



The Patrons Chain

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OP-ED: Youth need faith of older members, opportunities to take reigns

By Mandy Bostwick

Leadership. We tend to hear that word and we just think of it as someone who is in charge of something. Leadership is so much more than just being charge. The Grange has valued the importance of having young members since its inception, but currently we tend to ignore the leadership qualities that our youth of today possess.

Youth organizations such as FFA, FCCLA, 4-H, and more provide opportunities for their members to lead a meeting, speak in public and generally comport themselves in a public setting. Sure, we have opportunities in our State and local Granges when the youth conduct the meeting, but how often do we truly give those youth a role to start their leadership journey?

My goal as National Grange Youth Development Director is to help our Youth and Young Adults by providing more leadership training and experiences. The 2019 National Grange Youth Team traveled around the country, talking about the negative effects of hearing “We’ve always done it that way” and also highlighted what each of the generations has to offer within the organization. Our Youth and Young Adults have new ideas, social media and technology experience, are innovative and have direct and concise communication skills. These are things that can benefit all Granges. It’s up to our Grange member and leaders to allow the Youth entering or continuing on in our organization to use their skills and in turn help bolster the leadership skills they possess and ultimately benefits our entire organization.

Master’s Message: Trade agreements great for American farmers, ranchers

By Betsy Huber

Last week was a great week for agriculture. The long awaited U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement was finally approved by the Senate by a large majority of 89-10, improving export opportunities for U.S. farmers. This agreement replaces the 25-year-old NAFTA, but it retains 90 percent of the original agreement and changes only 10 percent. The big benefit to dairy is the reduction in Canadian tariffs on milk and milk products from the U.S. It requires a greater percentage of cars to be produced in the U.S. by higher paid workers. Also part of the pact are provisions to protect the ozone layer, marine environment, and air quality and establish a fisheries management system to prevent overfishing in North American waters.

In addition, phase one of the China-U.S. trade deal was signed by President Trump, relieving uncertainty and loss of exports for farmers. China has promised to more than double its purchase of agricultural products to \$40 billion in soybeans, wheat, cotton and pork. More than 26 percent of U.S. pork exports went to China in November and the agreement will certainly increase that

number. The deal also makes it easier to identify and punish intellectual property theft and counterfeiting by China and protect our companies' trade secrets.

National Grange Legislative Director Burton Eller will explain more in next week's View from the Hill, but these trade agreements are very good news for American farmers who have been struggling and waiting for relief and certainty of markets for a long time. National Grange policy states: "The Grange must continue to work for sound trade agreements for agriculture by encouraging the Administration and Congress to aggressively ensure that American farmers achieve access to all markets covered by trade agreements."

I am so proud to be part of an organization of concerned citizens who work together to identify issues and provide guidance through our grassroots structure on what they hope legislators and regulators can do to ensure our continued prosperity in rural communities and for our nation. I encourage each of you to continue to watch for issues and submit resolutions of importance on what you wish for our legislative director to tackle when Congress is faced with taking action in these areas.

National Grange issues statement lauding final WOTUS Rule

National Grange President Betsy Huber applauded the release today of the final Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule by the EPA and Corps of Engineers.

"This new WOTUS rule replaces a rule that overreached the authority granted by Congress to regulate navigable versus not-so-navigable water on private lands. The revised navigable definition provides four clear categories of waters that are to be federally regulated under the Clean Water Act and details what waters are not subject to federal control. This is good news for farmers, ranchers and landowners."

A first look at best practices for social accounts: Password management

By Amanda Brozana Rios

Social media accounts, especially Facebook pages, are being embraced by many Granges around the country. But is your administrator using best practices? Over the next few weeks, we'll explore a few different tips, tricks and suggestions for Granges to review and implement to make their foray into the world of communication more effective so you can see a return on your time investment.

This week's discussion focuses on administration of electronic communication accounts and all other online accounts.

First, it's important to ensure the safety of these accounts, but also to have an access protocol in the event that the administrator is no longer able or authorized to speak or act for the Grange.

At times, we've heard that the member who has taken charge of a Grange website, email, social media account or other account has passed away, left the Grange, been removed from an office

or directorship with the authority to administer the account or otherwise no longer been able to play the role he or she once did. It's very difficult to retrieve accounts without security question answers, access to associated email accounts, phones or other methods companies use to verify the ownership of the account. Unlike banks, who will work with customers to put in place new administrators as necessary once you produce the appropriate paperwork, many accounts will be left open but be abandoned. Should this happen, it will cause confusion when someone goes to look for your Grange online and finds a defunct website or social media account under a more easily accessed name or one that previous printed material pointed them to.

For this reason, we suggestion a few "best practices" for administering any account for a Grange.

First, make sure that you are using accounts specifically created for Grange use and not mixed with personal use.

Use the free email account established for your Grange by National Grange or set up a new one through a free service like Gmail. If you'd like to use the grange.org accounts established for your Grange but don't know how or do not have access, contact National Grange IT Director Stephanie Wilkins at info@nationalgrange.org to retrieve your login and password. Once you have the Grange-specific email, use it to set up other accounts on platforms such as Instagram or for services such as PayPal.

For things like Facebook that require pages to be administered by individuals with accounts, ensure that at least two people are "admins" and potentially add others as editors to who can post content.

It's important for Granges to keep information needed for new administrators to access the account on file somewhere as well. Each Grange may find a different method that works for them – place security question information and passwords in a sealed envelope and keep on file with your local Secretary, your Pomona Secretary or State Office; email the information to the Grange email account for all other accounts and have the Grange email password sealed and on file with your executive committee; put the information in a safe deposit box you already have rented; keep the information written in your Master's subordinate manual or find some other solution where the information is not readily available for everyone to ensure security of your account but is accessible if necessary.

Do not announce to your entire Grange your passwords or announce that you are using things like the annual word as your password as anyone can then access your information. Store your passwords and access information as securely as you would your own personal logins.

Look for more tips over the coming weeks on making your social media accounts work for you.



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