



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

August 7, 2020

## DON'T LET THE CONNECTION GO COLD

As we are not permitted to meet, we ask you to share these newsletters by forwarding this or printing and mailing to your Grange friends

### **President's Message: Remember oath, Grange values when going social**

*By Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President*

Today's world is becoming more and more polarized and partisan each day. Family members and Grange members are on opposite sides of current issues and feel compelled to promote their opinions strongly, especially on social media where the speaker is removed from face-to-face confrontation. We would never make these statements to someone's face, but we feel safe posting them on social media where we are protected from conflict.

Our Grange ritual and obligations are filled with specific expectations about how we are to act as Grangers – inside and outside our meetings and halls. In every meeting, the president is called to remind us during our opening ceremony that the purpose of the Grange is “for promoting the welfare of our country and of mankind.” In the closing ceremony, just before we go our separate ways, we are urged to be “quiet, peaceful citizens... keeping ourselves unspotted from the world.”

These words were written at a time similar to ours today – when there were deep and personal differences of opinion and experiences. Inflammatory posts and rhetoric do nothing to bring us together or promote peace.

When each of us joined the Grange we pledged to never “wrong or defraud a member of the Order or allow it to be done by another if within my power to prevent it.” Within our Order there has always been and will always be people of various diverse groups – of faith, race, ethnicity and political affiliation. Posting or sharing items that attack an entire party, race, or even generation of people blindly includes the Grangers among them and wrongs them. When your fellow members of that attacked group see their Brothers and Sisters spewing hate for them, how can they not feel a bit betrayed and deceived that the Grange lessons and oaths were not taken to heart. Your personal posts can easily make someone in your Grange feel as if you believe them to be inferior or that you are disrespectful of those they love – an easy way to pull apart an organization whose founding documents have given us tried and true guidelines to avoid such a fate in an unsettled time.

For those who have been elected and installed into office, the pledge specifically prohibits using our position to influence the beliefs of our members: “I will not take advantage of my position to unfairly influence other members with my political or religious opinions.” Officers at any level have an extra responsibility to behave at all times as if they represent the Grange, and are held to a higher standard. To these individuals, a special reminder: there is a very fine line between expressing your personal opinion on your personal Facebook page, and speaking for the Grange

you serve, because people know you are a Granger and may think you are voicing the general feelings of the Grange organization. Your generalized scorn for a class of people will make any task insurmountable when you try to work together for the good of the Grange.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, I urge you to remember our motto: “In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things charity.” Before you post something, take another look at it. Does it show charity (love) to all? Could someone we love take offense to what we are sharing? Sometimes it’s better just to keep on scrolling and not repost an item or respond with a comment if it will not be beneficial.

While your personal accounts are just that, your Grange-oriented accounts are under even more scrutiny because the content on them reflects on our entire organization. Please remember whom you’re representing and act accordingly. This means avoid cursing or unacceptable language, avoid posting inappropriate material, avoid misrepresenting the Grange by stating views that aren’t in alignment with Grange policy. Always be welcoming and charitable.

These moral standards apply to posts made to a Grange page by you through your personal account as well. Avoid posting anything that contains inappropriate content or language. AGAIN REMEMBER: you are representing the Grange and everything you post to Facebook or any other site is FOREVER.

I hope that we as Grangers will try to do better and do our part to restore civility to our small area of the world.



## **Thinking outside the box to bring visibility to the Grange**

*By Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Communications & Development Director*

Last Tuesday Johanna Huber, an intern with the National Grange, hosted an episode of Cultivating Connections to introduce ways in which local Granges can use Instagram, a social media platform that has a large following among this generation’s Grange Youth and Young Adult members.

As part of the discussion about the visual platform that requires photos or videos for each post, we looked at ways in which Granges can tell their story even when our meetings look much different than what we are most used to.

Many of you may be thinking, “How can I possibly find anything to post to any social media account when our Grange isn’t meeting?”

In fact, this is the perfect time to create or keep established social media accounts active and raise the visibility of your Grange in your community and beyond.

Grange is multi-faceted – a wonderful thing about our organization where nearly anyone can find a home. It also means that even when we are not meeting because of COVID-19 or between regular business and events we can find things to use to engage and entice our followers.

Think about the great Grange potlucks you’ve had over the years. Take a photo of that ready-to-pick tomato you have in your backyard and use it to share a favorite recipe you may see on the tables at a potluck event. Use the opportunity to tell your community how much you miss seeing everyone and that you can’t wait until it’s safe to open your doors again so you can invite everyone for a meal together.

Have a photo of an event that your Grange takes part in that’s been canceled this year? Use it to get a discussion going. “We love seeing you all at the annual \_\_\_\_\_ and serving up our famous \_\_\_\_\_. What’s your favorite food at the festival?” People love to be able to engage and interact.

What about a picture of your building and a question: “What events have you attended at our Grange?” Get those good feelings flowing among your followers.

These are just a few of the many creative ways you can use pictures to tell a story and engage individuals.

But there’s so many other ways.



You can share news clippings of Grange victories – in Washington state, maybe the effort to have direct election of senators – and talk about the continued influence of the Grange.

Go online and find an interesting article (I love [dailyyonder.com](http://dailyyonder.com) and any local newspaper) to give your followers a new perspective. Today’s commentary piece that discusses the fact that the infrastructure of rural schools was failing long before COVID and must be addressed is a great example. Post the link and talk about how important education and the investment in quality facilities is to ensure all children have a great headstart for their future.

Find an inspirational quote, take a photo and post it. People love little pick-me-ups, especially now. What about Herman Melville's: "We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men." Simply take a close-up picture of some yarn strands laid out on a table, and voilà! You now have a post that tells what the Grange is all about that can be enjoyed and shared.

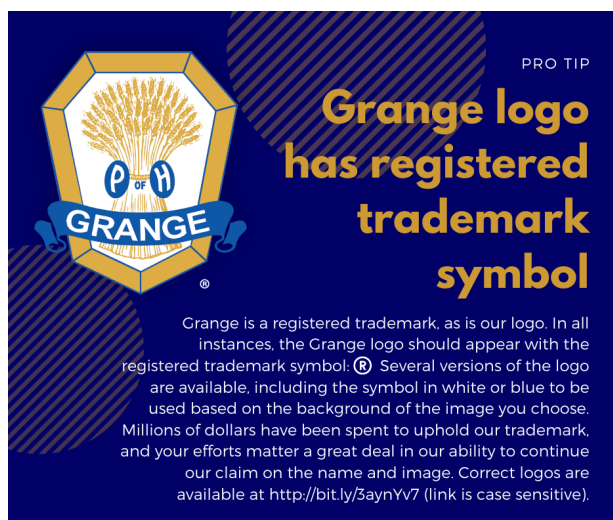
One big suggestion is to use your own high-quality digital photos or photos from stock websites that are royalty free, such as [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com) or [pexels.com](https://pexels.com). Do not just grab a photo from another website or Google search. You could find an email or letter telling you that you used someone else's work and you now owe them money – and it won't be a scam.

I highly recommend using [canva.com](https://canva.com) to help make your posts beautiful. Photos found there (use the filter to choose free ones) are always at your disposal, so you won't have to worry about copyright infringement. I encourage you to add to every one the correct Grange logo (the one with the registered trademark ®) – and don't forget, Grange is always capitalized.

Let's light up social media. Let's step outside our comfort zone and pick up a new platform like Instagram that engages a younger audience searching for positivity. Let's connect our community in a time when we are so divided.

If you're worried that you don't have the capacity or creativity to in the coming weeks we will be adding a page to the National Grange website with pre-made visual posts (and some text-only options as well) that you can use at any time on your Grange or personal social media pages and profiles. IT Director Stephanie Wilkins will make magic happen by organizing them by month and by category so you can easily go find an option that works for you. We hope to update the page with a few options each week so there is always something fresh for you to use.

This is just another resource we are providing to help our Granges raise their profile and be active during this difficult time. We will also soon have an updated Communications Handbook for Granges available for free download or purchase through the Grange store. Look for that text, which will include step-by-step instructions on creating social media accounts for Granges, best practices and much more, later this year.







## Children can be part of home safety during summer

The summer of 2020 has been very different for most families -- from COVID, to no school or remote school, to closed playgrounds, no camps and restricted pool access. It's been especially challenging for families with children. Parents who were planning on sending children to camps and participating in other activities now find themselves trying to work -- with their kids at home with nothing to do.



To help with that situation, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is offering this activity idea for all ages: engaging children to help parents and caregivers identify safety hazards in the home and helping (where appropriate) to fix them. Grangers and Junior Grangers know how resourceful youngsters can be; CPSC knows that engaging children to look for hazards will create a safer living environment for the entire family while they continue to stay home. I know my kids love telling me when I have made a mistake. By giving them some autonomy over these safety protocols, the kids will not only learn more about safety, but have a little fun at the expense of us parents.

CPSC recommends the following activities:

- With the help of an adult, test and change batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. You can also go online together and get more tips here: [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/smoke\\_alarms.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/smoke_alarms.html).
- Children ages 3-12 can help find broken toys that could be hazardous. The CPSC has an easy to find website where you can search for toys to see if they are on a recall list. <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/search-by-company>.
- Children ages 6-18 can help rake a 9 to 12-inch-deep layer mulch, wood chips, sand, or pea gravel under back yard swing sets and play equipment or help place mats of safety-tested

rubber. There's a playground safety checklist here: <https://www.cpsc.gov/safety-education/safety-guides/playgrounds/public-playground-safety-checklist>.

- Children 12-18 can ensure that cleaning products and chemicals are stored out of reach of their younger siblings. The dangers of combining cleaning products can also be discussed. Sometimes parents forget to put things away. Kids can also put "poison stickers" on items. You can get these stickers here: <https://www.poison.org/order-materials>
- Children ages 14-18 can help ensure furniture is appropriately anchored to the wall. Check out [AnchorIt.gov](https://www.anchorit.gov), a division of the CPSC that focuses on tip-over education!

You can find additional safety checklists at <https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education>.



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11"x17" poster available for only \$5 plus shipping.  
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Get your subscription or back-issue copies by going to [www.issuu.com/grangegoodday](http://www.issuu.com/grangegoodday)

For questions, email Amanda at [communications@nationalgrange.org](mailto:communications@nationalgrange.org)




# Cultivating Connections Live Event Schedule

AVAILABLE TO VIEW LIVE STARTING AT THE TIME LISTED OR ANYTIME THEREAFTER ON [FACEBOOK.COM/NATIONALGRANGE](https://facebook.com/nationalgrange) OR [YOUTUBE.COM/NATIONALGRANGE](https://youtube.com/nationalgrange) OR

SPONSORED BY GRANGE FOUNDATION

Date	All times Eastern	
Tuesday, August 11	@ 7 p.m.	National Membership Director Joe Stefenoni discusses "The Next Generation of Grange"
Thursday, August 13	@ 7:30 p.m.	National Update with President Betsy Huber

*All livestreams are sponsored by Grange Foundation and available at any time after the close of the event at [facebook.com/nationalgrange/video](https://facebook.com/nationalgrange/video) or at [youtube.com/nationalgrange](https://youtube.com/nationalgrange).*

*If you have suggestions or questions, contact Amanda at [communications@nationalgrange.org](mailto:communications@nationalgrange.org)*

## MEMBER BENEFITS: Grange Hall Insurance

We help Grangers from all over the country find coverage they need to protect their Granges. Bob Clouse Insurance has been in business since 1978, but our service to the Grange goes back further. Here is a link to our web page for Granges <https://www.clouseins.com/granges>. We can also help State Granges with their coverage needs.



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Order on line or call Monroe Classic, Inc. at 1-800-868-2330 or email [sales@monroeclassic.com](mailto:sales@monroeclassic.com)

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

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