



Patrons Chain

150th Annual National Grange Convention Edition, Day 2
Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2016

Official Newsletter of the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry

Patron's Chain Convention Edition

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Sunday's Survey Results

At what age did you
join the Grange?

5-14	69.4%
15-24	11.1%
25-34	0.0%
35-44	8.3%
45+	11.1%

Fun Fact

Did you know that Dairy contributes more to Wisconsin (\$20.6 billion) than citrus to Florida (\$9 billion) or potatoes to Idaho (\$2.5 billion) economies.

**Don't miss today's
poll question - delivered
with your newsletter.**

**Put your responses in the
box in the session room.**

Honoring the Fallen



Lindsay Schroeder

Memorial wreath placed at the Grave of the Unknown Soldier, honoring those soldiers resting in Glory, known but to God.

BY LORI WUEST
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Your sightseeing trip to the Nation's Capital includes a long list of places to see and numerous pictures to take. Monuments and landmarks in the Washington, DC area include the White house, the Capitol, the War Memorials, and the Washington Monument. A highlight of visiting the area is seeing Arlington National Cemetery.

Grangers witnessed the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Grangers who

are veterans of major wars and an active duty soldier laid a wreath at the tomb in memory of the fallen.

Grangers participating in the ceremony included Jim Foster, President of West Virginia State Grange and a Koran War Army veteran; Army Reserve SSGT Chip Narvel, National Grange Steward and Vietnam Era veteran; SSGT Peg Johnson United States Marine Corp of Potomac Grange #1 served during the 'cold war' era, and was part of the Grenada campaign. Iowa Granger MSGT Doug Baldwin Jr. represented active duty Air Force

and is currently stationed at Camp Dodge in Des Moines, IA.

If you were unable to attend the ceremony you will be able to watch the ceremony on the National Grange Facebook page at www.facebook.com/nationalgrange.

The ceremony was a highlight of the Grange's time in Washington DC. The Grange thanks our veterans who have served in war and peace especially those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. May they receive that welcome plaudit, "Well done, thou good and faithful servants."

Grange Band ready to put on show

BY JOSH BARFIELD
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There is a concerted effort this week to bring together talented singers and musicians at National Grange Convention to perform at the Celebration Banquet on Saturday.

Lester Burton Gibbs of Hartford Connecticut leads the march as Band Leader and organizer. Gibbs, former President of Vermont State Grange, has been working in music for much of his life. Lester began playing piano at age five, a skill that followed him into

the Grange, where he has served as State Musician for Vermont and New Hampshire Granges.

Excited to get started, Lester is busy recruiting talent to help him throughout the week.

"We want to provide beautiful music at the banquet, but I also want to fill the silence with fun music between sessions to get folks involved and enthusiastic," Gibbs said. Adding a chorus of voices to accordions and other instruments from our talented members, the Band will surely be a welcome addition to jazz up policy work and long sessions.

Gibbs is also a proud veteran and his passion for music reaches back into 23 years of active military service. During his service in the Army he was a dedicated musician in the Army Chaplain Corps, serving in Vietnam, Italy, Germany, and Washington DC, and retired as a Sargent Major in 1981.

Currently, he serves as organizer for three community churches on Sundays.

Get involved and share your talents with the Grange! Contact Lester this week or one of the Communications Fellows.

Opinion / Editorial

We welcome guest writers and letters to the editor as well as short feedback. Should you have something you wish to say - from praise of our coverage to complaints about our word searches - please send your thoughts or opinion pieces to communications@nationalgrange.org. We welcome full-length editorials from guest writers on topics of interest to members but will screen for language and appropriateness of content. We reserve the right to edit grammar and spelling of submissions. Submissions may be made by members attending convention or those not attending or not yet Grange members. Thank you in advance for your contribution.



BETSY E. HUBER
*National President
(Master)*

National President's Message

Today the Eastern Hosting Region took us on a bus tour of Washington, D.C., monuments in place of a host banquet for the delegates and guests. Part of this tour was a stop at our own monument – our National Grange Headquarters building, dedicated in 1960 by President Eisenhower and proud Grangers from all over the country.

This building is not only a symbol of the importance of our organization by its location next to the White House and Executive Office Building.

It also supplies a major portion of our annual budget via rent from our 27 tenants.

We could not provide the staff and programs we do for our members without this source of income.

However, as you could see if you were on the tour, our home is looking a little dated.

What you may not have seen are the necessary, non-cosmetic upgrades. The boiler is 27 years old, the chiller system is more than 20 years old, the wiring has not been upgraded in 55 years, the windows are single pane and in need of replacement for greater energy efficiency (and of course, savings to the bottom line and the environment).

The lobby entrance has outdated

wallpaper and is dark. The conference room carpet is stretching and separating at the seams.

We need to spend some money to care for our greatest asset in order to retain our happy tenants.

As you tour the building or reflect on your visit, think of the things we benefit from because we have such a wonderful home for our organization – prestige, prominence and of course, income that sustains the National Grange – and consider some ways we can raise funds to make our headquarters more attractive, a place we can be proud of.

Meandering around the Grange way of Life —Celebrating Traditions

BY WALTER BOOMSMA
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Earlier this morning I was at school, conducting a “kick off assembly” for the Valley Grange Bookworm Program. (For those unfamiliar, different Grangers visit the school twice a week to listen to second and third graders read.) We gathered together all the second and third graders to talk about the program. After a brief introduction, I always ask the kids if they have any questions.

One young fellow raised his hand and asked, “How long have you been doing this?” Ironically, since I knew a reporter was going to attend, I’d looked that up—it’s a favorite media question. The kids were quite impressed when I answered, “Ten years.” I suppose ten years is a long time when you consider that meant we started the year most of those third graders were born!

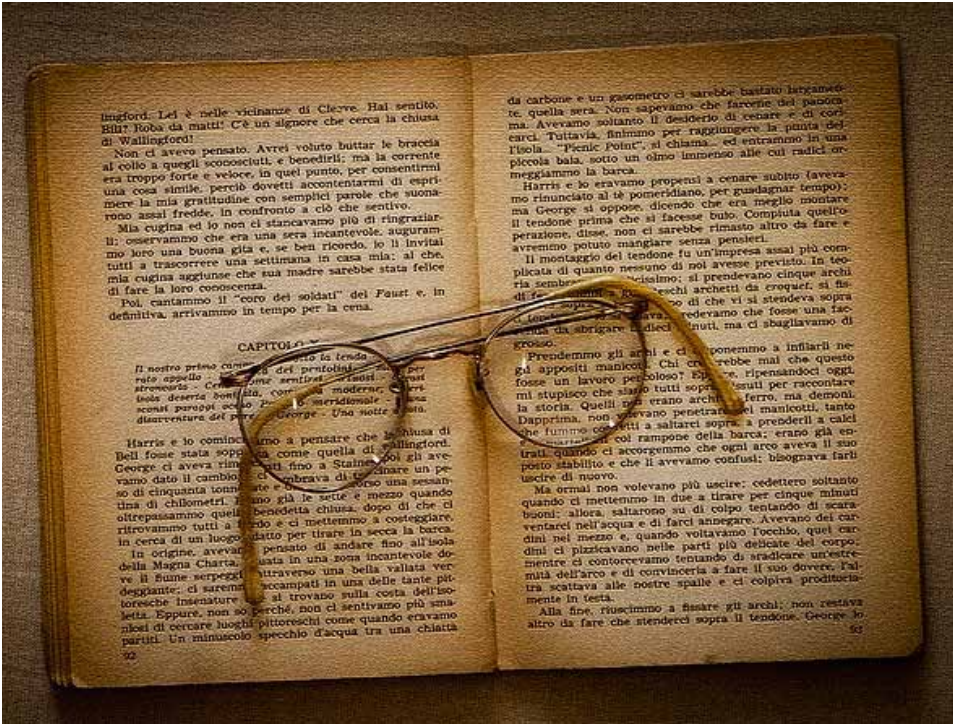
He set me to thinking, though. Grange readers/bookworms have become an important way of life at our school. The third graders visit the Valley Grange Hall every fall for a “Dictionary Day” that includes learning more about the Grange. Some of the kids that we’ve given dictionaries to and heard read are now graduating from high school. We have a number of traditions and many of our programs are seen as “rites of passage” at the school.

I sat with the kids we selected to be interviewed by the newspaper. One third grade girl provided me with an important reminder about tradition. When the reporter asked her what she liked best about the Bookworm Program she replied, “Well I like reading but I also like spending time with the Grangers.” She then looked at me and asked, “Do you remember I read a joke book to you last year? I know you like them!” I didn’t admit that I had no specific memory of it—those few minutes we had spent together were too important to her to dismiss them.

Tradition is defined in many different ways. One I particularly like is given in Merriam-Webster Dictionary as “a way of thinking, behaving, or doing something that has been used by the people in a particular group, family, society, etc., for a long time.”

The reporter and I chatted for a while after the kids left. He’s been covering Valley Grange events for a long time and he admitted that sometimes it’s hard to find a new headline or a new way of presenting the story of Bookworming or Dictionary Day. “But,” he added, “it’s always fun to hear the excitement from the kids—it’s so new and important to them.”

I found myself thinking, “Maybe we should let the kids write the story.” But I also found myself realizing how important it is that we don’t get caught in the trap of just going through the motions no matter how many times we’ve done something. Traditions have value but carry with them responsibility and opportunity. I truly can’t guess how many kids I’ve taken from a classroom and listened to read over the last decade. But I do know that they keep track of when it’s their turn and many remember the experience for a long time after.



I also don’t know how many times I’ve been part of the opening or closing ritual in various offices. I’m not sure how many times I’ve been part of a degree day. But I do know that when we follow tradition and ritual it’s easy to miss or forget the magic.

One of the harder questions I entertained from the kids was “Do we have to do this if we don’t want to?” My answer was “No...” but as I was walking away from the questioner I stopped, turned around, and put on the saddest face I could and added, “But I will be really disappointed if you don’t.” Some might say I was being manipulative, but I really meant it. This is a tradition that we don’t do just because it’s a tradition. We do it because it’s fun and it’s meaningful and it makes a difference. It works because the reader and the person being read to both benefit. If we don’t do it, we are cheating each other in the truest sense. And if we do it just for the sake of getting it done, that’s not much better than not doing it at all.

Grange ritual and practice should be no different. The Grange way of life is, I think, about celebration. We celebrate nature and agriculture, but also what they represent and the lessons we can learn from them.

Just as we challenge our “bookworms” to read, I challenge Grangers to engage in tradition and ritual in a new way. No matter how many times you’ve said or done it, next time make a special effort to make it fun and meaningful. Celebrate the ritual! It will make a difference—to you and those around you.

Any degree or ritual quotations are from the forty-sixth edition of the 2013 Subordinate Grange Manual. The views and opinions expressed in “Exploring Traditions” are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official doctrine and policy of the Grange.

Grange Foundation

BY KATIE KURBURSKI
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The Grange Foundation funds seven Grange programs and was organized by National Master Hershel Newsome organized the foundation in 1964.

The Foundation allocates funds to the Junior Grange, Kelley Farm, Trademark Protection, Deaf Awareness, Youth Leadership, Community and Leadership, American Arts and Culture, and Planned Giving programs. These funds help give Grangers of all ages opportunities to travel to conventions and explore new aspects of the Grange.

The Foundation Board consists of Phil Prelli (CT), Jimmy Gentry (NC), Duane Scott (WI), Leroy Watson (NH), Joe Fryman (NE), Steve Coye (NY), and Joan Smith (DC). Their job is to oversee the accounts and work to make sure the Grange has enough money and can thrive in years to come. The purpose of the Foundation is to assist Granges with funding and provide a gateway for people who want to donate funds. The Foundation is a 501(c)3, therefore anyone willing to make contributions can receive a tax deduction. The main role of the Foundation is to give support for educational outreach and grow each account to benefit Grangers as much as possible.

To learn more about the Foundation, or to make a contribution, visit www.grangefoundation.org.

Support the Grange Foundation at www.grangefoundation.org.



Partnership created with Monroe Classic

BY LORI WUEST
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The Grange store as you used to know it – is closed. The National Grange now has a partnership with Monroe Classic for a new and improved shopping experience. We all know that promotional products are necessary, but it was hard for Granges and members to benefit because of inventory and pricing requirements.

“This partnership with Monroe Classic gives Granges the opportunity to raise money and

provides a greater variety of products,” said Loretta Washington, Sales, Programs, Benefits and Membership Recognition Director. Monroe Classic can also offer personalization that the old Grange store was not able to provide.

If you need t-shirts, pens, hats, mugs or any other promotional items, just contact Mike Warner. Mike will be at convention all week, selling products, answering questions and meeting you’re your promotional product needs. He shipped over forty boxes of product to the hotel, so be sure and stop at the Grange store and get

some items to show everyone you’re proud to be a Granger.

The ‘old’ Grange Store will still be able to meet all your Grange specific needs, including membership documents, record books and brochures. These products are available from Loretta Washington at the National Grange office.

The partnership with Monroe classic also benefits the National Grange financially based on orders and revenue received, so place your order and make sure you stock up on Grange branded items.



MONROE CLASSIC INC.
Official Supplier of National Grange

New Items Available Here At Convention
Tuesday Afternoon thru Noon Saturday
Level/Exhibit Area: Sully Room



5/8" Polyester Lanyard with Swivel Hook.
36" long, 18" per side.
#1 Best Seller!!!
Both items printed with GRANGE American Values... Hometown Roots...

Deluxe ID/Badge Holder with velcro closure, inside zipper pocket, open pocket, breakaway and two pen slots!



Logo'd Promotional Items, Signs, Banners, Plaques/Awards, Official Sashes, Regalia, Jewelry, Wearables, Business Cards, Name Badges, Fund Raising and More!
See our Grange Store by Monroe at www.monroeclassic.com or call 1-800-868-2330.

Making the most of their time in DC

BY KARIE BLASINGAME
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Grangers enjoyed spending time together in a city rich with history and culture before the start of the 150th Annual Session of the National Grange. Union Station, the Capitol, Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, National Mall, National Cathedral and more were visited by convention attendees before session.

Don and Lynette Schaeffer left Illinois on Tuesday, Nov. 8 and have spent the week exploring different memorials across the country on their way to Washington. They discovered Gettysburg National Military Park for the first time and saw the battle in a new light. They visited Arlington National Cemetery on Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11 when President Obama was visiting. As they weren’t pre-cleared with the Secret Service they couldn’t visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Schaeffer’s did get to visit John F. Kennedy’s eternal flame and a memorial to unknown soldiers from the Civil War.

Scott and Marie Nicholson from Montana took Union Station’s self-guided tour and spent time on the National Mall. The Nicholsons shared that “it is such an awesome feeling to stand in the

middle of the mall and look one way towards the Capitol and the other way to the Lincoln Memorial, it’s an awesome feeling to experience all at once.” While touring the Air and Space Museum near Herndon, VA, the Nicholson’s checked out the Restoration Workshop, a Mitchell B29 from World War II called Flak bait, the Discovery Space Shuttle, and a German Bomber from World War II made of plywood.

Chris Hamp, the National Grange Lady Assistant Steward, led groups of Grangers on tours. The tours started Saturday, Nov. 12 at the Arson Dogs Statue blocks away from a Metro Station.

The group explored the Nation found the plaque commemorating the creation of the National Grange in 1867. The group walked down the National Mall and visited the World War II Memorial. Hamp said, “it was an honor to be there with World War II veterans while they were experiencing the memorial with their families.”

The group found a memorial commemorating the writers of the Declaration of Independence which Hamp pointed out is, “off the beaten path.” Across from the Constitution Gardens they found the Albert Einstein statue and took a picture around him. On Sunday, Nov. 13 a larger group took to the streets heading out to Rock Creek Cemetery to speak with Grange founders Oliver



Submitted Photo

Delegates took time out of touring the city to pose with Einstein.

Hudson Kelley, William Saunders and John R. Thompson. The group also joined the 11:15 a.m. Eucharist Service at the Washington National Cathedral.

National Grange Convention is more than policies and work. It also offers Grangers the opportunity to explore the history and culture of the

Honoring our Veterans

BY SAMANTHA WILKINS
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America’s military is predominantly drawn from rural areas of the country. Grangers are honored to call many of these men and women Grange brothers and sisters.

Many Granges across the nation have ceremonies or banquets at Veterans Day to honor the sacrifices of those who serve in the military. Sister Ann Keeton says that it gives her a “sense of pride that her brother Matthew Keeton sacrificed his life and time from his family to be able to fight for our continued freedom”

Grangers have served in all branches of the

military including the Air Force, Army, Army Airborne, Army Reserves, Coast Guard, Navy and Marines.

Their service is the reason we can enjoy many of the freedoms we celebrate. If you are a veteran please contact one of the Fellows at any point during the convention as we have a gift for you!



Lindsay Schroeder

Veterans representing the National Grange at the Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Left to right: Army Reserve SSGT Chip Narvel; SSGT Peg Johnson United States Marine Corp served during the ‘cold war’ era, and was part of the Grenada campaign; Jim Foster, Koran War Army veteran; and Doug Baldwin Jr. MSGT, active duty Air Force currently stationed at Camp Dodge.

5 minute video puts Grange in the spotlight

BY SAMANTHA WILKINS
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A 5 minute video produced by TriVue Entertainment offers an overview of the Grange's 150 years as the voice of rural America. Trivue Entertainment Productions worked with the National Grange to produce a 5-minute long video about the organization.

After the Civil War, parts of the United States were in complete ruin. The Grange helped the country develop a sense of community and belonging by giving each member a reason to become active and celebrate fellowship and connection.

In the video, President Betsy Huber talks about the Grange's experience as a family organization training juniors, youth, and young at heart. Members learn about the rites and rituals of the Grange, develop leadership skills and make friendships that last a lifetime.

Community Service Director Peter Pomper is featured, noting the many ways Grange members across the United States serve their neighbors. Grangers clock thousands of service hours in their local communities. Every region has different needs and it is the job of each Grange to fulfill those needs.

Jack Cimprich, Mayor of Upper Pittsgrove Township, New Jersey calls the Grange the backbone of the community. Community celebrations are centered around the Grange Hall.

LeRoy Watson, National Grange Executive Committee member said, "The goal of the Grange is to ensure that every time one walks away from a Grange meeting they have learned something new. The Lecturer in the Grange brings stories, facts, songs, and information for the betterment of the Grange and their community."

Watson said, "Grangers need to strive to keep in place those hometown values such as traditional homemaking, folkart, and handicraft skills that are vastly disappearing from our society."

The Granges inclusion of women from its founding. "For 1867 that was far ahead of its time," Huber said. The Grange allows members to interact with people across the country and creates a sense of community.



The video was completely funded by donations from Potomac Grange No. 1 (DC) and Grange Advocacy, our affiliated 501(c)(4) and the Grange Foundation, Steve Coye, the Connecticut State Grange, the New York State Grange, and the Brooks Group & Associates.

The Grange may distribute the video to members for use in any way except television broadcast until after February 1, 2017. The National Grange is offering one free DVD per Grange with a \$2.50 charge per DVD plus shipping thereafter.

Agriculture committee hard at work on 29 resolutions

BY BRITTANY GORDON
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The Agriculture Committee received 29 resolution at the 150th session of the National Grange. Major topics include the dairy industry, the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement, and GMO labeling.

Dairy industry prices have stalled and not much profit is being made. A resolution from New York, addresses that issue and the Dairy Margin Protection Program, or MPP. This USDA program provides dairy producers with payments when dairy margins are below the margin coverage levels the producer chooses each year. Its focus is to protect farm equity by guarding

against destructively low margins, not to guarantee a profit to individual producers. The resolution would like the program to be based on regional costs rather than on a national scale.

Another resolution from Maryland, dealing with the dairy industry, is the wasting of excess milk. Under the Federal Milk Marketing Program, any processed milk cannot be donated to prevent processors from undercutting the price, thus a lot of milk gets dumped. This resolution states that the Federal MO needs to be reformed in order to make it easier to donate processed milk.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership writes the rules for global trade. The US is currently part of the TPP and also includes Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Vietnam, Chile,

Brunei, Singapore and New Zealand. The goal of the TTP is to increase Made-in-America exports as well as grow the United States economy. "Like many agreements though, there is concern about the language of the agreement and the lack of transparency," said Karen Jackson, Washington State Grange Overseer and a Delegate on the committee. This is a debate point, however it was opposed by both of the presidential nominees who spoke on the topic while campaigning.

One of the most controversial issues in recent years has been GMOs and GMO labeling. There are a number of resolutions regarding that topic again this year from both sides of the fence. These will be hot topics of debate at National Convention this year and it will be interesting to see how they turn out.



David McKeown

National Lecturer Amanda Leigh Brozana's father, the Chief of Police in Orwigsburg, Pa., was inspiration for the new program to honor law enforcement officers that will be release in January.

Blue Line Honor Program Coming

BY ELIZABETH HINER
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The National Grange Lecturer's department will roll out a new program in January to honor police officers. The Blue Line Honor Program will be very similar to the Patriot's Program sponsored by Potomac Grange No. 1, D.C.

Certificates and suggestions on how to recognize those who serve the community as law enforcement officers will be available to Granges.

The certificate does not say "police" but instead suggests a broader audience who qualifies - sheriffs, deputies, police and others identified

by their community under different titles who serve the public in a similar role.

"My father's been the chief of police in my small hometown since before I was born. He's retiring next year, and it made me think about others in our communities, like my dad, who are important to our safety and security," National Lecturer Amanda Leigh Brozana said.

Honor programs for our other first responders in the community, such as fire and emergency medical technicians are being developed in the future.

More information about the program will be available soon.

Safety of membership records a priority

BY JUSTIN LEONARD
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Some are excited to see the Grange take a bold step into the future through modern record keeping.

Recently, the Grange has been working with Blue Tahiti to create a database of all members to help ease record keeping for Local, State and the National Grange. This database already has some information but over the next year or so it will continue to be updated in the hopes of having a comprehensive record of members.

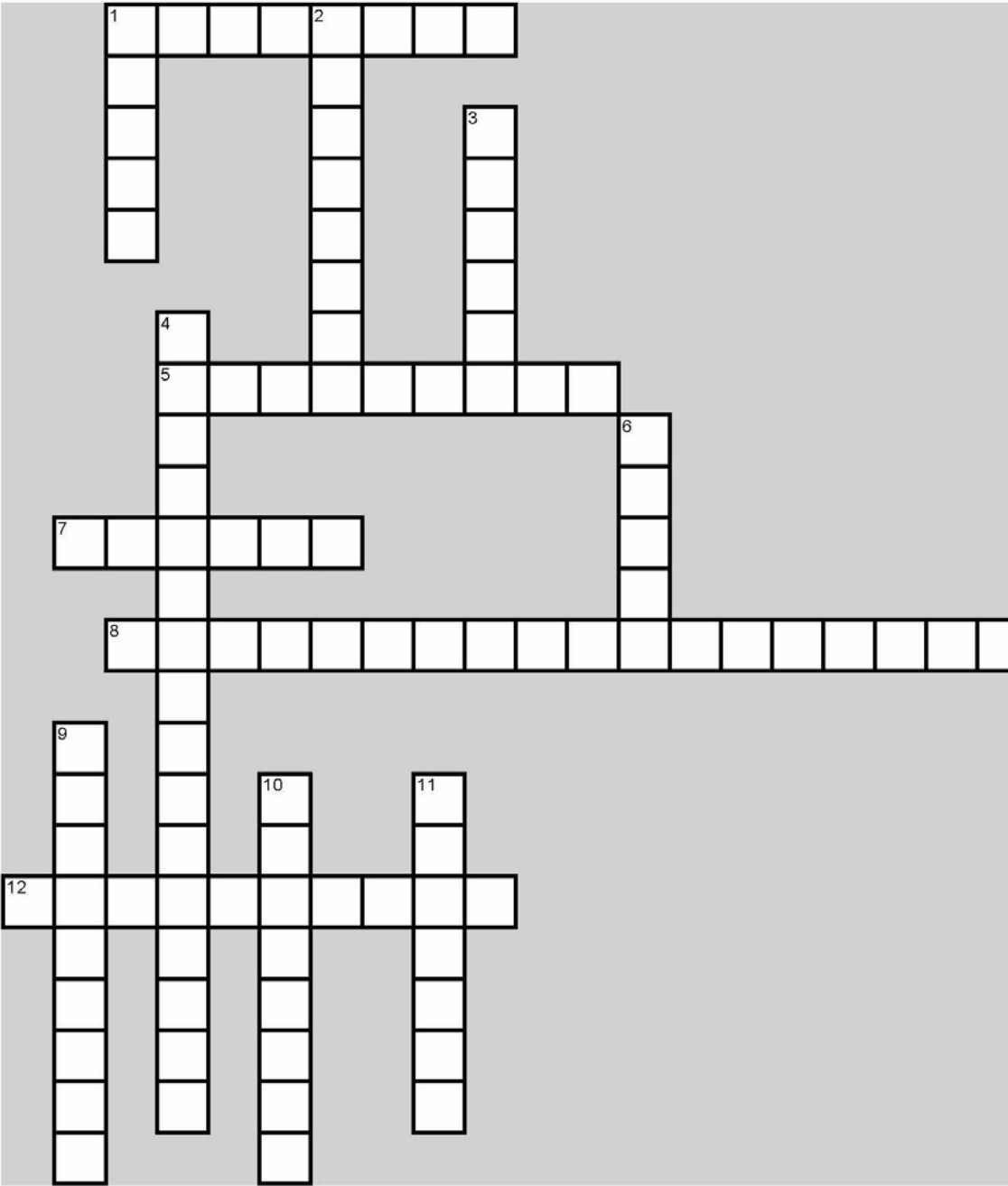
This database will contain every member’s name, office and contact information in an effort to make staying in touch and up to date much easier.

Overall, the National Grange hopes this will ease the burden placed on secretaries. “I think that the database will make things simpler and simplify the quarterly report process,” said Jimmy Gentry, North Carolina State Grange President.

Some might be worried that the new database will be hard to navigate and use but a demonstrationby National Grange IT Director Stephanie Wilkins showed it to be user friendly and easy to navigate. this is not the case. “Adding in new information takes only a matter of minutes and changes can be made in seconds,” Wilkins said.

Many members may feel uncomfortable having their information on-line but the site boasts strong security and encryption so that they only people who will have access to the information will have to have a valid username and password.

Who Is Being Installed?



ACROSS

- 1. may you never labor in vain
- 5. has crumbled into dust
- 7. encourage the education of the children
- 8. the associations so formed prove honorable
- 12. that they hold you in high esteem

DOWN

- 1. dignify the one, guard the brightness of the other
- 2. urge and encourage the young and the diffident
- 3. let all endeavor that youth may be studious and virtuous
- 4. be cautious, be true
- 6. is prepared to be the abode
- 9. you are honorable and worthy of the trust
- 10. the quickest and most enduring in result is the kind word
- 11. by referring them to the library

DeCIPHER

Use this code to figure out the secret message of the day. Write the correct message on the slip of paper and put it in the CODE BOX at the back of the session hall and be entered for a chance to win a prize!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
L	G	A	S	Z	D	I	J	P	R	H	Y	Q
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W	X	B	C	U	F	M	T	N	O	V	E	K

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(910)990-9365

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