

PATRON'S CHAIN

The Official Newsletter of the National Grange



View

Washington Youth member Lacey Rude, takes a moment to pose with the Junior Grange cow cut out and the super G cape on Wednesday, Nov. 14 in the Showcase at the 152nd Annual National Grange Convention.

Attend

9 a.m.-8 p.m. Grange Foundation Mercantile and Grange Store

3:30 p.m. Past Delegate Recognition and Delegate Recognition

6:45 p.m. Screening of Rooted: Cultivating Community in the Vermont Grange

8 p.m. Assembly of Demeter Mtg.

9:30 p.m. Youth Costume Party & Dance

Quotable

“When you’re living history, it’s hard to think you’re making history.”

- Kevin Cooksley,
Nebraska State Grange Master



On Thursday, 20 veterans were awarded Quilts of Valor during the evening session of the 152nd Annual National Grange Convention. | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

20 awarded Quilts of Valor

BY PAUL HYLAND
Communication Fellow

On Wednesday night, 20 veterans from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, were given a very special award, a Quilt of Valor.

Though these were made just of fabric, they were sewn with love and devotion by Grange mem-

bers who appreciate the service and sacrifice of those veterans.

This was the second time Grange veterans were recognized in a formal program as part of session with Quilts of Valor, the first happening last year at the 151st Annual National Grange Convention in Spokane, Wash-

ington, when 10 veterans were honored.

In both years a single female recipient was given a standing ovation by the packed room of attendees, however Harold Bergeron, a 103-year-old World War II veteran stole the show and received special hon-

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35 Granges, 16 Legacy families honored

BY MAGGIE SWARTZENDRUBER
Communication Fellow

At the Distinguished Grange Awards and Grange Legacy Families Presentation on Wednesday evening, with Phil Prelli as the emcee, six state Granges, 35 Subordinate Granges, and 16 Legacy families were recognized.

These Granges are among the elite of the organization and should be proud of all of their accomplishments. Our Legacy Families come from a long line of tradition, having multiple generations of Grangers in their family.

Many of the Granges and families were there to receive their awards and smiles were found everywhere.

While the Legacy Family awards are still new, it is an honor for every family who receives it.

Don Schaeffer from the Zerban family stated, “It’s an honor to be in (the organi-

zation) this long and to be able to keep our children and grandchildren involved.”

When asked what this award means to her, Jessica Horton of North Carolina said, “It’s part of my person history, and has roots in my community.”

With a bit of humor, Renee O’Dell shared that for her entire life she has been known as a member of the Don Paulson and Sons family, while she showed pigs in 4-H it was under Don Paulson and Sons farm, she was never remember by herself, finally she took the bull by the horns and applied for the honor for herself and her family.

With a Ben and Jerry’s ice cream bar to celebrate the Grangers in the room were proud of their Grange History and enjoyed celebrating the accomplishments of their Granges and families with those of their fellow Grangers.

QUILTS
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ors as each other Quilt of Valor recipient shook his hand as they came up to receive their award.

Bergeron, a recipient of the French Legion of Honor Medal, proudly looked on as National Lecturer Chris Hamp told the audience of his heroism.

When a torpedo hit Bergeron’s ship in 1944, the list of men in his platoon and his amazing memory were the only things that led to the recreation of a roster of those lost in the tragedy in which more than 800 men were lost.

Alma Jean Heidenreich, also known as Heidi, served for three years of active duty, then joined Reserves, then National guard and served continuously from 1968-92.

When asked why she joined, she joked, “Well when I was in elementary school I always wanted to wear a uniform because wearing the same thing every day was a nice thing.”

The Quilts of Valor honor was something National Grange Lecturer Chris Hamp thought was an appropriate addition to programming for our Order after seeing the impact the presentation of a quilt had on her father who was honored at his home.

At that time, Hamp began working with the Quilts of Valor Foundation to forge a partnership between the two very patriotic organizations,

QUILTS OF VALOR RECIPIENTS

- Hiram Allen (VT) Army 1956-58
- Harold Bergeron (VT) Army 1943-46
- Roger Bostwick (KS) Army NG 1979-85
- Lincoln Cooper (CT) Coast Guard 1963-67
- John Cottrell III (RI) Army 1965-67
- Lester Gibbs (VT) Army 1958-81
- Douglas Hall (MA) Army 1977-84
- Richard Harriman Jr. (ME) Army 1966-69
- Wilber Heath (NH) Air Force 1965-69
- Thomas Hebeisen (NY) Navy Res., Army NG 1963-76, 1980-2005
- Alma “Heidi” Heidenreich (NY) Army 1968-92
- Richard Henry (MA) Army NG 1961-67
- Darrell Huff (ME) Air Force 1966-69
- Peter Ivers (ME) Army 1967-72
- Stephen Logan (RI) Coast Guard Res. 1965-68
- James Martin Jr. (MA) Army 1954-62
- William Overstreet III (TX) Coast Guard 1979-2009
- Philip Prelli (CT) Army Res. 1970-76
- Laurence Thompson (VT) Navy 1966-74, 1975-89
- Robert Trombi (NH) Army 1978-99

and that joint effort is called Under Our Wings.

It allows Grange quilters to produce the blanket of honor for veterans and each quilt then includes two patches, one showing it is an official Quilt of Valor and to whom it was issued for what years they served as well as patch with the Grange logo and information on the quilter.

“This program is an incredible way for our Grange members to put their talents to good use and show their patriotism at the same time,” Hamp said.

The first Quilt of Valor was presented at Walter Reed Hospital in

2003 to a young soldier who had served in Iraq and lost a leg.

To date, the Foundation has presented more than 202,000 quilts, growing from a single dream of a mother and has touched millions since its inception.

Today, the Grange is proud to be a partner and honor those in our fraternity for their military service and love of this nation.

After Lynn Carrier, the Vermont State Coordinator for the Quilts of Valor Foundation, was thanked by a veteran, she said “No, we’re thanking you.”

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Youth Team reflects on 2018 journey, accomplishments

BY JENN NAUSS

2017-18 Outstanding Young Patron

Greetings from the 2017-18 National Youth Team! We are Outstanding Young Patron – Jenn Nauss from Pennsylvania; Youth Ambassadors – Tessa Taft from New York and Jacob Gwin from Washington. We have had a busy year, full of exciting opportunities. We have especially enjoyed meeting other members across the country in the last year and seeing each region's unique flair.

Our journey started last November in Spokane, Washington, when we were named Youth Ambassadors and Outstanding Young Patron during the Evening of Excellence. We hit the ground running, meeting in December to plan programs, activities, and workshops for the coming year. We even visited Hershey Park for Christmas Candylane, a treat for Tessa and Jake, who had never been there before. In early December, Jenn had the opportunity to attend the 150th Birthday Gala in Washington, D.C. It was an amazing night celebrating the Grange's birthday!

Regional Conferences began early this year, with the Mid-Atlantic Leaders' Conference happening in March in Maryland. We led an Escape Room workshop based off of the McDowell Trivia Challenge for 2018. It was fun to see Grangers of all ages work together to solve the puzzles. Immediately following the Mid-Atlantic Conference, we traveled to Washington, D.C., for Ag Day. We learned a lot about the Grange's legislative policies and how to interact with our legislators. We met with our Senators and Representatives over the next two days, got a picture with Vice President Mike Pence, and attended a luncheon with Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue. Thank you to the National Grange staff for their hospitality!

The summer was busy with Regional Conferences! In June, Tessa and Jenn attended the Midwest Regional Conference in Michigan and the three of us attended the Great Plains Regional Conference in Nebraska. July found Tessa and Jenn attending the Northeastern Regional Conference in Maine and Jenn visiting North Carolina for the Southeastern Regional Conference. We were reunited (and



Jenn Nauss, Tessa Taft and Jacob Gwin served together the past year as the Youth Team. | Photo by Amanda Brozana Rios

it felt so good) in Washington for the Western Regional Conference. We loved traveling across the country to meet fellow Grangers and Grange Youth. It was interesting to see how each region had its own character and flair. We would like to thank everyone for their hospitality and for welcoming us this summer!

In September, Jenn and Tessa attended the New York State Fair and talked with visitors about Grange Youth programs. We have all continued to be busy in our own local and state Granges. Jenn works as a speech-language pathologist in an elementary school and was just elected Lecturer of the Pennsylvania State Grange, as well as serving on the Pennsylvania State Grange History Committee. Jenn loves Harry Potter, Gilmore Girls, musicals, and Christmas. She loved visiting the Von Trapp lodge in Stowe. Jacob is currently attending Grays Harbor College, getting his Bachelor's in Busi-

ness Management with a minor in Marketing. Jacob is always ready to fight any wildlife that cross his path and he looks forward to the day he can fight a bear with his bare hands. He has also loved the snow in Stowe. Tessa is a Junior at Nazareth College and is a double major in English and Inclusive Early Childhood Education. Upon graduation, Tessa hopes to work in an elementary special education classroom. She likes learning new languages and is working on becoming fluent in American Sign Language. Tessa has enjoyed her time in Stowe, but is most looking forward to spotting a moose in her travels.

It is hard for us to believe that a year has passed since we were named to the Youth Team last November. This has been an amazing opportunity that has given us so much; we hope that we have given back to the department in some small way. We look forward to continuing to serve the Grange in the future and wish the next National

California native inducted into Grange Hall of Fame

BY ANN BERCHER
Communication Fellow

The Grange Hall of Fame was created almost four years ago when Past Master, Ed Luttrell, called a committee together to recognize and honor Grange members who had played a significant role in the history of the National Grange. Nominations are submitted that include a biography, a brief description of the nominee's life and a description of his or her connection to the Grange and a critical review of his or her impact. These nominations are reviewed by a committee consisting of Gary Brumbaugh, OH, Arthur Merrill, NH, Mary Johnson, ID, and George Spies, Potomac.

Past inductees include: in 2015 William Saunders, Caroline Hall, Oliver H. Kelley, and Francis McDowell. In 2016 William Ireland, Aaron Grosh, John Trimble and John Thompson. In 2017 Eugene A. Eckert, and Charles

M. Gardner.
The 2018 Inductee is James W. A. Wright. Major James W.A. Wright was the first Master (President) of the California State Grange in 1873 and the primary author of the National Grange Declaration of Purposes which was adopted in 1874.

Committee Chairman Gary Brumbaugh introduce Joe Stefenoni to read Wright's biography. That biography will be posted to the National Grange Hall of Fame web page. Wright's 1874 Declaration of Purposes can be found on the National Grange Website.

Granges are encouraged to look through your records to find and research significant members of your Grange that have had a significant role in the National Grange's history. Consider creating a small committee of people to research through your records. Complete a short form for consideration of your nominee by the committee. Once the short form has been received and accepted to be

considered, a longer form must be completed. It is most important for the biography submitted on the long form to be complete, as this is what will be posted on the Virtual Hall of Fame website. The forms for submitting your nominations are found on the National Grange Website.

The Grange Hall of Fame recommends that State Granges investigate creating their own State Grange Hall of Fame and seriously look back at early State Grange History for ideas and prominent members. This will aid State Granges in finding suitable nominations for the National Grange Hall of Fame.

Charles M. Gardener's THE GRANGE—Friend of the Farmer contains much early Grange history. Therefore, it is a potential source of good ideas and other general information. The inductees will be announced each year at the National Grange Convention on Wednesday evening.

OP-ED

Quilt of Valor amazing gift for veterans

BY PAUL HYLAND
Communication Fellow

Last night you probably watched 20 veterans receive their Quilts of Valor. These people served their country, like me. They respect the flag, and they would go back if our country asked into service.

Earlier this year, I too got a Quilt of Valor.

Two women, Bobbi and Jan presented the quilt to me.

That day, I was one of seven vets who received a quilt. When my turn came, Bobbi and Jan came up to me.

I stood up I opened my arms to hug Bobbi.

We both cried.
Then Jan said, "Do I get a hug too?"
It meant so much. I can't put it into words.

I hugged her. Then Jan and I cried. and the quilt was presented

I read the label that showed it was a Quilt of Valor. All I thought of was how much love must have gone into making the quilt. I was deeply



touched by the experience!
If you have the chance to help in some way honor a veteran with a Quilt of Valor or support the Quilts of Valor Foundation, I encourage you to do so. It means the world to veterans to be wrapped in warmth and love. It reminds us that there is a nation that loves us for our service and of the love we have for our country.
It warms us.

Find inspiration at the Showcase this week

BY KARIE BLASINGAME
Senior Communication Fellow

Make sure you venture down to the Showcase, which features the Grange Store by Monroe Classic and more, in the Green Mountain Room this year. New this year will be a table featuring IMR Digital which is a digital preservation service that could work with your Grange to save historical documents and Grange history.

Check out some of the new Youth items in the Grange Store by Monroe Classic. There are many new items including a new string backpack and tumbler. Classic Grange items like ties and scarves can be found as well as playing cards and pens if you forgot to bring yours to session.

Michael Glaser, a representative from IMR Digital, a digital preservation service, which just completed work for the Pennsylvania State Grange and is working on books from the National Grange, is with us this weekend to explain how they can preserve your historical documents digitally for our past to preserved for the future. If your Grange is interested in that make sure you visit their table or their website imrdigital.com. Glaser said, they “quote pricing to every location depending on the size of the preservation.”

A favorite among Grangers is the Dictionary Project, where Gary Pollmiller, a Rotary member from Kansas is manning the table and sharing how he enjoys handing out dictionaries in his home area. Pollmiller said “handing out the dictionaries is where the rubber meets the road, where we get to see how much the students appreciate the book.” “Children having knowledge at their fingertips makes them proud to learn and challenges them to stay in school.” Where Poll-



You can find many new ideas and potential partnerships when walking through the Showcase in Green Mountain Room and its lobby. | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

Miller delivers dictionaries there is a question on a scholarship form that asks students if they remember receiving a dictionary in the 3rd grade and if they remember it. Pollmiller stated “the application makes it more relevant to people.” Pollmiller shared that someone he met through the Dictionary Project celebrated the year the 3rd graders are going to graduate from high school which “provides a subtle incentive for them to stay in school.” Many Granges also participate in the Dictionary Project which over its 23 years since its founding has given over 30.1 million dictionaries to students in all 50 states and over 40 different countries.

The GROW club silent auction items are on display in the Green Mountain room. Make sure you check out any item you may want to take home with you. Youth boards are on display for all to see. Check out all

the things the Youth Team has done this year.

Junior projects are on display for all to see. The Juniors projects are impressive as always. Make sure to pick a glittery leaf off one of the trees near the meeting room. Inside you will find a dollar amount, please donate the written amount or more to help support our Junior Grangers.

Featured in the Grange store are sympathy, thank you and other Grange cards to send to your members. Along with those is Walter Boomsma’s book Exploring Traditions-Celebrating the Grange Way of Life. Get yours before it’s gone. Hopefully you were able to stop in while he was signing copies on Wednesday. Check out what other items Loretta Washington has for sale.

Make a trip down to the Green Mountain Room this week to see everything it has to offer.

ENJOY CONVENTION ACROSS MEDIUMS & ACROSS THE WORLD

Several parts of the 152nd Annual National Grange Convention will be live-broadcast through our Facebook page, National Grange, this week. Also, daily reports and updates will be aired on Grange Radio at grangeradio.org. A digital version of the convention newsletter will be distributed to our email list and posted to the National Grange website. Tell your friends to tune in!

2 offer youth view, learn as part of Trimble experience

BY DEREK SNYDER
Communication Fellow

Every year, the John Trimble Legislative Experience allows for one or multiple youth members to work as an honorary delegate in helping to develop and advocate for the resolutions being discussed at National Grange that will dictate the future policies and positions of the organization. This year, the National Grange is excited to welcome Philip Vonada and Leroy Squire as the 2018 John Trimble Legislative Experience Members.

Philip Vonada, 30, from Pennsylvania, is a member of Penns Valley Grange #158 and currently works as the General Manager of the Community Theatre League, one of the largest community theatres in Pennsylvania. On his Grange work, Vonada expressed that, “I have been advocating most for more youth involvement and planning for the future of our order.” Vonada also created the #AskAYouth in Pennsylvania, a movement to encourage additional youth involvement in leadership positions within the Grange. Outside of the Grange, Philip has been supporting initiatives for healthy living, Alzheimer’s disease and organ donation, and also enjoys spending time with his nephews and niece.

On the John Trimble Legislative Experience, Vonada said, “I have always been greatly interested in the legislative side of the Grange and I am enjoying the front-row experience. I plan to continue working with my local and State Grange on creating policy that affects our com-



Leroy Squire, California, and Phil Vonada, Pennsylvania, serve as the 2018 Trimble Legislative Youth. | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

munities, working for the future of our country and our Order. Vonada serves as a member of the Education and Health Committee and has been working on beneficial work that will clarify National Grange policy. Vonada gave his thanks to Mark Noah (OR) and Kevin Cooksley (NE) for their mentorship, as well as President Betsy Huber, Burton Eller and the Youth Department for this experience.

Leroy Squire, 28, from California, is a member of Central Union Grange #559 and currently works for the Forest Service as a Range Technician. In the Grange, Squire has been a member since 2004 and has been very involved on the local and state level, including nearly every California State Grange convention since he was born. “The Grange in Cali-

fornia is like my big extended family and has allowed for me to see new areas, meet new people, and assist others in any way that I can,” said Squire.

For the John Trimble Legislative Experience, Squire expressed that, “the Trimble experience does not seem that much different than being a delegate. It allows for me to have a voice and represent the youth members of the Grange.” Squire serves on the Ag Committee and has a wide variety of knowledge that pertains to issues both on this committee and others, such as the Conservation Committee. Squire thanked Tom Gwin (WA) for serving as his mentor, as well as the delegation from the California State Grange for their ongoing and continued support.

Special donor club raises money for Grange Foundation

BY LORETTA NIETO
Communication Fellow

Over the past 12 months, 28 people - and one Grange - have helped raise nearly \$28,000 for the Grange Foundation through the 1 in 1,000 Club.

The Club, launched in late 2017, allows individuals to help secure the Grange through charitable, and potentially tax-deductible contributions.

There are a maximum of 1,000 potential memberships, sold for \$1,000 each. These lifetime memberships can be “passed” to someone the member designates, but in order to inherit the membership, the designee must make arrangements to contribute \$1,000.

Couple and family memberships are not available.

Granges who wish to become Club members can renew their membership every 10 years for a \$1,000 contribution



or may forfeit their number.

For those who wish to be part of the Club, there are four different payment plans: participating members can either pay by check, online, monthly or every two weeks until the payment has been paid in full.

Members of the 1 and 1,000 club will receive a special pin, a certificate, and be entitled

to invitation-only events throughout the year and during National Convention.

This year at National Convention the Club is holding a luncheon on Friday for members and their guests.

You still have time to become a club member. See Amanda in the Executive Board Room.