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Grange Decor

Members from around the country donated hand-made items to sell - all of which could make great Christmas gifts - as part of the Mercantile to benefit Grange Foundation. Stop by the Edina room.

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!

As of Wednesday, Nov. 6, name the three National Grange Officers whose first names start with the letter "C."

Then use the state abbreviations (postal) of each Officer's home state.

1. How many vowels do you have?

2. What animal can you spell using three of the letters?

PATRON'S CHAIN

The Official Newsletter of the National Grange

Huber highlights accomplishments of Grange in 2019 in internal address

BY PHILIP VONADA
Communication Fellow

During the opening of the 153rd annual session of the National Grange, President Betsy Huber made her internal address, where she highlighted the accomplishments of 2019 while looking ahead to what is to come in 2020.

Huber touted the success of the Grange Advocacy mini-gala, where three Champion of Rural America Awards were presented to the National Rural Health Association CEO Alan Morgan, the Honorable Ajit Pai, Federal Communications Commission Chairman, and Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas. Each of them made significant contributions in working alongside the Grange on legislative issues including rural health, broadband, and Farm Bills, respectively.

In her 2018 external address, Huber announced a new partnership with the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA) and the Prescription Drug Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI). This year, she announced that three youth from across the country participated in the program with Youth Director Mandy Bostwick. "I'm so proud of your youth for undertaking this issue, to develop a program to train more of our youth to go back to their communities and be leaders in the fight against opioid, alcohol, and vaping abuse," Huber said. She encouraged more youth to participate in the next training in Washington, DC this winter.

Huber touted the successes of the Masters Conference, Farm Aid, and the Grange Revival, and announced that the Grange Revival will return July 20-25, 2021 in Sturgis, South Dakota; and that the Legislative Fly-In would be for the "First in the Nation" primary in New Hampshire in 2020.

After years of issues, "I am pleased to report that all systems in the building [the Grange Building in Washington, DC] are currently working," Huber said. Updates to the building are still in progress, as well as a recent settlement against the former



National Master Betsy Huber presented her internal address on Tuesday to the delegate body. | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder.

building contractor. The National Grange Executive Committee has commissioned an engineering report of the building systems, which is being reviewed. However, many repairs and replacements will be needed in the building over the next 5-10 years at potentially huge costs. "It may be time to take a hard look at the building, its cost and benefits, and make some hard decisions," she said, "This is a challenge for the delegates here to consider."

Huber reported that both major court battles have finally concluded in regards to the California Guild lawsuits, but that the settlement was not enough to cover the costs incurred over the past seven years. "The California State Grange must fight for each individual Grange hall that the Guild has refused to vacate," President Huber reported. "The extended ordeal tested and tried our beloved Grange organizational structure and even our fraternal bonds, but our Grange laws were judged to be strong and valid by the U.S. court system... I thank you all for your support through the process, either financial or encouragement or prayers."

Last year's theme "Heroes in our Hometowns" was well-received throughout the

**INTERNAL,
cont'd on Page 3**

Huber lauds work, sets delegates on course to look past recent challenges during external address

BY JOHNNY PITTMAN

John Trimble Legislative Youth Participant

November 5, 2019 marked the opening of 153rd National Grange Convention with Grange representatives from all over the United States converging on Bloomington, Minneapolis. The National Grange President Betsy Huber presented her annual external address emphasizing work completed over the past year and sharing the direction for the year to come. Below is a summary of the highlights from her speech.

Huber said “The National Grange has been very busy this past year, participating in the issues and debates in Washington and across the country... Coalitions and organizations are coming to the Grange for its insight and its support on issues and matters of public policy” The National Grange gets its power from the voice of our grass-roots members. Please use the power of email to keep connected to the National Grange to receive notices, updates, reports, View from the Hill, Patron’s Chain, and much more.

To promote rural broadband Huber worked on the Federal Communication Commission’s broadband Development Advisory Committee, that came to an end last year. But moving forward Betsy has applied to serve on the newly formed “Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States. Huber went on to explain that expanded wireless internet access is needed in rural America to drive the transition to precision agriculture that will result in growing crops with less water, less seed, less fertilizer, and less pesticides. The National Grange will continue to priori-

tize getting broadband internet to the rural population.

Passage of the 2018 Farm Bill was a big accomplishment. This bill provides multi-year certainty to commodity programs, crop insurance, conservation, farm loans, SNAP assistance (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), foreign markets promotion and more. The farm bill set up permanent authority and rules for \$600 million for the rural broadband grant and loan program created by the fiscal 2018 spending bill. Moving forward, the National Grange is working for plant-based drinks and lab-grown meat to be named in a manner that does not confuse them with animal produced dairy and meat products.

This past year agriculture profits have been negatively affected by the trade war with China. We know China’s monetary and intellectual property thefts need dealt with, but the extended tariffs are adversely affecting both nations. On the positive side the trade pact with Japan has been signed and the U.S.-Mexican- Canada trade agreement is still moving forward. The trade war with China needs settled, but we know a conclusion could linger into the future.

To fight the opioid crisis the National Grange has actively participated with the Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI). RALI focuses on providing awareness and distribution of drug safe disposal kits. Three youth with Youth Director Mandy Bostwick attended the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) training. The training focused on training the youth how to build coalitions to address the drug crisis in their own rural and small-town areas.

The cost of prescription drugs has been a topic discussed on Capitol Hill and the White House, but no legisla-

tion has made it through the legislature. One solution is to import drugs from foreign countries. The Grange urges that this policy should not be adopted, as who knows what these drugs without FDA oversight could actually have in them. Surprise medical bills are another topic that has been discussed by Congress but not resolved. The National Grange will continue to push for resolution on these two items.

With this year being a Presidential election year, the news will be dominated by all things political. You can join the National Grange at the first in the Nation, New Hampshire Primary February 7-8 with more information coming soon.

All political parties can agree big money needs spent for infrastructure, but with the election cycle, resolution on how to pay for it will probably not be achievable. Ag labor is another issue that needs resolved with a comprehensive immigration bill, but will probably not be addressed this year.

Next year’s 2020 National Grange Convention will be in Valley Forge with the theme Focused on the Future. Focus on the future by being active in your Grange with visible activities that will attract new people that want their time invested to positively affect their community.

Betsy Huber ended her speech by quoting Heather Retberg a small farmer Granger in Maine: “With so much beyond our control: in world affairs, in the country, in our state, our community and even our homes and families, we must yet focus on what lies firmly in our grasp. What task at hand is ours to accomplish, what path ours to orbit, what sphere ours to influence for good?”

Do your part to influence your spheres for good and collectively we can influence our world for good.

Answers

The answers to the previous challenges will be revealed in the next issue of Good Day! magazine. Read it in late December/early January.

To ensure you don’t miss the issue, find Stephanie Wilkins to make sure of your renewal date or stop by the table in the Bloomington Foyer and renew or sign up for a new subscription.

Follow us!

Stay up to date with everything at the 153rd Annual Session!



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Use hashtag #ng153 to tag your posts and they may be shared!

Youth invite you to feel like a founder with donation

BY RYLEE FURR
National Grange Youth Ambassador

Have you ever wondered what it feels like to be a founder of the Grange? Whether it be John Trimble, Caroline Hall, or any member in between, it can happen now! The youth and Junior departments kicked off their sponsorship fundraiser this week. Sponsorships range from donations of \$25 to donations of \$5000. With a donation this week, you will be awarded a sponsor ribbon to attach to your nametags! You will also be recognized, along with your sponsor level, at next year's National Session in Pennsylvania.

The money is being raised for the General Youth and Junior Fund. This money will be used for many different things including youth housing at National Session, National Youth Team travel expenses, and contests for youth and juniors at National Session.

As a member of the National Youth Team, the General Youth Fund has helped me not only this year, but in years prior as well. It has helped to cover my housing at Nationals when I participated as a National Youth Officer. This year it has allowed me the chance to travel the country, meeting



The National Grange Youth Team, starting second from left with Outstanding Young Patron Brittney Oliver (WA), Youth Ambassador Rylee Furr (NC), Outstanding Young Patron Katie Fallon (NY) and Youth Ambassador Zac Mazag (NC) and John Trimble Youth Experience participant, left, Johnny Pittman (WA), hold a sign showing the Sponsorship Levels for the Youth and Junior Department fundraiser. | Photo courtesy of Mandy Bostwick.

new people and working to grow the Grange. Without this fund, my experiences would not be possible and I would love to see new youth continue to see what the Grange can do for them as well.

Donations can be made payable to the “Grange Foundation.” They are tax deductible. See any member of the National Youth or Junior Team to make your donations. Who will be the next Caroline Hall?

INTERNAL

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country. Huber praised the work of local Granges in increasing Grange visibility through heroic efforts to make the country better. She commented that Legislative Director Burton Eller has been “running in circles” to make the Grange visible in issue arenas in DC and state capitals, but that the National Grange “desperately need[s] an intern or additional staff member to help with the work.” Huber also praised the work of the youth and Junior programs, their directors and teams, and expressed excitement in changes to the program in the coming year.

“Heroes are characterized by courage, passion, integrity, honesty, confidence, patience, selflessness, and caring,” Huber said, “I’m going to recognize on Grange Hero each day of session and thank them for going above and beyond for the National Grange and for all of us... we want to continue to increase our pride in our organization to show the public why we are important to them.”

The theme for the coming year is “Cultivating Connections.” Huber encourages Granges to use the theme throughout 2020 to present the Grange, possibly in a new light, to residents in our communities “so they can see the myriad of things we do and realize how they can be a part

of us and contribute their own talents to our efforts,” she said. Use the theme to find connections in the community, to work on new relationships, and to find new ways of building our communities, our membership, and our future as an organization.

Huber encourages Grangers to “unlearn the old ways of searching for members, and re-learning how to be an exciting, attractive, radical organization like we were in the 1880s... Disrupt yourself!” Huber says, “We must stop looking behind us at our history, and look ahead - far ahead of the curve, to pounce on opportunities, take calculated risks, turn our understanding into concrete steps that take us from where we are today to where we will need to be tomorrow to be successful.”

Sue Roy, President of Ohio State Grange says “I thought President Huber had some really good points in [the internal address]... I’m glad they are getting the building taken care of. I think we’re going to eventually have to make a hard decision about the building... it’s becoming cost-prohibitive to keep.” She continued, “I’m glad to see that California has been settled and that’s going to be behind us soon.”

When it comes to membership, Roy said “The thing that we need to focus on is that - years ago, people use to come to join the Grange, but now we have to make an effort to go out to them.”

At lunch, state Commissioner of Ag talks need for industry advocates and young blood in field

BY TROY BEHNKE
*Minnesota State Grange
Membership Director and
Communications Fellow*

Thom Petersen began his speech at the Legislative Luncheon on Tuesday by telling the story that he regularly drove by Oak Leaf Grange Hall in his youth while traveling between his parent's farm and his grandparent's farm.

During the event the recently appointed Minnesota State Commissioner of Agriculture also thanked Minnesota's own Bob Quist for, "being a real advocate telling the Grange story over the years" with his work at the Kelley Farm.

Petersen had previously served as the Director of Government Relations for Minnesota farmers' Union since 2002.

During his speech, he noted that in modern agriculture there are both challenges and opportunities.

Among the challenges he highlighted were the price and availability of propane, that we are in "the fifth year of a three year down turn", the loss of dairy farms, the increasing average age of large animal veterinarians, which it now over 60, and in Minnesota has the lowest farm income it's seen in 23 years.

However, he also noted, "I'm really glad to see that the Grange has as a priority on mental health and working with people with stress", and "Groups [like the Grange] help you understand what your neighbor is going through."

Among the opportunities, he especially noted new crops like hemp and hemp production. Last year there were 40 to 50 farms in Minnesota that were licensed for hemp. This year there are more than 700 licenses, and the state has moved from under 1000 acres dedicated to hemp to close to 10,000. While stating that 75% of the hemp crop was used for CBD oil, he said, "We'd like to see the fiber and seed market grow along with



After the Legislative Luncheon, from left, National Master Betsy Huber, Minnesota State Grange Commissioner of Agriculture Thom Petersen, Minnesota State Grange Master Ann Bercher and National Grange Legislative Director Burton Eller pause for a photo. | Photo by Lindsay Schroeder.

it", and, regarding where hemp planting is occurring in Minnesota, "I was surprised to see it was a lot of the row farmers in Fairmont. There are a lot of growers down in that area."

Another crop he noted coming into use was Kernza® perennial wheat.

Audience questions included, "Are you having a problem getting enough farm workers in Minnesota?", "How is your FFA program?", "How do you entice someone to come into farming when the income is 26 thousand dollars a year?", "Do your hemp growers have a market?", and, from our membership director, Joe Stefenoni, "What trends are you noting when you compare our current conditions to the farm crisis of the '80s?"

During the questions session, Petersen went on to discuss that when corn was at 7 or 8 dollars, land prices, fertilizer, and seed prices went up in concert with the price of corn, but when corn came down to 3 dollars these input prices did

not follow suit and stayed high. Farmers being unwilling or unable to pay for these inputs caused them to begin to pay much more attention to soil health, and use cover crops to boost their yield.

"Farmers learn from other farmers", noted Petersen, which led into to his review of the sustainable agriculture demonstration grant program which is a Minnesota Department of Agriculture program designed to help farmers first research and implement new practices and techniques that increase efficiencies and decrease costs in farming, and then demonstrate these practices to other farmers. This grant program funds these sorts of projects. As an example, he spoke of a farmer he knows a farmer in northwestern Minnesota who now has 10 crops and 20 cover crops and shows his techniques to his neighbors.

He concluded by noting how important it is for agricultural organizations to work together and thanking the Grange for its work.

Opening in Form

Representatives from each of the states in the Midwest Region carried their state flags into the opening of the 153rd Annual Session on Tuesday.
| Photos courtesy of Lindsay Schroeder



Quilt block contest continues to be o’ sew popular

BY CHRIS HAMP
National Lecturer

The 2019 National Grange Quilt Block Contest has set a new record with 410 blocks submitted (and there may be more in the mailbox when I get home from Minnesota). Of the 410 blocks 13 were sewn by men and 11 were sewn by kids 13 years old and under. Also, there continues to be several contributed by non-members. 122 blocks were judged.

The 2019 block, Pride of Quillisascut, was chosen by the Quillisascut Quilters out of tiny Rice, Washington by virtue of one of their members winning the 2017 National Grange Quilt Block Contest. I asked them to judge the blocks this year so they could see the results of what they had started and in true Granger fashion they said they would “be delighted.” Afterward they said it could have gone a lot faster if they hadn’t been so distracted with oohing and aa-hing over the blocks and that it was exciting to see so many versions of



More than 400 quilt blocks were entered in the 2019 Lecturers Contest. | Photo by Lindsay Shroeder.

the Pride of Quillisascut! This group has also agreed to make at least one of the quilts from the blocks submitted which will bring them full circle.

If you would like to make a quilt or a top from the 2019 blocks please contact National Lecturer Chris Hamp at lecturer@nationalgrange.org.

Officers and Delegates of the 153rd National Session



Photo by Lindsay Shroeder.

Master's Message by Betsy E. Huber

Get your Grange gear today at Store

Have you ever been out and about seeing people in their collegiate shirts or hats showing their affiliation with an organization and thought: I need to get some Grange gear.

Today's the day. The Grange Store is open and there are many new items to choose from that you can wear to show your Grange pride.

We cannot expect to shake the idea that

we are a secret society without displaying our name and emblem and talking positively about the merits of the Grange.

Tonight we also salute the brave men and women who have or are part of our armed forces, defending the freedoms we so enjoy, by presenting several with Quilts of Valor. This is moving and we hope you will all join us to be a part of this event.



OP-ED

Young adults in Grange sometimes struggle to find place in Order

BY KATIE FALLON

2019 Outstanding Young Patron (NY)

When we were Juniors, running around the hall, pronouncing words wrong, or being so scared we cried, older members still loved us. We were sometimes sassy, or unpredictable, or just plain moody youth, we were still supported because we were the future of the Grange! We had all eyes on us, as we would someday become officers and wear the sashes that you've protected for so long.

We grew up, and started going to college, we started our careers, and now families. We still want to take our turn to don the regalia and protect the emblems of our Order. However, we're instead stuck in this awkward middle spot where we've started to be overshadowed by the next adorable generation and still looking forward to you, our more experienced generation, for guidance in our lives and in the Grange. We felt like we could do or be anyone or anything we wanted to, thanks largely in part to your support.

Some of us have been fortunate enough to be elected into

offices on all levels. Some were pushed into it due to declining membership, others are still too afraid to speak up when they want a chance to lead. We find our place where we can, including with the Juniors to keep them entertained and teach them about the Grange, and the youth, preparing them for life in ways we never were.

I myself have been fortunate enough to be a mentor to many youth. I voice my concerns and opinions, and just ask for a chance. For four years I filled in the office of a member who preferred to be on a bowling league rather than attend meetings. I'm not one to slip into the shadows, I work hard every day to prove that I can do more. Some young adults are afraid to speak up, as they think they might say or do the wrong thing, or feel as though since they are no longer kids, it's inappropriate to continue asking for help. Don't give up on us just because we're getting older.

Change can be scary, and it can be hard to pass on responsibility to people who are sometimes still viewed as children. Together, we can bridge the gap and continue to grow an organization we all love. Remember, we are here because we want to be productive citizens.

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Grange connects with 70,000 FFA members in Indy

BY JOE STEFENONI
*National Grange Membership
and Leadership Development
Director*

Just days before the opening of the 153rd National Grange Convention, the National Grange Membership Department was in Indianapolis, Indiana to participate in the Expo at the National FFA Convention. This year an estimated 70,000 FFA members, their advisors, parents, chaperones and supporters converged on Indiana's capital city for the annual event. This was the first time in at least a decade that the National Grange participated in this event. I was assisted by J. Allen and Shelley Cameron from Connecticut.

As we interacted with convention FFA members from across the country, our message to them was "what do you do when you hang up the blue jacket?" Throughout their time in FFA, members receive an immense amount of leadership and community development training. Their time in FFA is limited and the Grange is a natural next chapter for them to add to their story of service and leadership. Anyone who stopped by the booth was given Grange branded items as well as information on how they can become part of our great national organization. A special gift was also given to anyone who came by the booth and was a Grange member, family of a Grange member or Grange supporter.

Since Generation Z is much more mobile than their predecessors have been, we were promoting to them the National Grange's e-membership program. E-membership allows them to get updates about what the Grange is doing in Washington DC and across the country. E-members also receive a copy of the Good Day! magazine and exclusive digital content about Grange programs.

Over our three days at the Expo, we were able to collect 206 contacts covering 32 states. This does not take into consideration the people who stopped and took informa-



The National Grange booth set up at the recent National FFA Convention included many promotional items and giveaways for those who provided contact information or signed up for membership. | Photo courtesy of Joe Stefenoni

tion material, a magazine or just head about the Grange. Over the next year, we will be engaging all of these contacts with a communications package developed by myself and Communications Director Amanda Brozana-Rios. Contacts will also be given to the appropriate State Granges for them to reach out and show what they have to offer to this next generation of leadership. I am hopeful that we see returns and engagement from our participation that show us our participation is valuable for years to come.

Our participation in this event would not have been possible without the generous support of a number of Granges who donated money to sponsor our promotional items. I would like to personally thank them

all for their support of the future of our organization:

California State Grange, Oregon State Grange, New Jersey State Grange, Oklahoma State Grange and Nebraska State Grange, Star Grange (PA), Carmichaels Grange (PA), Harveys-Aleppo Grange (PA), Delaware Grange (PA), Fleetwood Grange (PA), Kimberton Grange (PA), Hookstown Grange (PA), Honey Brook Twp. Grange (PA), London Grange (PA), Hayfield Grange (PA), Hamburg Grange (PA), Crawford County Pomona Grange (PA), Berks County Pomona Grange (PA), Cheater-Delaware Pomona Grange (PA), People Improving Colorado Kids (CO).

Location, dates of 2021 Grange Revival revealed

BY ANN BERCHER

Minnesota State Grange Master and Senior Communications Fellow

About 70 Grange members from across the nation gathered on Mulberry Mountain in Ozark, AK for 5 laid-back days where no meetings were scheduled and no Grange business was attended to. Instead, these brothers and sisters got to know one another better and developed new friendships while camping, lodging, picnicking, crafting, swimming, attending campfires, fishing and spending time together.

What was the best part about the Revival? According to Chris Hamp, National Lecturer from Washington, “Fellowship and the ability to just hang out with fellow Grangers, put your feet up, and have absolutely no schedule or timetable to do anything. It was low key and relaxed unlike the schedule and time constraints of Convention.”

When asked about the different kinds of activities, Samantha Wilkins, National Junior Grange Director and Operations Coordinator, who had brought her whole family that includes four sons, said, “the best part was all of the activities for all ages and that crossed generations.” Activities included a series of game challenges “Olympics For All”, organized by Joan Smith of New Jersey, a geocaching workshop by Bob Trombi of New Hampshire and line dancing led by Cindy Greer, National Ceres, of Colorado.

Chris Johnston, National Gatekeeper from Michigan took his family fishing. Mandy Bostwick thought the best part of the week was swimming in the river. “I did it twice!” she exclaimed. Harry Greer of Colorado said, “The most memorable thing about the week was probably the bear that came through the campground.” And yes, there was a bear that went beyond dumpster diving and feasted on food from various coolers left outside

Duane Hamp from Washington said “Camaraderie and the opportunity to get to know each other was my highlight. There



were no expectations and no timetables unless you wanted to participate in some scheduled fun activities. You would hear people saying, “You are welcome to join us because we are going at this time...” Barbara Borderieux, National Chaplin from Florida was joined by her adult daughter and reflected on the week. “Getting to sit down with fellow Grangers and to get to know them on a more personal level was special. During Session there is never time to do that. I love camping and traveling but getting together with Grangers in this setting was the best!”

The next Revival will be held in Sturgis, South Dakota in July 2021. Get that on your calendar!

2020 theme highlights return to roots and everyday actions

BY PHILIP VONADA

Chairman of Pennsylvania State Grange Suggestions Committee and Communication Fellow

On Tuesday afternoon, National Grange President Betsy Huber announced the theme for 2020, building upon the 2018 “I’m a Do-er” and 2019 “Hometown Heroes” themes. “There’s a lot included and inferred in these two words,” Huber said, “cultivating... makes me think of farming, that excited feeling of hope each spring... Then the second word, connections... the Grange is and has always been about connections.”

Though the term ‘cultivate’ brings to mind the fields and agriculture, it can also mean “try to acquire or develop.” Through the 2020 theme year, Huber encourages cultivating not just agriculturally, but also our Juniors and youth in knowledge, abilities, and commit-



ment; cultivating adult members; and cultivating new relationships.

With connections, Huber outlined different connections that the Grange can make - in our communities, with the government, with the military and veterans, and more. She also encouraged cross-generational connections; connecting members and non-mem-

bers alike with the Grange’s history of contribution; and connecting “rural with urban, agriculture with consumers, to increase the understanding of modern farming methods.”

Wayne Campbell, President of the Pennsylvania State Grange is optimistic about the new theme, “and looking to the future and to stop looking to the past,” he says. “We need to rejuvenate and reinvent ourselves... if we want to survive, that’s where we need to go.”

“I hope you will use this theme throughout 2020 to present the Grange, possibly in a new light, to residents in your communities so they can see the myriad of things we do and realize how they can be a part of us and contribute their own talents to our efforts,” President Huber said.

For more information on the new theme, contact Amanda Brozana-Rios, National Grange Communications Director at communications@nationalgrange.org.