



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

February 7, 2020

Master's Message: Impeachment highlights nation's need for informed, engaged citizenship and civility

By Betsy Huber, National President

With all the news and attention on impeachment in DC and the nation over the past month, I thought some information about what impeachment is and what it is not would be in order.

Impeachment is the process in which the House of Representatives brings charges against the President (or other official,) similar to indictment by a grand jury. The impeachment hearing in the House or Senate is not a trial. The President is "impeached" when the House finds enough evidence to warrant a trial, which will then occur in the Senate.

The trial, and removal from office if convicted, is separate from the act of impeachment itself. If the President is found guilty by two-thirds majority of the Senate in a trial, the only penalties allowed to be imposed by the Senate are removal from office and disqualification from holding any federal office in the future.

The Constitution limits grounds of impeachment to "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors". The meaning of the phrase is not defined in the Constitution, but is generally understood as corrupt activity by those who have a special duty due to their position.

Our nation is indeed bitterly divided, just as it was when the Grange was founded in 1867 for the purpose of reuniting the broken United States.

I see today too just how important it is to bring people together for civil conversations and service that improve the lives of our neighbors. These events are what helps strengthen the fabric of our nation while controversy rages that would otherwise tear it apart.

No matter how you feel about the recent impeachment hearing and its outcome, and the coming Presidential election, I hope every Grange member will join with me in committing to move forward as Americans together for the prosperity of our nation.

This weekend about 25 Grangers will be in New Hampshire for the First-in-the-Nation Primary election and will hear directly from a number of candidates who wish to be President. We plan this event to educate our members about how our democratic process works, and possibly give them the chance to meet a candidate or two face to face to make their own choice of who will receive their vote.

I hope you will commit to being an engaged citizen, becoming informed about issues and the platforms of the parties and candidates who will appear on your ballots this election year – from the federal offices to the local ones. Grangers value civic responsibility and take very seriously our duty to participate in government.

Lecturers should be proud, prepared

By Chris Hamp, National Lecturer

The position of Lecturer, at every level of our organization, is as dynamic, interesting, educational, inclusive, engaging and fun as you make it. The challenge has been, and will continue to be, not to rest on previous successes or to automatically give up forever on a perceived failure, but to continually adapt to the needs and wants of our members and of our communities. This is why you will continue to see me add, drop and modify the contests, programs and partnerships within the purview of the National Grange Lecturer. For 2020, the National Grange Lecturer contests, programs and partnerships include:

- Quilt Block Contest
- Publicity Item Contest
- Evening of Excellence
- Photography Showcase
- Quilts of Valor
- National Weather Service
- Mercantile

All of the information and forms you need for the 2020 version of each of the above can be found on the National Grange website, <https://www.nationalgrange.org>, click on Programs and then Lecturer's Programming.

I have been working on an additional partnership involving civic education, one of the Grange's greatest skill sets, and hope to have the details and an informational flyer wrapped up in the next month or so. Stay tuned!

Also, I'm thrilled to announce the creation of, "A Quarter's Worth," a quarterly newsletter for Grange Lecturers at all levels which should be out the week of February 10. The genesis for this newsletter was a conversation last October between Colleen Foster, Lecturer of the Idaho State Grange and Scott Nicholson, Lecturer of the Montana State Grange on how they could better provide information to the Lecturers in their respective states. This newsletter will be sent out quarterly from the National Lecturer to each State Lecturer who will in turn be responsible to disperse it to each Pomona and community Lecturer within their State Grange. Each edition will also be available on the National Grange website. The intent of "A Quarter's Worth" is to provide Lecturers with information on National Grange programs and contests, ideas for local programming as well as resource ideas and pro tips aimed at assisting and inspiring. I welcome content from anyone who has a programming idea or a great resource to share.

If you have ideas for, or concerns regarding any of these contests, programs and partnerships please do not hesitate to contact me to share your thoughts. Only if we are all engaged together will we be able to make positive impacts.

Please contact me by Email at lecturer@nationalgrange.org or by phone at 509.953.3533 (voice or text) if you have questions or comments.



Headquarters conference room preparing for facelift, upgrades

Updates to the National Grange Headquarters are underway with a much-needed update to the 1616 H St. NW building's conference room.

Located on the first floor of the building, the conference room is a major selling point for potential and continuing tenants to rent office space from the National Grange – the proceeds from which allow the organization to continue to hold dues at the National to the low rate of only \$14 per year so that anyone of good moral character may join.

The space is provided free-of-charge for tenant use on a first-come first-served basis and is booked nearly every day of the week, including weekends.

It has been many years since it was last updated. Ripped carpet, broken chairs and dated décor are all being moved on to make way for technology investments potential tenants have sought and current tenants are clamoring for.

The small kitchen off the back of the conference room will also be updated with new appliances, cabinets and countertops.

Lighting, electrical, carpeting and more will also be upgraded as part of the project that is set to wrap by March, prior to the arrival of young Grangers participating in the Washington DC Experience of the Grange Youth and Junior Grange Departments.

National Office welcomes accomplished intern

In late January, the National Grange welcomed Heather Simon to the Washington, DC office.

Simon graduated from The University of California Santa Barbara with a degree in International Relations and Economics and later on obtained an ABA approved Paralegal Certification from The University of San Diego with honors.

After graduation from The University of California Santa Barbara, she went to Berlin, Germany to study at a language school for six months and then decided to move to Washington, DC and worked for Emerson Electric Company for three years as a Legislative Assistant, supporting Emerson's advocacy and grassroots efforts.

Simon then returned to California to work for the City of Temecula's City Manager's office. During her tenure there, she earned her Paralegal Certification.



Simon's interest in international relations led her to London where she worked on a one-year student visa and transitioned into the marketing communications industry working for Kantar Millward Brown, a global leader in brand strategy, consulting, advertising development and media effectiveness.

Upon returning to the States, Simon transitioned into the marketing public relations industry where she worked with health and beauty clients for more than 10 years, collaborating with non-profit organizations such as Children With Hair Loss, the American Hair Loss Council and major corporations such as Bosley and Hair Club. Heather's passion was to return to Washington, DC and re-enter the grassroots advocacy industry. She found no better place to make that return than to the Grange.

Heather has extensive experience as a Senior Marketing Project Manager and specializes in B2B and B2C marketing, servicing companies and nonprofit organizations in various industries supporting sales and operations teams through multi-channel campaigns, direct mail marketing, social media, and trade shows that have led to increases in sales and new business development. In her personal life, Simon is an accomplished pianist, enjoys being part of the InterNations, a member organization where individuals help support one another through the process of moving to and establishing themselves in a new country and she is a passionate soccer fan and has been involved in supporting the FC Bayern Munich fans advocacy efforts across the USA.

As part of Simon's role with the Grange staff, she will utilize her prior advocacy grassroots and marketing expertise to assist in organizing events, membership and media relations. She is excited to be back in Washington DC and be a part of The National Grange and its efforts to strengthen individuals, families and communities through grassroots action, service, education, advocacy and agriculture awareness.

Grange calls white space, spectrum proposal by FCC Chairman Pai a vital piece of ‘vexing’ puzzle for rural broadband expansion

The National Grange applauded a proposal announced Wednesday by FCC Chairman Ajit Pai to use unlicensed white space to deliver broadband service to rural residents. The move is another in a growing list by the Chairman and FCC to bridge the digital divide and ensure all Americans have access to broadband.

National Grange President Betsy Huber said the chairman’s proposal will go far to help make reality the expansion of broadband to rural Americans.

“Funding alone cannot get the job done,” Huber said. “While it takes the billions of dollars in investments to ensure that every American has equal access broadband, additional moves like that to allow unused TV channel bands and other spectrum not in use by other services are also a vital component. This proposal would allow for fixed white space devices that would take signals greater distances and better carry signal through various obstacles, a huge move to reduce two of the most vexing pieces of the broadband expansion puzzle for rural Americans – the varied landscape and distance between consumers.”

Huber, who formerly served on the FCC’s Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee from 2017-19, said broadband for rural communities has been the Grange’s top priority for a decade and a half, and the last two years under the leadership of Chairman Pai, more has been done to close the gap than ever before.

“All of the recent progress, from funding to proposed rule changes and more, to increase rural broadband deployment gets us closer than ever to parity in areas such as education, health services and economic progress. Broadband allows rural residents to use telehealth services, complete courses or assignments in their home, buy, sell and trade in real-time and access secure documents on their own networks and devices rather than shared computers at libraries or other facilities,” Huber said, adding, “These measures all help to increase the quality of life of rural Americans, often engaged in agricultural pursuits or serving our nation’s farmers and ranchers.”

The 152-year-old Grange is not a stranger to advocacy work related to equitable access and wide-ranging projects that require complex and well-organized infrastructure networks, having championed the idea of rural free mail delivery in the late 1800s, rural electrification, water and road projects and rural telephone systems in the early to mid-twentieth century.

A red promotional banner for Lenovo. On the left, the Lenovo logo is displayed vertically in white on a black background. The main text in the center reads "Legendary. Lenovo Devices up to 67% off." in white, with "up to 67% off." in a larger font. Below this, it says "Offers valid 2/3/20 - 2/23/20" in a smaller white font. On the right side, there is a white truck icon followed by the text "Free Shipping" and "While supplies last!" in white.

Lenovo

**Legendary. Lenovo Devices
up to 67% off.**

Offers valid 2/3/20 - 2/23/20

 **Free Shipping**
While supplies last!

Grange to release video on importance of libraries in rural communities

Be on the lookout for a simple, 2-minute video that will appear on the National Grange Facebook Page later this month, highlighting the various roles libraries play in their communities, especially in rural America.

The video is part of a series of social posts encouraging the celebration of National Library Month by Granges around the country.

To be one of the first to see the video, make sure to “like” the National Grange Facebook Page and encourage other members of your Grange to do the same. You may also request a link to the video to be emailed to you so you can show it at your local meeting or other events. Contact National Grange Communications Director Amanda Brozana Rios at communications@nationalgrange.org to receive a link.

Grange Foundation seeking proposals for grants up to \$1,000

The Grange Foundation, our affiliated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, annually provides grants to Granges for projects or programs focused on Deaf awareness, programs, and projects that meet the needs of their communities. This year’s deadline is less than three months away, set for May 1, 2020.

Proposals must come through a State Grange, with the exception of those Subordinate Granges who do not have a State Grange in place. In this case, the Subordinate Grange may directly submit their application to the National Grange office to be forwarded to the Foundation for review.



The Grange Foundation board increased the grant amount from \$500 to \$1,000 over the past few years as a way to encourage more Granges to take on substantial and far-reaching projects in their communities. Up to three awards will be given based on the quality of submissions.

“We are so proud of the work Granges do to help the deaf community and make the world more accessible and to make sure the hearing community is made more aware of Deaf culture and American Sign Language,” Foundation Chairwoman Joan C. Smith said. “We’ve also had wonderful proposals in the past from Granges who completed programs to ensure that people knew how to protect their hearing and were able to do so at things like parades. All of these projects are important and we hope this year we have a competitive field of amazing proposals to choose from.”

All information about the grant program may be found at grangefoundation.org and applications may be sent to info@grangefoundation.org or by mail to Grange Foundation, 1616 H St. NW, 11th Floor, Washington, DC 20006.



Check Out Our New 10' x 10' Event Tents!

https://www.promoplace.com/grange/signs__banners.htm

See Our New Junior Grange Items!

<https://www.promoplace.com/grange/junior-grange-items.htm>

See Our New Grange Youth Items!

<https://www.promoplace.com/grange/youth-items.htm>

Remember to Visit our Grange Store™ - www.promoplace.com/grange

Grange Store™ by Monroe Classic - www.promoplace.com/grange or www.monroeclassic.com
Order on line or call Monroe Classic, Inc. at **1-800-868-2330** or email sales@monroeclassic.com

APPAREL | PROMOTIONAL ITEMS | JEWELRY | REGALIA | FUND RAISING PROGRAMS

National Grange HQ | 1616 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20006 | (202) 628-3507

Publisher Betsy Huber, National Grange President, available to members at betsy@nationalgrange.org or by phone at (484) 459-1957

Editor Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Communications & Development Director. Contact to renew your subscription to Good Day! magazine, submit a story idea or request assistance with publicity by email at abrozana@nationalgrange.org or call/text (301) 943-1090

Membership Recognition, Sales and Benefits Loretta Washington, National HQ, ext. 109 or email sales@nationalgrange.org or ext. 109

Free Grange Websites, Emails, and Membership Database Stephanie Wilkins, National HQ, ext. 101 or email swilkins@nationalgrange.org

Leadership/Membership Joe Stefanoni, (707) 328-0631 or send an email to membership@nationalgrange.org

Lecturer Chris Hamp, lecturer@nationalgrange.org or (509) 953-3533

Community Service Pete Pompper communityservice@nationalgrange.org or (609) 820-6239

Legislative and Policy Issues Burton Eller, National HQ, ext. 114 or email beller@nationalgrange.org

Grange Youth Mandy Bostwick, youth@nationalgrange.org or (785) 250-7606

Junior Grange Samantha Wilkins, junior@nationalgrange.org or (210) 838-7892