



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

September 11 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: Digging into the School Year

By Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President

Now that most schools are back in session in some fashion, I read an interesting article that plants in the classroom can actually make kids smarter! Not only that, but they have many positive effects for teachers as well as students.

We know that plants use carbon dioxide from the air. Did you know that they also remove air pollutants and create a calmer, happier space for creative and focused learning?

The National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture (NICH) reports that research shows test scores increase by ten percent, children are seven percent healthier, and symptoms of ADD are reduced in classrooms that contain plants. Teachers report more positive feelings, greater satisfaction, and less misbehavior in classrooms with live plants. "When plants are around, students are just smarter and pay more attention," said Dr. Charles Hall, Ellison Chair, Texas A&M University.

I know that surrounding myself with houseplants, and spending lots of time in the garden when I can, definitely makes me feel better, calmer, peaceful, and more pleasant.

If your students are at home learning virtually right now, try including some plants in the study area. I'm sure staring at a computer screen throughout the day, even if it's in short periods, is not fun for kids, so anything that can improve the workspace and provide a happier, healthier atmosphere is worth a try.

Put some plants in your home office if you are now working from home and see if you yourself notice a greater feeling of well-being. Plants are an important component of creating a healthy classroom or work environment. [#PlantsDoThat Inside: Where We Learn](#)

Developing Sourcebooks Great way to Make an Impression

By Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Communications Director

2020 isn't shaping up the way anyone had planned.

By now, I wanted to have a few more projects complete for the department, a few less family things to deal with and a nice long road trip or two under my belt to see some Grange friends.

Instead, I'm Zooming my life away when I'm home and struggling with lagging connections or a complete disconnect a few days when I've been working from my dad's house. Rural broadband, am I right?

The simple fact is - there are things just out of our control. Such is the case with many things in life, including attracting coverage by local media for your Grange - or is it?

In fact, there are a few things that you can do to increase the likelihood that your Grange gets attention now and long into the future. One of the biggest ways you can be an asset to your local newsroom is to create a quick and easy source guide and send it to your local reporters or editors. What is a source guide? It's a document that provides contact information and background on people who can serve as sources for stories that may be on the horizon. As a reporter, I was constantly coming up with or handed stories that required some local expert's input - from the strawberry harvest to voter registration to veteran's issues to easy home renovation projects .

What I needed was a great rolodex so that my stories weren't always filled with the same voices, and that required a lot of networking and a lot of "tell me more about yourself" discussions with anyone I talked to. "Oh, your dad owns the strawberry farm in town?" "Oh, your day-job is in construction?" I'd keep notes in my cell phone and on a spreadsheet so when a story came my way, I could search "farmer," "veteran" or "election judge" and easily add a source. Most everyone in your Grange has a job, a hobby or a history that could provide useful insight to a reporter for a future story, and that means you can provide an excellent resource and impression that will last.

How does providing contact information for a member who is a welder or landscape architect help your Grange? Because the easier you make the job of local reporters, the more likely they are to have time to work on other stories and appreciation for how easy your group is to work with.

First, you need look at your member list and get to know anyone you're not already very familiar with. What a great idea for a program during quarantine - ask each member to tell a little about their job, their hobby or what they are an "expert" on at a meeting. I'm sure you'll be surprised and learn new things about your Grange family!

Next, you need to get their permission to include them in your sourcebook with their contact details. Make sure to get their best contact number and an email they check regularly. It's not useful to include an email address that they do not check at least once a day since reporters work on tight deadlines.

Finally, put your material into a document and send it to your media outlet. To create a great sourcebook, you can use Google Docs and share the link with your local media. This allows you to keep it up-to-date with information without requiring you to send multiple versions. You can also create it on Word or another similar program and send it by email for ease of use, but make sure to update it regularly.

When you email it to the local editor or reporters, make sure to let them know you are providing this for their professional use to ensure they're able to include in their coverage the wide variety of knowledge and experience in your back yard.

Don't forget to note that these are all members of your Grange and provide a bit of background on your Grange, your hall (especially if it's a polling place or has some other public use) and invite them to attend your next virtual or in person event.

BIOPHARMA LEADERS UNITE TO STAND WITH SCIENCE

-- Nine CEOs sign historic pledge to continue to make the safety and well-being of vaccinated individuals the top priority in development of the first COVID-19 vaccines

NEW YORK, September 8, 2020 — The CEOs of AstraZeneca BioNTech, GlaxoSmithKline plc, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, known as MSD outside the United States and Canada, Moderna, Inc., Novavax, Inc, Pfizer Inc., and Sanofi, today announced a historic pledge, outlining a united commitment to uphold the integrity of the scientific process as they work towards potential global regulatory filings and approvals of the first COVID-19 vaccines. All nine CEOs signed the following pledge:

We, the undersigned biopharmaceutical companies, want to make clear our on-going commitment to developing and testing potential vaccines for COVID-19 in accordance with high ethical standards and sound scientific principles.

The safety and efficacy of vaccines, including any potential vaccine for COVID-19, is reviewed and determined by expert regulatory agencies around the world, such as the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). FDA has established clear guidance for the development of COVID-19 vaccines and clear criteria for their potential authorization or approval in the US. FDA's guidance and criteria are based on the scientific and medical principles necessary to clearly demonstrate the safety and efficacy of potential COVID-19 vaccines.

More specifically, the agency requires that scientific evidence for regulatory approval must come from large, high quality clinical trials that are randomized and observer-blinded, with an expectation of appropriately designed studies with significant numbers of participants across diverse populations.

Following guidance from expert regulatory authorities such as FDA regarding the development of COVID-19 vaccines, consistent with existing standards and practices, and in the interest of public health, we pledge to:

- Always make the safety and well-being of vaccinated individuals our top priority.



- Continue to adhere to high scientific and ethical standards regarding the conduct of clinical trials and the rigor of manufacturing processes.
- Only submit for approval or emergency use authorization after demonstrating safety and efficacy through a Phase 3 clinical study that is designed and conducted to meet requirements of expert regulatory authorities such as FDA.
- Work to ensure a sufficient supply and range of vaccine options, including those suitable for global access.

We believe this pledge will help ensure public confidence in the rigorous scientific and regulatory process by which COVID-19 vaccines are evaluated and may ultimately be approved.

Together, these nine companies have collectively developed more than 70 novel vaccines that have helped to eradicate some of the world's most complex and deadly public health threats, underscoring their experience in clinical development and regulatory rigor, as well as their longstanding commitments to patient safety and public health.

MEMBER BENEFIT: eHealth Medicare

The National Grange is a proud partner with eHealth to help provide the right Medicare plan for you! Plan types such as Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement Insurance, or Prescription



Drug Plans are available all in one convenient location. Enroll in the Medicare Annual Election Period (AEP) each Fall, or as you age into qualification.

eHealth is committed to finding National Grange members the right health insurance plan to fit your specific needs. Visit us today or call (833) 922-0978 to access free quotes or to explore options with a licensed agent!

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/ng-ehealth>

GRANGE BASEBALL SIGN-UP

Interested in playing Grange Baseball?
Sign-Up Today!

The virtual event will be held on
Sunday, September 20th.
6PM EDT/5PM CDT/ 4PM MDT/ 3PM PDT

Sign-up before Wednesday, September 16th
bit.ly/VirtualGrangeBaseball



SIGN-UP IS LIMITED TO JUNIORS (5- 13)
YOUTH (14- 21) AND YOUNG ADULTS (22- 35)



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