



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

October 9, 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

Convention Update

Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President

The National Grange Board met last week and made the difficult decision to cancel the in-person 154th Annual National Grange Convention. No one will be traveling to Valley Forge; all delegates will be participating in the discussions and voting from the comfort of their homes. This was a difficult decision but one that we felt must be made for the safety of our members, and because of the current limitations on gatherings in Pennsylvania. It will certainly be challenging to conduct all our business virtually in two days, but I'm sure our delegates are up to the challenge after using Zoom for many meetings and even State Sessions this year. They should all be experts by now.

The Grange public will have access to portions of the convention on YouTube, such as my President's address, the memorial service and installation of Executive Committee members. Watch for the announcement closer to convention on how to access the link.

On Saturday evening, November 21 Lecturer Chris Hamp will present the Evening of Excellence talent performances from various states. Similar to the "Date Night In" shows earlier in the pandemic, performers will present their acts from their remote locations for our viewing pleasure on Facebook Live.

Other programs will also be scheduled to announce Youth and Junior contest winners, Membership, Grange Legacy Families, and Grange in Action awards. Watch for announcements of these dates and times in the coming weeks.

2020—Focus on the Future is the theme for this year's convention, and we are certainly moving quickly into the future with an all virtual session. As Grangers we will persevere and continue to Cultivate our Connections through any adversity. I'm sure we will be eager to meet together in Wichita in 2021; it will be a great party!

Directors Award Pin

By Pete Pompper National Grange Community Service Director

I have been reading all of the great ways individual Grangers and Granges are serving their communities throughout the nation. You should be proud of all you are accomplishing to make them better places to live. We have discussed some of these projects in the past but I hear of new ones every day. Grangers have such spirit, ingenuity, perseverance, charity and the adjectives could go on and on.

We have many ways of recognizing and honoring Granges that give back through community service to individuals or groups but none to honor individual members. My trusted advisory team and I discussed this fact and realized something needed to be done to fix this. We then came up with the idea of a specially designed pin and presented the idea to our National Master and Executive Committee for their comments and advice. With their approval the above special pin was designed and created for those deserving Grangers.

This pin will not be available in the Grange store because it is a special award presented by the Director to Grangers who go above and beyond to help in their communities. I can think of community service projects that were done in the past or are being done presently that will be/are deserving of this Directors Award. Some were started on the local level and ended up being a statewide project. There are Grangers who “stepped up” during this year and have blown us away with their generosity and Grange Spirit to help others. I have started to send these award pins for presentation to individual members which is a challenge this year.

I need to say that the criteria for this award is really high and a member has to have done something extraordinary to receive it. This is why it is important that Grangers need to brag about what they have done and let me know. Granges need to report what members are doing to your State Directors or send the article to your State Grange publications. If a Grange has a Facebook page or website put it on there so other Grangers can see what is happening. At this point we are not asking for nominations for the award, as I have a process that is working to find these Grangers.



I look forward to seeing what you are doing and having these Director Award pins presented to those deserving Grangers. I would be remiss if I did not thank Loretta and Amanda for their help in the design of the pin. Watch for recipients to be recognized on Facebook or in your State Grange newsletters.

**VIRTUAL
MEMBERSHIP
WORKSHOPS!
OPEN TO ALL**

**OCT. 10
1PM EST**

National Grange Membership Director Joe Stefenoni will hold workshops via Zoom on the future planning of your Community Grange. Sign up for this session. Join us to spark new ideas for membership development and recruitment!

To register follow this link
<https://form.jotform.com/2020I5073739147>

Grange Foundation Auction

By: Kennedy Gwin

The 2020 Grange Foundation auction has wrapped up and people across the county have received amazing donated prizes. Our youth Carpenter Quilt was one of our most bid on prizes with its beautiful green and yellow colors. This quilt sold for \$260 and the proceeds went directly to the youth department to support their programming. One of the auction winners, Katie Squire commented that she “was thrilled to be able to support the work of the Grange Foundation and have the highest bid on a handmade pine needle basket.” She went on to say “I plan to use the basket to store some Junior Grange memorabilia since it has bright red feathers worked into the design.” Thank you Katie and all who participated for the support, we hope you enjoy your items!

With convention cancelled and many other fundraisers postponed the Grange Foundation is depending now more than ever on your contributions. While we did not reach our goal, we hope more donations will come in and for another opportunity to host another fundraiser. If you are still interested in supporting the National Grange we are still selling our “In this Together” COVID-19 t-shirts of varying sizes and colors including baby onesies. Check them out on our website and support the Grange Foundation today.

It's a Moment In Time!

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Junior Grange Passport Project

By: Kennedy Gwin

The state passports are finished and ready to be completed by Juniors! We currently have passports for all 50 states that will educate as well as encourage juniors to reach beyond their home state. These passports have a series of activities that ask them to do research about that state with a series of trivia questions as well as learning their favorite thing about the state. The passport will also ask kids to write a postcard or draw a picture for the state governor. This idea came in hopes that the state governor might reply and could potentially send items to the Junior as a gift. Another activity the passport has is to learn about that state's agriculture and then to write or make a recipe with that commodity.

This is in hopes to encourage Juniors to understand the expansive agriculture commodities the U.S. has and how they impact each state. National Junior Grange director Samantha Wilkins said "I am very excited to have the state passports finished and look forward to future passports being made about bullying, U.S. history, safety issues, and other topics that Junior Grangers want to learn about". The passport program is always looking for material, so if you have ideas send them in. Most of our passports are 9 steps long and should include a minimum of three activities and have themes of education and learning. Feel free to check out our state passports as a guide. All you need to do is send the information and we will format it and get it published. We are excited to hear from you and to hear your amazing ideas!

ARE YOU A JUNIOR AT HEART?

WE'RE INVITING YOU TO BECOME A JUNIOR AGAIN BY TAKING PART IN OUR CONTESTS

The Junior at Heart division allows you to enter our contests and help support the Junior program you love. Submit an original piece created within the last year to our creative art, handicraft, creative writing or mini scrapbook divisions. (No more than one entry per person, per division, please.)

Entry fee(s) may be sent by check or money order made out to Grange Foundation along with entries postmarked by Oct. 30, 2020 and sent to the National Grange Junior Director at the address listed to the right.

**SEND ENTRIES TO:
NATIONAL GRANGE
SAMANTHA WILKINS
1616 H ST. NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006**

FIND ALL CONTEST INFORMATION AT [NATIONALJUNIORGRANGE.ORG](https://nationaljuniorgrange.org)

Webinar Opportunity

By: Kennedy Gwin

With Granges closed and people feeling cut off from their local representatives, advocacy seems nearly impossible. Granges not being open for political discussions or resolution writing has left many people out of the political loop and even created feelings of apathy. Fear not! The National Grange would love to invite you to join us on C-Fares High Speed in the Heartland: The Challenges and Opportunities of Rural Broadband. This webinar will give you the chance to learn more about rural broadband and what current policies and actions are being taken to increase broadband across the country. When on this webinar you may be able to submit questions as well as listen to professionals from a variety of backgrounds discuss the most pressing issue in rural America. This opportunity can allow you to engage in National Grange advocacy and see the National Grange in Action. Join us October 16th, 12PM EDT. You can register for the webinar here <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6968738091709816592>

New Staff Member

By: Amanda Brozana Rios National Grange Communications Director

Please welcome our newest member to our staff, Program Assistant Kelly Klingman. Originally from Florida, Kelly brings a wide variety of experience in finance, Human Resources, and administrative management to the National Grange. Kelly has spent her career working with both large corporations and within smaller family owned businesses. Kelly is currently residing in Calvert County MD with her three children, and veteran co-parent.

Kelly enjoys spending time with her children and her golden retriever. Kelly “deeply values family and community” and admires the Grange’s long history of community service. She



is immensely proud to have been selected to join and learn from the National Grange and looks forward to supporting the National Grange's mission.

We are excited to have Kelly on staff and look forward to getting to know and spend time with her. Welcome to the Grange Kelly!



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1. Begin sale transaction as normal. Self service copy transactions must be paid for at the register.
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