

PATRON'S CHAIN

The Official Newsletter of the National Grange

Heroes take on opening



View

Eugene Fletcher, a member from California, created this seal using a 3-D printer and has donated it to be auctioned for the Grange Foundation to benefit the California wildfire victims.

Attend

Noon - Youth Director's Workshop

1:30 p.m. Community Service Workshop

2 p.m. Installation of Officers in Session

2:45 p.m. Communications Workshop

4 p.m. Membership Workshop

5 p.m. GROW Club Dinner

7:30 p.m. Evening of Excellence (off site)

Quotable

"When you're living history, it's hard to think you're making history."

- Kevin Cooksley,
Nebraska State Grange Master



BY MAGGIE SWARTZENDRUBER
 Communication Fellow

National Officers flew to their seats after a super opening on Thursday morning at the 152nd Annual Convention in Stowe, Vermont.

Donning capes with a Super G logo, the officers were embracing the theme - Grange Heroes - unveiled by National President Betsy Huber in her annual address on Monday.

"This theme references our community service work, but also our legislative efforts to make the country better, our youth and Junior programs that train our children to be good citizens and leaders," Huber said in her internal address on Tuesday. "We can be called to action locally at a moment's notice to meet almost any need. I'm sure we do all this without even thinking about it,

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2 take new seats, 1 re-elected Thursday

BY MAGGIE SWARTZENDRUBER
 Communication Fellow

The 152nd National Grange Convention saw the election of two new officers and the re-election of one.

Kay Hoffman Stiles was elected to Pomona, which she states it "came as a surprise, but I am deeply honored and excited to be part of the National Grange Officers."

Stiles also serves as a member of the Maryland State Grange Executive Committee where she was re-elected to serve another term in 2018. She has served as State Treas-



Kay Stiles, Maryland, was elected Pomona; Leroy Watson, New Hampshire, was re-elected to the Executive Committee and Susan Noah, Oregon, was elected to the Executive Committee. | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

surer and Lady Assistant Steward for the Medford Grange. She is married to Allen Stiles, President of the Maryland State Grange.

Susan Noah was elected

to serve on the Executive Committee. Noah previously held the office of

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but this year we want to call attention to the great work our Granges do. We want to increase our pride in our organization, to show the public why we are important to them, why they should join with us if they want to make a difference in their world.”

After receiving capes as part of the fun of the week, a gift from Communications Director Amanda Brozana Rios, National Assistant Steward John Plank and Lady Assistant Steward Brenda Rouselle reworked the opening drill for Thursday to reflect the excitement of many officers for the theme.

John Plank said, “I was in charge of the drill this year, so I decided to shorten the drill, add the capes and fly off to our seats, it was a lot of fun.”

Lynette Schaeffer, of the National Grange Executive Committee said, “I was so excited to participate in the National Grange opening this morning in our capes, I can’t wait to return to Illinois and share the idea with the members in my state. I know that many of my State Grange Officers will love this idea and run with it. Grangers are waiting to hear our call and act appropriately.”

Brozana Rios said the gimmick is a big part of the campaign, which was designed to get attention in a visually oriented culture.

“I’ve been doing a lot of reserach about ways to connect with younger audiences,” Brozana Rios said. “A lot of effective marketing requires a unique element and something that can be visually shared, something people want to take photos or short videos of.”

She said she ran the idea past the Junior, Youth and Membership Directors and when they were sold on it, they began to figure out how to integrate it in a variety of ways.



National Lecturer Chris Hamp soars to her station during the Thursday opening of the 152nd Annual National Grange Convention. | Photo used by permission

“From the Youth Handbook cover to the t-shirts and buttons and Junior Program Guide cover, there are ways we have made sure to spread the concept of Grange heroes across all areas of our membership,” Brozana Rios said. “Now, of course, the hardest challenge is to get this idea down to our grassroots so every Granger is reminded that their work in their community is heroic and can build messaging around it.”

A comic-theme poster using the hero idea has been created and is available for use by any Grange for open houses, suppers, service events and more. It involves little blocks that tell the story of how Grangers are heroes such as “nurturing hope,” and “feeding the hungry” and ends with the tag: “Grange: A fraternity training heroes for our hometowns since 1867.”

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National Grange Pomona. She also serves as the Oregon State Grange President where she was re-elected in 2018. Susan is married to Mark Noah and they live in Springfield, OR with their dog, Bailey.

Leroy A. Watson, of Walpole, New Hampshire, was elected to the Executive Committee in 2014. Formerly, he served as the National Grange Special Director for Trademark Protection and Brand Management and National Grange Legislative Director.

Leroy serves as Overseer for Poto-mac Grange No. 1. He is also a member of Walpole Grange, along with his wife, Cheri and daughter, Rachel.

He has a degree in political science from the University of Vermont, and a law degree from George Mason University in Arlington, VA. He also studied administrative law at the University of Exeter in Exeter, England, and is admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

In Memoriam
**HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE GONE
TO THE GREAT GRANGE ABOVE**

Clyde G Berry
Past Lecturer of the National Grange
Past Master of Maine State Grange and Vermont State Grange

Ellsworth “Bud” M. Beecher
Past Master of the Connecticut State Grange

Larry Wayne King
Past Master of the Tennessee State Grange

John Hagen
Past Master of the Colorado State Grange

Marjorie M. J. Tucker
Past National Delegate

Mary Bergeron
Past First Lady of the Vermont State Grange

Ailing Junior named Honorary National Ambassador

BY MAGGIE SWARTZENDRUBER
Communication Fellow

On October 8, 2018, the lives of the Sharpe family changed forever. 13-year-old Lillian Sharpe was diagnosed with Leukemia.

Lillian is the Master of the Ekonk Junior Grange and the Connecticut State Grange Junior Ambassador. Lillian was taken to the Hartford Children’s Hospital where she was diagnosed and was immediately transported to the Dana Ferber Cancer Institute with Boston Children’s Hospital where she spent 35 days. Lillian will have to continue to go to follow up treatments for roughly 2 ½ years in Boston.

Lillian had a spinal chemo treatment and bone marrow procedure on Tuesday, November 13th at the Jimmy Fund Clinic. Lillian will be at the Jimmy Fund Clinic on Thursday, the 15th and Friday, the 16th as well.

Lillian was planning on attending National Convention and interviewing for the National Junior Grange Ambassador program.

National Junior Director Samantha Wilkins was shocked by the news, “I am extremely saddened that Lillian was unable to attend this year. She has been an extremely influential junior in her state. I am pleased to be offering Lillian the position of Honorary National Junior Ambassador. She will have to opportunity to serve and assist in programs from afar as she is able.”

“Lillian is blessed with much strength and faith will see her through this dark time in her young life,” grandmother Sue Gray said.

Ekonk Community Grange is hosting their annual Turkey Dinner on November 17th and donating all the profit to the Sharpe family. Last year they had 220 people in



Lillian Sharpe was part of the team who assisted at Farm Aid to provide information about the Grange to attendees and sell produce at the Youth Market in September. Not long after, she was diagnosed with Leukemia.

attendance, but they are expecting a much larger turn out this year in support of Lillian. At the dinner, they are also collecting dollar bills with an “L” on it for the family.

The Sharpe and Gray family greatly appreciate all of the support from their Grange family around the country.

Cards and letters can be sent to Lillian Sharpe, 396 Ekonk Hill Road, Moosup, CT 06354.

7 show off memory skills in Grange code reading contest

BY CHARLENE SHUPP ESPENSHADE
National Youth Director

On Nov. 15, a set of Grange Youth competed in the National Grange Youth Department’s Code Reading Contest. The contest evaluates Grange youth and young adults on their ability to explain the fraternal function of the Grange.

This year, we had 6 contestants in the novice division. We also had one contestant in the patron division of the Tom Severance Award. The winner of each category will be announced at the Evening of Excellence on Friday.

Roger Bostwick, Priest Archon of the National Grange, was “excited to see more people competing in the contest this year.”

Earlier this week we printed 4 lines of code in the newsletter to see if anyone could “crack the code.” Who realized that it was The Use of The Gavel. One rap of the gavel calls the Grange to

order and seats the Grange when standing. Two raps calls the officers to rise. Three raps calls the Grange to rise.

The Assembly of Demeter of the National Grange oversees the fraternal aspects of the Grange organization. This contest is a partnership between the youth department and the Assembly of Demeter. The contest tested the skill of Grange youth willing to take the challenge of “cracking the code” of the ritualistic instructions of the Grange.

“This contest provides Grange youth and young adults the opportunity to learn more about the fraternal legacy of the Grange,” said National Grange Youth Development Director Charlene Shupp Espenshade. “Congratulations to all of the youth who competed in this year’s contest.”

The Tom Severance Award is in memory of Tom Severance, a former High Priest of Demeter of the National Grange. This contest is sponsored by the Massachusetts State Grange.

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!

Tour allows Grangers peak into Vermont ag industry

BY LAUREN LINKEMYER

Communication Fellow

While travelling to our first tour stop, Grange brothers and sisters enjoyed conversations about our different regions. Discussion was leaning toward how wonderful Vermont is and how pleasant it would be to live here, quickly shifting to how to prevent bear problems at home. I.e.; do not leave trash outside overnight, so as not to tempt the furry beasts. Every locale has its share of predators and pests.

Loretta Nieto, of San Antonio, Texas talked about how bothersome opossums are in her area. Only for local Beth Morse, of Briedport Grange, to respond with how useful opossums are up this way. "Opossums can eat upwards of 1 million ticks each night," said Morse. A huge benefit in mitigating the spread of Lyme disease through tick bites. One town's problem can be another's solution.

Our group had the opportunity to visit the Cabot Annex Store on Waterbury-Stowe Rd.

The selection of cheeses available for sample tasting was incredible. I started with the mild cheddar, working my way up through increasing sharpness, to the Seriously Sharp, then the McCadam Adirondack, with a delightfully tangy sharpness, only to finish with the Orne Meadows, described as "a smooth Alpine style with a subtle sweet, nutty finish."

After enjoying Cabot's selection of sharp, extra sharp, and seriously sharp cheddars, the sweetness of the Orne Meadows cheddar was immediately apparent, and served as a lovely reset to the palate. Inquiring with our fellow travelers I came across Grange sister Brittney Oliver, who just so happened to have an interesting take on today's cheese tasting experience.

"I had the opportunity to tour Washington State Creamery during last year's National Grange Convention in Spokane, Washington. They make a cheese that tastes almost exactly like Cabot's White Oak Cheddar, and is called Cougar Gold," so said Oliver of Moses Lake Grange #1151, adding that "the caramelization flavor in both cheeses is very distinct."

Another favorite at Cabot was their creamy sriracha dip, little bit of heat



Youth visited the Vermont State Capitol building on Thursday as part of the tour. | Photo used by permission

and a little bit of sweet, in a creamy dip was especially delicious on the provided chips. As Grangers, we know how to easily recreate a similar dip with a sweet hot sauce (like sriracha), salt and sour cream.

Smuggler's Notch Distillery's tasting room for those of us of age, is right next door to Cabot and serves a tasting flight of their small batch spirits.

There were two front runners, the Maple Bourbon Whiskey, made from their gold medal 2016 World Spirits Competition award winning straight bourbon whiskey with 100 percent pure organic Vermont maple syrup that has been aged in used bourbon barrels, at 2 percent the maple sweetness is pleasantly subtle. The other favorite was their rum, a unique offering, unlike the typical spiced rums available at most markets. Smuggler's Rum is aged for 3 years in charred white oak barrels, the process is finished off with double-aging in 4-year-old whiskey barrels to infuse complex whiskey overtones.

The next stop took our group to Montpelier at the Vermont State Capitol.

We learned that the Vermont capital has the smallest population of any other state capitol, at only 8,000,

interestingly enough, keeping consistent around that population number for the last 100 years.

We learned that 150 years ago, a spirited young lad by the name of George Dewey, while getting expelled from Norwich University and nearly asked to leave the United States Naval Academy, accomplished a major victory at the Battle of Manilla Bay in the Spanish-American War. Dewey brought home two cannons, to be placed on the front lawn of the Vermont State Capitol.

In the senate of Vermont, there are two presidents, the Lieutenant Governor of Vermont serves as the President of the Senate, but only casts a legislative vote if required to break a tie. President pro-tem is elected by the majority party caucus and appoints committee chairs.

While there we learned the history of the phrase of "costing an arm and a leg", is from the variety of cost of self-portraits. Apparently, painting hands is a challenge, as is the placement of feet, so those paintings cost much more than a simple head and shoulder portrait.

Our visit to the Vermont History Museum was a filled with fun and in-

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Community service winners revealed

BY MAGGIE SWARTZENDRUBER
Communication Fellow

Five Subordinate Granges and three Junior Granges were recognized for their outstanding community service.

Humptulips Grange #730 and Humptulips Junior Grange both received the highest honors of first place. Humptulips Grange has a self-funded food bank that serves on average 50 families a month which is their largest project. Humptulips and their Junior Grange both participate in the youth community service project called Make Washington Warm which donates hats, scarves, and gloves to homeless shelters in their area. They also donated books to the Timberland Library Reading Tree and support the Union Gospel Mission.

Avon Grange #125 received second place in the contest. Avon Grange participates in the Words for Thirds Dictionary Project an-

nually. They also have Homeless Care project they contribute to and provide Christmas treat bags for the Backpack Program.

Marvel Junior Grange was the second-place winner for the Juniors. Marvel members are busy learning what it means to serve your community alongside their subordinate members with lunches for senior citizens, assisting with a chili cook off, and write Valentine's Day cards for the military.

Richmond Grange #6 was honored with third place in the community service contest. Richmond Grange hosts a dinner to fund their Words for Thirds program, and they were able to donate 333 dictionaries this year. They also donated 152 pounds of food to the Rhode Island Center for Assisting Those in Need. Richmond Grange also adopts a family during the holiday season.

Kirkland Junior Grange received third place in the Junior Grange

Community Service book competition. Among their many projects, they participate at a food bank and learn what it takes to run a food bank.

Valley Grange #1360 was awarded honorable mention this year, although they are very active in their communities. Valley Grange members run a milkshake stand at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show which helps fund other projects. Those other projects include sponsoring an FFA chapter and a local baseball team. Valley Grange also sponsors the New Life for Girls.

Clear Lake #692 rounded out the awards this year with an honorable mention. Clear Lake Grange donates coats and costumes to kids around Halloween, volunteer with the Aitkin County Habitat for Humanity, and Aitkin Friend of the Library.

It is strongly encouraged to show the great things that your Subordinate or Junior Grange is doing each year.

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teresting information. Upon our arrival, the 50-foot mural titled Salute to Vermont, wows with three-and-a-half centuries of Vermont history, from Samuel de Champlain's arrival in the Champlain Valley in 1609, development of the state's agriculture, then the boom of Vermont's ski and hospitality industry in the late 1950s, as captured by painter Paul Sample.

The Freedom and Unity exhibit presents the history of the state from the first inhabitants to the present. The museum's full-sized Abenaki wigwam, complete with pelts, ranging from skunk to fox, were an interesting feature. The fox pelt was easily the softest.

Gail Suitzer, Jen Nauss and Jacob Gwin enjoyed some historical wooden games in Jacob's Ladder and the Cup and Ball Toss Toy. In asking Gwin, from Humptulips Grange #730, what he likes best about Vermont, he says "the snow and the genuine kindness of the people of Vermont."

Youth Team a great year!

Junior members compete in speaking, signing

BY LORETTA NIETO
Communication Fellow

The National Junior Grange Sign-A-Song Contest and Speech Contest is held during the National Grange Convention every year. The winners will be announced at the Evening of Excellence on Friday evening, and they will also give their presentations at the Junior Grange Breakfast on Saturday morning.

Junior Grangers participate in these contests "because it's important to include people who can't hear, and for people of all ages to develop public speaking skills," Nettie Hartley from New Hampshire commented on the contests.

"I am very nervous and excited to give my speech about my penpal. But I am also very grateful

that I have learned how to speak in public even though I am 10 years old. I know other kids who are really shy and it is good for them to learn how to talk in front of people," Hartley said.

There was a total of eight contestants. Three of the contestants signed a song, two individuals and one group that signed a song.

There was a total of five speeches, four prepared speeches and one short story.

Colten Tarbell, from New York, performed the song "Fly" in sign language, and also told the short story titled, "The Four Bunnies".

Sydney Bach, from Virginia, signed two songs, along with giving a touching speech about foster care children. "This a national

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Past delegates gather, enjoy food for thought

BY DEB GEGARE

Wisconsin State Grange Master

The room was filled with laughter, smiles and familiar faces as old friends gathered for the Past Delegate luncheon on Thursday of the National Convention.

Mary Jordan, Past Master of the Massachusetts State Grange, was the guest speaker to the crowd of about 50 people. In her current position at the MA Department of Agriculture in the Division of Agricultural Markets, she helps the development and support of innovative market venues, business expansion, grant opportunities, consumer and industry outreach. She shared some of her expertise to the group and gave participants some “Food for Thought” as they considered opportunities that may be awaiting them.

She explained that the Grange has basic principles which makes it a perfect time for our grass roots efforts to really shine. There is a resurgence on customers wanting to know where their food comes from and from farmers who also want to showcase their products. The Grange and Grangers can help to educate people where food comes from, be a source to the community and collaborate with other advocates in agriculture.

There are many opportunities for Granges to get involved. Ag in the Classroom is a national program that connects with area schools, where it incorporates agriculture into the classroom. It offers educators with engaging resources to increase agricultural literacy among their students. You can find more information on this program at <https://agclassroom.org>.



Massachusetts Grange member Mary Jordan spoke to attendees of the Past Delegates Luncheon on Thursday, Nov. 15. | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

Farm to School programs connect farmers to school food service. It provides local, fresh and increased value product into school lunch menus. Food service personnel may also receive training on the preparation of the product and students can learn how farmers produce the food we eat.

Fuel Up to Play 60 is an in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched by National Dairy Council and NFL, in collaboration with the USDA, to help encourage today's youth to lead healthier lives. It advocates for the consumption of low fat dairy and participating in 60 minutes of exercise or activity each day. NFL players visit schools while talking about the importance of eating right and the importance of routine exercise. Find more information on this program at <https://www.fueluptoplay60.com>.

Farmer's Markets can connect farmers to consumers right in their community. They are an advocate for fresh fruits and vegetables. If there isn't a farmer's market in your community, Granges could work with a

local municipality to create something for that community. The Farmer's Market Nutrition Program or FMNP was established by Congress in 1992, to provide fresh, unprepared, locally grown fruits and vegetables to SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and WIC (Women, Infants and Children) participants, and to expand the awareness, use of, and sales at farmers' markets.

Granges might want to investigate into educational opportunities they can provide to their communities. Some could include to host a public forum for farmers to discuss different topics such as environmental conservation, land preservation, food safety issues and food policy systems. As well as affiliations with different commodity groups or Ag associations could also lead to some great community partnerships.

“The opportunities are abundant,” Jordan concluded. “One just needs to look around.”

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problem that we as people need to come together and help children in need, and I will do my part by joining the mentor program for foster kids” Bach said.

The national participants must have achieved a first place in their state competition, or Best of Show at a regional competition. Only one participant from each category can represent their state at National Convention, while Best of Show winners from regional competitions can represent the region.

The contest is open to all State Junior Grange Sign-A-Song winners and Speech Contest winners, ages 5- 14 and is judged using a point system at National Session. Cash prizes are awarded to the top three winners in each category.

“I am honored and extremely excited to be able to show you all the talent that we have around the country through these brilliant young individuals” National Youth Director, Samantha Wilkins said.

In our backyard: Opioids crisis affects 74% of farmers

BY MAGGIE SWARTZENDRUBER
Communication Fellow

In 2017, 72,000 people overdosed on drugs which averages to about 200 people a day.

That's more people killed than in both the Vietnam and Iraq wars combined. This is also more than the number of people killed in car accidents or gun related homicide each year.

Beginning in the 1990s, pharmaceutical marketing led to doctors prescribing more opioid painkillers than ever before. Patients who were prescribed these pain killers became addicted, which led the 2000s to an even worse wave of overdoses when heroin became more prevalent after searching for a stronger high.

However, this was nowhere near the end. As the search for a stronger and cheaper high continues, drug abusers and addicts have found Fentanyl, a synthetic narcotic prescribed for anesthetic or pain. Fentanyl attaches to opioid receptors in the brain and works faster and better than Morphine or Heroin.

Due to being a synthetic narcotic, Fentanyl is relatively easy and cheap to produce. Fentanyl is being laced with Heroin to increase the effects of the Heroin in a faster manner.

With Fentanyl being up to 50 times stronger than Heroin and 50-100 times stronger than Morphine, and the need to continue getting a better

and faster high, abusers must continue to increase the amount of Fentanyl they take in, which can be deadly.

There are quick fixes for an overdose, like a simple dose of Naloxone (Narcan) up the nose of someone suspected of overdosing. Despite Narcan working the majority of the time, it is less likely to work on people who have overdosed on Fentanyl.

While many believe that drug problems and the opioid crisis in particular have only affected urban America, rural America has been hit the hardest due to lack of available treatment options.

Treatment centers for rural Americans can be up to three hours away, and the financial burden of traveling and taking time off work are not feasible.

This is not the only reason for lacking to seek help though. Often times, other ways to manage or treat pain, like physical therapy or home remedies, are not available in the area or no longer have an effect.

Perhaps the most important factor in many Americans not receiving help is the fear of being judged or looked down on by friends, family, and coworkers for admitting they have a problem.

In December 2017, the National Farmers Union in collaboration with the American Farm Bureau Federation conducted a survey that found almost 74% of farmers have been affected by the opioid crisis.

A movement has been started by the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Farmers Union that is called "Farm Town Strong" which aims to promote ways to overcome the opioid crisis.

The program offers the number for a hotline, treatment centers information, support for families, and where to dispose of drugs. Having resources readily available through a simple Google search has helped families, but the aim is to get the information in the hands of people in every rural community where resources are not as easily accessible.

While there is no single solution to the opioid crisis in rural communities or in general, there are ways Granges can help. Hosting an informative meeting with an organization, such as the National Farmers Union, committed to educating the public is an easy first step.

Being the hosting place of a drug take back is also another easy step if you have a centrally located Grange. Talk to your local Sheriff's office about a drug take back program and about how your Grange can get involved.

If you would like more information on the opioid crisis, how to get involved, or how to be a part of the solution, contact your local Department of Health and Human Services or see Maggie Swartzendruber in the Fellows room for guidance on where to get started.

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Getting off the elevator; the next step for membership

BY JOE STEFENONI
Membership Director

120 million.
By itself is a large enough number to make people pay attention, but when you apply it to organizations (like the Grange) it takes on a whole new meaning. In her book *The End of Membership As We Know It* (2015) Sarah Sladek emphasizes organizations need to connect with the 120 million people in the U.S. who are members of generations X (ages 53 to 37) and Y (ages 36 to 23).

In America, there are currently about 78 million members of the Baby Boomer generation. These 78 million have been, for years, the generation of doers and joiners supporting numerous causes and community organizations.

However, as successive years pass, more and more Baby Boomers are leaving our community organizations, leaving the mantle of responsibility to the next generations.

Community organizations and associations have faced a challenge reaching out to, recruiting and retaining members of generations X, Y and Z (post-millennials).

How often have we heard that “we can’t get new young members into our Grange.” Sladek argues that this

is not because generations X and Y are disinterested in joining organizations, but they are not like their parents and grandparents when it comes to allocating their time and scarce financial resources.

Members of the Baby Boomer generation joined community associations because it was “the right thing to do.”

Members of generations X and Y are more likely to ask “what’s in it for me?”

Younger generations seek a return on their investment (membership) that includes tangible member benefits, high levels of accountability, a sense of community and opportunities to serve in associations.

Connecting with generations X and Y is going to require a shift in the way we approach membership from top to bottom. In terms of our narrative as an organization, we will need to reconsider some engrained habits we have practiced over the previous few decades.

When we promote our organization, we have become used to talking about the various activities we participate in as a Grange.

While it is important to talk about Grange activities, younger generations what to know how you as an organization and how they as a member can make a difference in their community.

For years we have focused on the features of membership instead of the outcomes, generations X and Y are much more interested and attracted by the outcomes of joining your Grange.

Another major shift in our narrative will be in how we invite non-members to become part of our Grange family.

Saldek emphasizes that Gen X’ers and Millennials hate to be sold things. They are the generation of instant information from Google to Yelp. They don’t even go out to dinner without looking up other people’s experiences.

We cannot push membership applications into the hands of potential new members, it will most likely backfire on you.

Sladek also identifies three major objectives of generations X and Y; the ability to lead, the opportunity to learn, and the opportunity to make a difference.

These are all core features of the Grange, and have been throughout our entire history.

The responsibility is on our shoulders as the current leaders of the organization to mentor and support the next generation of leaders for our organization.

YOUTH GATHER FOR DANCE

One of the more interesting social events that happens at National Convention is the youth costume party and dance. This year was no exception.

The youth and young adults were split into teams throughout the week and each team had different themes for the party.

Jacob Gwin’s team was dressed as Crayons, Tessa Taft’s team was states, and Jenn Nauss’ team were Ben and Jerry’s ice cream flavors.

