



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

September 25, 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

Food Security is a major Grange priority

Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President

One of the top issues for the National Grange is food security. Sometime in the next few weeks we will be hosting a panel discussion on this topic—watch for the announcement.

Wikipedia says food security "exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

Food insecurity is the same thing as hunger, right? Not necessarily. First, food security is socio-economic (financial and cultural), while hunger is physiological (physical). Studies on food security attempt to measure reliable access to food, with questions that include anxiety over shopping, budgeting for healthy meals, and running out of food. Hunger, on the other hand, is a physical sensation. We could say that hunger is one potential consequence of food insecurity, but food insecurity does not always result in hunger. (Food Forward website)

It's obvious to all of us that food insecurity has increased as a result of the current pandemic. With so many people unemployed, even middle-class families find themselves with less or no income to buy the necessities of life such as food. Food banks have doubled and tripled their customer base in the last six months, and the USDA has distributed over 75 million food boxes so far. Free school lunches are being handed out or delivered to every school child via school buses or even the Postal Service.

Temple University professor Sara Goldrick-Rab conducted a recent study that showed 45% of college students experience hunger during their college years. In the U.S. with all our bounty of agriculture, this statistic is unbelievable and unacceptable. Often the cost of tuition is so high that students have little money left over to feed themselves.

Last year our National Grange Youth Department created the "Home Away from Home" program where Granges "adopt" students in their communities who are Grange members attending college away from their homes. This program becomes even more important in light of the above hunger statistic. As your Granges begin to meet and share meals again, remember to invite local Grange students to come. Or if you are still not comfortable meeting, make up a "care package" and deliver or send it to that student. You will not only make a friend for life; you may also stave off hunger for that person.

Distinguished Grange Ceremony to be held September 30 live online

By Kennedy Gwin

On Wednesday, September 30 at 8 p.m. Eastern, 28 Subordinate Granges and the four State Granges will be presented their Distinguished Grange awards in a virtual ceremony.

This event will be on Facebook Live and on the National Grange YouTube channel, so tune in to celebrate the accomplishments of Granges from around the country!

To these Granges, National Grange President Betsy Huber said: “This has been a very tough year to adjust to due to the pandemic, and despite these challenges you found a way to meet, positively impact your communities, and accomplish so much.”



Grange Emblem Patches

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

Grange Foundation Mercantile goes online as Auction, open today!

By Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Communications Director

With the 154th Annual National Grange Convention limited to delegates and officers, many other affiliated events have been reimagined.

Such is the case with the Grange Foundation Mercantile, the annual fundraiser that allows members to donate high-quality handicrafts and others to purchase these items for a good cause, with all proceeds going to the Foundation.

Today, the Mercantile opens in online fashion as an auction with 20 items available. Two have been earmarked for special funds - a small strawberry quilt whose sale will benefit the Junior Fund and a carpenter star quilt whose sale will benefit the Youth Fund.

Sales of the other 18 items will go to the American Arts and Culture Heritage Fund, and include things like hand-woven pine needle baskets, beach-themed painted tiles, and hand-painted ice skates to name a few.

The auction opens at noon Eastern and ends at 9 p.m. Eastern on October 4. Members are encouraged to share details about the auction with all their friends, not just Grangers.

Go to the auction at <https://www.32auctions.com/gfmerc20>, look at items and place your bids! Shipping cost is included for each item with the minimum bid.



ORDER THE LATEST EDITION OF THE GRANGE SUBORDINATE MANUAL TODAY

Grange Subordinate Manual (soft covered) includes the Alternative Manual, Welcoming Ceremony, and Installation Ceremony. 2013 Edition with all updates made by delegate action through 2019 included. \$10 plus shipping



The Vision of Improvement

By Samantha Wilkins, National Jr. Grange Director

The Grange has always strived to give our members young and old the opportunity for development and growth. This is especially true of our youngest form of membership, the Junior Grangers (ages 5-14). The Junior Grange program helps to develop an appreciation for the Grange organization and promotes the future of the Grange through our Junior membership. Junior Grange is the gateway to individual development and community involvement. Through this aspect we work to develop a spirit of respect and cooperation and concern for others. The responsibilities that we are given through the formal meeting process of the Junior Grange build character and self-confidence in our Juniors. They are then able to advance their responsibilities and service to the organization as a whole.

The Motto of the Junior Grange is Improvement. The definition of improvement is ‘an increase in value or in excellence of quality or condition.’

There are two divisions of the Junior Grange- The Junior 1+ program and having a chartered Junior Grange.

JUNIOR 1+ Program

The Junior 1+ program was adopted by the National Grange delegate body in 2013. The 1+ program allows your Grange to build a Junior Grange program one member at a time. The individuals become the core group to build a chartered Junior Grange. The 1+ is the first step in making the improvements necessary to charter your Junior Grange. Many children have not had the opportunity to participate in the Junior Grange program because of the number of children that is required to charter a Junior Grange and the 1+ allows those first steps to happen. Although the children are not allowed to have a vote in the Grange as a 1+ member or hold any offices, they are permitted to participate in other Junior programming such as the Passport program, State, Regional, and National Contests or activities as equal status to those members of the chartered Junior Grange.

Chartered Junior Grange Programs

A Chartered Junior Grange has many different variables that provide other opportunities for Junior Grangers in comparison to the 1+ membership. Once you have gained at least 13 members (7 at the discretion of the State President) the Chartered Junior Grange can then move forward with full business meetings, election of officers, voting on resolutions or activities, the Junior Pledge, and the Junior Degree. Chartered Junior Granges can then conduct meetings with a full hall set-up, presentations, reports, and run through the full program agendas. Members can then go through the full election process and business process just as a Subordinate Grange does. As a reminder- these opportunities are not available for 1+ membership. Junior Grangers also can participate just like the 1+ members in all the State, Regional, and National contests or activities.

One of the things I want to bring to the forefront is the importance of the Junior Grange Motto: Improvement. We always work and strive to do better, to be better, and to provide better opportunities for our communities (large or small). The opportunities gained when working from a 1+ to a Chartered Junior Grange are incredible. Juniors have the chance to gain indispensable leadership skills, profound parliamentary procedure experience, the knowhow to develop activities and programs, and the fortitude to serve the community in an impeccable way. They do not just become the eyes sitting at the back of the Grange hall watching the adults make a difference. They become the difference makers themselves.



Juniors are also afforded the opportunity to take part in the Junior Degree- and the lessons taught in this degree set the tone for their entire future in the organization and lay the foundation for the person they are working to become. By becoming a full-fledged Junior Grange member (through a chartered Junior Grange) you also get to take part in reciting the Junior Grange Pledge in which we promise to be good citizens and avoid bad company and harmful habits.

The Junior 1+ program is the stepping stone to help you reach your goal of expanding the future of the Grange and the ultimate goal at the end of the

day is to create a full functioning Junior Grange that will afford them the opportunity to be future leaders not only of the Grange but of their schools, communities, and country.

1+ PROGRAM AND JR. GRANGE

Whats the difference?

<h3>1+ Program</h3>  <p>The Subordinate/Community Grange will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint a Junior Grange Leader Provide a meeting place Provide financial assistance as necessary 	<h3>Jr. Grange</h3>  <p>The Subordinate/Community Grange Will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit application for a Junior Grange Charter to the State Grange for processing through the National Grange. There is a \$10 application fee payable to the National Grange when the application is submitted.
<h3>1+ Process</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual child, age 5 to 14, will complete a Junior Grange Application and submit it to the Sponsoring Grange. The Junior Grange applicant shall be obligated by the President of the Subordinate/Community Grange. This is completed by using the Obligation Ceremony for Individual Junior Grange Membership Once obligated, the Subordinate/Community Grange Secretary will enter the new Junior Grange member on the rolls of the Grange. 	<h3>Jr. Grange Process</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At any regular meeting of a chartered Community Grange, a majority of members present must vote to sponsor a Junior Grange Program. This action must appear in the Grange minutes of that meeting. The Junior Grange shall take the same name as the sponsoring Grange, but will have a Junior Grange number assigned. The sponsoring Grange may initially supply some financial assistance, but the Junior Grange is expected to be as self-sufficient as possible
<h3>To Improve and Grow</h3> <p>1+ programs are a great start, but don't stop there! At the end of the day the ultimate goal is to have a fully operating Jr. Grange that teaches kids how to lead, and make their own decisions. Creating future leaders and encouraging kids to improve and grow is part of being a Jr. Member!</p>	
<p>Minimum dues for Junior Grange members are \$1.00, subject to change per individual State Grange policies</p>	

Find ways to Inform New, Infrequent Voters about All Candidates

By Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Communications Director

While it seems as if the media and general public focuses only on elections every four years, Grangers know that the responsibilities of citizenship are present with us everyday in order to keep our democracy strong.

As we prepare for the upcoming presidential election that is sure to bring new and infrequent voters to the polls or to cast their ballots by mail, many Granges are doing their part to assure their neighbors are informed about other candidates they will see on the slate this fall.

A great example comes from Montana, where Rocky Mountain Grange is the site of a candidate forum with Public Service Commission and State House candidates. They are not only holding the in-person event to a limited audience, but also streaming it for others to see.

Making sure the widest audience possible can engage in local politics - specifically, learning who the candidates are and seeing them discuss issues - is just as, if not more important to a healthy democracy.

By streaming the forum into the homes of those who may otherwise feel intimidated to attend a public forum, we prove that every elected position is important and a knowledgeable electorate is essential.

If your Grange can't hold a forum, consider having a discussion about what certain elected officials do - what is their jurisdiction, their authority and the essential functions of the position. You can learn a lot about what skills those seeking the position may need just by knowing what they will be empowered and expected to perform in the job.

And of course, encourage everyone to register, to learn about what they will see, to understand the in-person or vote-by-mail requirements for valid ballots, and to vote on time. Democracy is ours, but only because we actively participate in it.

Fires Burning Since Mid-August Devastate Western States

By Joe Stefenoni, National Grange Membership Director

Historically large wildfires have been raging across the western US since August. Washington, Oregon and California have experienced a combined 8,558 wildfires, burning an estimated total area of more than 5 million acres since the beginning of 2020. In California alone, more than 3.1 million acres have burned, a record high for any year.

News has been received from the California State Grange about the impact on Grangers due to the many fires burning in their State.

The most devastating is the loss of life to a long-time member, Jacob "Jake" Albright, age 74, who was an important member of a small mountain community and pillar of Mountain Springs Grange. His caring and can-do attitude led many projects benefitting all of the residents in the area.

There are other members who have lost their homes, farms and livelihood. Information is just now being reported and many areas have not yet allowed reentry. Loss includes homes, crops, livestock bars, vineyards, processing facilities and equipment.

Two Grange Halls have also fallen to these fires. Feather Falls Mountain Springs Grange # 754 did not survive the Bear Fire. Grangers have said that once they can repopulate the area and get an understanding of the situation, they will be updating their Facebook page with information for those who may be in need.

Berry Creek Grange #694 also lost their Grange Hall to the Bear Fire. The community of Berry Creek has been severely devastated. The evacuation orders are not yet lifted, and we have no additional information at this time.

In Oregon the wild fires have not burned any Grange Halls but have taken the homes of many Grangers around Oregon. In the midst of the wild fire crisis Granges like the Warren Grange in Oregon have opened their doors to feed firefighters, displaced people, as well as board local farmers animals to keep them safe from the fires. The efforts of Granges like Warren Grange across Oregon have been organizing in recovery efforts and continue to embody community amid disaster.

In Washington state they were very close to losing a Grange Hall but were lucky to have avoided that disaster. Washington was not hit as severely as Oregon and California with wild fires, but people still lost land and crops to fire. The Washington State Grange has heard very little about if homes were burned due to the COVID restrictions currently in place. Due to these restrictions nothing has been organized on the state level, but local Granges are participating in recovery efforts across the state.

If you wish to help donations of any kind are appreciated by fire victims. Right now, internet, cell service, and even the mail services are severely interrupted. In most cases, insurance will not pay out for several months or more. Donations for assistance may be made through the California State Grange Foundation. https://www.cagrangefoundation.org/Donate_PayPal.html Or checks can be made payable to The California State Grange Foundation, 3830 U Street, Sacramento, CA 95817. Add "2020 Fire Victims" in the memo line. If you wish to help the Oregon State Grange Foundation checks can be sent to 643 Union St NE, Salem, OR 97301 with the memo "Fraternal Concern".

CMS announces launch of 2020 flu season campaign, providing partner resources

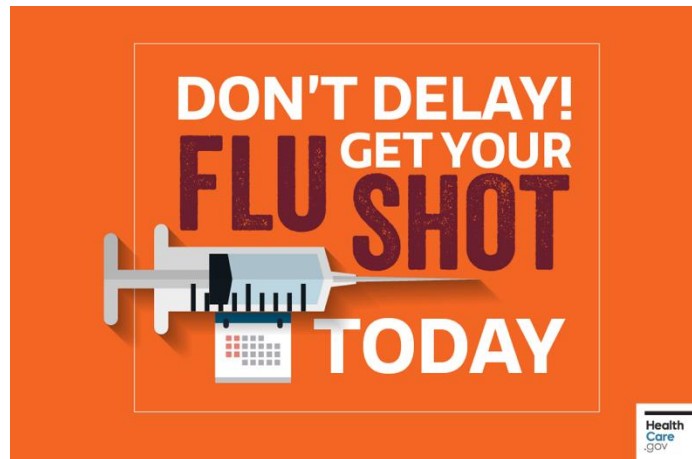
Courtesy of CMS

Agency strongly encourages vaccination of flu amidst COVID-19 pandemic to protect nation's seniors. Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services kicked off its 2020-2021 flu season campaign with new resources to encourage people with Medicare or other CMS health care programs to get their flu shot.

This year, CMS is taking additional actions to protect the health of the nation's seniors from the flu and its associated health complications.

This is through a robust campaign aimed at people with Medicare, with a special focus on beneficiaries who experience health disparities.

CMS encourages national and community partners to use CMS materials to educate people about the importance of flu vaccination.



According to the CDC, a flu shot has many important benefits, including reducing the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, death. This is while reducing strain on America's healthcare system, keeping hospital beds and other medical resources available for COVID-19 patients.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there's no evidence that a flu vaccination increases your risk of getting sick from a coronavirus, like the one that causes COVID-19. The CDC recommends getting vaccinated in September or October, but a flu shot anytime during the flu season can help protect you.

When going to get a flu shot, CMS recommends following CDC recommendations for running essential errands. CMS encourages people to ask their family doctors, pharmacists, or health departments if they are following CDC's vaccination guidance.

Any vaccination location following CDC's guidance should be a safe place to receive a flu vaccine. Medicare Part B covers one flu shot per flu season. Beneficiaries pay nothing for a flu shot if their doctor or other qualified healthcare provider accepts Medicare payment for giving the shot.

MEMBER BENEFITS: Nationwide Pet Insurance

As a member of the National Grange, you are eligible for a discount on your policy for pet insurance that helps cover the cost of regular and emergency health services for your furry friend. If you have multiple pets, you are entitled to additional discounts. For more information please call 1-877-738-7874 and mention your Grange membership to get your discount or visit: <https://benefits.petinsurance.com/national-grange>



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