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Luttrell touches on many issues in address

BY DEBBIE GEGARE

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National Grange Master Ed Luttrell gave his annual address on the state of the nation during the opening session of the 146th Annual National Grange Convention.

Delegates, officers and members listened carefully as Luttrell highlighted some troubles farmers and our nation have faced this year including economic disappointments and volatile weather.

He called for elected officials to wake up and realize their fiscal responsibility to every American and that they must recognize and follow these four fundamental truths.

The first one being that we must live within our means and that it is unacceptable that the U.S. Senate has not passed a budget in three years.

He said secondly that free markets work best.

Luttrell said government should let American free market find the solutions, be able to develop new technologies and provide high quality services to the consumer, and stop meddling with the economy.

Luttrell said the third fundamental truth is elected officials are people, too, and that politicians should take responsibility for their own retirement.

The final truth Luttrell mentioned is that economic markets hate uncertainty and the more it exists, the fewer risks that will be taken.

"The Grange believes that when our elected officials follow these four simple truths, our nation will begin its journey back to fiscal health and prosperity," said Luttrell.

He went on to talk about new regulations that have been proposed by the federal government in every department.

These regulations cost the American people billions of dollars and have great impact on lives and occupations. He



Allison Fowler

National President Ed Luttrell delivers his annual address to attendees Tuesday.

added that the Grange supports the necessary regulations that are needed to provide a reasonable safety and peace of mind to American workers, families and investors and opposes regulation that seeks a zero tolerance of risk.

A large focus of Luttrell's address called attention to the fact that Congress failed to pass the 2012 Farm bill by the September 30 deadline. He stated that the Grange believes

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Ed Luttrell*

I hope you've had the chance to check out the hospitality room and sample some of the tastes of the region. One of the best things about National Grange Session is the opportunity to sit down and get to know members from around our great nation. The more we talk, the more we find what we have in common.

Today the committee reports continue and the business of the Grange moves forward. If you have questions about the process, ask your State Master a few questions. Remember that they are not only your State leaders, they are the National Grange this week.

This evening we'll see the Junior Grange degree exemplified. I believe that since this year, the Junior program has been evaluated and studied, it is appropriate that we watch these children demonstrate one aspect of leadership. The Junior program will be a serious topic of discussion by the delegates and it is our hope that we can expand the program over the next couple of years.

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that the farm related portion of the Farm Bill is a significant positive for the economy of our nation. He called for every Grange member to contact their Senators and Representatives to encourage them to pass the 2012 Farm Bill during the lame duck session.

"Agriculture should never become a partisan football as every American depends on agriculture," Luttrell stated.

He said that American agriculture needs both small and large producers. That farmers and ranchers, no matter their size, should learn to learn from and support each other. He then called for agriculture education at the primary and in post secondary education. He went on to speak about Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's). He said that Americans should oppose the mandatory labeling of GMO products as no real danger exists with them and that such labeling falsely implies there is a danger when none truly exists. He also stated that the Grange continues to support extensive testing to prove the safety of all new GMO crops.

He explained that Americans' understanding of agriculture and financial responsibility are not our only areas of concern. We need to be educated that vocational programs are just as vital as four-year college degrees. Grange members support programs that teach basic skills in agriculture, metalwork, mechanics, construction and technology in practical ways.

He talked about Postal reform and that the Grange opposes reduction of service to rural America. He also stressed the need for rural America to see an increase in access to the essential technology of broadband.

He invited every American to put aside disagreements and partisanship and find a common ground and that people can do that within the Grange. The future of our nation is the legacy we leave to our children and grandchildren.

"Just as our grandparents left us a vital and prospering nation, so too will we leave our children a better country with a bright and prosperous future," Luttrell concluded.

Youth Ambassadors are welcomed to convention today

BY LEXI GEGARE

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Today we are proud to welcome the 2012 State Youth Ambassadors to the convention.

The Youth Ambassadors work very hard in their states in order to be selected to come to National Session.

Some of the duties of being a Youth Ambassador are speaking at state functions, participating in youth camps, being in charge of planned youth activities, and filling out an Ambassador application.

There is also a Trivia Challenge, to make sure that the Youth Ambassadors applying for the National level really know their facts and history about the Grange.

The application requirements are in the 2013 Youth Program Guide.

States generally select ambassadors through an application process. State Youth Ambassadors then have an opportunity to compete for the National Youth Ambassador. They will be interviewed, judged on their Grange knowledge, leadership, communication skills and announced at the Evening of Excellence.

"Even though it's a small group, this is a great good and it's going to be very competitive," National Grange Youth Leadership Development Director Charlene Shupp Espnshade said.

This past year the youth ambassadors have traveled across their state representing the youth program at Grange events, fairs, and agricultural expositions.

The 2012 State Youth Ambassadors are:

Courtney Gray of Cray, North Carolina, is studying communications and broadcasting at Winthrop University. A member of Southern Wake Grange #1295, she has served the past year as the North Carolina Youth Ambassador. Gray has competed in competitive speech, debate and mock trial contests for eight years.

Elijah Bright of Huntersville, North Carolina, is a senior at Hickory Grove Christian School and this year's North Carolina Youth Ambassador. A member of Troutman Grange #1752. Some of his work as a youth ambassador includes participating in the Youth Leadership Caravan, Grange Camp, Winter Youth Conference, State Convention and the Southeastern Regional Leader's Conference.

Jennifer Lanstrum graduated from Cardinal High School in May 2012 and is now a freshman at Kent State University, Trumbull campus. A member of Huntsburg Grange #2511, she has spent the past year travelling across Ohio representing the state Grange.

Adam Hinshaw is a member of Stelvideo Grange #295 in Ohio. He

has traveled to state youth camps, state sessions, Grange banquets and regional youth conference as this year's youth ambassador. In the Grange he has been a member of the State Youth Committee (SYC) and been a part of the state youth officer team.

Brittany Oliver of Collins Grange #893 is this year's Washington State Youth Ambassador. Oliver is a civil engineering student at Washington State University. Since her selection she has been representing the organizations at several state events.

Jimmy Smith lives in suburban Seattle with his family and a member of East Hill Grange #736. In the fall, he will attend Western Washington University and study history. He has served as a member of the National Grange Youth Officers Team in 2011 as lecturer and has been a part of the Washington State Grange Youth Officer Team since 2007.

Charlene Espnshade has had the privilege to talk with and mentor with the individuals. She says they always tries to make herself unseen, while they are seen. "This program is about giving Grange youth the chance to lead. This program is a springboard to other Grange opportunities," said Espnshade.

The two National Grange Youth Ambassadors will be selected this year at the National Grange Convention.

Deputies see hope, progress during summer work

BY MICHAEL MARTIN

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This summer, a National Grange deputy force was hard at work in several states.

In addition to the ongoing efforts of Randy and Linda Lewis in Nevada, three outstanding Grange youth served as National Grange Deputies in Arkansas, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Over the past two years, the Lewis' have successfully worked with local folks to organize three Granges in Nevada.

We celebrate Pahrump Grange No. 18, Sandy Valley Grange No. 19 and Amargosa Valley Grange No. 20 and welcome their participation with the organizing committee here at the convention in Boise.

Melanie Fitch, an Ohio Granger, worked under the direct supervision of Wisconsin State Master Duane Scott in targeted communities across his state.

Fitch was in Wisconsin from May 23 to July 18.

She visited more than 30 communities and conducted three informational sessions in La Farge, Evansville and Brillion.

Fitch beat the pavement and spread

the Grange message, with special help from Leroy Watson and family for housing Fitch in Appleton, and the family of Wisconsin State Grange Treasurer Alan Arner who housed and arranged transportation for Fitch's work.

Funding for the project came from a proposal of the Wisconsin State Grange Executive Committee and Scott that allowed Fitch to become a paid Grange deputy and supported her work.

Joseph Stefenoni, a California Granger, worked in targeted communities in Wyoming.

Gary and Kathy Wardle provided a personal vehicle for Stefenoni to drive to Wyoming and Colorado State Master, David McCord, made arrangements with the Wardle's and hosted Stefenoni while passing through Colorado on both ends of his journey to Wyoming.

While in Wyoming, Stefenoni explored Casper, Cheyenne, Douglas and Wayne.

Stefenoni had one information meeting while serving as deputy.

Funding for his work was underwritten by Wyoming State Grange.

Christopher Szkutak, a Massachusetts Granger, worked in targeted communities in Arkansas.

Szkutak was on the ground in Arkansas for one week, but he did a lot of pre-work, including contacting former Grangers in Arkansas, working with the local press and scheduling an informational meeting to prepare for his short stay.

While in Arkansas, Szkutak met with George Anderson, our contact with Zion-Oak Grange in Springdale.

Szkutak attended several farmers' markets to speak with folks and he had five people participate in his informational meeting, including Byron Whit-ed, a very active e-Member.

Speaking with former members, Szkutak believes there are at least 20 people who would become members to support the hall.

Most promising, was Szkutak's contact with Caitlin Madison, potential new leaders and Jan Judy, a former member who has contact information of all former members in the area.

The National Grange Executive Committee committed funds to enable Szkutak's efforts in Arkansas.

You can hear more about the Deputies work and their insights on Grange growth and development at the Membership luncheon this afternoon.

Best of Show, Idea Fair to open soon

BY SAMANTHA JOHNSON

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Delegates will get a special preview of the Idea Fair and Best of Show today.

When they open to the rest of Grange members on Thursday, attendees will get a chance to see the Best of Show from not only the Host region, but from around the country. The Idea Fair provides a chance for Grange members to be recognized for crafts and photography while the Best of Show entries showcase best practices of programs and events from subordinate and State Granges.

This year the National Grange and Host region are excited to include the National Lecturer's quilt blocks to our display, along with the National Lecturer's photos.

In the Best of Show and Idea Fair, attendees can view National Grange department displays.

Grange members can use these displays to gain ideas for programs and activities to engage in on the local level. Also present are our program partners, Robin Dickson from Dogs for the Deaf and Shirley Anderson from the Dictionary Project. Questions about how to begin or enhance these two programs in your community can be answered by the wealth of knowledge provided by Robin and Shirley.

First place Community Service notebooks are on dis-



Allison Fowler

National Lecturer Pete Pompper looks over quilt block entries Tuesday.

play for Grangers to browse through. What better way to gain new ideas than to see what fellow Grange members from around the country are doing successfully?

The Best of Show and the Idea Fair is located in the Peregrines room.

W. Va. President proud to be a Granger

BY Lexi Gegare

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Jim Foster, the President of West Virginia State Grange for the past 12 years, has been a member of the Grange for 27 years.

He also serves as President of his county's Farm Bureau and Chairman of the conservation district in his county.

In 1985, when working on a water system, he was approached to join the Grange.

Knowing that the Grange was secretive, Foster offered to sit outside of the first meeting.

When he was accepted and voted in as a member, he joined the meeting where they were taking up a collection to pay the Grange Hall's light bill. He said at that moment, he knew the Grange was a place of community with each person chipping in for the good of the organization.

He also knew that the Grange was family-oriented and he would enjoy every minute of it.

One year later, his local Grange wanted to elect him as Master. He refused – he didn't know enough about the Grange to be their leader.

When the next term came around, Foster gladly accepted role. He started holding fundraisers, hosting dances, and coordinating bake sales.

Today, Foster still holds Grange meetings in a Grange Hall in Oxford, W. Va.

When asked of the Grange's importance to him, Foster happily responds that the Grange is a great organization that he supports 100 percent.

He has read a lot of Grange history and has reflected on the accomplishments of the organization and where



West Virginia State Grange President Jim Foster and his daughter, Barbara, are both Grange members who enjoy the family-focus of the Grange.

we are today.

Jim believes that we have an opportunity to bring attention to the Grange if we harness the proper leadership at the local level. He would like to see more press releases that can garner publicity in local newspapers. He urges state Masters to work with their newspapers to get the word about Grange out into the general public.

His advise for Grange leaders?

"Get out there and do something," Foster said. "Anybody that talks about the Grange – they always say: go see Jim Foster."

Membership department debuts new social media campaign

BY CODY STEVENS

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Thirteen.

In some cultures the number thirteen is considered bad luck, but the Grange is hoping to change society's mind.

The Grange's new Thirteen Second Campaign is encouraging Grange members to use social media, like Facebook and Twitter, to upload statuses on the thirteenth of each month. The new program, started by National Grange Membership Director Michael Martin, hopes to take advantage of the mass appeal of social media to people of all ages.

"If through a collective effort, we can bring in 100 new members



13second
campaign

per month over the next thirteen months, we will achieve a net gain in membership for the Grange as a whole" said Martin.

If you have any success stories or have any questions, feel free to email Martin at mmartin@national-grange.org.

Here are some suggestions to get you started:

As spring arrives, welcome a new organization in your life. Join

the Grange; ask me how!

Summer is here. The sun is hot and so is the Grange. Join today!!

Want to enhance your leadership skills? Join the Grange! Ask me how today!

Now that you've got some ideas to get started, go make your status about the Grange and watch the organization grow!

STATE OF THE GRANGE: Oregon

Community-driven growth seen, led by inquiries

BY SUSAN NOAH
Master of Oregon State Grange
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Oregon has been experiencing some growth that is entirely community driven.

As the new State Master, having someone call into the office and introduce themselves as “the person who is hoping to reorganize a dormant Grange” was one of the best things that has happened.

I received that phone call in September, and was happy to learn that one of our Granges, located on the northern coast, was generating some interest in the Community.

At least twice this year we have received just such communication, and we now have one reorganized Grange and perhaps another on the way, all because the community rec-

ognized the potential of the Grange.

In both of these cases, the interested parties were a group of small farmers who are engaged in small lot farming and “green” practices, so I would have to say that our growth in Oregon is being helped by our long and current association with agriculture.

I find that, in these cases, we have been in the wonderful position of members coming to us, wanting to be a part of our family due to this association.

So far this year, we actually have reorganized two Granges, another one is very close and now, with this last phone call, perhaps a fourth.

I truly believe that growth we have experienced this year comes from our communities recognizing the Grange as being the worthwhile, family organization that we are.

Opening, speech inspiring for Trimble Legislative Youth

BY MATT CLARK
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Having been a seventh degree member since 1997 and attended many National conventions since then, I have never seen the opening of the Grange in the seventh degree until this year.

The national officers did a great job and made in impression on me that I will not forget.

I applaud the National Master on his master’s address.

I was moved and recommitted to do my part as an American citizen to encourage our elected officials to get this country back on track, and as a Grange member to grow this

organization.

It’s important for my kids and future generations to come so they have the opportunity to make a difference in their community and their nation through the Grange.

I am looking forward to today’s session and this evening as the youth come in.

OP-ED: Lessons for All

Junior Degree, program full of meaning for children today

BY BRUCE CROUCHER
High Priest of Demeter

The Junior Degree offers children lessons that touch what concerns them.

They are offered a place where friends can be found.

Junior Grange promises that there will always be someone you can trust and confide in when necessary.

The Junior Degree also expresses the need for Juniors to apply their talents to moving the organization forward as well as improving themselves.

Juniors will have associates from whom they can learn, but are also expected to provide something to the organization as well. This helps to develop self-esteem in the children.

The Junior Pledge is also significant.

In today’s modern society, many groups encourage children to make a promise to themselves and to their peers that they will live and exemplify what is good.

In the Junior Pledge, a promise is made to be honest and true to your fellow members and also to avoid those things that are detrimental to a good life.

Ceres, Pomona and Flora give great life lessons: “as ye sow, so shall ye reap”, “sow good seed and prune the young trees if you are to have good fruit”, “unless there are blossoms, there will be no fruit”.

The Steward teaches that being kind to animals is something we should learn and practice at any age and that animals should learn love, not fear from humans.

Finally, the Matron expresses the need for very basic attributes for all in that they will “strive to be ever truthful, brave, honorable, gentle, loving and kind.” “Think what a good world this would be if everybody would keep such a promise.”

These lessons repeated in the Junior Degree will be well learned and practiced by the children that are members of the Junior Grange.

Chaplain's
Daily
Devotion



Savor the Moments of his Day

Savor the moments of this day and
Heal the wounds of yesterday.
Linger where the lilac grows to share
A dream the blue bird knows.

Rest awhile beside a brook it's
Surely worth a second look.
The way you spend your time today
Determines what you take away.

Sow a seed and say a prayer for God
Will bring a harvest there...
Savor the moments of this day and
Heal the wounds of yesterday.

By Clay Harrison

Beautiful Boise!

A U D O E N J D P H I L H A R M O N I C R E
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O E K M A D F A L U C K Y P E A K P L U D J
Y N V D E G A L L I V R E E N O I P S T E S
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WORD BANK

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|-------------------|------------------------|
| Arts | Nampa |
| Barber Park | Old Idaho Penitentiary |
| Basque | Payette |
| Botanical Gardens | Philharmonic |
| Broncos | Pioneer Village |
| Capital | River |
| Downtown | Rockies |
| Fort | Salmon |
| Grove Plaza | Silver City |
| Hawks | Skiing |
| Hyde Park | Stampede |
| Julia Davis | Steelheads |
| Lucky Peak | Theater |
| Lumber | Trees |
| Mining | University |
| Mountain | Zoo Boise |

DAILY TIP

Wednesday night at 7:10 p.m. the Idaho Steelheads play the Stockton Thunder (AA minor hockey league game) at CenturyLink Arena.

The arena is adjacent to the Boise Centre and attached to The Grove Hotel.

Expect to see lots of hockey fans in and around the area, including the second and third floors of the hotel where corporate viewing suites are located.

Want to join the fun? Tickets start at \$30 and can be purchased online at www.idahosteelheads.com.

By Events Planner Jessie Cope