble Legislative Participant

**EDUCATION & HEALTH COMMITTEE  
INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE AC- TION</u></b>	<b><u>FLOOR AC- TION</u></b>
MD-106	Medical		<b>Adopted</b>
NY-105	Classic Literature Pro- tection		<b>Adopted</b>
NY-108	Inexpensive Children's Jewelry Containing Cadmium		<b>Adopted</b>
NY-120	(VA) Health Care En- rollment		<b>Adopted</b>
OH-112	Animal Research		<b>Adopted</b>
OH-113	Oppose Changes to Medicare Part- D		<b>Adopted</b>
OH-122	Family Act of 2011 (S.965)		<b>Adopted as amended</b>
WI-102	Medicare Home Health Care Services		<b>Adopted as amended</b>
CA-104	Ban on BPA Sales Receipts		<b>Adverse</b>
OH-116	Congressional Health Care		<b>Adverse</b>
WA-105	Freedom of Choice		<b>Adverse</b>
MD-107	Elder Care		<b>Adverse</b>
IA-105	Required Medical Test- ing for School Children		<b>Adverse</b>
OH-114	Drug Coverage for Kid- ney Transplant Patients Act of 2011		<b>Policy Statement</b>
MD-111	Flavored Milk		<b>Policy Statement</b>
ME-101	Fluoridated Water		<b>Policy Statement</b>
NC-104	Insurance Coverage for Disabilities		<b>Policy Statement</b>
NY-118	K-2		<b>Policy Statement</b>
NY-119	Counterfeit Medications		<b>Policy Statement</b>
WA-104	"Bath Salt" Drugs		<b>Policy Statement</b>
MD-101	Long-Term Care Insur- ance		<b>Present Policy</b>

NY-121	Pancreatic Cancer Detection, Treatment & Research		<b>Present Policy</b>
CA-109	Labeling Genetically Modified Food		<b>Transferred to Agriculture</b>
PA-103	Prescription Companies Merger		<b>Withdrawn</b>
PA-104	Family Restrooms		<b>Withdrawn</b>

## POLICY STATEMENT

### *Education*

Education is a crucial element in the long-term success of our nation. In order for our country to remain competitive around the globe, our nation's children must receive a world-class education.

We must encourage our youth to excel. It doesn't matter if they plan to go to college, a trade school, or enter the work force; they need to understand the world around them. A quality education opens minds to new possibilities while encouraging students to think for themselves. We also must encourage our young people to learn and grow in school in a direction and pace most appropriate to their abilities. In the technologically advanced society of today, we have an extremely structured educational system that often has trouble recognizing and adapting to the needs of each unique student. We must return the power of education to parents, teachers, and local school boards. Parents must be made an essential part of the decision process. We must find ways to reward teachers who encourage and empower their students to become successful.

The National Grange supports public education and the idea of strengthening and improving the public education system because we believe every child should be able to receive a high quality public education. We support the continued collaboration with Organizations Concerned About Rural Education (OCRE), the National School Boards Association and other educational associations to seek improvements to the No Child Left Behind Act and investigate alternative funding streams. We believe that all federally mandated programs be funded appropriately by the federal government to the extent that the requirements of these programs not cause an unrealistic burden on the state and local school systems.

The National Grange supports the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act (SRSCA) while working on a long-term solution for rural forest counties and schools.

The National Grange supports and urges school districts to reduce the teacher to pupil ratio in the classroom in all levels of education.

The National Grange supports a viable alternative to a traditional education. Further, we support the use of a federally regulated curriculum in order to ensure that non-traditional students receive a high quality education.

The Grange believes that every student should be taught civics and how our American liberties are connected with the basic premise of capitalism. If we do not educate students on America's guiding principles and how they relate to the real world, we will have an increasing number of uneducated voters making decisions with little understanding of



the impact those decisions have on every member of society.

We support schools using agricultural-based curriculums such as Ag in the Classroom and Food for America. We encourage the study of cooperatives to be included in these curricula.

The National Grange urges local schools to remove disruptive and violent students from the classroom and provide alternate education until the underlying cause has been corrected. We further urge the reform of state and federal regulations so that schools actively addressing this problem are not at risk of being classified as failing schools.

The National Grange encourages school districts to include U.S. Armed Forces representatives at a school's Career Day.

The National Grange encourages Granges at all levels to become actively involved in the educational process of students and community members in the fight against tobacco, alcohol, legal and illegal substance abuse. We also support educating the American public about the misuse of legal and illegal drugs.

We strongly encourage Grange members nationwide to play an active role in their local school systems and communities. It is essential for our members to invest in our children's education through volunteering. Some examples of this are the donation of school supplies (such as the third grade dictionary program) and exposure to volunteerism and community service. These contributions will help us remain positive role models for school children and increase the awareness of our organization.

### ***Health***

We as individuals need to take responsibility for our own health. With the cost of health care coverage and prescription drugs on the rise, we must advocate affordable health insurance for all. The National Grange supports efforts by legislators to include early intervention efforts as medically sound, cost –efficient treatment to be covered by private and public insurance programs. Equitable billing requirements and reimbursements for medical, dental, and alternative health care treatments are essential. We support a cap to be in place on malpractice suits to help reduce the cost of health care and make it possible for physicians, especially those in rural areas, to continue practicing medicine.

Prescription drugs should be affordable to all Americans; we need to be mindful of safety. Drugs manufactured in the United States must meet stringent FDA standards. However, we have no guarantee that imported prescription drugs will meet these standards. The National Grange supports increased efforts to educate the public on the dangers of obtaining medications from mail order sources other than a more reliable source such as those approved by health insurance carriers.

The National Grange supports the effort to reform Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) rules so that unused controlled prescription medications can be disposed of by a broader range of professionals. We encourage a study to determine the most economical and safest means of disposal for these substances.

The National Grange encourages broader consumer education for Medicare recipients so that they can better determine any discrepancies in billing in an effort to help reduce fraud.

The National Grange recommends increased efforts to combat Medicare fraud, mismanagement and high administrative costs.

Defective and contaminated products imported from other countries are of great concern to all Americans. We encourage government agencies and consumer safety

advocates to be diligent in safety inspections on imported products and report all findings to the public. We also encourage consumers to make educated and wise purchasing decisions. We further encourage the government to require the country of origin to be clearly labeled on all imported products.

The National Grange recognizes the importance of proper nutrition in combating obesity and the diseases that come from it. Educational programs for all ages should be provided to encourage healthy eating and to teach the benefits of exercise and reduced caloric intake. We encourage schools to take a proactive stance by offering healthy snacks, such as milk and flavored milks in their vending machines, and by having an ongoing physical education program. The National Grange urges the Department of Health and Human Services and the Center for Disease Control continue to enforce current public health recommendations regarding fluoridated municipal water systems.

The National Grange urges its' members to write their federal legislators to take a firm stand against the elimination of cost of living increases to social security benefits and reduce the cuts to Medicare.

The National Grange encourages its members to work with organizations that work with persons of special needs to provide assistance of preparing ordinary household appliances in their efforts to live an ordinary life.

We believe the National Grange should continue to lobby the Congress to ensure that any National Health Care legislation pertains to health care.

*This covers resolutions MD-111, ME-101, NC-104, NY-119, NY-118, & WA-104.*

## **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION**

### *Medical*

WHEREAS, the extreme rise in the cost of health care in this country has been a major political issue in recent years and a tax on medicine or medical supplies would only make this problem worse, especially for those who can least afford it, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange opposes the imposition of a tax on medicine or medical supplies.

This covers resolution MD-106.

### *Classic Literature Protection*

WHEREAS, a book publisher has chosen to modify some language in classic literature ("The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain, for example) by removing racially charged designations deemed offensive, and

WHEREAS, this changes the author's context of the language used at the time the piece/book was written and thus causing confusion at schools and libraries, and seems an attempt to change history, and

WHEREAS, there are numerous words that are offensive to at least one culture, religious or political group, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange is opposed to any changes in the language of classic literature, with the exception of translation.

This covers resolution NY-105.

### *Inexpensive Children's Jewelry Containing Cadmium*

WHEREAS, previous Grange legislation addressed the danger of chemicals found in children's toys, clothing and various products imported from foreign countries, and

WHEREAS, although previous legislative action was taken to prevent products that are chemically dangerous to children from being imported, inexpensive children's jewelry is still being brought into the country, and

WHEREAS, this jewelry contains extremely dangerous levels of cadmium and is being sold for use by children, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange supports aggressive enforcement of the laws to stop the import of all jewelry and any other products from foreign countries that contain highly dangerous levels of cadmium, other metals or chemicals.

This covers resolution NY-108.

*(VA) Health Care Enrollment*

WHEREAS, beginning in the mid-1990's all veterans were eligible to enroll in the Veterans Administration (VA) Health Care System with veterans having more than a specific income or net worth, required to pay a small co-pay for their care, and

WHEREAS, by 1999, changes were made requiring veterans to meet certain income and net worth thresholds or geographic thresholds in order to enroll in the VA System with other veterans already enrolled grandfathered in, and

WHEREAS, once enrolled, veterans were advised that as long as they used the VA Health Care System at least once every two (2) years, they would remain enrolled and

WHEREAS, after enrolling, many veterans cancelled their prior health insurance plans and others were dropped from their spouse's plans, and

WHEREAS, the House Budget Committee is studying a plan to save six (6) billion dollars annually in VA health care costs by canceling enrollment of any veteran who doesn't have a service-connected disability and who is not indigent, and

WHEREAS, trying to find health care coverage would cause financial hardship on the dis-enrolled veterans who may not qualify for coverage due to pre-existing conditions, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange, opposes any legislation that would dis-enroll any veteran who is currently receiving health care coverage through the Veterans Administration (VA) Health Care System.

This covers resolution NY-120.

*Animal Research*

WHEREAS, some organizations and individuals are trying to eliminate all animal testing and research, and

WHEREAS, animal testing and research have benefited both animals and people, therefore it be

RESOLVED, that the National Grange lobby for the support of responsible animal research.

This covers resolution OH-112.

*Oppose Changes to Medicare Part D*

WHEREAS, Medicare Part D, through its competitive bidding approach, has been hugely successful for many senior citizens and taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, as of this year (2011) there are fifteen (15) prescription drug plans with \$0 annual deductibles, and

WHEREAS, surveys also show senior citizens are highly satisfied with the program and for the taxpayer, the program is costing far less than initial projections, and

WHEREAS, Senator Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia has introduced a bill to change the way Medicare pays for drugs, specifically requiring pharmaceutical companies to pay a rebate to states for prescription drugs that are taken by Medicare beneficiaries who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, and

WHEREAS, the current Medicaid program uses a rebate system, and

WHEREAS, if the pharmaceutical company elects not to pay the state for a specific drug, Medicaid patients are often denied access to the drug; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange oppose any Medicare rebate system such as the Waxman-Rockefeller tax.

This covers resolution OH-113.

*Family Act of 2011 (S.965)*

WHEREAS, the “Family Act of 2011” is a federal bill that will allow IRS tax credits (up to 50 percent) on qualified infertility treatment expenses paid or incurred during the taxable year, and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization formally recognizes infertility as a disease and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has stated that infertility is an emerging public health priority, and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 3,000,000 have infertility, and

WHEREAS, medical insurance coverage for infertility treatment is sparse and inconsistent at the state level - only eight states have passed laws to require comprehensive infertility coverage, and under those state laws most employer-sponsored plans are exempt, so coverage for treatments such as in vitro fertilization is limited; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation that requires coverage of infertility treatments, such as the “Family Act of 2011.”

This covers resolution OH-122.

*Medicare Home Health Care Services*

WHEREAS, Congress is considering imposing up to \$50 billion in new patient co-fees and/or reduced reimbursements for home health care providers under Medicare over the next 10 years that are in addition to the \$40 billion cut from Medicare in-home health care services that was part of the Affordable Care Act of 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act of 2010 also substantially reduced funding for Medicare Advantage programs, which have been widely popular among rural Medicare patients because it allows patients to shop around for competitive private health insurance coverage that can be tailored to their specific health care needs, such as providing additional home health care; and

WHEREAS, home health care serves an important role in preserving the health of seniors and persons with disabilities living in rural America because the majority of rural Americans must travel 40, 60 and even 200 miles one way to reach a physician. Therefore, many patients are simply too ill to travel and too ill to rely on clinic-based services to manage their chronic diseases and daily care needs; and

WHEREAS, home health care is widely preferred by nearly all patients over costlier care in a hospital or nursing facility as it allows seniors suffering from chronic diseases and persons with disabilities to remain independent and living in their own home and

community; and

WHEREAS, even under the traditional fee-for-service Medicare program, home health care services are already producing savings for Medicare. For example, in 2007, Medicare's Part A & Part B payment for a home health visit was \$145, compared to \$328 in a skilled nursing facility and \$1,697 for a day in the hospital. As such, according to Avalere Health, skilled home health services saved the Medicare program \$2.81 billion over three years. Approximately \$670 million of these savings is attributable to 20,000 fewer hospital readmissions; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is also realizing a savings from home health care by avoiding the basic costs of shelter and food that are part of costs of admission to a hospital or skilled nursing care facility; and

WHEREAS, because many rural patients are living on fixed incomes, imposing a co-pay fee could force many patients to postpone their care until their condition worsens to the point of needing a costlier level of care in a hospital or nursing facility far from their homes and families; and

WHEREAS, since home health care accounts for only 5 percent of Medicare's overall budget, the benefit of these proposed cuts do not match the cost to vulnerable rural Americans and local communities; and

WHEREAS, rural communities have the lowest percentage of locally-based, resident-practicing physicians to serve their communities compared to urban and suburban communities; and

WHEREAS, rural patients are particularly vulnerable to reductions in the availability of home health care services because they often do not have a volunteer family caregiver to fill in between provider visits because the prime family/volunteer care giving age group, people aged 18 to 36 years old, is smaller in rural communities than in urban and suburban communities due to rural out migration of young people seeking education, employment or military service opportunities; and

WHEREAS, as a result of further cuts to Medicare home health care services, rural patients will be forced to travel farther distances and, in some cases, might decide to delay care until their condition worsens. In addition, rural health care providers, many of which are already overburdened, will be inundated with patients from farther reaching communities, inevitably resulting in longer wait times and less personal attention for each patient; and

WHEREAS, analyses indicate that the Medicare home health care system could be substantially improved by weeding out fraud, abuse and poor management practices. MedPAC, a special advisory committee to Congress, recently identified 25 U.S. counties where home health costs are almost twice the rate of the rest of the nation, indicating that further intensive investigation could turn up cases of fraud, abuse or poor management practices that, if corrected, could save Medicare billions of dollars annually. The home health care community is also developing a plan to reduce fraud, abuse and poor management practices in the home health care sector; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the National Grange declare its support for preserving quality, rural home health care services provided under traditional fee-for-service Medicare by opposing the imposition of new, patient co-payment fees and by opposing the imposition of further cuts to reimbursement rates for home health care service providers; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support reinstating Medicare Advantage, alternative Medicare insurance coverage offered by private companies, which would specifically allow rural Medicare patients to voluntarily elect to use a greater proportion of their



Medicare benefits for home health care expenses, if they so choose; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support efforts by Congress, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the home health care industry to reduce unnecessary Medicare spending on home health care services by aggressively weeding out instances of fraud, abuse and poor management practices in the home health care sector.

This covers resolution WI-102.

## **PRESENT POLICY**

### **EDUCATION**

#### *General Education Policies*

1. The National Grange supports public education and supports the idea of strengthening and improving the system of public education. The National Grange urges Congress to amend the “No Child Left Behind” law so local tax dollars on education are spent more responsibly. Parents should have a choice of schools based on the schools’ performance numbers provided that those parents furnish transportation for the children. We believe that every child should be able to receive a public education, and that the state is responsible for providing said education, which shall include the following: a broad curriculum with emphasis on basic language, physical education, math, and science skills; an opportunity for students to choose either vocational or “college preparatory” training; functional buildings; frequent public reports and accountability of funds; and basic training in agriculture, including the “Ag in the Classroom” program, covering both production and consumption.
2. The National Grange supports the adoption of a comprehensive health education curriculum.
3. The Grange supports the teaching of foreign languages, including sign language. We recommend that all other subjects be taught in the English language and that all non-English speaking students and residents in the United States be given the opportunity to receive immediate instruction in the English language through programs such as English-As-A-Second-Language.
4. The National Grange supports affordable telecommunications services for rural schools and libraries.
5. The National Grange supports strong educational standards, but does not believe that the establishment of National Education Standards Testing achieves this goal.
6. The National Grange supports the retention of the Head Start program.
7. The National Grange supports the teaching of both the theory of evolution and the story of creation, allowing individual school boards and students to make their own choice.
8. The National Grange supports posting the Ten Commandments in schools, courthouses and other public facilities.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would bring about protection of parental and/or guardian rights in the guidance, control and administration of their dependent minors’ health care. This legislation should be written to include any and all federal, state and local government agencies.
10. The National Grange supports the teaching of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, including the Preamble and the Bill of



Rights, in schools.

11. The National Grange urges that United States' citizens, rather than foreign students, be given preference in obtaining publicly-funded scholarships. The National Grange opposes any legislation allowing illegal aliens to receive tuition discounts at American institutions of higher learning.
12. The National Grange endorses "Read Across America;" we recommit our organization to engage in programs and activities to make Americans the best readers in the world.
13. The National Grange supports traditional educational standards in American schools by making certain that school textbooks, today and in the future, are not modified to the point where our historical family gender specific terminology is altered or lost due to political or social pressures.
14. National Grange is opposed to any changes in the language of classic literature, with the exception of those necessary for translation from another language.
15. The National Grange opposes any legislation that may be proposed permitting or requiring non-security school staff to carry firearms while at school.
16. The National Grange urges the Federal Department of Education to encourage all local school systems to retain recess for elementary school children.
17. The National Grange supports legislation to establish standardized requirements for school nurses in all 50 states, as well as legislation to adequately fund school nurse programs to be able to handle the increased workload.

#### *Education for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Special Needs Children*

1. The National Grange believes that parents of deaf and hard of hearing children, deaf and hard of hearing people, teachers, and professionals who are trained in the area of educating the deaf should assist in determining the extent, content, and purpose of the educational program, and particularly consider those program options that provide the pupil with an appropriate and equal opportunity for communication access, including the state's school for the deaf, which may be the least restrictive environment for a deaf or hard of hearing child.
2. The National Grange strongly supports continuation of the Education of the Deaf Act to provide maximum benefit for deaf and hard of hearing persons, both in programs and services, including funding for Gallaudet University and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID).

#### *Educational Funding*

1. The National Grange supports the continuation of the federal guaranteed student loan, grant, and work-study programs. The National Grange recommends that Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Expected Family Contribution (EFC) regulations be adjusted to reflect family expenses, such as real estate taxes, medical expenses and other financial obligations in the determination of financial aid. We urge strict enforcement of the requirements for repayment of federally financed student loans with severe penalties for default. The National Grange suggests that the guidelines for student financial aid laws be revised so financially independent students are eligible to receive financial aid for their higher education.
2. The National Grange supports the retention of Federal Government Impact Aid for public school districts that lose traditional revenue sources due to a federal presence or activity.

3. The National Grange supports federal categorical aid to school library centers.
4. The National Grange believes that public funding should be used only in public schools. We support redirecting public funding to nonpublic or charter schools, only when the money is for special needs students where the law mandates special training not available in public schools.
5. The National Grange supports federal funding for state allocation of dollars for rural education to promote better salaries and benefits for teachers in rural education and to improve rural school conditions.
6. The National Grange urges adequate funding by the federal government for all federally mandated education programs. In particular, we support equal educational opportunities for exceptional and handicapped persons including federal funding at the 40 percent level for federally mandated individualized education programs for special needs children.
7. The National Grange supports federal legislation protecting the Upward Bound Talent Search, designed to benefit low-income students seeking college education.
8. The National Grange supports legislation that awards grants to institutions for history teacher preparation initiatives stressing content mastery in traditional American history and the principles on which the American political system is based.

#### *Nutrition*

1. The National Grange urges adequate funding for school breakfast and lunch programs. We support the American Dietetic Association's current guidelines recommending two to three servings of dairy products daily in the school nutrition program. We urge the USDA to keep dairy products in the Food Pyramid and encourage all consumers to include adequate amounts of calcium in their diets. School breakfast and lunch programs should provide balanced diets to meet a child's daily nutritional requirements.
2. The National Grange urges the agricultural community to provide nutrition education programs for consumers and school-aged children and support continued funding for the Farmers' Market Nutrition program.
3. The National Grange supports any legislation to prohibit the sale of junk food and soda pop from vending machines in elementary and junior high schools. We also urge school districts to seek out contracts with vendors distributing more healthy alternatives such as milk.
4. The National Grange opposes any additional tax on "fat" foods for the purpose of preventing obesity. Instead, educational programs should be provided to encourage eating a variety of nutritious foods in moderation, and to teach the basic interaction of calorie intake and energy expenditure.

#### *Food Safety and Labeling*

1. The National Grange believes the agricultural industry should be free to advertise their products as long as the advertisement is accurate and is based on facts.
2. The National Grange favors strict enforcement of all food labeling laws by the Food & Drug Administration and supports a uniform system for labeling food and drink products, including an expiration date in a color that is readable on the background. We encourage the National Safety Working Group and Congress to enact far-reaching legislation increasing the inspection rate and level of safety of imported foreign foods, drugs, and manufactured goods. We also support legislation

requiring food companies and restaurants to clearly mark food labels and items on menus that may contain ingredients such as Monosodium Glutamate (MSG) and inform patrons if their food contains peanuts, are exposed to peanuts, or has been cooked in peanut oil. We recommend that a ban be placed on the use of all sulfites on fresh fruits and vegetables in restaurants. We further recommend that all manufacturers of food and drink who use sulfites in their products be required to specify on the product label that a sulfite was used. However, we support each individual restaurant's right to decide whether to include calorie counts on their menu boards of calorie, fat, carbohydrates and sodium on their menus for all food and beverage items.

3. The National Grange urges the Department of Health and Human Services to review and strengthen the regulations pertaining to manufactured products used in the home canning process, including requiring a manufacturer's name and expiration date on these products.
4. The National Grange favors continued testing of cider processing but strongly urges Congress and the USDA not to require pasteurization of all commercial cider.
5. The National Grange supports the initiation of a regulated food products irradiation program. We further support federal funding for a program to educate the public about the benefits of irradiated food products.
6. The National Grange supports easy and inexpensive access to vitamins and supplements. We urge that all herbal medicines sold in the United States be labeled with a warning to consult with a physician or pharmacist before using. We further support legislation that would require manufacturers and processors of dietary supplements to report certain information to the Secretary of Health and Human Services annually, including a list of supplements manufactured and the labeling and major ingredients for such supplements.
7. The National Grange supports national legislation to require clear labeling of food AND medicines as well as other products that may be ingested when they contain gluten in any form, or as gluten-free when they do not contain gluten.

## HEALTH

### *Family Planning*

1. We oppose any amendment to the United States Constitution that denies an individual the freedom of choice for abortion. We recognize the need for readily available family planning information for those who need or desire it. However, we do oppose partial-birth abortions. Government financing should not be available for abortions, except in cases of rape, incest, endangered health of the mother, or serious defects of the fetus. We support educational efforts, which would emphasize the necessity for licensed hospitals and medical doctors when abortions are necessary. We further support requiring all abortion agencies to provide counseling by qualified professional personnel to explore all possible options before an abortion, and we favor state legislation requiring abortion and family planning clinics to notify parents or guardians of minors who are seeking drugs or abortions.
2. The National Grange supports the release of adoption records that will provide family health history.
3. The National Granges opposes the distribution of any contraceptives to middle school age students.

4. The National Grange supports legislation that requires coverage of infertility treatments, such as the “Family Act of 2011.”

*Health Care Consumer Protection, Patients’ Rights and Accessibility*

1. The National Grange supports access to affordable health care and health insurance for every American regardless of age, race, income, health condition, or location with freedom of choice of medical provider and facility. In addition, health care cost containment strategies should maintain the highest quality of care without compromising effectiveness and efficiency. The National Grange supports restrictions being placed on insurance companies, so that they can only cancel policies for nonpayment or fraud, and not because of new health issues. We favor legislation to guarantee that the attending physician’s decision is the governing factor regarding appropriate medical treatment or length of hospital stay. The physician’s decision should be the deciding factor for coverage whether or not treatment or hospitalization takes place in or out of the patient’s home state. We believe HMOs should be required to accept the determination of the attending health care provider as evidence of the need for an emergency visitation or ambulance service. The National Grange encourages all families to carry catastrophic health insurance.
2. The National Grange will work with other organizations to develop and present a “Healthcare Bill of Rights” for Americans to Congress. We support proposals for health care reform that include the following safeguards: a) allow patients to sue HMOs for medical malpractice; b) place a cap on how much an individual may sue for per medical malpractice suit, including a \$250,000 cap on malpractice awards arising from non-economic claims (i.e. pain and suffering); c) place a cap on malpractice awards regarding product liability; d) require insurance companies to provide hospital coverage for birth as deemed necessary by the doctor; e) establish an efficient grievance and appeal process for patients when medical procedures or payments are denied by insurance companies/HMO’s; f) require that insurance companies cover all legally mandated medical services deemed necessary by a doctor at federal, state, or hospital levels, including preventative procedures such as Well-baby check-ups and childhood immunizations; h) require insurance companies to pay claims within 30 to 45 days of receiving properly completed forms and bills. We also support a health care plan that includes the following provisions:
  - Access to affordable, portable health care, health insurance and prescription drugs for every American regardless of age, race, income, health condition or location with freedom of choice of medical provider and facility.
  - Each person should be treated with dignity, equality and respect and health information should be provided in a manner that is easily understood and comprehended.
  - Protection of Medicare or current health insurance coverage as they are presently provided with no reduction in coverage.
  - No ban on writing new policies for insurance companies.
  - Preventive care, screenings and services that include educational programs, immunizations and holistic or alternative medicines that assist the patient in taking responsibility for their own care but do not mandate participation.
  - A national registry of health information that is accessible in all health

care settings by health care professionals.

- Encourage utilization of technology, such as telemedicine, to support the delivery of care and management of patient conditions.
- Address the alarming rate of medical errors in health care settings by establishing guidelines, training and standards.
- Oversight of any federal health care program should be provided by a qualified health agency and not the Internal Revenue Service.
- Medical decisions should be made by licensed medical professionals based on the needs of the patient.
- Efforts to reduce overall health care costs while providing the right care by the right provider at the right time in the right place and for the right cost.
- Guidelines for revamping the reimbursement structure to support the delivery of primary care that seeks to address the needs of the most costly patients.
- Programs to ensure that there is an ample health care workforce that is qualified to deliver all levels of care.
- Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Veterans Administration (CHAMPVA) health care coverage for eligible dependent children to the maximum age of 26 to mirror language in the recent Healthcare Reform bill of 2009.
- Any health care program established by Congress should be acceptable to the members of Congress as required coverage for them and their families.

3. The National Grange urges federal agencies to be more aggressive in their investigations and prosecutions of fraud, waste, and abuse in the health care system. We support efforts to maintain the National Practitioners Data Base allowing consumers to have access to malpractice reports so they can properly choose the best medical professional for themselves.
4. The National Grange supports tax deductible medical savings accounts (MSAs) in the form of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) type account to be used strictly for medical expenses. The National Grange supports legislation that reinstates the list of Over The Counter items eligible for reimbursement under Health Saving Accounts (HSAs), Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), and Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRAs), removes limits on contributions and allows year-end balances to roll over to the new year or return to the employee.
5. We support extending health care coverage under COBRA for all terminated employees who qualify for a period of up to 36 months or until eligible for Medicare/Medicaid and include portability of health insurance coverage — even if there is a pre-existing condition — for those who change jobs or become unemployed. The National Grange supports tax incentives for businesses to provide health insurance coverage for their employees and 100% tax deductibility of health insurance premiums for the self-employed and individuals acquiring private health insurance.
6. The National Grange favors the passage of laws, which allow parents/guardians in conjunction with their doctors to decide whether or not to keep severely physically and mentally handicapped children alive by life support systems without interference by the government.
7. The National Grange urges that the new federal and state laws on privacy of medical information be examined, and amended if necessary, so that medical practitioners may release or disclose limited information when necessary to contact



relatives or others who are needed to authorize medical treatment. We further support legislation that would require patients, when physically or mentally able, to submit their medical background to health care professionals.

8. The National Grange supports legislation such as “The Small Business Health Fairness Act” or any other legislation that would allow professional associations to offer members group health insurance on a national basis thus making it more affordable.
9. The National Grange strongly urges hospitals to charge uninsured patients the same rates that are negotiated by insurance companies and Medicare for their clients.
10. The National Grange supports legislation that would eliminate the mandatory purchase of health care insurance as mandated by the Health Care Reform Act of 2009, repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) also part of the Health Care reform Act of 2009 due to the extensive authority given to the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB.)
11. The National Grange supports legislation requiring all restaurants and all public buildings to be smoke free and to require builders and landlords to include carbon monoxide detectors as well as smoke detectors in buildings they build or manage.
12. The National Grange strongly opposes any effort to require the Internal Revenue Service to turn over tax return documents to other government agencies which review health care decisions.
13. The National Grange opposes the imposition of a tax on medicine or medical supplies.
14. The National Grange supports legislation to override the 1950 Supreme Court ruling that prevents medical malpractice suits against military doctors with the exception of threat of war.
15. The National Grange opposes any legislation that would dis-enroll any veteran who is currently receiving health care coverage through the Veterans Administration (VA) Health Care System.

#### *Rural and Home Health Care*

1. We urge that the federal government maintain block grant/matching funds to states for community health clinics.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to ensure that fairness in price and benefits offered becomes a part of any and all medical insurance programs. The National Grange believes that payment to health care providers should adhere to a schedule of fees for services provided that is fair and equitable across the United States.
3. The National Grange supports incentive programs for doctors who will agree to practice in rural areas where basic medical care is not available and supports the creation and/or expansion of programs that encourage students to become general practitioners and that address incentives and reimbursements for primary care.
4. The National Grange supports the establishment or use of the necessary infrastructure for the expansion of telemedicine into rural areas.
5. We encourage local Granges to present programs that educate the community about pharmaceutical assistance programs.
6. The National Grange supports preserving quality, rural home health care services provided under traditional fee-for-service Medicare by opposing the imposition of new, patient co-payment fees and the imposition of further cuts to reimbursement rates for home health care service providers.



7. The National Grange supports reinstating Medicare Advantage, alternative Medicare insurance coverage offered by private companies, which would specifically allow rural Medicare patients to voluntarily elect to use a greater proportion of their Medicare benefits for home health care expenses.
8. The National Grange supports efforts by Congress, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the home health care industry to reduce unnecessary Medicare spending on home health care services by aggressively weeding out instances of fraud, abuse and poor management practices in the home health care sector.

#### *Medical Research/Awareness*

1. The National Grange supports and recognizes the value of medical research in increasing the quality of life. We support improvement in the quality of health care services and access to new and existing technologies. We encourage continued funding of medical research, including the responsible use of animals in research.
2. The National Grange encourages research to continue on alternative treatments, such as acupuncture, hypnosis, massage therapy, prayer, and meditation, which may be used in conjunction with the standard treatments that are showing results against diseases.
3. The National Grange supports the National Cancer Institute and encourages Congress to continue providing funds for research.
4. The National Grange supports the establishment of a “radiation database” on radiation releases to the public resulting from both intentional and unintentional releases due to nuclear weapons testing and accidental releases from nuclear power plants.
5. The National Grange support legislation to explore the risks involved in the use of water fluoridation in the United States.
6. The National Grange urges that the correct information about Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) should be given to all parents and caregivers of children under five years.
7. The National Grange urges adequate funding for agencies at all levels dealing with the HIV and AIDS problem and supports increased emphasis on testing.
8. The National Grange urges the use of government funds for stem cell research only on postnatal or adult stem cells. We further support the research and possible use of cord blood stem cells and, promote the registry and donation of cord blood stem cells. However, we support legislation banning full human cloning.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would ban the patenting of natural occurring genes. We only support the patenting of treatment and/or alterations of those natural occurring genes.
10. We urge a Silver Alert System for people dealing with dementia.

#### *Medicare/Medicaid*

1. The National Grange supports the adoption of a comprehensive health education curriculum.
2. The National Grange supports the following reforms and changes in the Medicare and Medicaid programs: a) equity of payment between inpatient and outpatient procedures according to Medicare’s Diagnostic Related Groups; b) equity in reimbursements between rural and urban hospitals; c) prohibit hospitals or doctors from setting fees or discontinuing Medicare assignments for specific diagnosis during treatment on the basis of the method of payment or from charging amounts

above the Medicare limits for Medicare services; d) faster processing of claims to permit faster reimbursement; e) extended coverage to ensure sufficient time for full recovery; f) health care professionals; and (g) all reimbursements under the Medicare program to all Medicare patients, medical personnel, suppliers, be made within a 3 month timeframe and (h) adequately compensate primary care physicians for non-procedural services.

3. The National Grange supports a full investigation of the causes of the rapid increase in Medicare/Medicaid costs. We urge our legislators to investigate pricing, availability and coverage options provided by health insurance companies as supplemental coverage for Medicare recipients. We further support a cap on the annual increase in Medicare deductions of no more than the general inflation rate. The National Grange strongly urges Congress to refrain from reducing payment to physicians and providers under Medicare since it would add an additional burden to patients needing to use the program. The National Grange urges all U.S. Senators and Representatives to continue to support funding to all aspects of the current Medicare programs.
4. The National Grange will lobby for a change in current Medicare insurance to include coverage for hearing exams and hearing aids. The National Grange urges Medicare and Medicaid to review their payment schedules and make changes which recognize recommended and accepted medical procedures and screening tests, such as: coverage for the prostate-specific antigen test (PSA); increased coverage for home health care costs; reimbursement for services of midwives and physicians' assistants; coverage for outpatient office laser surgery.
5. The National Grange favors legislation permitting retired people to deduct the cost of their supplemental health insurance from their taxable income. We support changing current regulations to permit seniors who are "grandfathered" by residence address into a Medicare supplemental insurance program to be allowed to move anywhere within the original service area without being dropped from their insurance plan. We further support a division of assets procedure for Medicaid and Medicare that would preserve the financial stability of a healthy spouse.
6. The National Grange supports the right to have a second doctor in the operating room, where medically required, for patients on Medicare.
7. The National Grange supports legislation that would give eye and dental insurance to seniors age 65 plus for those procedures that Medicare does not cover, with a co-pay/deductible for amounts over 100 dollars.
8. The Grange at all levels works to convince our government that Medicare money should also be spent on health screening for early intervention of diseases which is far more economical than the huge cost of treating advanced stages of the diseases.
9. The National Grange urges Congress to pass an act allowing Medicare information to be given to an assigned representative and that the representative be allowed to act on behalf of said patient without consignment of Medicare and/or Social Security benefits.
10. The National Grange encourages the Federal Government to simplify the Medicare Part D program to achieve substantially lower drug prices for beneficiaries and require all aspects of the program to be implemented within 60 days of an applicant's enrollment. However, the National Grange opposes any Medicare rebate system such as the Waxman-Rockefeller tax.
11. The National Grange supports allowing Medicare to help cover the cost of purchasing hearing aids and eye ware. The National Grange also supports legislation

to change the regulatory language that categorizes hearing aids as cosmetic devices to the category of prosthesis devices in all instances for Medicare as well as Medicare supplemental insurance.

12. The National Grange supports passage of legislation mandating the Medicare system to use an identification number other than the individual's Social Security Number.
13. The National Grange shall actively lobby for the requirement that all members of Congress, upper and lower Houses, shall be provided only the standard Medicare offered to our citizens at age 65 and that any additional medical insurance shall be purchased at the going rate as necessary for the Congressman and his/her family at his/her own expense.
14. The National Grange urges the United States Congress to amend the Federal Health Care Overhaul Bill to read that all states be fiscally responsible for their portion of Medicaid expenses.

#### *Long Term Care and Assisted Living*

1. The National Grange supports coverage for long-term nursing/in-home care, including an allowable tax credit for long term care insurance premiums, and an allowable tax credit for adult day care expenses incurred by primary care givers of adults who cannot care for themselves. A tax credit should also be available for programs to provide assisted living to the elderly in their own homes. We urge changing the Medicare entitlement and managed health care insurance programs so that they provide payment for assisted living programs.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that will provide uniform care and services to nursing home patients and will protect their rights.
3. The National Grange encourages Congress to require Medicare to make timely payments to both acute care and extended care facilities to ensure that the correct level of care is maintained for all patients.
4. The National Grange urges the U.S. Health Care Financing Authority to allow elderly couples to be in the same nursing home when long term care for both becomes necessary.
5. The National Grange supports action that develops a comprehensive and economical method to treat patients requiring Palliative Care.

#### *Deaf, Hard Of Hearing and the Disabled*

1. We strongly support legislation to protect the rights of deaf and hard of hearing persons.
2. The National Grange encourages manufacturers of machinery and stereo equipment to place warning labels, where feasible, informing consumers that permanent hearing loss could occur as a result of prolonged noise exposure above 85 decibels. We further support legislation requiring motorcycle mufflers to be designed so that the maximum decibels produced shall not be higher than 85 decibels at a distance of 50 feet.
3. The National Grange supports legislation requiring emergency warning messages to be both close captioned and delivered verbally, and all television stations provide closed captioning for news, weather, sports, and other live events.
4. The National Grange encourages telephone companies to make all public telephones hearing-aid compatible and install volume-controlled amplifiers. We further recommend that local, state, and national governments specify in their lease/purchase agreements with any telephone contractor that all instruments be hearing

aid compatible.

5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require all health insurance companies to cover hearing screening, testing, surgery, and hearing aids, including mandatory regular hearing screenings and hearing aids for children.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would establish detection and intervention programs for newborns and infants with hearing loss. We further urge Congress to pass legislation to require hearing testing of newborns prior to their release from the hospital.
7. The National Grange urges the Department of Transportation to become aware of the need for unisex handicapped restrooms and to make provisions for them at all new or remodeled rest stops.
8. The National Grange supports legislation so that any retired military service personnel with 50 percent or more service-related disability rating be allowed to obtain and receive needed dental treatments at the Veteran's Administration Dental Clinics at no cost.

*Alcohol, Tobacco, Controlled and Toxic Substances*

1. The National Grange encourages the bold, accurate labeling of household products (including carpeting and furniture that have been treated with toxic chemicals), farm chemicals, and other products containing toxic ingredients.
2. The National Grange supports the continuation of the many programs presently fighting substance addiction. The National Grange urges that funding for addiction treatment be governed by medical personnel and not by non-medical administrators of reimbursement programs. The National Grange supports legislation to end insurance discrimination against Americans living with mental illness and addiction in order to provide necessary assistance and treatment programs that will allow many of these afflicted individuals to return to a productive life in mainstream society.
3. The National Grange believes that any product containing above the acceptable FDA limit of Dioxin should display a label warning consumers of its presence.
4. We support federal legislation, which would ban the advertising and promotion of alcoholic beverages on television and radio. The National Grange supports the adoption of more prominent alcohol warning labels on all beer, wine and liquor containers.
5. The National Grange supports the effort of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to ban cigarette and alcohol advertising that encourages children to smoke and drink alcoholic beverages.
6. The National Grange urges legislation requiring all tobacco products to carry a federal health warning label, just as cigarettes do, and that advertisements include the detrimental effects of any tobacco products as well.
7. The National Grange recommends the passage of laws making it a punishable crime to use such drugs as Rohypnol, GHB, and Ketamine on anyone for the purpose of procuring sex.-
8. The use of steroid and other stimulants, unless prescribed for medical reasons, should be made illegal in all competitive sports and the National Grange supports having heavy penalties imposed upon the violators.
9. The National Grange supports aggressive enforcement of the laws to stop the import of all jewelry and any other products from foreign countries that contain highly dangerous levels of cadmium, other metals or chemicals.

*Prescription Drugs and Medicines*

1. The National Grange supports making prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs more affordable. The National Grange strongly encourages drug companies to produce lifesaving and life enhancing medicines for a wide variety of diseases and medical conditions. We further support requiring all government and private prescription drug coverage programs to offer the widest possible selection of lifesaving and life enhancing medicines at an affordable price for those who need them.
2. The National Grange supports allowing U.S. citizens, who are visiting foreign countries, to bring back with them up to three months supplies of regulated pharmaceutical products for their own use, provided that they have valid prescriptions for those specific pharmaceutical products from their U.S. physician. The National Grange supports the current Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act provisions that generally do not allow regulated pharmaceutical products to be imported into the U.S. for sale or distribution unless those importers are also pharmacists and/or pharmaceutical wholesalers currently subject to federal and state regulation. We strongly support current law and regulations that require anyone who imports regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to keep accurate records tracking the origin, history and chain of custody of these products before they entered the U.S. We support legislation requiring anyone authorized to import regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to be financially responsible for any testing necessary to verify the authenticity and/or degradation of the pharmaceutical products they import. We support strictly limiting the importation of pharmaceutical products to drugs from licensed pharmacies and wholesalers who sell to the public in Canada. We support providing the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) with sufficient resources and authority to ensure the safety of imported drugs from Canada employing technological and other safeguards. We further support legislation requiring anyone authorized to import regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to be allowed to import such products only if they are shipped into the U.S. in counterfeit proof and tamper resistant packaging.
3. The National Grange supports a voluntary program, which would offer pregnant women who test HIV positive voluntary access to the drug AZT that could prevent the transfer of the HIV antibodies to the unborn child or newborn child.
4. The National Grange will work to secure legislation requiring physicians to obtain specific written approval of the patient or those legally authorized to give approval prior to prescribing experimental drugs. When the physician prescribes experimental drugs, the warning and permission form must be in clear, common layman language on a separate medical form.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require the pharmaceutical companies to significantly reduce the minimum dose purchase requirement for pneumococcal vaccine. We recommend that local county Health Departments include this vaccine in required childhood immunizations.
6. The National Grange urges pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmaceutical wholesalers and pharmaceutical retailers to work cooperatively to reduce the cost of drugs for consumers in the United States and will work to pass legislation to amend the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 to facilitate this cooperation.
7. The National Grange urges the Food and Drug Administration to mandate that pharmaceutical producers label all products and commodities containing gluten.



My sincere thanks go to the committee members for their valuable contribution. Our committee had very knowledgeable members who gave valuable information and input from a variety of aspects. A very special thank you to Grace Boatright and Nicole Palya Wood for their input and assistance to our committee. It has been an honor to serve with the members of this committee.

Fraternally,

James Taylor, VA, Chairman

Melanie Bostwick, KS, Secretary

Chris Johnston, MI

Matt Johnson, MA

Linda Brumbaugh, OH

Wendy McFarland, CA

Patti Lee, IL

Claire Logan, RI

Dale Sanderson, VT



**GRANGE LAW COMMITTEE  
INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>FLOOR AC- TION</u></b>
Committee Resolution 3	Grange Gender Re-quirements		<b>Adopted</b>
Committee Resolution 1	Elimination of Term Limits		<b>Adopted</b>
Committee Resolution 2	Subordinate Granges		<b>Adopted</b>
Committee Resolution 4	1873 Degree Conferral		<b>Adopted</b>
ME-102	Paper Ballots		<b>Adopted as amended</b>
MT-101	Family Definition		<b>Adopted as amended on First Reading</b>
WV-101	Sale of Real Property		<b>Adopted as amended on First Reading</b>
NH-102	Elimination of Term Limits for National Grange Executive Committee		<b>Adopted on First Reading</b>
PA-106	Granges in U.S. Territories or DC		<b>Adopted on First Reading</b>
CA-102	National Convention Assessment Tax		<b>Adverse</b>
NJ-103	Voting Rights for Potomac Grange #1		<b>Adverse</b>
PA-105	Annual Password		<b>Adverse</b>
TX-101	25 & 50 Year Pins		<b>Adverse</b>
ID-103	Change to National Grange By-Laws		<b>Adverse</b>
RI-106 (2010)	Flag Presentation Ceremony		<b>Present policy</b>
NY-117	Pledge of Allegiance		<b>Transferred to Grange Growth</b>

CA-105	National Grange Fees for Grange Month		<b>Withdrawn</b>
CO-102	Term Limits for Officers		<b>Withdrawn</b>
CT-105	Student Grangers		<b>Withdrawn</b>
KS-101	Restoring the Junior Pledge Wording		<b>Withdrawn</b>
MA-101	Junior Grange Membership		<b>Withdrawn</b>
NH-101	State Granges		<b>Withdrawn</b>
OH-103	Youth Dues		<b>Withdrawn</b>

## POLICY STATEMENT

The Grange has great opportunities for growth and service in our communities. These opportunities may present challenges to our traditional procedures and rules, making it important to regularly review the *Digest of Laws of the National Grange* and the manuals of all levels of the Grange. Changes to any of these alter the face of our organization both internally and externally. When writing resolutions, we must be clear and precise with our intentions. Consideration needs to be given to how resolutions will affect the Grange. The requested action should be for the “Good of the Order” and not in reaction to an isolated incident. Resolutions addressing additions, deletions, or changes to any portion of the *Digest of Laws of the National Grange* should be comprehensive and include references to the specific section being addressed, along with the proposed wording.

Some State Granges are not collecting application fees and/or dues from members joining during Grange Month. Unfortunately, this is in violation of article 4.8.1 (B) requiring application fees of \$3 per individual and \$6 per family, and article 4.8.2 (B) requiring all Subordinate Granges to charge minimum annual dues of \$8 per person or \$16 per family.

State Granges continue to struggle with their annual budgets, and we recognize that the annual convention constitutes a large portion of each state budget. State Conventions are essential not only for the leadership training and recognition of achievements but most importantly for the networking and camaraderie of all members coming together. We encourage all State Granges to find creative ways to cut costs while preserving these very important events.

Many new Granges are being organized throughout the country. New Granges are essential to our future goal of total Grange growth. We strongly recommend that when new Granges are selecting their Grange name, they choose a name that does not give the impression of exclusivity.

We recommend at the time of reprinting the Grange Manuals that all references to Digest pages be eliminated, using only the article number, section and paragraph referred to.

We encourage members at all levels to become familiar with the *Digest of Laws of the National Grange* since it contains the by-laws and rules under which our Granges operate.

## NATIONAL MASTER'S RULINGS ON GRANGE LAW AND USAGE

### *Grange Gender requirements*

**Q.** If a Grange is properly chartered with at least four members of either sex, but at some point drops below four men (or women) on their membership rolls, does that affect their Charter?

**A.** You are correct in your interpretation of the requirement of four of each gender being required to organize a Grange.

I also have failed to find any mention of a requirement of four of each gender to maintain a Charter. In reviewing the Digest, and in reading much about the history of our organization, it is clear that in the early days of the Order, there were few organizations allowing women equal status. It would appear that the requirement of four of each gender was a tool to reinforce the need for women to be a part of the Grange in a society that was unaccustomed to women being considered a necessary part of a civic organization.

It is also true that every Grange is required by the Digest to elect the sixteen officers, including the four (Lady Assistant Steward, Flora, Pomona, and Ceres) which must be held by female members. While it is not required that any of the officers be men, the historical record shows that in most cases many of the officer positions which are not designated to be held by women were regularly filled by men.

When the history and structure of the officer team is considered and understood, and the Digest which is clear on organizing and reorganizing, it seems clear to me that the intent of the Digest is that a Grange have both men and women as members. I would suggest that common sense be applied and I would rule that in cases where a Grange has less than four men or four women, the Master of the State Grange should work with them to increase the number to a minimum of four of each gender, in the same manner they would do if the total number of members had fallen below 13. In cases where a Grange refuses to recruit and/or vote into membership either men or women to meet these minimum requirements, the State Grange Master would be justified to suspend or revoke said Charter on the grounds of 4.5.1 (B) "A Grange is working in violation of the law and usages of the Order."

### *Respect for the Flag*

**Q.** If, before taking the Obligation to become a member, an applicant states they will not honor the flag, and the Grange accepts those applicants to membership anyway, should the Grange be sanctioned in any way?

**A.** The answer to the first question begins with a question - why does the member not honor or give the flag salute? If it is because of a religious belief or other reason mentioned in 4.6.15, it clearly states we will not discriminate.

Not giving the salute and/or not participating during the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem are technically not allowed in our rules except as specified in 4.6.15.

If the person stands quietly and doesn't give the salute, yet remains a person of good character who works well with fellow members for the benefit of the community, I question the danger to our Grange and/or our community. If the action is for one of the reasons clearly stated in 4.6.15, we cannot and must not force the member to be disloyal to that reason.

If the person willfully disrupts the flag presentation or the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem, that is an action that violates the letter and spirit of our rules and should not be tolerated by the Grange. In such a case, the Grange members should review Chapter 12: Code of Judicial Law and follow the process described within that Chapter.

The structure of the Grange is simple. Membership, outside of Charter members, is giv-

en to an individual by the members of the Grange they petition to join. Those members are the ones who make the decision that you are a proper person and fit to be a Grange member. As our members are human, they can and do make mistakes, as well as good decisions.

A person who reveals to the Grange members that they cannot salute the flag and yet wishes to be a member should be respected for their honesty. The Grange that accepts such a member and continues to obey the rules of the Order should also be respected.

The question of if or how a Grange should be sanctioned for electing an individual into membership who does not honor the flag is interesting. 4.5.1 gives the reasons for a Grange to have its Charter suspended or revoked. A Grange that fails to properly display the American flag is quite different from a Grange that has a member who stands quietly and does not participate in the flag salute. I would question the courage and ability of any Master who allows a Grange to regularly meet without properly displaying the American flag. I would also question the wisdom and common sense of any Master who would revoke or suspend a Charter on the grounds of a violation of 4.5.1 (B) because one member did not participate in the flag salute. There are few other sanctions available to a State Master in such a case.

As to the question, "If I knowingly recommend an improper person for membership, have I violated my obligation?" The First Degree Obligation clearly states that you will not recommend nor vote for someone you believe to be an improper person. It then states that you will not oppose the admission of anyone solely on the grounds of a personal prejudice. This is a personal pledge and in most cases only you know if you violated the pledge. The laws as written in the Digest assume that if you did such an action, you would feel so much shame and remorse that you would remove yourself from the Grange. A charge made as required in Chapter 12 would be difficult, if not impossible, to prove. In the case where you recommended someone and they proceed to act in a fashion that you did not anticipate, that does not in any way constitute a violation of your Obligation as you were acting on what you knew and believed at that time.

## **RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY DELEGATE ACTION**

### *Grange Gender Requirements*

RESOLVED, that Section 6.2.4 of the Code of the Subordinate Grange be amended to read: Whenever the membership of a Subordinate Grange declines to fewer than 13 members or fewer than four members of either gender, the Charter shall be suspended or revoked pursuant to Article V of the By-Laws of the National Grange.

This is Committee Resolution 3 covering Master's Ruling #1.

This is a 24 hour resolution.

Adopted by session by a 2/3 majority.

### *Elimination of Term Limits – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 2011*

RESOLVED, that Chapter 4, Article X, Section 4.10.2(E) of the National Grange Digest be changed by deleting the following sentences; "No member shall serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office." (Commencing with the 2002 election of officers) Chapter 4 Article X Section 4.10.2(E) of the National Grange Digest shall now read: National Grange – in the National Grange, officers shall be elected and installed biennially at the annual meeting. No officer shall hold two elected offices concurrently.

This is Committee Resolution 1.

Adopted on first reading 2010.

*Subordinate Granges – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 2011*

WHEREAS, the power of the National Master is very narrowly defined in jurisdictions where there is a State Grange to suspending or revoking the Charter of the State Grange when the number of Subordinate Granges falls below six; and

WHEREAS, there are other times when Granges could be helped before it is too late; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that section 4.5.7 of the Digest be changed to read “Criteria – Whenever the number of active Subordinate Granges in a State Grange is reduced below six, the State Grange is working in violation of the law and usages of the Order, the State Grange refuses or is unable to hold meetings, or the State Secretary’s report or dues are not received by the National Grange for two consecutive quarters, it shall be the duty of the Master of the National Grange to suspend or revoke the Charter of the State Grange having jurisdiction over said Subordinate Granges, if it is the determination of the Master of the National Grange that the good of the Order requires such action.

This is Committee Resolution 2.

Adopted on first reading 2010.

*1873 Degree Conferral*

WHEREAS, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Grange takes place in 2017; and

WHEREAS, all Granges and Grangers should celebrate our history and heritage; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange allow and encourage the public exemplification of the 1873 Degrees at the Oliver H. Kelley Farm in 2013.

This is Committee Resolution 4.

Covers portion of the Master’s Internal Address.

*Paper Ballots*

WHEREAS, it has been established procedure in all Granges that in the use of paper ballots the ballot is always inspected by more than one Patron, and

WHEREAS, it should be incumbent upon the Grange Master as the supreme authority in the Subordinate Grange to inspect all ballots for membership in his or her Grange regardless of the method used in taking the ballot, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that *Procedures for Paper Balloting* as written in the forty-fifth edition of the Manual of the Subordinate Grange, pages 82-83, be rewritten as follows:

PROCEDURES FOR PAPER BALLOTING

The same procedure will be used for paper balloting. When the Master declares the ballot closed, the Steward will present the box to the Overseer. The Overseer will count the paper ballots and return them in the box to the Steward. The Steward will approach the Master who will count the paper ballots in the same manner and say, “Worthy Overseer, is the ballot favorable or unfavorable?” The Overseer replies “Favorable, Worthy Master,” or “Unfavorable, Worthy Master.” *[No other language should be used in reporting the condition of the ballot.]* The Master declares the result of the ballot and destroys the ballots.

*[If a Grange ballots for candidates when visitors from neighboring Granges are present, the Master may, if he/she desires, excuse the visitors from rising during the balloting. Otherwise the call of the gavel applies to all in the hall.]*

This covers resolution ME-102. Adopted by session.



*Family Definition*

WHEREAS, all Granges throughout our nation are encouraging young families to join our Community Granges; and

WHEREAS, the National By-laws Article 4.6.5 (B) reads, “A family shall consists of a husband and wife and their dependents;” and

WHEREAS, many of our citizens live as a family unit without the benefit of a formal marriage ceremony given by a marriage official; and

WHEREAS, the wordage of husband and wife pertaining to family membership has caused much hard feelings resulting in families being turned down for membership in the Grange; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our National Grange By-laws Digest Article 4.6.5 (B) be changed to read; “A family shall consist of a couple and their dependents or a single person and their dependents. Dependents are defined as children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, foster, adopted or step-children under the age of 23, who live as a member of the same household or in absence due to illness, education or military service. Legal dependents of any age shall be considered part of their legal guardians’ family.”

This covers resolution MT-101. First reading 2011.

Adopted by session by 2/3 majority.

*Sale of Real Property*

WHEREAS, the *Digest of Laws of National Grange* Article X1, Sale of Encumbrance or Transfer of Real Property of Subordinate or Pomona Grange Paragraph 4.11.1 (A), line 5/6 reads such notice shall contain a summary of the proposed sale; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Article XI, Section 4.11.1 (A) be amended to read: “A written notice shall be sent to the Master and Executive Committee of the State Grange having jurisdiction advising of the intent to invoke the procedure included in Article XI of these By-Laws to sell real property. Such notice shall contain a summary of the reasons for the proposed sale, a copy of the deed and corporate documents if applicable. The State Grange Master will send acknowledgement of receipt of the notice to the Subordinate or Pomona Grange.”

This covers WV-101.

First reading 2011.

Adopted by session by 2/3 majority.

*Elimination of Term Limits for National Grange Executive Committee*

WHEREAS, at the 144<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the National Grange, Resolution GL-102 was adopted at the first reading, eliminating term limits for Officers of the National Grange in Chapter 4, Article X, Section 4.10.2 (E) in the National Digest; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 4, Article X, Section 4.10.1 (C) (2) states; “Elected members of the Executive Committee shall serve no more than 3 consecutive terms;” therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the last sentence in Chapter 4, Article X, Section 4.10.1 (C) (2) be eliminated so that this section shall read “(2) National Grange - The Executive Committee of the National Grange shall consist of the following members: The Master and Overseer of the National Grange, and the four elected members whose terms of office shall be two years, two to be elected each year at the Annual Session of the National Grange.”

This covers NH-102.

First reading 2011.



*Granges in U.S. Territories or DC*

WHEREAS, there is a Subordinate Grange organized in the District of Columbia and more Granges could be organized there or in U.S. Territories in the future; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Chapter 4, Section 4.3.3(A) of the National Grange Digest of Laws be amended to add the words “or U.S. Territory or the District of Columbia.” Thus, it will read as follows:

“Six or more active Subordinate Granges working in a state or U.S. Territory or the District of Columbia may apply to the Secretary of the National Grange for authority to organize a State Grange.”

First reading 2011.

Sincere thanks to the members of the committee for their help, guidance and insight. Special thanks go to the committee secretary, Betsy Huber, for her work in recording the actions of our committee and to the staff members for their input and guidance.

Fraternally,  
Chairman Jody Cameron, CT

Secretary Betsy Huber, PA  
David McCord, CO  
Roger Bostwick, KS  
Marie Nicholson, MT

Arthur Merrill, NH  
Gary Brumbaugh, OH  
Linda Lewis, CA (H)  
Dan Bascom, NH (H)

**GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>FLOOR ACTION</u></b>
Grange Growth – 102	Junior Grange Review	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Adopted</b>
NY-116	Caroline Hall	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Adopted</b>
NY-124	RFD TV	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Adopted</b>
Grange Growth -101	Memorial to Tom Severance	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Adopted as Amended</b>
VT-101	Promoting the Use of Electronic Media	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Adopted as Amended</b>
OR-104	National Grange Membership Database	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Adopted as Amended</b>
TX-102	Remembering Past National Grange Delegates	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Adverse</b>
TX-103	Horizon Leadership Ambassadors	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Adverse</b>
VT-102	Made in America	<b>Policy Statement</b>	<b>Policy Statement</b>
WA-103	Grange Effective Marketing Assistance	<b>Policy Statement</b>	<b>Policy Statement</b>
NY-117	Pledge of Allegiance	<b>Policy Statement</b>	<b>Policy Statement</b>
CT-101	Special Needs Youth	<b>Adverse</b>	<b>Policy Statement</b>
CT-102	Youth Chaperone	<b>Adverse</b>	<b>Policy Statement</b>
NY-111	“Taps” as Song of Remembrance	<b>Referred to Citizenship</b>	<b>Referred to Citizenship</b>
OH-103	Youth Dues	<b>Referred to Grange Law</b>	<b>Referred to Grange Law</b>
PA-107	Record Retention	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Rejected</b>

**POLICY STATEMENT**

The Grange Growth and Development Committee encourage participation on all levels of the Grange to develop our membership to become effective leaders and to grow our organization’s membership by asking others to join us.

The National Grange officers, directors and staff have worked diligently to provide many tools for each Grange member to be successful in developing their potential as leaders; as well as programs and presentations to make member recruitment relatively easy. It is incumbent on each State Master to ensure that their members know how to access these tools. Community Grange members are best suited to know the concerns of their

community and adapt the tools provided to encourage development of successful programs that benefit their communities, and attract new members to their Grange. Real Grange growth begins in the Community Grange and helps to support a strong Pomona, State and National presence.

Effective November 1, 2011, the National Grange unveiled a brand new, more user friendly website with easier to find, valuable information, downloadable forms and presentations, which are available for all members to use. State Masters should be utilizing these resources and encouraging their Grange members to explore the National Grange website so that they know what tools they have available to them. The new website is still in its infancy and will enable every Community, Pomona and State Grange to have their own web page and eventually will include a secure membership database so that all levels of the Grange can better serve their members.

The development of leaders in the Grange is vital to our continued growth and success. This leadership development needs to begin with our Junior Grangers. Our present Junior Grange program is not challenging our young people to excel and grow as leaders. The structure of the program must be brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and focus not only on the kids, but also on our Order as an organization. It needs to build lifetime loyalty to the Order. A Junior Grange Review Committee will be charged with evaluating all aspects of the present Junior Program and proposing changes and recommendations to ensure that our Junior Grange program remains an important and relevant part of our Order.

The Committee encourages our State Granges to provide mentors for their youth with special needs who wish to participate in State and National Grange activities. Mentors from the special needs youth's own Community Grange who are familiar with those special needs can best serve and assist them. We also recommend that the State Granges assign responsible adults for monitoring/chaperoning duties throughout all youth activities at both State and National Grange events.

Sections 11.8.6 and 11.8.7 of the Digest prescribe the proper flag ceremony of Granges, including the singing of the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. The Committee recognizes that both the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" are utilized in some states and we encourage those Granges who use both to continue to do so.

When looking for items to place the GRANGE emblem or logo on, we encourage Granges to purchase items "Made in U.S.A."

The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Order is only a few short years away. Even though many special activities are being planned already at the National level, there must be ways for each Community Grange and every member to be directly involved in this celebration. We agree with the National Master in recommending that every State Grange form a celebration committee to explore ways to involve their members in this once-in-a-lifetime anniversary. The National Grange Youth Department is already gearing up for this celebration by exemplifying the original 1873 Degrees at the Kelley Farm for interested Grange members and the public.

Growth of our Order is essential. We challenge each and every State Master to meet their pledges that they have made for their states at this 145<sup>th</sup> National Convention. Our State Masters must truly become LEADERS of the Order! They should strive to grow as leaders so that they may assist their Community and Pomona Masters to grow as well. It is essential that our Grange leaders understand that one of their most important duties is to mentor others so that they can, at some point, step up and continue to grow the Grange. We recommend that State Masters continue to encourage members to become more involved

in that growth by giving them the opportunity to participate in National programs such as the Grange Growth Summits, so that more teams can be put together to organize new Granges, reorganize inactive Granges and revitalize struggling Community and even Pomona Granges.

The E-Membership Program is a year old. State Granges must partner with the National Grange as well as with each other, in developing and implementing marketing plans to grow both regular and E-Member rolls. If someone declines to join as a regular member, suggest that they may be interested in joining on-line as an E-Member to learn more. State, Pomona and Community Masters must move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century as well. They need to understand that we are in a world of nearly instantaneous information flow. Email is essential, websites are a must, and if we hope to communicate and promote the Grange today, social networking and other similar technologies should be utilized.

Trademark protection is an ongoing process and is essential if we want to keep our good “Grange” name. This process has taken a financial toll on our organization but we continue to add victories to our credit. It is very encouraging to know that our applications for sub-registration of GRANGE and the GRANGE LOGO were all approved by the U.S. Trademark Office. These additional trademark sub-registrations will make our future defenses of our trademark rights that may come before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB), as well as in the Federal courts, stronger and less expensive to prosecute. The National Master, Board of Directors and our legal counsel, ably assisted by Brother Leroy Watson, have looked at creative ways to pay for this fight, while still providing the programs needed to promote our organization. Thank you to all who have contributed their time or money to help in this effort. State Masters need to continue to urge their Granges and Grange members to support this ongoing defense.

The Committee thanks Rusty Hunt for his 3 years as the National Grange Membership/Leadership Development Director and wish him the best. We welcome Michael Martin as the new Director and look forward to new and exciting programs for Membership/Leadership Development.

We also welcome Amanda Brozana as our National Grange Communications Director and thank her for creating the new National Grange website. We look forward to seeing new and unique communication opportunities through the website. Our new tagline, “American Values – Hometown Roots” and the new comic book, “A GRANGE STORY – Finding My Place” is further proof that each member of the National Grange Staff has provided ideas and suggestions that continue to help tell the Grange Story.

We challenge all Grangers to THINK BIG! Each of us must do our part to achieve success.

This Policy Statement covers resolutions CT-101, CT-102, NY-117, VT-102, WA-103 and a large portion of the Master’s Internal Address.

## **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION**

### *Caroline Hall*

WHEREAS, Caroline A. Hall had a tremendous impact in the organization and early years of the Grange while serving as Oliver Hudson Kelley’s Secretary and as a National Grange Officer, and

WHEREAS, the National Women’s Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York pays tribute to women who influenced and shaped the history of this country, and

WHEREAS, Caroline A. Hall deserves a place in this Hall of Fame based upon her work as the eighth founder of the Grange, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange, with the assistance and cooperation of the New York State Grange, officially nominate Caroline A. Hall for induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

This resolution covers NY-116.

#### *RFD TV*

WHEREAS, RFD-TV is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and

WHEREAS, the network increases visibility as it regards agriculture and organizations involved with agriculture, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that National Grange sends a congratulatory letter to the RFD-TV network on the occasion of their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with our deep appreciation for their coverage of U.S. agriculture and topics of rural interest.

This resolution covers NY-124.

#### *National Grange Membership Database*

WHEREAS, an organization cannot function without knowing who its members are; and

WHEREAS, this information is currently not provided to the National Grange; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange create a database for national membership to obtain member information from every Grange; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this database allow State, Pomona and Community Granges to provide and receive timely updates on member information; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the future this database allow State, Pomona and Community Granges to enter their own member information; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this new database tool contain proven security measures to protect the information of Grange members and the information will be used for member benefits and Grange purposes only; and be it further

RESOLVED, that additional features, such as online dues payment, online membership information changes and more features as determined by National Grange staff, will be researched and reported at the 2012 National Convention.

This resolution covers OR-104.

#### *Promoting the Use of Electronic Media*

RESOLVED, that all Granges be encouraged to use electronic media for distribution of information where available.

This resolution covers VT-101.

#### *Memorial to Brother Thomas Severance*

WHEREAS, Brother Tom Severance served the Grange at all levels in a manner which every Patron of Husbandry should strive, and

WHEREAS, Brother Tom Severance served as a Delegate to the National Grange for four (4) years from the State of Massachusetts, and

WHEREAS, Brother Tom Severance served as a member of the Grange Law Committee not only as a voting member, and in the fact that his words will live on in our Digest of

Laws, but as an honorary member lending his expertise and patience in mentoring new Delegates in the importance of this Committee, and

WHEREAS, Brother Tom Severance served twelve (12) years as Priest Archon in the Assembly of Demeter with honor, and

WHEREAS, in 2009, in recognition of his respect for and lifelong commitment to the ritualistic work of our order, Brother Tom Severance was elected to the Office of High Priest of Demeter and served in that position until his passing in 2011, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, the Delegates at the 145<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the National Grange, pause for a moment of silence in memory of our Worthy Brother Tom Severance to say “well done good and faithful servant,” and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution become part of the permanent record of the 145th Annual Convention.

This is Committee Resolution 101.

#### *Junior Grange Review*

WHEREAS, the Junior Grange is a vital part of this organization, and has manifested structural and relevance problems in today’s society, and

WHEREAS, the program sometimes fails to challenge our young people with educational and leadership activities, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Master appoint a committee to evaluate all aspects of the Junior Program and propose changes and recommendations to ensure that our Junior Grange Program remains a vital and relevant part of our Order, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Grange Growth and Development Committee recommends the Committee consists of six to ten members of diverse backgrounds who are familiar with Junior Grange-aged children, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Committee be appointed by January 1, 2012 with the Committee reporting back to the National Master at a minimum of every other month with a final report and recommendations due by September 1, 2012.

This is Committee Resolution 102.

My sincere thanks go out to the members of my committee for their excellent help, advice, dedication and insight as we diligently worked on these resolutions. We appreciate the assistance with the resolutions from Amanda Leigh Brozana, Samantha Johnson and Michael Martin, along with the unique personality of Pete Pompper. I want to extend a special thanks to the committee secretary for her hard work in recording the actions of our committee.

Fraternally,

Carl Meiss, Chairman (PA)

Donna Wiles, Secretary (MD)

Barbara Narvel (DE)

Susan Plank (IN)

Kathy Baldwin (IA)

Stephen Coye (NY)

Chris Hamp (WA)

Duane Scott (WI)

Pete Pompper (NJ)



**LABOR & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

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ID-105	Farm Labor Laws	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Adopted (Covers MI-103, NC-105)</b>
MI-104	Safer Act 2010	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Adopted (Covers NY-113, PA-112)</b>
MI-103	Child Labor Law Changes in Agriculture	<b>Covered under ID- 105</b>	<b>Covered under ID- 105</b>
NY-113	SAFER Act of 2010	<b>Covered under MI-104</b>	<b>Covered under MI-104</b>
PA-112	SAFER Act	<b>Covered under MI-104</b>	<b>Covered under MI-104</b>
L&J-101	Investment Blind Trusts for Congress	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Adopted (Covers NY-107)</b>
PA-102	National Medical Criminal Registry	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Adopted as amended</b>
OH-115	E-Verify	<b>Adverse</b>	<b>Adverse</b>
OR-105	Card Check Legislation	<b>Adverse</b>	<b>Adverse</b>
NC-105	Farm Labor	<b>Covered by ID- 105</b>	<b>Covered by ID- 105</b>
NY-107	The Stock Act	<b>Adverse</b>	<b>Covered by L&amp;J- 101</b>
IA-104	Operation Fast & Furious	<b>Policy Statement</b>	<b>Policy Statement</b>
NY-103	Employment of Migrant Farm Workers	<b>Present Policy</b>	<b>Present Policy</b>
NY-115	United States Made Souvenirs	<b>Present Policy</b>	<b>Present Policy</b>
TX-105	Foreign Aid	<b>Present Policy</b>	<b>Present Policy</b>
NY 110	Telephone Records	<b>Present Policy</b>	<b>Present Policy</b>
IA-106	Patrolmen for State Highways	<b>State Issue</b>	<b>Returned to the state</b>
IA-103	Congressional Pay Raises	<b>Transfer to Citizenship</b>	<b>Transferred to Citizenship &amp; Public Affairs</b>
IL-101	United States Census	<b>Transfer to Citizenship</b>	<b>Transferred to Citizenship &amp; Public Affairs</b>

NY-112	Enforcement of Immigration Laws	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
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## **POLICY STATEMENT**

During these troubled economic times worldwide, the economy of the United States also struggles. American workers increasingly worry about the stability of their jobs. The Grange, in addressing the needs of laborers and employers, seeks an equitable balance between the two, fostering economic growth and prosperity for all. The Grange has long supported an individual's right to work for a reasonable wage in a safe environment. The Grange would implore businesses to make provisions to secure employees' pension benefits and all moneys paid into retirement plans to prevent them from being lost by beneficiaries in the event of a future merger or liquidation of the company. The Grange calls for the shift of private pension responsibility to the Federal Pension Benefit Guarantee Plan only when the retirees are affected by a total closure of the business. The Grange will continue to seek workplace safety regulations, which protect workers while not placing excessive financial burden on employers.

While we have concerns about new government mandates that increase the cost of business, we also see a need for marketplace regulations that protect consumers and small investors. The government should extend regulation and oversight of the banking and credit industries to ensure protections for the American taxpayer.

The Grange urges lawmakers to continue to regulate credit card issuers. The Grange believes that terms should be explained in clear and concise wording, using easily readable print. Interest rates should be restricted to not more than five percent above the prime lending interest rate. The Grange supports limits on fees and charges imposed on the responsible cardholders who pay their entire balance in full each month.

While free trade agreements have opened markets to United States products, some U.S. companies have found the cost of labor and operations to be more favorable in other countries. The Grange encourages the state and federal governments to provide incentives to companies to retain domestic jobs.

The Grange supports the efforts of the federal government to increase border security to stem the tide of illegal immigration, drug trafficking and the potential for a foreign terrorist attack, while streamlining the process for legal immigration to allow employers in agriculture and other business sectors to secure workers. The Grange urges federal authorities to make tools to check the authenticity of immigrant worker documents more available to employers. Since tools to determine status are somewhat limited due to recent court rulings, employers (especially in agriculture) who unknowingly hire illegal workers should not be fined. However, those who knowingly hire illegal workers should be punished and required to pay all associated medical care costs of those illegal workers using medical services instead of hospitals having to write off these expenses. When streamlining the immigration process, those here illegally regardless of nationality should not be given amnesty or given an advantage over those immigrating by proper channels. However, compassion should be shown to those who were brought here as minors. The Grange urges Congress to reform immigration laws to provide for an orderly, well-regulated flow of immigrants.

The Grange supports testing to meet United States Consumer Products Safety Commission standards for imported products. Manufacturers and distributors should have a system and resources to track their products in case of recall. However, consumers should

also remember the old adage of “Buyer Beware.”

Our American way of life continues to be threatened on a number of fronts. Rural law enforcement agencies are confronted with crimes heretofore associated only with urban areas. Organized gang activities, identity theft and the manufacturing of illegal drugs, especially methamphetamine, are all now a part of the rural crime landscape.

The nation’s law enforcement agencies face the challenge of dealing with crimes as diverse and far-reaching as domestic abuse, terrorism, corporate and consumer fraud and electronic and Internet crimes. Telecommunications devices and teletypewriter (TDD and TTY) machines are also being used in credit card and consumer fraud crimes. The Grange supports stiff penalties for all crimes and realizes law enforcement faces significant challenges. The Grange has expectations that programs such as Operation Fast and Furious will be conducted in a legal and ethical manner.

The Internet has made it easier for child predators to contact children. The Grange supports maximum penalties for those convicted in child predator cases. The Grange supports victim advocacy programs in rural communities. Many rural communities need help to address complex issues such as domestic violence and the rights of victims of violent crimes.

Many federal, state, and local laws and regulations enacted in the past have become outdated, thereby creating a hindrance to development. The Grange urges legislative bodies and regulatory agencies at all levels of government to periodically review and purge outdated laws and regulations.

Progress in technology and transportation has linked nations more closely than ever before, with global trade and migration. The Grange encourages Congress to seek a fair and level playing field in global trading when entering into international trade agreements for non-agricultural industries; for agriculture we support fast track. Global treaties need to be carefully overseen by Congress to ensure that the sovereignty of the United States is not diminished or surrendered.

This covers IA-104 and sections of the Master’s address.

## **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION**

### *Farm Labor Laws*

WHEREAS, the Labor Department has proposed a revision to current child labor laws, specifically for children who work on farms; and

WHEREAS, the proposal would ban individuals under the age of 18 from working with animals, handling pesticides, working in timber operations, manure pits, grain elevators, feed lots, livestock auctions, and others on the farm; and

WHEREAS, by law, children under the age of 18 could not participate in the cultivation, harvesting, and curing of tobacco; and

WHEREAS, those children under the age of 16 would be banned from operating power-driven equipment; examples: tractors, combines, farm trucks, ATV’s and shredders; and

WHEREAS, 4-H and FFA programs involve children in many of the proposed activities, this would eliminate these programs; and

WHEREAS, many children are injured or killed in sports activities and regular daily activities, such as swimming, playing accidents; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange be opposed to the proposed changes in child labor laws by the Department of Labor that limits children under the age of 18 from

working with animals, handling pesticides, working in timber operations, manure pits, grain elevators, feed lots, livestock auctions, and others on the farm; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange also be opposed to proposed changes that by law, children under the age of 18 could not participate in the cultivation, harvesting, and curing of tobacco, and those children under the age of 16 would be banned from operating power-driven farm equipment; examples: tractors, combines, farm trucks, ATV's, and shredders.

This is resolution ID-105. This covers MI-103, NC-105

#### *SAFER Act 2010*

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Justice reports that more than 200,000 rapes occur every year in the United States, and

WHEREAS, a 1999 National Women's Study found that 10.1 percent of women living in rural areas had experienced a completed rape, and

WHEREAS, a great number of rape victims agree to undergo a rape kit exam, and

WHEREAS, genetic evidence from rape kits is entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) in order to assist in identifying perpetrators and patterns between seemingly unrelated crimes, and

WHEREAS, studies show between 63 percent and 71 percent of rapists are serial offenders, and

WHEREAS, entry of all rape kit exam data may increase the chance that perpetrators that commit multiple rapes be charged with more or all of the rapes they committed based on CODIS results, and

WHEREAS, connection of multiple crimes makes it more difficult for perpetrators to use defenses that blame rape victims for not being direct in their objection to sex, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Dept. of Justice estimates there are more than 200,000 untested rape kits in storage at police facilities throughout the country, and

WHEREAS, the Debbie Smith Act of 2004 provides federal grants to eligible states and units of local government to conduct DNA analyses of backlogged DNA samples collected from victims and criminal offenders, and

WHEREAS, the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Registry (SAFER) Act of 2010 was authored to appropriate Debbie Smith Act funds to clear the rape kit backlog and create a public online registry to track the progress of every collected rape kit, but now sits before the Judiciary Committee, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support passage of federal legislation to ensure a national database of DNA evidence acquired during previous investigations of sexual assault crimes to be used in the investigation of other sexual assault crimes across the nation that will balance the rights of the accused to due process and the presumption of innocence with the rights to privacy of the victims of sexual assault and the assurance of swift and certain justice, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange further support the creation of a federal grant program to the states, to audit the quality of the inventory of evidence acquired from sexual assault crimes by local law enforcement agencies in order to increase the value of this evidence in the investigation of sexual assault crimes across the nation.

This is resolution MI-104. Adopted, as combined with NY-113 and PA-112.

#### *Investment Blind Trusts for Congress*

WHEREAS, the Political Intelligence Foundation has been collecting information on Congressional Representatives who have been involved in insider trading with the

Congressional information which is available to them, and

WHEREAS, unlike other investors, there is no legal act that addresses the practice of insider trading by our elected representatives or prosecutes them for insider trading, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation to require that members of congress shall deposit all personal investments into blind trusts for the duration of their term of office.

This is resolution Labor and Judiciary 101. This covers NY-107.

#### *National Medical Criminal Registry*

WHEREAS, people holding and working as professional medical doctors and nurses are held in highest regard, having completed the appropriate training and credentialing in the states they choose to practice; and

WHEREAS, people in need of such professional services have a trust in the ethics and quality of work of such professionals; and

WHEREAS, it is often difficult for individuals who are researching the education, background and criminal status of such professionals; and

WHEREAS, medical professionals that are convicted of criminal acts, after serving their sentence, can and do simply move to a different area or state to begin a new practice; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that when a medical professional is legally required to stop practicing medicine, a national medical roster be maintained to identify such individuals for consumer safety sake; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Grange work with legislators and the medical profession to establish a national medical conviction registry to assist the public in securing services from ethical and professional practitioners in the field of medicine.

This is resolution PA-102.

### **PRESENT POLICY**

#### *Wages, Employment, and Unions*

1. The National Grange supports the repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931. Until that time, the threshold exemption level of the Act should be indexed to the rate of inflation.
2. The Grange opposes the establishment of a commission to draft a Farm Worker Bill of Rights. We believe any future legislation that would impose a 40-hour workweek, that places a limitation on hours that can be worked in a single day, or that requires time and a half pay for overtime on a farming operation would be counterproductive and against the best interests of farm workers and farm employers.
3. The National Grange supports realistic OSHA work place safety regulations. We believe it should be both the employer and employee's responsibility to follow safe work practices. Any employer who is cited by OSHA for violating work place safety regulations should be allowed a reasonable period of time in which to correct that violation before being penalized. The National Grange believes that any OSHA reform legislation should exempt farms having fewer than 10 full-time employees. We further support any exemption from new health and safety



standards for farms having fewer than 10 full-time employees.

4. The National Grange favors lifting the bans in the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1943, which outlaws work that is done in the home in embroidery, gloves and mittens, handkerchiefs, buttons and buckles, jewelry and clothing.
5. The National Grange supports allowing individuals who are collecting unemployment compensation to decline offers of employment without losing their unemployment benefits so long as they are enrolled in an accredited job training or vocational education program provided that enrollment in these programs in no way extends the time that an individual can collect these benefits.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would require products bearing an “American Made” claim, or equivalent language, to have U.S. manufacturing costs constituting at least 75 percent of the total manufacturing costs for the product, and to be last substantially assembled in the United States.
7. The National Grange supports legislation that requires all employers to pay at least the minimum wage, regardless of whether the employees are tipped. However, we also support legislation to allow younger teens (ages 13-15) to be given the privilege of working a maximum of ten hours a week for less than the minimum wage. After a probationary period, established by the employer, the younger teen should be paid the minimum wage.
8. The National Grange is in agreement with the concept of the proposed legislation that would establish the “Living Wage Responsibility Act” to provide a living wage above the poverty level for all eligible employees working on federal contracts.
9. National Grange opposes the Employees Free Choice Act and strongly urges that the process to form a new union continue to be by secret ballot. We favor binding arbitration clauses in labor contracts covering public sector employees.
10. We support the right of individuals to join any union and collectively bargain in good faith, as long as employees are not required to join or contribute money to any union or organization that claims to represent their interests in the work place. We further support mandatory restrictions on the use of compulsory union dues for political, charitable or social causes without the paying members consent.
11. The National Grange supports any legislation that allows employers to hire replacement workers during a strike.
12. The National Grange supports the “Flextime Options Project,” as developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Women’s Bureau in 2003, in order to build national awareness of the benefits of flexible workplace solutions and encourage business leaders to develop or expand workplace flexibility practices, policies and programs by encompassing the full range of workplace flexibility options that offer ongoing benefits to organizations, employees and communities, such as
  - Scheduling of Hours (e.g., flextime, compressed work weeks, shift flexibility)
  - Amount of Hours (e.g., part-time, job sharing)
  - Place of Work (e.g., telecommuting, seasonal relocation)
  - Management of Time (e.g. meeting-free flexibility, report late)
  - Organization of Career (e.g., off-and-on ramp, leaves of absence)
  - Other Time Off (e.g., personal days, floating holidays, vacation buying)



### *Crime and Punishment*

1. The National Grange supports imposing stiff mandatory sentences in criminal cases. We believe using plea-bargaining should be restrained. We further believe that convicted criminals should be responsible for restitution to their victims and society. The National Grange believes that persons who are convicted of rape, murder, or any three-felony offenses should serve their full sentence without benefit of parole or furlough. We support the death penalty for premeditated crimes ending in death. We further support the death penalty for all citizens who are convicted of military espionage in either peacetime or war.
2. The National Grange favors classifying the importing, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution of all illegal drugs as felonies under state and federal statutes. A mandatory prison sentence should be imposed upon conviction for any felony drug offense. Upon a second conviction for any felony drug offense, the penalty shall be a 30-year minimum sentence without the possibility of parole.
3. The National Grange recommends that Grange members use resources to educate themselves and others about the dangers of human trafficking, through Grange departments and publications, and encourage law enforcement agencies to increase their efforts in combating Human Trafficking.

### *Protection for Victims and Jurors*

1. We support increased protection for those who serve on juries. We strongly believe all jury deliberations should remain confidential without any publication or disclosure. The National Grange also supports legislation to forbid public disclosure of information about criminal investigations that could be detrimental to the case of either the prosecution or the defense until after the case's final deposition.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to assure that victims and witnesses of violent crimes must be notified in writing at least 60 days before any and all hearings in which the person who has been convicted of that crime seeks release or a change in release status from either a prison or a mental institution.
3. The National Grange supports legislation to protect the language interpreter with an interpreter/client privilege just as lawyers have attorney/client privileges.

### *General Law*

1. The National Grange opposes unreasonable federal regulations that would force the closing of jails or that would require excessive expenditures of state funds.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would make the unauthorized entry or use of a computer facility or illegal tapping of phones a felony.
3. The National Grange recommends that manufacturers of goods and machinery be exempt from all lawsuits, fines, liabilities and other civil penalties if they meet all the state and federal regulations that were in effect at the time the product was built or produced. The National Grange also supports the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act or similar legislation which prohibits civil actions against a manufacturer or seller of food or a trade association for any injury resulting from a person's consumption of food including weight gain, obesity, or any associated health condition.
4. The National Grange supports federal legislation to prohibit gambling on the Internet. We further support legislation to make the unsolicited e-mailing or

posting of advertisements for pornographic websites and materials both a criminal and civil offense in order to control the availability of pornographic material to children.

5. The National Grange recommends that there be no changes in the laws that currently ban the production and sale of marijuana in the United States.
6. The National Grange actively promotes and supports legislation, which will create a new Twelfth Circuit Court of Appeals to meet the needs to the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, Hawaii and the Pacific Territories.
7. The National Grange believes that state law, not federal law, should have jurisdiction over “hate crimes” and state law should be responsible for assigning specific punishment for these crimes.
8. The National Grange believes that cell phone use by inmates should be banned at all state and federal correctional facilities. Additionally, prison visitors should be required to surrender all cell phones at the facility entrance until their departure.

#### *Firearms and the Second Amendment*

1. The National Grange believes that the United States does not need any more gun control laws until the present laws are strictly enforced. We oppose legislation restricting the rights of citizens to bear arms for protection of their families, property and common defense, with the exception of assault weapons manufactured and designed specifically for military use. We favor severe and mandatory sentences, including incarceration, for anyone using firearms while committing a crime.
2. The National Grange supports laws prohibiting the sale of stun guns to the general public.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would prohibit the manufacture and sale of toy guns that are replicas of real guns.

#### *Bankruptcy*

1. The National Grange favors tightening bankruptcy rules, including additional stiff penalties for bankruptcy fraud to combat planned bankruptcies and other abuses of the law.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that will require companies or businesses that file for bankruptcy to ensure that the employees who are owed compensation are the first secured creditors.
3. The National Grange supports legislation, which would classify producers having an ownership interest in agricultural products as secured creditors in bankruptcy cases.

#### *Civil Law*

1. The National Grange supports efforts to restore fairness to the civil judicial system at the state and federal levels through reform of tort, liability, and malpractice law. We favor a civil law system in which the plaintiff, if they lose, will be responsible to pay the defendant’s legal and court costs when the court rules the lawsuit was frivolous or superfluous. We further support limiting the amount of contingency fees that are paid to lawyers as well as putting caps on excessive jury awards for economic and noneconomic damages, such as pain, suffering, and bad faith. We support placing limits on the findings of joint and several liability and clearly established standards of bad faith action. We support incentives for alternative

dispute resolutions, such as arbitration.

2. The National Grange believes that Legal Services Corporations and local legal aid bureaus should not receive any federal funding for nuisance or harassment suits against farmers. Correspondingly, the National Grange believes individuals should be prohibited from initiating so called “citizen suits,” civil litigation against farmers and others for environmental violations without demonstrating any direct loss or damage to initiate such a suit.

#### *Children and Family Law*

1. The National Grange supports revising federal regulations so that the parent/child relationship created by court action is recognized for the purpose of receiving government assistance.
2. The National Grange supports all efforts to increase the public’s awareness and sensitivity to child abuse and the existence of child predators in our society. The Grange strongly advocates that all child abuse laws and child predator laws be reviewed, revised, and enforced so as to secure the safety and well being of all children to the fullest extent of the law while remaining aware and protective of the rights of innocent families and individuals. The National Grange supports legislation that seeks to equalize sentencing of perpetrators of sexual abuse without regard of the familial relationship of perpetrator to the child or children. We further support legislation that imposes greater notification requirements on convicted child predators including immediate notification to authorities of address changes, community notification of the presence of a convicted child predator, a national child predator registry on the internet listing the current address of all convicted child predators and substantially increased penalties for failure of convicted sex offenders to comply.
3. The National Grange favors adoption reforms that would consider the best interests of the child in all proceedings, investigations, or rulings by the courts.
4. The National Grange supports requiring that the biological father’s name, if known and proven, be included on the child’s birth certificate for purposes of determining the father’s identification, the child’s right to Social Security, and other support that should be provided by the father.
5. We believe that in the situation of a broken home, both parents should be required to support their children.
6. The National Grange supports policies that grant legal surrogate decision-making authority to grandparent caregivers in the absence of responsible parents or stepparents. We support legislation to provide financial, social and legal supports as needed to grandparent caregivers raising grandchildren. We further support legislation to protect the visitation rights of grandparents. In the case of a child who is legally removed from the parents, the grandparents should be considered first as custodian of that child.

#### *Consumer Protection Law*

1. The National Grange supports legislation that would entitle consumers to a free annual credit report and allow the consumer more control over who has access to credit reports
2. The National Grange favors a law requiring identification of all products that are foreign-made or assembled. National Grange supports rescinding the exemption

from third-party testing given to Mattel by the Consumer Products Safety Commission regarding strict limits for lead, lead paint and chemicals known as phthalates for that company's products geared for children 12 and under. The National Grange also supports requiring all companies to comply, to the full extent of the law, setting strict limits for lead, lead paint and chemicals known as phthalates, and the mandatory third-party testing of products geared for children 12 and under.

3. The National Grange urges Congress to enact laws protecting an individual's right to privacy and to protect the confidentiality of all personal records from fraudulent use. The National Grange supports a federally funded public service program to educate individual consumers regarding privacy geared toward reporting how to report suspected identity theft activities. We also support stronger penalties for those convicted of identity theft including full restitution to all victims. National Grange supports legislation that would allow children's Social Security numbers and other private information to be frozen by the child's legal custodian in the same manner as adults in order to protect them from identity theft.
4. The National Grange supports allowing nonprofit organizations to make continued "incidental use" of copyrighted music.
5. The National Grange seeks legislation requiring any private company not associated with government programs to disclose that information in large print, or verbal explanation during the application process.
6. Regulations should be enacted that require companies to give consumers the option of mailed billings or statements without surcharges.
7. The National Grange encourages companies to print product expiration dates in the mm/dd/yyyy format.

#### *Banking and Consumer Credit Law*

1. The Grange supports legislation to enable the family farmer or the family farm cooperative to borrow money at low interest rates.
2. The National Grange supports strong independent banks in lieu of further concentration of banking and financial powers in interstate and nationwide firms. Banks should be prohibited from purchasing insurance companies, selling securities, and entering the field of general commerce. We believe that any banks allowed to write and sell insurance must be subject to all applicable state insurance resolutions and laws as administered by State Insurance Commissions. We also believe that any banks that are allowed to offer or underwrite securities must be subject to regulation by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.
3. The National Grange supports legislation requiring credit card companies to discontinue the use of "pre-approved" in their solicitations.
4. The National Grange supports the continued independence of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and opposes the merger of the NCUA with any other government financial institution insurance fund.
5. The National Grange urges state and federal banking regulators to better monitor fees charged by banks, reduce and eliminate those that are unfair, and provide customers with protection against aggressive banking business practices.
6. The National Grange supports legislation or regulations requiring that all dormancy and/or inactivity fees for store gift cards and prepaid gift cards be permanently eliminated, just as these fees have been eliminated for credit cards.

7. We seek passage of legislation to eliminate unreasonable delays in the availability of the funds from a deposited check. We support banking regulations that will require all banks to honor government checks that are presented to them for payment.

#### *Insurance Law*

1. The National Grange supports the efforts of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies to strengthen and improve the insurance guarantee funds.
2. The National Grange supports the current McCarran-Ferguson Act. We support state jurisdiction over the insurance industry. We support the establishment of a federally funded terrorist reinsurance program.
3. The National Grange believes that the National Flood Insurance Program should operate on an actuarially sound basis. Furthermore, Natural Flood Insurance Programs should not be available for properties that have suffered multiple losses where steps were not taken to better protect the property from further damage.
4. The National Grange urges state and federal regulators working with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) to establish the necessary safeguards that will make it possible for the viatical industry to serve viators and investors in a responsible way.
5. The National Grange opposes legislation that would require insurance companies to comply with “The Community Reinvestment Act,” 12 U.S.C. 2901, commonly known as “CRA,” or any other legislation which would attempt to accomplish the same.
6. The National Grange supports passage of legislation mandating the Medicare system to use an identification number other than the individual’s Social Security Number.

#### *Immigration, Aliens, and Migrant Workers*

1. The National Grange supports the strict enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States and further supports regular review of these laws to be sure they are meeting the needs of the United States. We support increased efforts by the U.S. government to patrol our borders, preventing the illegal entry of aliens into our nation, including the assignment of military forces to assist civilian agencies in enforcing our border control policies. We support a prohibition on general amnesty for all illegal aliens of any nationality. We suggest that proof of citizenship and/or legal registered immigration be required for receiving government benefits. We also recommend that federal authorities be allowed to detain illegal immigrants and foreigners with expired visas for the duration of their investigation and processing, and be deported if immigration status is determined to be illegal.
2. The National Grange supports continuation of the legal program to bring guest workers into the United States on a temporary basis for the harvesting of seasonal crops. We support reform of current foreign guest worker programs to allow for expedited processing of foreign guest workers employed in the agricultural sector as well as reform of the H2A program so that the wage costs to farmers when hiring under the H2A program more closely reflects the prevailing local wage. We further support an amendment to the Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act (MSAWPA) recognizing that a crew chief is an independent



contractor who is responsible for the general care of his crew when it does not conflict with the requirements that are assigned to the landowners.

3. Agricultural employers should not be responsible for checking the authenticity of migrant and seasonal worker documentation at the time of employment. Employers who unknowingly hire illegal aliens should not be taxed or fined.
4. The National Grange supports legislation or a Constitutional amendment to require that children born in the United States must have one parent who is already a United States citizen in order to automatically receive citizenship and government benefits.
5. The National Grange recommends that current immigration laws be revised to establish a practical and enforceable guest worker visa program. The National Grange also supports the expansion of the H1B visa program for professionals to enter the United States in order to provide services in sectors where there is a documented need.

#### *Commercial Trade Policies*

1. The National Grange believes that opening trade between nations is a far better way to increase international understanding than limiting trade because of differences in ideologies. We will actively support programs to increase the competitive position of U.S. companies in world markets.
2. The National Grange supports actions to ensure that the Panama Canal remains open to U.S. shipping.
3. The National Grange encourages purchasing American-made products and recommends that all levels of government be required to buy American made products whenever feasible.
4. The National Grange supports a fair and equitable textile import policy that would provide assistance to the domestic industry, would be beneficial to the producers of fibers and would not be price inflationary to the United States' consumers.
5. The National Grange supports policy to remove trade, financial, and travel restrictions to Cuba.
6. The Congress of the United States should take steps to preclude the sale or lease of properties and/or businesses within the limits of the United States or any of its possessions to any foreign purchaser or leaser whose country prohibits the sale or lease of properties and/or businesses to any U.S. business or citizen.
7. The National Grange calls upon the U.S. government to adopt coordinated policies combating trade distorting practices instituted by foreign governments, such as currency manipulation and unilateral repudiation of sovereign debt, especially in those cases where it becomes more difficult for U.S. farmers and manufacturers to sell their products in overseas markets. The National Grange also urges the U.S. Treasury Department to reverse its previous position and support domestic investors and bond holders of Argentine sovereign debt in all U.S. court cases brought by those bondholders.

#### *Foreign Aid*

1. The National Grange urges the U.S. government to extend foreign aid only after careful investigation, or in cases of natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, droughts, or floods. We further support: a) basing the amount of foreign aid given on the humanitarian need and a greater use of agricultural



products in lieu of cash transfers; b) closer monitoring of International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans and encourage making loans to Third World countries that are designed to provide self-help; c) taking into consideration the recipient countries' present foreign debt, repayment schedule, and record before providing them with new financial assistance; d) keeping in mind the food and financial needs of domestic programs when Congress considers the appropriate amount of foreign aid. We recommend that countries needing financial assistance should apply to the United Nations so that all countries would share in the economic assistance to developing countries. The National Grange supports legislation requiring any country receiving U.S. foreign aid to purchase products made or grown in the United States.

2. The National Grange favors canceling all U.S. aid and supplies to foreign countries that take, hold, or kill American citizens, refuse to recognize international law, willingly permit the production and shipment of illegal drugs into our country, or allow the takeover of U.S. embassies or any property belonging to the U.S. government.
3. The National Grange supports permitting Third World countries to reduce their foreign debt in exchange for the establishment of permanent rain forest preserves.
4. The National Grange encourages agricultural research and development in and for Third World nations.

#### *International Relations and the United Nations*

1. The National Grange supports a friendly relationship with the Republic of China (Taiwan).
2. The National Grange supports a positive non-military program promoting the democratic form of government as a means to roll back or contain dictatorial forms of government.
3. The National Grange supports actions by our government and other governments in condemning terrorist acts and supports efforts to secure the release of all hostages.
4. The National Grange supports a U.S. foreign policy that outlines a clear-cut position that only allows American troops to be committed to foreign countries in turmoil when it is in the strategic interest of the United States and adequate safeguards are provided. We support the United States' involvement in United Nations' military operations including funding such military operations only with the approval of Congress.
5. The National Grange urges that the United Nations be used as a forum to keep the issue of chemical warfare before the international community until a treaty is signed by all nations that look to the effective banning of this type of warfare.
6. The National Grange strongly supports extending and maintaining the protections of U.S. Constitutionally, guaranteeing individual rights under all international law. We urge the United States government not to ratify or sign agreements or treaties with the United Nations or any other international body that limit individual rights guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution or Bill of Rights, or that impose taxation on the citizens of the United States.
7. The National Grange supports legislation to formally rescind the President's signature approving the Statute of the International Criminal Court made on

behalf of the United States and to take necessary steps to prevent the International Criminal Court's establishment and prohibit the use of appropriated funds for the establishment or operation of the Court. We further urge the U.S. government to use all of its diplomatic and political influence to protect U.S. Service persons or U.S. citizens and nationals from being subject to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

8. The National Grange supports legislation that rejects any merger, treaty, or agreement with any country that infringes on the sovereignty of the U.S. Constitution.

#### *National Defense*

1. The National Grange supports international agreements leading toward a balanced reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons. To complement this objective, we further support the development of strategic and civil defense systems.
2. The National Grange recommends that the federal government negotiate with foreign countries for compensation for the military defenses that we provide to their countries.
3. The National Grange supports a strong effective military. We urge Congress to appropriate sufficient funding, including adequate pay for all branches of the military. We support policies which will re-establish effective security and intelligence capabilities.
4. The National Grange supports the continued presence of United States Armed Forces in South Korea.

On behalf of the Labor and Judiciary Committee we would like to thank the entire Committee for your hard and diligent work. We would also like to thank the members of the Legislative Staff your guidance and assistance.

Jim Tetreault, NH, Chairman

Mark Noah, OR, Secretary

Kate Poirrier, AK

Bob McFarland, CA

Connie Johnston, MI

Meghan Taylor, NJ

Brad Keeton, OK

Phyllis Wilson, OR

Sharon Croucher, NY (H)

**TAXATION & TRANSPORTATION**

**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS**

<b><u>STATE &amp; RES. #</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>FLOOR ACTION</u></b>
NJ-102	Postal Service Reform		<b>Adopted as amended</b>
NY-106	All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Injuries		<b>Adopted as amended</b>
CT-104	Crosswalks		<b>Adopted as Amended</b>
CT-106	USDOT Decision to Uphold States' Rights to Regulate Farm Operators		<b>Adopted as Amended</b>
NY-114	Postal Service Closing		<b>Adopted as amended</b>
OH-123	Debt Free America		<b>Adopted As Amended</b>
PA-113	Tractor Trailer Rear & Side Impact Guards		<b>Adopted as Amended</b>
OH-106	Veterans Information		<b>Adopted as amended</b>
ID-104	Postal Service Reform		<b>Covered by NJ-102</b>
OH-120	Tax Exemptions for Charitable Benefactors		<b>Present Policy</b>
OH-121	Mexican Trucks		<b>Present Policy</b>
OR-106	Shipping by Rail		<b>Present Policy Transferred from Conservation</b>
TN-101	Strobe L.E.D. Brake Lights for All New Cars		<b>Rejected by Delegate Body</b>
MD-107	Elder Care Insurance Coverage		<b>Transferred to Health &amp; Education</b>
CO-103	Closing of Rural Post Offices		<b>Withdrawn</b>
MD-105	Real Estate Tax		<b>Withdrawn</b>
ME-105	Cent Lines		<b>Withdrawn</b>
MN-101	Delivery of Mail		<b>Withdrawn</b>
MT-102	Postal Service Reduction		<b>Withdrawn</b>

NJ-101	Sales Tax Collection for Online Shopping		<b>Withdrawn</b>
PA-114	Federal Fuel Tax		<b>Withdrawn</b>

## POLICY STATEMENT

### Taxation

The Grange has a long and consistent history in support of sound fiscal policy. We believe budgets should be balanced. We recognize there are times or circumstances to support deficit spending and the creation of debt, but that must be the result of a careful evaluation of the need and what delay will cost in the future, or how the delay will impact the current need. However, we have a grave concern about the tremendous increase in the federal deficit and the impact this will have on future generations.

The Grange supports taxing policies that levy both personal and business taxes based on ability to pay. We seek a simpler set of tax regulations. Previous federal tax reform efforts have resulted in more confusion. Many millions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of hours are spent each year to file tax returns. This is an often overlooked cost to our tax collection system.

For most farmers, and small business owners, their farms and businesses are their largest retirement assets. We need new tax policies that assure our current generation of family farmers and business owners are allowed to retire with dignity and that their productive resources are transferred to a new generation of family farmers and small business owners. Until such time, as the estate tax is completely abolished, we support passage of legislation such as HR 3524 which was introduced in 2009, titled the Family Farm Preservation and Conservation Estate Tax Act, or other similar legislation which would exempt farms and ranches from federal estate taxes after the death of its owner, as long as the ownership stays in the family.

We support user taxes with revenue applied to the intended programs. We support oversight/review of programs to eliminate spending on programs that have lost their value. Programs, once authorized, should receive adequate appropriations. We oppose non-funded and under-funded mandates.

In all our dealings with government, and in our own fiscal policy actions, Grangers should follow and advocate for sound principles of fiscal policy.

### Transportation

Throughout our history, the Grange has had a vested interest in transportation issues. Although there are many different modes of transportation in existence today, the Grange supports the continued improvement of the existing infrastructure. This has to occur if we are to economically improve our current standard of living.

The National Grange continues to support federal surface transportation legislation that would benefit rural America.

The National Grange supports training at all levels of pertinent governmental agencies to detect and deal with potential acts and devices of terrorism in all methods of transportation.

We continue to support laws requiring drivers to slow down and move over while passing an emergency vehicle that is stopped with lights flashing. We believe this should become law in all 50 states.

We believe all drivers need to be fully responsible for their driving and guard against

distractions from devices such as cell phones, texting or Internet communication devices or other such peripheral equipment. We support legislation be enacted with the aim of eliminating distractions for all drivers.

The National Grange realizes the United States has the best postal service in the world. However, we urge the postal service to vigorously pursue ways to keep the same quality service and to institute procedures to maintain the highest level of safety for the employees and patrons throughout the entire system. We strongly urge the continuation of the current six-day postal delivery service.

The crucial link in providing universal postal service throughout rural America is our nation's rural mail carriers. We pledge our support to fight to maintain rural free delivery and to defend the interest of the dedicated mail carriers that make rural free delivery a fact of life for millions of rural Americans.

We encourage the public to become familiar with the services available through the Post Office regarding the availability of military flat rate boxes for APOs and FPOs.

Granges should also strongly consider partnering to provide 55 *Alive* classes or similar programs.

The National Grange encourages the development of fuel-efficient vehicles to reduce our dependency on foreign oil suppliers. We support the production of Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) natural gas vehicles.

Hybrid vehicles present a potential danger to emergency responders. Special training should be provided to avoid the potential dangers. Automobile manufacturers should be encouraged to minimize hazards from hybrid vehicles to emergency responders.

The profits generated by the oil companies can and should be used to find and fund alternative sources of energy for the country. Therefore, the National Grange opposes any attempt to impose a windfall profits tax. We encourage the development of increased refining capacity to avoid extreme price increases for fuel during natural disasters.

This Policy Statement includes resolutions CT-107 and WA-106.

## **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION**

### *School Bus Blind Spot Sensors*

WHEREAS, school buses have 10ft blind spots where riders cannot be seen exiting the bus; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that in the interest of safety for children, all school buses manufactured after July 1, 2013 be equipped with blind spot sensors that activate a warning sound and immobilize the bus once a sensor is activated.

This covers resolution IA-103.

### *Repeal of the 1981 Federal Tax Break*

WHEREAS, a 1981 federal law allows state legislators who live more than fifty miles from the state house to write off a daily expense allowance when filing their federal tax returns; and

WHEREAS, this daily expense can be deducted for every legislative day, which can be taken for all 365 days, regardless of whether or not the legislature is actually meeting; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support legislation in the United States Congress that would amend the 1981 federal law to state that legislators be eligible for this daily expense allowance deduction on their federal income tax filing only on the days

they actually travel to legislative sessions.

This covers resolution MA-101.

#### *Commuter Bill of Rights*

WHEREAS, a recent breakdown of a Maryland Transportation Authority (MTA) train on a MARC line in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC caused rail passengers to sit for hours in 90 degree heat with no air conditioning or water available, and

WHEREAS, similar situations involving airliners caused the creation of the Air Passenger Bill of Rights; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports efforts to create a Commuter Bill of Rights that would guarantee that rail passengers that are stranded on railway trains would have access to food, water, and other beverages and would have access to an emergency hotline. Limits should be placed on the amount of time spent on disabled trains, and an emergency plan be developed.

This covers resolution MD-119.

#### *Highway Fuel Tax Funds*

RESOLVED, the National Grange reaffirms its policy that all funds received from highway fuel taxes be used only for construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and mass transit systems. The federal and state governments should not use these funds to balance their budgets or fund other programs.

This covers resolution MD-122.

#### *1099 Paperwork Reduction*

WHEREAS, Section 9006 of the new health care legislation includes a new requirement which would require all businesses, corporations and organizations, such as the Grange and farming operations that we represent, to file a 1099 for every vendor in which more than \$600 in goods and services were purchased during a tax year, which will go into effect in 2012; and

WHEREAS, currently the law only requires 1099's to be issued for contract workers or non-salaried employees who are paid \$600 or more; and

WHEREAS, this new requirement will place burdensome record keeping and paperwork requirements on farmers, small business owners, non-profit corporations, and others; and

WHEREAS, this requirement will increase costs for the additional time and labor that will be required to comply with the law; and

WHEREAS, efforts are underway in Congress to repeal this requirement; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the National Grange supports efforts to repeal the requirement in Section 9006 of the 2010 Health Care Legislation that requires all businesses to file the 1099's for every vendor through which purchases may exceed \$600.

This covers resolution NC-106.

## **PRESENT POLICY**

### **TAXATION**

#### *Personal Income Tax*

1. The National Grange supports developing a simpler and fairer federal income



tax, written in precise, plain, and understandable language. We further support simplifying the language that is used in the government's instruction pamphlets for filing individual income taxes.

2. The National Grange favors a restoration of the full income averaging procedure. We especially favor continuing 5 and 10-year averaging of personal pension funds for income tax purposes.
3. The National Grange favors continuing income indexing.
4. The National Grange supports preferential income tax deductions for two-wage earner families thus removing the "Marriage Penalty" from the U.S. tax code.
5. The National Grange supports deducting state sales tax from federal income tax returns.
6. The National Grange supports a 100% tax deduction for all qualified charitable contributions for all federal taxpayers.
7. The National Grange supports efforts to repeal the requirement in Section 9006 of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) Legislation that requires all businesses to file the 1099's for every vendor through which purchases may exceed \$600.
8. The National Grange supports equalizing the mileage rates for volunteer services and medical transportation with mileage rates permitted for businesses for tax purposes.
9. The National Grange favors income tax credits for those families who care for their elderly or handicapped relatives who otherwise would become residents of a nursing home. We support legislation to allow a tax deduction for all federal taxpayers for Long Term Care Insurance premiums. We further support exempting all benefits paid under Long Term Care insurance policies from all income taxes.
10. The National Grange favors making Social Security benefits completely exempt from personal income taxes. The National Grange further supports legislation that would prohibit any state from imposing an income tax on the pension income of any individual who is not a resident of that state.
11. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of all current tax deductions allowed on real-estate mortgages.
12. The National Grange supports legislation to allow voluntary contributions of \$1.00 to be solicited on all federal income tax forms to fund our national parks. The Grange supports permitting an individual to designate \$1 on his/her federal income tax return for the USA Olympic Program.
13. The National Grange supports a 100% federal income tax credit to law enforcement officers for purchasing their own bulletproof vests.
14. The National Grange supports allowing a total of \$500 in income tax credits for political contributions.
15. The National Grange supports expanding medical flexible spending accounts to allow employees or retirees to set aside part of their pre-tax pay or pension. We further recommend that any unspent medical flexible spending account balance be rolled into the next year's account or refunded to the employee or retiree as taxable income.
16. The National Grange supports a 100% federal income tax deduction for all medical insurance.
17. The National Grange supports the elimination of the cap on Social Security taxable wages.
18. The National Grange supports a Congressional action that amends the 1981 federal law which makes state legislators eligible for a daily expense allowance de-

duction on their federal income tax filing, so that the allowance only honors days they actually travel to and from Legislative Sessions.

*Business, Investment, Capital Gains, and Inheritance Taxation*

1. The National Grange supports legislation to permit farmers the method of depreciation that is most suitable to the uncertainties of their businesses. We support depreciation schedules for agricultural capital assets that accurately reflect the useful life of those assets. In particular, we support a depreciation schedule of 15 years for single purpose farm structures (confinement houses, etc.). Other real property should have a depreciable usable life of no more than 25 years. We further urge Congress and the IRS to revise codes to eliminate the reporting of government funded environmental and conservation mandated cost-share monies as income to the recipients.
2. The National Grange supports the reinstatement of the Investment Tax Credit or accelerated depreciation with a \$100,000 value eligibility limit.
3. The National Grange supports preferential treatment for capital gains income. We support the abolishment of the capital gains tax. Until then, we support the concept of indexing the basic value of an asset, so that only the real gain and not the inflation value is subject to the capital gains tax. We further support excluding capital gains up to \$500,000 from sale of agricultural lands from taxable income. We further support excluding all of the proceeds on the sale or exchange of qualified farmland development rights to a tax-exempt conservation organization from all capital gains taxes. We further support, allowing farmers to invest any un-excluded capital gains from the sale of real and personal property into tax-deferred accounts, such as IRAs.
4. The National Grange strongly believes that employees should not be liable for un-remitted income or FICA taxes if the employer properly withheld those taxes from the employee's pay but then failed to make the proper payments to the IRS or the state.
5. We oppose the use of income tax write-offs from farming to reduce the amount of taxes that are owed on the earnings of non-farm businesses or professions.
6. The National Grange opposes the enactment of any federal tax on securities transactions.
7. The National Grange supports the uniform application of all timber depletion allowances in the tax code to all timberland owners regardless of the size of their timberland holdings.
8. The National Grange supports legislation abolishing the federal estate tax, especially for small business and agriculture as long as their ownership stays in the family and the farm stays in productive agriculture. We support retaining current provisions for a full stepped up basis on inheritances. Until the federal estate tax is repealed, we favor using the current use value as the basis for the property for estate tax purposes. The National Grange further supports a personal exemption from federal estate taxes of five million dollars per person until the federal estate tax is repealed.
9. The National Grange supports federal tax credits or tax deductions to growers or grower co-operatives that build or own ethanol production facilities.
10. The National Grange supports any legislation prohibiting employers from borrowing from an employee's pension fund. The National Grange supports legislation that would place employees or former employees who had invested in their employers stock as a part of their retirement plan to be placed ahead of payments

to other creditors.

11. The National Grange supports action by the U.S. Department of Justice and State Attorney General to actively prosecute and imprison cooperative executives and others suspected of illegal actions resulting in a cooperative declaring bankruptcy. Any illegal gains obtained via these prosecutions should be returned to the assets of the cooperative, along with criminal fines imposed on cooperative executives as punishment. -

#### *Sales, Excise Taxes, and Internet*

1. The National Grange opposes the enactment of any national sales tax or any form of value added tax.
2. The National Grange supports the current federal law prohibiting any charges or taxes on e-mail or the use of the Internet and supports legislation to make prohibition of Internet or e-mail taxation permanent. The National Grange supports legislation that would prohibit mail order houses or Internet retailers from being forced to collect state sales taxes on mail order or Internet purchases from out-of-state purchasers. We further support legislation prohibiting a federal sales or use tax being imposed on mail order or Internet sales.
3. The National Grange supports the current levels of taxation of tobacco products at the federal, state and local level.

#### *Taxes - General*

1. We support the present tax treatment of agricultural cooperatives.
2. The National Grange supports a federal prohibition on the imposition of any tax or fee on water that is drawn from private wells, lakes, and irrigation ponds.
3. The National Grange urges Congress to maintain tax policies that will preserve the ability of this nation to find and produce domestic oil and gas resources. We support the current oil import fee and the domestic crude oil fee.
4. The National Grange seeks a permanent tax exemption for income that is raised by non-profit organizations such as the Grange. Until then, we oppose IRS guidelines that classify corporate sponsorships as advertising revenue, and thus, unrelated business income for non-profit organizations. We further support legislation to raise the minimum gross income filing requirements for non-profit organizations.
5. We support a further strengthening of the "Taxpayers' Bill of Rights." We support placing the burden of proof on the IRS - not the taxpayer - under due process of law and providing a course of action in which the taxpayer could defend himself and recover his costs and attorney fees should the IRS fail to prove its case. We support giving the taxpayer the right to record all interviews with IRS people and to set a reasonable time and place for the meeting. We support prohibiting the IRS from sending out bills that are in excess of owed taxes, except for interest and penalties.
6. The National Grange supports the rights of local governments to use tax-exempt municipal financing without further limitations being imposed by Congress.
7. The National Grange supports requiring a two-thirds vote of each House of Congress to increase taxes. We further support federal legislation to deny jurisdiction or explicitly limit the authority of the U.S. Supreme Court or any lower courts of the United States to instruct or order a state or political subdivision to levy or increase taxes as a remedy for any civil litigation.
8. The National Grange opposes any sale of information from individual tax returns

to any agency or individual.

## TRANSPORTATION

### *Highway Policy, Interstate System and Federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF)*

1. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation and reauthorization of the Highway Trust Fund. We support removing the Highway Trust Fund from the federal budget. The National Grange also supports the creation of a Federal Mass Transportation Trust Fund from user tax revenues separate from the Highway Trust Fund and highway user taxes. The National Grange opposes increasing the federal gasoline tax for purposes other than the Highway Trust Fund and reaffirms its position that all funds received from highway fuel taxes be used only for construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and mass transit systems. The federal and state governments should not use these funds to balance their budgets or fund other programs.
2. We further support federal legislation to remove federal fuel tax from fuel used to operate farm trucks. The National Grange will oppose any proposal that would change the concept of dedicating all federal motor fuel taxes to the HTF to be used for highway and highway related purposes, including legislation that would use a federal motor fuel tax increase to reduce federal budget deficits. We oppose impounding HTF monies as a means of enforcement of federal laws.
3. The National Grange favors full compensation for homes, farming operations and businesses when displaced by eminent domain for highway right-of-ways.
4. The National Grange will lobby for additional federal funds to be allocated to affected states for increased maintenance of the NAFTA roadways. Additionally, the National Grange calls for increased border surveillance to ensure that commercial vehicles and drivers based in Canada and Mexico are in full compliance with the United States' motor vehicle equipment standards and requirements.
5. The National Grange supports reauthorization of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA) in 2009. We particularly support including the following provisions:
  - a. Additional funding for core safety programs that are properly directed to lifesaving roadway safety projects.
  - b. Provisions to reduce administrative delays at federal and state agencies responsible for approving highway planning.
  - c. New financial incentives for states to obligate new congestion relief funding for projects that reduce highway bottlenecks.
  - d. Full funding by the Congress for all "guaranteed" highway funds in future Transportation Appropriations bills.
  - e. Full enforcement of additional new fuel tax fraud provisions and additional credit for the Highway Trust Fund for revenue enhancements related to the new tax collection on ethanol.
6. The National Grange supports streamlining environmental requirements to expedite the completion of transportation congestion-relief projects in order to reduce pollution while promoting efficient land use and road capacity in areas designated for growth. We also support redirecting the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program (CMAQ) to fund new passenger and freight inter-modal hubs in highly congested areas to serve trains, trucking companies and bus companies. Grants should be provided to improve intercity Amtrak stations and/or to

construct public freight transfer stations that combine bus service, rapid transit and other transportation services, which operate on flexible schedules as a way of reducing traffic congestion and improving the environment.

7. The National Grange recommends that the interstate highway system adopt the use of a uniform transponder system for all open-road tolling nationwide.
8. The National Grange opposes the sale of any toll roads or bridges.
9. The National Grange supports legislation standardizing the numbering of highway exits to correspond with the mile markers on all interstate highways.

#### *Highways – Non-Interstate*

1. The National Grange urges government agencies to give a high priority to conserving land for agricultural purposes when considering the location and design of highways including planting trees and shrubs along highways in places where such growth could stop soil erosion and aid in snow control.
2. The federal-aid system of highways should be continued as a federal-state partnership with more flexibility in the states' use of money for safety, construction, and maintenance of state highways, including construction of local bridges that are built to the community's needs as determined by county and local road commissions. The National Grange will cooperate with the American Highway Users Alliance and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials in urging Congress to ensure adequate resources and attention for rural roads and bridges.
3. To promote driver safety, the National Grange recommends that the Highway Safety Administration require surface highway reflectors on the center lane divider of all two-way highways on the federal-aid highway system and that the federal Department of Transportation adopt standards to ensure a better and more durable road surface.
4. The National Grange supports expansion of rural intercity bus, air and rail services.
5. The National Grange supports funding to construct adequate parking or rest areas to allow commercial and other drivers to stop and rest. Funding should also be provided for adequate policing and/or better lighting for the present and future parking areas for the safety of those who use these facilities.

#### *Roadway Safety*

1. The National Grange supports the enforcement of weight limits on vehicles operating on our highways.
2. The National Grange will work with the federal Department of Transportation and the National Safety Council to develop truck regulations requiring the use of brushes and/or flaps that will channel the water down reducing the spray, and prohibiting the use of triple trailer trucks on all federal highways.
3. Railroad crossings in rural areas should have ripple strips installed in road surfaces on approaches to crossings, be clear of brush and other vision-inhibiting material and be equipped with flashing warning lights.
4. The National Grange supports standards requiring that all motorcycle, bicycle, and moped riders wear protective helmets, and wear clothing or have an apparatus to make them more visible to other motorists. We further recommend that federal standards for motorcycle helmets be raised to provide the best protection and visibility.
5. The Grange supports adequate government resources for an effective federal



Highway Safety Program.

6. The National Grange supports requiring all motor vehicles to have a rear bumper or undercarriage guard coming within 16 inches of the ground.
7. The National Grange urges automobile manufacturers to include the following modifications on their new models by 2010: uniformly located door latches; louder and more visible interior direction signal indicators; spare tires of equal quality and size as the regular tires; uniform tow points; light sensitive sensors that would automatically turn on automobile headlights at a certain degree of darkness; day-time running lights; at least one mirror on the right side of a vehicle to reflect an undistorted view of images and a curvature type mirror to pick up blind spots; and headlights that turn on automatically with the windshield wipers.
8. The National Grange supports standardizing the cellular emergency numbers for the interstate highway systems throughout the country to just one number, \*911.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would penalize a driver for using a cell phone when it is a proven cause of reckless or unsafe driving or is the cause of an accident.
10. The National Grange supports regulations that would strengthen the safety standards for smaller cars and opposes any weakening of the safety standards of sport utility vehicles (SUVs).
11. The National Grange strongly supports the development of state and national laws that would require reflective tape on all existing and new trucks to help reduce under-ride accidents.
12. The National Grange supports legislation banning high intensity discharge (HID) headlights and/or driving lights and/or Xenon lights.
13. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Transportation to encourage all states to use the same laws pertaining to school bus operations and traffic control around school buses. We support legislation requiring all newly manufactured school buses to be equipped with strobe lights that are highly visible in all types of weather. The National Grange further requests that in the interest of safety for children, all school buses be required to have a sign on the back stating "Stay Back 50 Feet," and that all school buses manufactured after July 1, 2013 be equipped with blind spot sensors that activate a warning sound and immobilize the bus once a sensor is activated.
14. The National Grange supports the present U.S. Department of Transportation requirement for random drug and alcohol testing for school bus drivers. We consider any proposed requirement for installed school bus driver monitoring devices on school buses to be unnecessary, expensive and counterproductive.
15. The National Grange supports legislation restricting the placement of any visual entertainment device within the driver's area of vision within a motor vehicle.
16. The National Grange urges automobile manufacturers to standardize the placement of air bag components and furnish a book on their operations to Fire/Rescue and EMS personnel for the safety of everyone.

*Impaired Driving*

1. We support a nationwide enactment of the "per se" law, which makes driving with a blood alcohol content in excess of .08 percent a violation and believe the dangers of drinking and driving should be included in the anti-drug campaign of the federal government's information and education programs.
2. The National Grange supports federal legislation to maintain the minimum age for the consumption of alcoholic beverages at 21.



3. The National Grange recommends that transportation authorities, both government and privately owned, be vested with the authority to randomly test employees for illegal drug and alcohol use.

#### *Truck Transportation Policy*

1. The National Grange will support legislation and regulatory policies that enhance stability and competition in truck operations for cost-effective and dependable service.
2. The National Grange supports new regulations requiring brake lights to be activated on commercial motor vehicles when a Jake Brake is used.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would require reporting of positive drug tests for drivers with any commercial license to the Department of Motor Vehicles of the issuing state. The report of a positive drug test should remain in the driver's file for a period of two years. We further support provisions to appeal positive drug testing results and mandate a second test by a different facility to eliminate false positive tests.
4. The National Grange supports Department of Transportation (DOT) reclassifying light-, medium-, and heavy-duty utility vehicles separate from on-highway (cross-country) trucks. However, we recommend that logbooks not be required on light-, medium-, and heavy-duty utility vehicles.

#### *Water Transportation*

1. The National Grange supports a moratorium on user fee increases for agricultural products transported on coastal and inland waterways. If user fees are increased, such fees should be based on the percentage of federal expenditures attributable to opening said waterways to barge traffic. These fees should be placed in an Inland Waterways Trust Fund and used only for construction and maintenance of inland waterways.
2. The National Grange supports maintaining the current United States Corps of Engineers' season for transporting grain on the Missouri River.
3. The National Grange supports the immediate implementation of "Alternative H in the Upper Mississippi Study" which encourages upgrades to the locks on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, facilitating greater barge traffic and providing an economic engine to fuel growth and prosperity in the entire Midwest.
4. The National Grange recommends that the Jones Act, which requires all freight moved between American ports being carried in American ships, be repealed.
5. The National Grange supports legislation to prevent any company controlled by a foreign government from taking over U.S. port facilities.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would require all U.S. cruise ships have emergency personnel as members of their crews.

#### *Railroad Transportation*

1. The National Grange recommends that the Department of Transportation (DOT) consider scheduling more commuter trains on their lines to offer better service to the public.
2. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Surface Transportation Board (STB), the Interstate Commerce Commission and similar transportation agencies to consider economic impact and public interests when undertaking transportation planning with regard to the impact of rail line aban-

donment. We support integration of rail and highway system planning in advance of possible abandonment to maximize economies to the public and private sectors as well as federal assistance to states for this purpose and to assist in rail takeovers by states where maintenance of service is cost effective to local or state governments and to local shippers. We support economic and social impact statements from railroads to the ICC and state governments as well as meaningful local public hearings in the areas affected as a part of the abandonment process.

3. The National Grange urges that abandoned railroad crossings be returned to a smooth surface. All railroad crossing signals or signs should be removed within sixty (60) days following abandonment.
4. The National Grange encourages all levels of government to support the development and maintenance of a strong and effective rail network to enhance competition among and between rail carriers in order to ensure efficient rail service and reasonable rates, and for other purposes.
5. The National Grange supports legislation requiring warning reflectors to be placed on both sides of all railroad cars in the United States.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would require railroads to reveal to each landowner, before abandonment, the full and complete legal basis on which the railroad has claimed its right to occupy the corridor. If the railroad's right is less than fee simple ownership, the railroad should disclose to each landowner that its occupancy right would be extinguished upon abandonment. We believe that the right-of-way of an abandoned land grant railroad should revert to the last payer of taxes on the property, or by right of adverse possession or grant titles as well as the possible use of railroad right-of-ways, determined to be economically unfeasible, by adjacent landowners.
7. The National Grange will lobby for the discontinuation of remote controlled locomotives operated in the switch yards, or over a public or private highway rail crossing without an engineer occupying the cab of the locomotive who has the required skills to stop the locomotive and its attached equipment nationwide.
8. The National Grange supports efforts to create a Commuter Bill of Rights that would guarantee that rail passengers, stranded on railway trains, would have access to food, water, and other beverages and would have access to an emergency hotline. Limits should be placed on the amount of time commuters are forced to stay aboard disabled trains, and an emergency plan should be developed.

#### *Air Travel*

1. The National Grange supports strengthening the English language certification for foreign pilots operating a commercial aircraft in the United States.
2. The National Grange supports repeal of the "Jim Wright Law" that requires passengers with flights originating or terminating at Dallas' Love Field, to or from destinations beyond Texas, or the four states contiguous to Texas, to land, disembark, retrieve their luggage and recheck in before they may continue their flight.
3. The National Grange will urge the continuing utilization of Air Marshals on random flights.
4. The National Grange urges the United States Department of Homeland Security to scrutinize their passenger screening/security contractors to appropriately provide adequate safe airport screening/security during hours of operation.
5. The National Grange opposes legislation authorizing the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to establish fees for air traffic control and related activities, services, facilities, and equipment that initially increases user fees and taxes for

general aviation such as crop dusting, pipeline patrol, power line patrol, forest fire patrol, and commuting to rural communities. We also oppose legislation turning all major commercial airlines into full partners with the FAA on matters of decision making by creating a board dominated by airline representatives who would help the FAA establish user fee pricing schedules.

### **General Transportation Policy**

1. The Grange believes that it is in the best interest of farmers and consumers to continue efforts toward achieving a balanced transportation system at the lowest cost consistent with adequate and efficient service. However, we oppose efforts by state governments to toll expanses of the Interstate Highway System built and operating as toll free.
2. The National Grange urges federal and state weed control agencies to control noxious weeds on their highway right-of-ways and to work with the railroads in an effort to control noxious weeds along railroad right-of-ways but always respecting the landowners' property rights and preferences.
3. The National Grange supports inter-model ownership of transportation carriers only if the acquiring carrier establishes that intermodal ownership is consistent with the public interest; will enable the acquiring carrier to use the other mode to public advantage in its transportation operations; will not unreasonably restrain competition and will not result in segments of agriculture and rural areas being held by captive shippers.
4. The National Grange supports creating a national uniform vehicle identification system to be used by disabled drivers. Legislation should be enacted to include blindness as a provision for issuance of a disabled parking permit.
5. We oppose efforts to replace current highway signs with multilingual signs.
6. The National Grange strongly supports a simple public announcement procedure for special-needs citizens in intercity bus transportation systems.
7. The National Grange supports legislation that would expand the Lemon Law for all vehicles in all states. We further support legislation that allows independent vehicle maintenance facilities or car dealership garages to have access to the technology/programming needed to repair all makes of vehicles so that the consumer has a choice of where to take his/her vehicle for maintenance and repair.

### *U.S. Postal Service*

1. The National Grange supports efforts by the Postal Service to eliminate waste, hold down operating costs and increase services and reliability. We make the following recommendations to the U. S. Postal Service:
  - a. We urge that any future postal rate increases be no greater than the rate of inflation.
  - b. We will also support stable rates or eligibility requirements for nonprofit organizations' postal rates. We support the retention of the third class bulk mail rate for not-for-profit-organizations at a reasonable rate.
  - c. We support reorganization of the Postal Rate Commission to include representation of the interests of mail users.
  - d. We recommend that the U.S. Postal service be returned to a service branch of the federal government.
2. The National Grange continues to support Rural Free Mail Delivery Service as

an essential part of universal mail service. We support the continuation of rural Saturday mail delivery and all other mail services to rural areas. Patrons of rural post offices must be given six (6) months notice before their post office is closed and must be provided with an opportunity to express their viewpoint at a public hearing.

3. The National Grange will promote the proportional payment of retirement funds from the U.S. Post Office and the U.S. government in relation to the number of year's retirees worked for each entity. We strongly oppose any change in the current postal employee retirement programs that would adversely affect the retirement of any postal employees, limit the retirement options of current postal employees or result in a reduction of retirement benefits for current or future postal employees.
4. The National Grange recommends that federal postal regulations require all future installation of cluster boxes be on the same side of the road as the residence or business.
5. The National Grange encourages the Postal Service to make their patrons aware that handicapped persons may apply for mail delivery to their door.

My sincere thanks go out to the members of my committee for their help, advice, insight and commitment to our work, as well as the production room staff. Special thanks to Leroy Watson for his assistance and guidance. Also thanks to Maureen Prelli for her hard work as our secretary.

Fraternally,

Chair: Lyle Lee, IL

Secretary: Maureen Prelli, CT (H)

Marty Billquist, MT

John Poirrier, AK

Jim Tetreault, NH

Lucille Groves, IN

Karen Jensen, MN

Scott Sherman, RI (H)

**ANNUAL CONVENTIONS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE**

Session No.	Year	Place	Master
	1867, Dec.4	Washington, DC	Birthday
1	1868, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
2	1869, April	Washington, DC	William Saunders
3	1870, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
4	1871, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
5	1872, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
6	1873, Jan.	Georgetown, DC	William Saunders
7	1874, Feb.	St. Louis, MO	D.W. Adams
8	1875, Feb.	Charleston, SC	D.W. Adams
9	1875, Nov.	Louisville, KY	D.W. Adam
10	1876, Nov.	Chicago, IL	John T. Jones
11	1877, Nov.	Cincinnati, OH	John T. Jones
12	1878, Nov.	Richmond, VA	S.E. Adams
13	1879, Nov.	Canandaigua, NY	S.E. Adams
14	1880, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
15	1881, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
16	1882, Nov.	Indianapolis, IN	J.J. Woodman
17	1883, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
18	1884, Nov.	Nashville, TN	J.J. Woodman
19	1885, Nov.	Boston, MA	J.J. Woodman
20	1886, Nov.	Philadelphia, PA	I.P Darden
21	1887, Nov.	Lansing, MI	I.P Darden
22	1888, Nov.	Topeka, KS	James Draper
23	1889, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	J.H. Brigham
24	1890, Nov.	Atlanta, GA	J.H. Brigham
25	1891, Nov.	Springfield, OH	J.H. Brigham
26	1892, Nov.	Concord, NH	J.H. Brigham
27	1893, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	J.H. Brigham
28	1894, Nov.	Springfield, IL	J.H. Brigham
29	1895, Nov.	Worcester, MA	J.H. Brigham
30	1896, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.H. Brigham
31	1897, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	J.H. Brigham
32	1898, Nov.	Concord, NH	Aaron Jones
33	1899, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Aaron Jones
34	1900, Nov.	Washington, DC	Aaron Jones
35	1901, Nov.	Lewiston, ME	Aaron Jones
36	1902, Nov.	Lansing, MI	Aaron Jones
37	1903, Nov.	Rochester, NY	Aaron Jones

38	1904, Nov.	Portland, OR	Aaron Jones
39	1905, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Aaron Jones
40	1906, Nov.	Denver, CO	N.J. Bachelder
41	1907, Nov.	Hartford, CT	N.J. Bachelder
42	1908, Nov.	Washington, DC	N.J. Bachelder
43	1909, Nov.	Des Moines, IA	N.J. Bachelder
44	1910, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	N.J. Bachelder
45	1911, Nov.	Columbus, OH	N.J. Bachelder
46	1912, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Oliver Wilson
47	1913, Nov.	Manchester, NH	Oliver Wilson
48	1914, Nov.	Wilmington, DE	Oliver Wilson
49	1915, Nov.	Oakland, CA	Oliver Wilson
50	1916, Nov.	Washington, DC	Oliver Wilson
51	1917, Nov.	St. Louis, MO	Oliver Wilson
52	1918, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Oliver Wilson
53	1919, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Oliver Wilson
54	1920, Nov.	Boston, MA	S.J. Lowell
55	1921, Nov.	Portland, OR	S.J. Lowell
56	1922, Nov.	Wichita, KS	S.J. Lowell
57	1923, Nov.	Pittsburgh, PA	S.J. Lowell
58	1924, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	L.J. Taber
59	1925, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	L.J. Taber
60	1926, Nov.	Portland, ME	L.J. Taber
61	1927, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	L.J. Taber
62	1928, Nov.	Washington, DC	L.J. Taber
63	1929, Nov.	Seattle, WA	L.J. Taber
64	1930, Nov.	Rochester, NY	L.J. Taber
65	1931, Nov.	Madison, WI	L.J. Taber
66	1932, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	L.J. Taber
67	1933, Nov.	Boise, ID	L.J. Taber
68	1934, Nov.	Hartford, CT	L.J. Taber
69	1935, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	L.J. Taber
70	1936, Nov.	Columbus, OH	L.J. Taber
71	1937, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	L.J. Taber
72	1938, Nov.	Portland, OR	L.J. Taber
73	1939, Nov.	Peoria, IL	L.J. Taber
74	1940, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	L.J. Taber
75	1941, Nov.	Worcester, MA	L.J. Taber
76	1942, Nov.	Wenatchee, WA	A.S. Goss
77	1943, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	A.S. Goss
78	1944, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	A.S. Goss



79	1945, Nov.	Kansas City, MO	A.S. Goss
80	1946, Nov.	Portland, OR	A.S. Goss
81	1947, Nov.	Columbus, OH	A.S. Goss
82	1948, Nov.	Portland, ME	A.S. Goss
83	1949, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	A.S. Goss
84	1950, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Henry D. Sherwood
85	1951, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Herschel D. Newsom
86	1952, Nov.	Rockford, IL	Herschel D. Newsom
87	1953, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Herschel D. Newsom
88	1954, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Herschel D. Newsom
89	1955, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	Herschel D. Newsom
90	1956, Nov.	Rochester, NY	Herschel D. Newsom
91	1957, Nov.	Colorado Springs, CO	Herschel D. Newsom
92	1958, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Herschel D. Newsom
93	1959, Nov.	Long Beach, CA	Herschel D. Newsom
94	1960, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	Herschel D. Newsom
95	1961, Nov.	Worcester, MA	Herschel D. Newsom
96	1962, Nov.	Fort Wayne, IN	Herschel D. Newsom
97	1963, Nov.	Portland, OR	Herschel D. Newsom
98	1964, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Herschel D. Newsom
99	1965, Nov.	Topeka, KS	Herschel D. Newsom
100	1966, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Herschel D. Newsom
101	1967, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Herschel D. Newsom
102	1968, Nov.	Peoria, IL	Herschel D. Newsom
103	1969, Nov.	Daytona Beach, FL	John W. Scott
104	1970, Nov.	Boise, ID	John W. Scott
105	1971, Nov.	Charleston, WV	John W. Scott
106	1972, Nov.	Hartford, CT	John W. Scott
107	1973, Nov.	Lincoln, NE	John W. Scott
108	1974, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	John W. Scott
109	1975, Nov.	Columbus, OH	John W. Scott
110	1976, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	John W. Scott
111	1977, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	John W. Scott
112	1978, Nov.	Denver, CO	John W. Scott
113	1979, Nov.	Lancaster, PA	John W. Scott
114	1980, Nov.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Edward Andersen
115	1981, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Edward Andersen
116	1982, Nov.	Providence, RI	Edward Andersen
117	1983, Nov.	San Antonio, TX	Edward Andersen
118	1984, Nov.	Portland, ME	Edward Andersen
119	1985, Nov.	Eugene, OR	Edward Andersen

120	1986, Nov.	Madison, WI	Edward Andersen
121	1987, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Edward Andersen
122	1988, Nov.	Redding, CA	Robert E. Barrow
123	1989, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	Robert E. Barrow
124	1990, Nov.	Wichita, KS	Robert E. Barrow
125	1991, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Robert E. Barrow
126	1992, Nov.	Denver, CO	Robert E. Barrow
127	1993, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	Robert E. Barrow
128	1994, Nov.	Peoria, IL	Robert E. Barrow
129	1995, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	Robert E. Barrow
130	1996, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Kermit W. Richardson
131	1997, Nov.	Springfield, MA	Kermit W. Richardson
132	1998, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	Kermit W. Richardson
133	1999, Nov.	Portland, ME	Kermit W. Richardson
134	2000, Nov.	Fresno, CA	Kermit W. Richardson
135	2001, Nov.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Kermit W. Richardson
136	2002, Nov.	Portland, OR	Kermit W. Richardson
137	2003, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Kermit W. Richardson
138	2004, Nov.	Rochester, NY	William A. Steel
139	2005, Nov.	Columbus, OH	William A. Steel
140	2006, Nov.	Springfield, IL	William A. Steel
141	2007, Nov.	Reno, NV	William A. Steel
142	2008, Nov.	Cromwell, CT	Edward L. Luttrell
143	2009, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Edward L. Luttrell
144	2010, Nov.	Charlotte, NC	Edward L. Luttrell
145	2011, Nov.	Tulsa, OK	Edward L. Luttrell

*Upcoming*

146	2012, Nov.	Boise, ID
147	2013, Nov.	Manchester, NH
148	2014, Nov.	Sandusky, OH
149	2015, Nov.	Lincoln, NE
150	2016, Nov.	Washington, D.C.

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