

The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE



JANUARY 2017

NEW YEAR, NEW DIRECTION, NEW MAGAZINE

#150YEARSOFGRANGE

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A Rich History

BETSY HUBER

National Master

The New Year has begun – 2017 – the 150th birthday year of the Grange! I hope your Grange will take some time this year to learn more about our organization's rich history and the many benefits and conveniences we enjoy today because our forefathers worked hard for them through the Grange.

For instance, an early and probably the most famous legislative effort of the Grange was fighting the railroads, who because they held a

monopoly, were charging exorbitant rates on transportation of farm products to market.

The Granger Laws, passed in the late 1860s-early 1870s, were one of the most outstanding achievements of Grange history. They established the fact that a public utility owes a definite responsibility to the public, and that a reasonable degree of governmental regulation will always be necessary to enforce that responsibility.

Another early effort of the Grange was demand for a separate U.S. Department of Agriculture as early

Continued on page 4

2017 NATIONAL GRANGE OFFICERS

BETSY HUBER
National Master

JIMMY GENTRY
National Overseer

PHIL PRELLI
Exec. Committee Chair

DUANE SCOTT
Exec. Committee Secretary

LEROY WATSON
Exec. Committee Member

JOE FRYMAN
Exec. Committee Member

CHRISTINE HAMP
National Lecturer

JUDY SHERROD
National Secretary

BARBARA BORDERIEUX
National Chaplain

WILLIAM "CHIP" NARVEL
National Steward

JOHN PLANK
National Asst. Steward

BRENDA ROUSSELLE
National Lady Asst. Steward

DWIGHT BALDWIN
National Treasurer

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSTON
National Gatekeeper

CLAIRE LOGAN
National Ceres

SUSAN NOAH
National Pomona

MARIE NICHOLSON
National Flora

BRUCE CROUCHER
High Priest of Demeter

JAMES A. OWENS
Priest Annalist

ROGER BOSTWICK
Priest Archon

GRANGE LEGISLATIVE ROUND-UP

GRANGE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR ATTENDS AG LISTENING SESSION

KIM STEFANICK
Communications Intern

Grange Legislative Director Burton Eller attended an Agriculture Transition Team listening session earlier this month. During the listening session, which took place on Jan. 4, Eller spoke on multiple topics relating to the Grange including its 150th anniversary as well as Immigration, Farm Bill Preparation, Infrastructure, Healthcare, and expanding broadband connectivity to more rural areas.

During an interview with Agri-Pulse in January, National Grange Master Betsy Huber said one of the top issues for the Grange this year will be expanding broadband communications.

“Too many rural areas are without adequate service,” Huber said.

“WE ALSO PLAN TO BE VERY ACTIVE ON THE FARM BILL... WE DON'T WANT TO TAKE FOOD AWAY FROM THE HUNGRY, BUT THERE NEEDS TO BE OVERSIGHT TO ELIMINATE ABUSES.”

Eller spoke about the importance of broadband connectivity in rural areas during the Agriculture Transition Team listening session.

“The expansion of high speed connectivity into rural and underserved areas is a perennial priority for Grangers,” Eller said. It (connectivity) is necessary for precision agriculture, telemedicine, teleeducation, telebusiness.”

Eller also noted that the “revitalization of rural America depends on connectivity.”

Also taking a stance on the possible repeal and replace of the Affordable Care Act, Huber released a statement on Jan. 10 asserting the organizations views.

“As our lawmakers look to repeal Obamacare and consider its replacement, we ask them to keep in mind that millions of people stand to lose the subsidies that are helping them afford healthcare, which could lead to a tremendous increase in patients coming to hospitals without the means to pay,” Huber said. “This growth in uncompensated care would adversely affect rural hospitals causing them to potentially limit hours, shutter specialty units, or close their doors entirely. Any of these results would have a harmful effect on health care in communities across the country as well as on local economies that rely on employers – like hospitals – to bring needed jobs. Any repeal bill should at the same time reverse the cuts to Medicare – especially those made to hospitals.”

To keep up to date on Grange political and policy news, look for the Patron's Chain every month and check our website for new information.

MASTER'S ADDRESS

From page 2

as 1876. It was met with strong resistance and even ridicule from Congress, who stated agriculture was not of sufficient importance to be accorded a seat at the Cabinet table.

Finally in 1889 the victory was won when President Grover Cleveland appointed the first Secretary of Agriculture with full Cabinet status, Norman J. Colman of Missouri. Mr. Colman was a Grange member and had been Master of Potomac Grange #1 in DC; he was a very active supporter of the Grange movement.

Other early efforts were better rural roads to markets, the Farm Credit Administration, rural electrification, land grant colleges with the Morrill Act, agricultural experiment stations with the Hatch Act, the Extension Service and vocational agriculture, 4-H and FFA, soil conservation legislation, the Pure Food & Drug Act, temperance and woman suffrage—I could go on and on! Why not pick a topic for each meeting

WHY NOT PICK A TOPIC FOR EACH MEETING TO EXPLORE THROUGH RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION, INFORMING YOUR MEMBERS ABOUT SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF GRANGE IMPORTANCE THROUGH THE LAST 150 YEARS?

to explore through research and discussion, informing your members about some of the highlights of Grange importance through the last 150 years?

*You can find out more about Grange history by ordering some of the Grange e-books. *The Grange: Friend of the Farmer* by Charles M. Gardner and *People, Pride and Progress* by David H. Howard both have much interesting information about our early years. They are available from the Amazon Kindle store.*

MAKE IT A GOOD DAY! GRANGE IS PREMIERING MAGAZINE

The National Grange is premiering a new quarterly print publication next month titled “Good Day!”

Filled with Grange news, stories, and events, as well as other non-Grange content, we are sure you will love this high-quality magazine. This first issue focuses on family traditions and includes wonderful stories, lovely recipes, a children’s page and much more.

For just \$14 annually, you can order a subscription to this magazine. It will make a great Valentine’s Day or birthday gift for any Grangers you know.

“This is something you can read, then hand to your neighbor down the street who you’ve always thought would make a wonderful Granger and you both can enjoy it,” Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana said.

To subscribe by phone call Loretta Washington at 202-628-3507 ext. 109.

CO-BRANDING + FUND RAISING

MIKE WARNER
Monroe Classic, Inc.

As we move forward into the new year I thought it would be appropriate to talk about new ideas including co-branding and fund raising ideas.

With the expansion of our Grange branded items offered on line at www.monroeclassic.com have you ever thought about the idea of expanding the Grange message and visibility to others in your local communities by co-branding with other organizations or businesses? This concept could easily lead to programs that are sponsored or co-sponsored by others! Co-branding is the concept of taking a promotional item and printing the Grange logo along with other logos or names of other businesses and/or organizations.

BENEFITS TO YOUR GRANGE:

- Increased visibility of your Grange leading to new member opportunities.
- Decreasing the expense of programs your Grange may be paying for on its own.
- Being recognized as being proactive in today's world of marketing.
- Building a better presence in your community of the various community service projects you may be involved in.
- Transforming past, current and future events into more exciting venues.

"HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE IDEA OF EXPANDING THE GRANGE MESSAGE AND VISIBILITY TO OTHERS IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES BY CO-BRANDING?"

Signs & Banners – every Grange can always use more exposure for events whether it be a special event or just announcing your Grange name and meeting times. How about having the sign co-sponsored by others. Or sell space on your current signage to others to raise revenue.

Let's take the concept of co-branding one step forward and bring in Fund Raising opportunities. How about a custom printed promotional item that allows your Grange name to be printed along with other names and/or organizations including their logos? Pick a promotional item with an imprint area large enough to solicit several sponsors and have the item already paid for before even selling the item!

For more information call,
Monroe Classic, Inc. at 1-800-868-2330 or email
mike@monroeclassic.com
or visit The Grange Store by Monroe at <http://www.promoplace.com/grange>

FUND ESTABLISHED FOR GRANGE BUILDING

THE NATIONAL GRANGE IS NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR ITS BUILDING FUND.

KIM STEFANICK (Intern)

At the 150th National Convention, National Grange Controller Stewart Hughes announced the launch of a National Grange Building Fund. The fund will be used for the restoration and preservation of the National Grange Building located in Washington, D.C. around the corner from the White House.

The 11-story building, constructed in the late 1950's, was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 29, 1960, and has not been updated since. Several main components of the building are original and some need near immediate updates. Most Grangers may not know the importance of the building, but Hughes believes the upkeep of the building is vital to the Grange's success.

"The Grange building accounts for one-third of the overall income of the Grange," Hughes said. "In order to stay competitive in the growing D.C. area, we need to make improvements."

Hughes also emphasized that the money in the fund "will be used solely for building purposes including updates and repairs."

"THIS IS MORE THAN THE GRANGE BUILDING. THIS IS YOUR BUILDING AND YOUR PRESENCE IN D.C. AS A GRANGE MEMBER. IT IS A REPRESENTATION OF THE ORGANIZATION AS A WHOLE."

In a prime location of D.C., the building faces a competitive and ever growing rental market, and retention of current renters is vital. The Grange building is also the only private edifice in the federal block surrounding the White House and has been described as "a non-governmental headquarters for agricultural and rural families."

Will you assist in the project of restoring the National Grange Building?

Donations can be in the form of checks mailed to the National Grange Headquarters or by credit card by calling Loretta Washington at 202-628-3507 ext. 109.

151ST ANNUAL NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

NOVEMBER 7-11, 2017
RED LION AT THE PARK HOTEL

ATTN: SHIPPING COSTS HAVE CHANGED

LORETTA WASHINGTON

Sales, Benefits, and Programs Director

Effective on March 1, 2017, new shipping costs will be applied to the below items. The increase reflects a portion of the rising costs the National Grange faces to ship items to members.

View the affected items below:

Membership Recognition

- Golden Sheaf is \$10 plus \$4 for shipping & handling
- 75 Year Diamond Certificate and folder is \$10 plus \$4 for shipping & handling
- Special letters/Congratulatory letters: no charge
- Please note if you need the certificate to be delivered by specific date for presentation, otherwise it will take a minimum of three weeks to complete your order.
- Please note, all Shipping & Handling costs for National Grange items will now be the same price as the Grange Store. Prices are listed below:

ORDERS:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Up to \$10 : \$4.00 | • \$75.00 - \$99.99 : \$10.00 |
| • \$10.01 - \$19.99 : \$5.00 | • \$100.00 - \$124.99 : \$12.00 |
| • \$20.00 - \$49.99 : \$7.00 | • \$125.00 - \$249.99 : \$15.00 |
| • \$50.00 - \$74.99 : \$9.00 | • \$250 and above : \$20.00 |

Grange Hall Award

- The 100 year and 125 year award (includes certificate along with a 8"x10" wood plaques) are at no charge, but shipping & handling will be \$10
- Please note if you need the certificate to be delivered by specific date for presentation, otherwise it will take a minimum of three weeks to complete your order.
- Form available via website or contact Loretta Washington for the form

For more information call,

Loretta Washington
(202) 628-3507 (ext 109)
sales@nationalgrange.org

JUNIOR GRANGE 2017 PROGRAMS

SAMANTHA WILKINS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR
JUNIOR GRANGE

It's a thrill to introduce to you the National Junior Grange Program!

There are some new and exciting things going on within the Junior Grange Department. Here is a list of the contests that Juniors of all ages can be involved in:

- Public Speaking
- Sign-A-Song
- Creative Art
- Creative Writing
- Mini-Scrapbook
- Photography

As the Juniors get older they can earn their Super JG award, the highest award earned in the department, and participate in their State and National Ambassador Program.

"WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF GOOD DAY! MAGAZINE WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE ALL OF OUR YOUNG WRITERS OUT THERE! EACH QUARTER WE WILL HAVE A NEW TOPIC FOR OUR JUNIORS TO WRITE ABOUT!"

Each Junior is encouraged to earn Merit Badges. The Merit Badge program has been a growing program within the JRS for many years. This year we are introducing 18 new badges! Each of them being fun and creative ways for the JRS not only to learn about the particular subjects but to feel accomplished by producing something they can share with others.

Every year we strive to raise funds and support the Kelley Farm Project. This year is no exception!

"WE ARE EXCITED TO BE FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE JUNIOR GRANGE AS WE STRIVE TO GROW THE JUNIOR GRANGE AND CREATE NEW AND EXCITING PROGRAMS."

Oliver H. Kelley was one of the founding members of the Grange and his family farm is still going strong and is open for visitors to learn about a working farm. The Junior Grange would love your support as we raise funds for their projects.

There are 3 brand new ideas that we are implementing this year:

1) Within the 2017 Program Guide, available on the National Grange website you will see a 12 month guide for Junior Grange meetings. This is here to be a tool for any Junior Grange Leader or someone who needs a little kick start in maybe starting a new Junior Grange! There are badges to work on, craft ideas, hands-on activities, and Grange work implemented into each months meeting!

2) The newest award that we are going to be introducing is the AWARENESS AWARD.

a. Each year we will have a different topic that we will be working to bring awareness for. For the 2017 Grange Year we are working on Honey Bee Awareness! Instructions on how to earn the award will be in your Junior Grange Program Guide and available at www.nationaljuniorgrange.org

3) With the introduction of Good Day! magazine we want to encourage all of our young writers out there! Each quarter we will have a new topic for our Juniors

to write about! Submissions may be made via email to juniors@nationalgrange.org the winner will have their submission published in the next issue of Good Day! Magazine.

This issue we are looking for your best “Campfire tale”

- Be creative in telling a story about:
- Your family camping trip
- Junior Grange Camp
- Or any creative camping tale

RULES FOR WRITING CONTEST

- Contest is open only to Junior Grange Members in good standing.
- Each entry must be a minimum 500 words with a maximum for 1500 words, typed and double-spaced.
- Each entry must be labeled with
 - Name
 - Age (and birthdate)
 - State
 - Grange name and number
 - Mailing address

We are excited to be following in the footsteps of the Junior Grange as we strive to grow the Junior Grange and create new and exciting programs that will gain the interest of kids across the nation. Here's to a great year!

Fraternally yours,

Samantha Wilkins
National Director
Junior Grange

PROGRAMS THAT HAVE STAYED THE SAME:

- Creative Art- Theme – 2017 Contest winner will have their image as the logo for the 2018 year. Theme is: Stand UP and Speak OUT for the Junior Grange
- Creative Writing
- Photography
- Mini-Scrapbook

PROGRAMS WITH SOME CHANGES FOR 2017:

- Super JG Award. There have been some changes made for the requirements in earning the Super JG award. (For 2017 only previous requirements will be accepted as we transition into the new requirements. See Program Guide for more information.
- Ambassador Program- There have been changes here that will now allow Juniors from every State to represent their State as an Ambassador at National Session. One of these individuals will be chosen after a series of interviews to represent the National Junior Grange Program as the NJG Ambassador for the following year. Program requirements are listed within the 2017 Program Guide
- Sign-A-Song Contests: Now open for all ages to participate at National Session
- Public Speaking Contests: Now open for all ages to participate at National Session
- Merit Badges: 18 new Merit Badges have been added this year and are being highly encouraged as some will be a new requirement to earn the Super JG and become an Ambassador!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE JUNIOR GRANGE VISIT:
WWW.NATIONALJUNIORGRANGE.ORG

READY, SET, SEW?

CHRISTINE HAMP
LECTURER, NATIONAL GRANGE

Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of the National Grange Foundation, I am excited to introduce you to the first edition of what is sure to become an anticipated and treasured annual event – The Great American Quilt & Handicraft Expo.

In conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the National Grange, The Great American Quilt & Handicraft Expo will be held November 10-12, 2017 at the Center Place Regional Event Center in Spokane Valley, Washington.

The Expo will feature high quality, hand-made crafts as well as hand-made and machine-made quilts and other quilted items for sale to the public. Also featured will be vendors of high quality goods related to making said items as well as live demonstrations.

A special component of The Expo will be a display of Quilts of Valor received by Grange veterans. In addition, we are honored to be able to host a ceremony by the Quilts of Valor Foundation at which Quilts of Valor will be presented to Grange veterans in

the Western Region. This presentation will be a “must see” event.

Ready. Set. Go. Please consider this your first call to start working on your specialty hand-made crafts and hand-made and machine-made quilts and other quilted items (i.e., wall hangings, table runners, pillow cases, hot pads) to donate to be sold at The Expo with the National Grange Foundation being the beneficiary. I see this as a great opportunity for our local community Granges across the country to host quilting bees (or similar) or to work with (or challenge) their neighbors to see how many items they can make to donate. Use your imagination to devise ways to get both members and potential members involved.

Each item donated will be catalogued and the maker will be recognized by The National Grange Foundation for their donation.

Additional details regarding how, when and where to submit items will be released in subsequent editions of the Patron's Chain and other Grange publications.

You can reach me by Email at
lecturer@nationalgrange.org
or by phone at 509.953.3533 (voice or text).

Thanks for all you do! Esto Perpetua!
Fraternally yours,

Christine E. Hamp
Lecturer
National Grange

IMPORTANT DATES:

JANUARY 25, 2017

Good Day! Magazine Subscription
Deadline

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2017

Master's Conference
Hosted by Ekonk Grange in Sterling, CT.

MID-FEB. 2017

First Issue of Good Day! Magazine

APRIL 2017

Grange Month

What will we do when the DO-ers are gone?

NOVEMBER 7 - 11, 2017

151st National Convention
Spokane, Washington

ANNOUNCING THE GREAT AMERICAN QUILT & HANDICRAFT EXPO:

NOVEMBER 7 - 11, 2017
151ST NATIONAL CONVENTION
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

Complete contest information will be made available in January edition of The Patron's Chain.
Stay Tuned!

The foundation, along with National Lecturer Christine Hamp and National Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana, will be providing more information in the January edition of the Patron's Chain. High quality, hand-made crafts and hand-made or machine-made quilts will be solicited from members to display and sell to benefit the Foundation. Submission form for quilt block can be found at <http://www.nationalgrange.org/lecturers-programming/> by mid-January

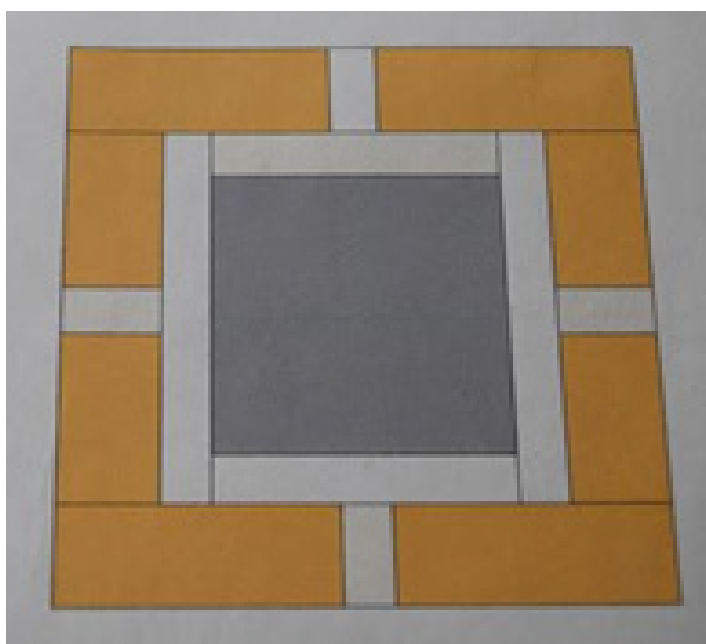
NEW QUILT BLOCK BEING USED FOR CONTEST:

CONTEST RUNS FROM JANUARY 1, 2017 - SEPTEMBER 15, 2017
CHECK WITH YOUR STATE LECTURER OR NATIONAL LECTURER FOR MORE DETAILS.

BLOCK INFORMATION

2017 GARDEN PATH, greens & browns, 10 ½" x 10 ½"

*The 2017 Quilt Block pattern is the GARDEN PATH in Greens and Browns with accent colors reminiscent of the earth and agriculture. The block must come UNFINISHED and measure 10 ½" x 10- ½".



BLOCK INFORMATION

Cutting Instructions:

Dark print (please use browns or greens)

1 square, 4½" x 4½"

4 strips, 2½" x 5"

4 strips, 2½" x 3"

Cream print

4 strips, 1½" x 2½"

2 strips, 1½" x 6½"

2 strips, 1½" x 4½"

Piecing the Block

(ALL seams are ¼")