



Be informed

Sign up to get text alerts from National Grange including convention updates by texting GRANGE to 24365.



Support

Visit the table in the Bloomington Lobby to purchase #GRANGESTORY magnetic photo frames, pens and notebook and pen sets to support the Grange Communication Fellows program.

Challenge

Solve the puzzle and bring your answer to the Good Day! table in the Bloomington Foyer. If you get it right, you'll get a prize courtesy of the Communication Fellows!

What year did Oliver Hudson Kelley buy the farm in Elk River?

Add each of the digits from the answer together.

If the above number is the number of voting delegates at a Grange meeting, how many votes are needed for a simple majority?

PATRON'S CHAIN

The Official Newsletter of the National Grange



The National Grange returns to Minnesota for the 153rd Convention officially opening Tuesday, Nov. 5 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington-Minneapolis South. | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

Welcome to the 153rd Convention

BY TROY BEHNKE
Minnesota State Grange Membership Director, Communication Fellow
AND ANN BERCHER
Minnesota State Grange Master and Senior Communication Fellow

Welcome to the 153rd National Grange Convention in Bloomington, Minnesota, a part of the greater Minneapolis- St. Paul metropolitan area. There are many great activities available throughout the next week and a good deal of work to be done.

Guest speakers during the convention include Agriculture Committee Chairman, Rep. Collin Peterson and Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner, Thom Petersen.

Emalee Culver, of Illinois, is captaining the registration desk. She notes, "We have a lot of people signed up to help us. I'm really looking forward to this session."

New delegate training began at 10 AM Monday in Atrium 3 and the new delegate luncheon occurred at noon in Atrium 7.

Admission of Fourth Degree members will begin Tuesday at 2:15 p.m.

Wednesday includes the Distinguished Grange Awards at 5:30 p.m. in Plaza 5/6 emceed by National Overseer, Phil Prelli and the #GRANGESTORY Slam at 9 p.m. in the Veranda BR hosted by the Communication Fellows. Grange Story Slam is a new event and all are welcome to check it out.

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our order and in society at large will be demonstrated with committee reports and actions, election of officers, and directors' reports beginning Thursday at 8:30 a.m. in Veranda BR.

The Grand Ballroom will host the Eve-

ning of Excellence on Friday at 7:30pm and the conferral of the Seventh Degree at 11 a.m.

After the Celebration Banquet on Saturday night, join us for a final time of gathering at the dance in the Grand Ballroom.

This location also provides the unique opportunity for a visit to the farm of Grange founder Oliver Hudson Kelley. A tour for delegates occurred Monday at 9 a.m. and two more will follow, one Youth and General Tour at 9 a.m. Thursday, and one Junior Grange Tour at 10 a.m. Friday. Also notable is that Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis is the resting place of another grange founder, Caroline Hall.

If you find yourself with free time after the session before you leave the region, speak to our National Lecturer, Chris Hamp, about the sites to see in the area. She has already spent a good deal of time touring the region and has many pictures to share.

The Metro area has two main cities and downtowns, Minneapolis and St. Paul because of the unique geography of this part of the Mississippi River. St. Paul, and before it Fort Snelling, were built around the northernmost navigable point of the Mississippi river and the confluence of it and the Minnesota River. While closed for the season, Historic Fort Snelling at Bdote can be viewed from both the I-494 bridge across the Mississippi, or the Fort Snelling-Mendota Bridge which has some historic significance in its own right.

Minneapolis was built around St. Anthony Falls in order to harness the power of the

WELCOME
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Little touches by host committee elevate event

BY ELIZABETH HINER
Senior Communication Fellow

The Host Committee Office, staffed by our Great Lakes Region, is located in Atrium 8 on the second floor with the Bloomington Room; they are offering a variety of services.

The host committee is meeting delegates and members who sent in their arrival times to National at the airport or train station. Thanks to the Double Tree who is loaning us the use of their shuttles, the regional office is able to offer this service. They are also offering shuttle service to Wal-Mart and Dollar Tree. If you need to go to either place, please sign up in the Host Office. The hotel offers shuttle service to the Mall of America, however before you go stop by the Host Office first and pick up your VIP shopping voucher, which entitles you to a coupon book and a souvenir MOA shopping bag (reusable). The coupon book offers \$250 at the MOA retailers.

The Regions community service event is a food drive for Second Harvest Heartland. If you have the ability to donate on site, they are looking for non-perishable food items. If you brought non-perishable items, please drop them in the Host Office in Atrium 8, otherwise you can donate online at <http://support.2harvest.org/goto/nationalgrange>



The Great Lakes Host Committee has an emergency supply station called Karie's Survival Store as just one amenity available in their Host Office located in Atrium 8. Stop by for fellowship and a few items you may have forgotten to pack. | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

For session, the host committee is looking for Deputies with the Seventh Degree to take the word at the door any time we open session opened in the Seventh Degree and doing the Seventh Degree Conferral. If you wish to do this, please sign up in the Host Office.

The Host Office is ordering flowers on Wednesday, so if you need flowers for corsages or boutonnieres you need to have your order in before 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

The host committee is responsible for getting the regalia ready for the Seventh Degree, so they are off to do the laundry the robes are all nice and clean. The host committee will be busy getting ready for the Seventh Degree on Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Veranda Ballroom, ticket required.

The State in the Great Lakes Re-

gion, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Iowa, are in charge of all the centerpieces for all luncheons and dinners. From what I saw while doing this interview, we are in for some unique centerpieces. These were donated by each state for the convention.

New this year is Karie's Survival Store. She is stocking items you may have forgotten at home. Some of the items are cold and cough remedies, antacids, pain relievers, etc. You will also find puzzles and coloring books and pens. There is water for those of you with CPAP machines and miscellaneous items. Stop by for all your forgotten "oops."

Master's Message by Betsy E. Huber

Off and running on the road to make history

National Convention time has come around again and the staff and officers of the National Grange have been hard at work preparing for a great session. We are so delighted to have you join us.

The host committee should be commended for all the work they have done and their creativity and attention to detail.

Each of the people working to make sure these events go smoothly are heroes to our

Order, allowing us to live up to the expectations of our founders.

For those joining us for the first time or who have added the National Convention to your annual calendar will enjoy the little touches that make this week a kind of homecoming.

I wish you the most enjoyable session and hope to get to speak with every one of our Brothers and Sisters gathered here this week.



Fellows already hard at work to keep you in the know

BY MAGGIE SWARTZENDRUBER
Senior Communication Fellow

Returning for the seventh year, the Communications Fellows have been working full force since Friday evening learning the ins and outs of effectively communicating a clear message.

This year we have six enthusiastic first time Fellows joining the team.

Troy Behnke of Sunbeam Grange #2 in Minnesota is still a fairly new Granger, however he was elected as Secretary of the Minnesota State Grange and appointed Membership Director not long ago at their 2019 State Session. Troy has a B.S. in biology with an emphasis in botany. He has worked in the aerospace industry for almost 20 years. In his free time, he is a certified judge for the Kansas City Barbeque Society and judges contests throughout the Upper Midwest.

Sharon Bower is the Overseer for Silver Sage Grange #24 in Nevada. Sharon's earliest Grange memory is living in Pennsylvania with her family as a child and her father racing down back roads to get to the Grange on time to vote, which instilled the importance of attendance in her. Sharon was a member of FFA and worked for years in the agriculture industry.

Karen Cline has been a member since 2011 and currently belongs to Calvert Grange #424 in Maryland. Unofficially, Karen serves as their marketing and outreach representative. She owns a marketing consulting company, focusing on agribusiness. Karen has degrees from the University of Delaware and Salisbury University, and is an instructor at the University of Delaware. In her free time, you can find Karen traveling, baking, and gardening.

Lorri Ann Freeman is the Chaplain of High Desert Grange #22 in Nevada. Lorri has four children and two grandchildren with her husband of 17 years. Partnering with the Grange, a local church, and the school district, Lorri started an after school program called HERO (Homework Enrichment, Recreation Opportunities) Club. With two kids still living at home, working part time as an account clerk, and various Grange projects, Lorri doesn't have much free time, but enjoys her daily activities greatly.

Lexie Suing of Oregon currently serves as the Lecturer of Crow Grange #450. They are a 4th generation



**TROY
BEHNKE**



**ANN
BERCHER**



**SHARON
BOWER**



**KAREN
CLINE**



**LORRI ANN
FREEMAN**



**ELIZABETH
HINER**



**LINDSAY
SCHROEDER**



**LEXIE
SUING**



**MAGGIE
SWARTZENDRUBER**



PHILIP VONADA

All photos by Lindsay Schroeder

Grange, and can't remember a time when they weren't involved in Grange. They currently work as a front end manager and bookkeeper for Albertsons. In their free time they enjoy drawing, crocheting, and playing Pokemon GO.

Philip Vonada of Penns Valley Grange #158 in Pennsylvania rounds out the group of new Fellows. Philip is the Youth and Junior Chairperson for Centre County and is a PA State Grange Advocate/Deputy, along with being Chairperson of the Suggestions Committee. Phil is no stranger to National Convention, having attended previous years as the National Youth Team Master, PA State Grange Outstanding Young Patron, and participated in the John Trimble Legislative Experience.

Returning to the Fellows program is Minnesota's new State Grange Master, Ann Bercher, of Sunbeam Grange #2. While typically State Masters are delegates for the National Convention,

Ann has elected to allow former Master John Crippen step in for the week. Ann joined the Grange in 2002 while working for the Kelley Farm. We're looking forward to having Ann join us for another year in the Fellows room!

Lecturer and Publicity Director for the Colorado State Grange, member of Florida Grange #306, and Lecturer of La Plata Pomona #10, Elizabeth Hiner returns to the Fellows program for a third time. Elizabeth married her high school friend and has two grown children. Her husband's aunt encouraged them to become members, hoping to continue the family legacy. In her free time, Elizabeth enjoys relieving stress through World of Warcraft, sewing, crocheting, beading, and cardmaking.

Having grown up in the Junior Grange, Lindsay Schroeder is no stranger to all aspects of the Grange.

**FELLOWS,
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The Old Homestead

On Monday morning, 44 National Grange delegates and guests toured the Kelley Farm in Elk River, where they learned about the historical and modern aspects of farming. The tour included the Kelley homestead, gardens and barn, operating as close to 19th century standards as possible, as well as the farm lab and the modern barn. The group assisted in sorghum processing, which was important during the Civil War as a "northern sweetener." The Kelley Farm, originally owned by Oliver Hudson Kelley, is now operated by the Minnesota Historical Society. | Photo by Philip Vonada

FELLOWS

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She currently serves as an Assistant Junior Leader and Youth Chairman for Virginville Grange, and is part of the 100th Anniversary Committee for 2020. Lindsay also serves as Pomona and Public Relations Chairman for Berks County Pomona Grange. In her

non-Grange time, Lindsay works as a youth instructor at an indoor sports complex, photographer, nanny, and works with labs at a kennel.

First generation Granger, Maggie Swartzendruber of Riversdale Grange #731 in Oregon was elected Lady Assistant Steward of the Oregon State Grange in 2018. After being selected for the Fellows program in 2018 in Vermont, Maggie returned home to write for Good Day! Magazine, assist with editing the Oregon State Grange

Bulletin, and took over creating newsletters for work. Maggie works full time in memory care and behavioral health, and loves her job. She is expecting her first child, Waylon, with her boyfriend in March 2020. When not working, Maggie enjoys day trips to the coast or a zoo.

If you see a Fellow, stop and say hello. We'll be talking to and interacting with Convention attendees throughout the week.

Stress Cow - \$3.00 ea

Long Sleeve
SuperPro Twill Shirt -
Small thru XL - \$32.50 ea,
2XL - \$33.50, 3XL - \$35.50,
4XL - \$36.50



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Navy & Stone!



4" Snack/Bag Clip - \$1.25 ea

Insulated Grocery Tote - \$5.25 ea

Silicone Cooking Spatula - \$3.50 ea



WELCOME

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falls for milling flour. Hence, Minneapolis is the home of both Pillsbury and General Mills. The museum at these falls, Mill City Museum, feeds your curiosity about Minnesota's stories, people, and places. Built within the ruins of what was once the world's largest flour mill, Mill City Museum is packed with fun for all ages. The falls are also viewable from a historic bridge, Stone Arch Bridge.

Minnesota Host Committee Member Donna Champion wants to remind everyone to, "Have fun."

Special thanks to the hosting State Granges of the Great Lakes Region: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, and most especially Minnesota.

Remember to Visit our Grange Store™

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