



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

October 23, 2020

Promoting Civility Among Partisan Politics

Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President

As we are now only ten days out from the presidential election, I would remind all members that the Grange is strictly non-partisan and we should avoid any appearance of supporting any candidates or party politics that might be construed as endorsement by the Grange. Of course under the first amendment you are free to speak your mind, but please don't do so with photos of you with your officer's sash on or under the Grange emblem.

Like everyone else it seems, we encourage you to exercise your right to vote. Of course the Grange has always encouraged voting and civic participation; we are not new to this field. Also remember that we are brothers and sisters in the Grange. We can disagree and argue to support our opinions, but we remain civil and even if we disagree, we remain friends. This may be a rare quality in today's world! But it may attract others to join us, if we demonstrate that we are involved in public affairs but not consumed by them. Reasonable, balanced discussion is rare today and I believe people are searching for that rather than the combative speech we see constantly on TV and social media.

Keep these things in mind for the next ten days—and after—and let's show the nation that Grangers can rise above partisan battles and work together for the good of our country. Thank you!

Turning State Convention into Action

By Joe Stefenoni Membership Director

With our annual convention season in full swing, it's appropriate to look at how what we do at our State Grange Conventions can be turned into steps toward membership development. Even as most of our State Granges have moved to a fully virtual or mixed virtual annual meeting, these opportunities still exist. At our State Grange conventions, we adopt new legislative policies, recognize the contributions of individual Grange members and celebrate the successes of our Community Granges.

After our State Grange conventions is a perfect time to write letters to the editor, op-eds and craft informative social media posts. No matter what medium you choose (preferably all of them), you should be focused on sharing new legislative updates, and any recognitions received by your members or Grange. Updates on legislative activities should talk about the resolutions passed by the State Grange delegates that are related to timely issues of the day. Even better would be if your Grange submitted any resolutions that were adopted, that have a specific impact or relationship to your community.

Especially critical to laying the groundwork for membership development is making sure that relevance and context are at the forefront of these communications. Make sure that your letters,

articles and posts are relevant in terms of the topics you share. Focus on resolutions that were sent from your Grange and adopted, or that have an impact on your area. Also include context about how the Grange's legislative policy is set and/or the Grange programs that members are recognized for. These actions will play a large role in long-term membership development by building name and brand recognition for the Grange.

One Week to Enter Contests

By Chris Hamp National Grange Lecturer

2020 National Grange Publicity Item Contest

Entries for the 2020 National Grange Publicity Item Contest are due October 31st. Remember, the primary goal of this contest is to share ideas – ideas of the types and kinds of events that you are doing as well as the ways that you are publicizing your events. Please share EVERY flyer, poster, sandwich board, button, t-shirt, Facebook event notice, newsletter, placemat and display that you create to advertise your Grange – there is no limit on the number of items that can be entered by a Grange. The more entries received the more ideas to share!

2020 National Grange Quilt Block Contest

Please continue to send me your quilt blocks. The more the better! Remember, the National Grange Quilt Block Contest is open to members and non-members alike. Quilt blocks are due to me by October 31st.

2020 National Grange Virtual Photo Contest

Entries for the 2020 National Grange Virtual Photo Contest are due October 31st. This is a new contest open to members and non-members alike and replaces the Photography Showcase which was limited to one Best of Show entry per State Grange. All photos entered will become the property of the National Grange and may be used in National Grange publications and virtual media.

2020 Evening of Excellence

State Grange Lecturers, please make sure to submit your Best of Show talent entry for our 2020 National Grange Evening of Excellence to be held virtually on Saturday, November 21, 2020. Each State Lecturer is responsible for certifying their state's Best of Show winner and for submitting the registration paperwork by October 31, 2020. We need at least eight states to submit a Best of Show entry in order for the Evening of Excellence to occur.



2020 Evening of Excellence

REGISTRATION FORM

STATE: _____

☐ Vocal

☐ Instrumental

☐ Variety

Participant(s), if more than one, List group leader first:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

Participant/Leader Email: _____

Phone: _____

Participant/Leader Grange Name: _____

No.: _____

TITLE of selection being presented: _____

Special name or title of act: _____

Special requirements: _____

Accompaniment: ☐ Live music ☐ CD

I hereby certify that the person(s) listed above is/are eligible to represent the _____
State Grange in the 2020 Evening of Excellence.

State Lecturer (Print Name)

Signature

Email a scanned copy, with signature to: lecturer@nationalgrange.org or

Mail to:

Christine Hamp, National Lecturer
16418 N. Birdie Road
Nine Mile Falls WA 99026

Registration Form **MUST** be received by National Lecturer by October 31, 2020.



2020 National Grange Virtual Photo Contest

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The 2020 National Grange Virtual Photo Contest came about as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic causing massive changes to our annual National and State Grange conventions. This change allows for a photo contest even without state contests. All photos entered will become the property of the National Grange and may be used in National Grange publications and virtual media.

RULES

- A. The National Grange Virtual Photo Contest is open to all Grangers and yet-to-be Grangers.
- B. Submitted photos can be of any subject. [Any photograph deemed inappropriate will not be judged or exhibited in the National Grange Virtual Photo Contest.]
- C. All entries must be received electronically as a single (1) file no larger than 100MB via Google Forms at <https://bit.ly/grange20photo> by October 31, 2020.
- D. There is one division – come one, come all!
- E. Each individual is limited to entering three (3) photos.
- F. Entries should be no more than one (1) year old.
- G. Any entries received after the **October 31, 2020** deadline will not be judged.

PRIZES

Monetary prizes will be awarded: 1st - \$50, 2nd - \$30 and 3rd - \$20.



2020 National Grange Publicity Item Contest

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The ability of our Granges, at every level, to successfully promote specific events or the Grange as a whole is necessary and important. The goal of the National Grange Publicity Item Contest is to recognize the publicity work being done by our Granges across the country and to share this work with other Granges with the intent of fostering even more and improved publicity efforts. The more Grange publicity occurring within our communities, the better!

RULES

- A. The National Grange Publicity Item Contest is open to all Granges (State, Pomona, Community, Junior), Grange committees or Grange groups (i.e., auxiliary, youth, Junior 1+).
- B. A Publicity Item may be a flyer, poster or advertisement; a short video; a radio commercial or announcement; a social media post; a press kit or media release; a shirt, button or other wearable item; or anything else you create to promote Grange.
- C. All entries must be received electronically as a single (1) file no larger than 1GB via Google Forms at <http://tiny.cc/grange20pubitem> by October 31, 2020.
- D. There are two (2) divisions:
 - Created by a professional (paid or in-kind).
 - Created in-house (without professional assistance).
- E. There is no limit on the number of publicity items that can be submitted by any Grange, Grange committee or Grange group.
- F. Entries should be no more than one (1) year old.
- G. If your publicity item is wearable please take a photo of the item and submit the photo.
- H. Any entries received after the October 31, 2020 deadline will not be judged.
- I. All entries scoring at least 70% will be shared by the National Grange with State, local and Junior Granges across the country.

PRIZES

Monetary prizes will be awarded: 1st - \$200, 2nd - \$100, 3rd - \$50 and 4th - \$25 in each division.



2020 National Grange Quilt Block Contest

ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

DO NOT JUDGE ☐

Grange Member: ☐ Non-Member: ☐

Grange Name: _____ No.: _____ State: _____

☐ - Group I (Age 14+)

☐ - Group II (Age 13 and under)

☐ - Group III (MEN; Age 14+)

All contest entries must be received by the National Grange Lecturer by October 31, 2020.

The quilt block you enter in the contest for judging must be made by you.

Please make and submit as many blocks as you wish, but only one contest entry per person.

Each contest entry must have a completed Entry Form.

Mail entries to: Christine Hamp, National Lecturer
16418 N. Birdie Road
Nine Mile Falls WA 99026

2020



2020 National Grange Quilt Block Contest

RULES

- A. The National Grange Quilt Block Contest is open to everyone.
- B. All contest entries must be received by the National Grange Lecturer by **October 31, 2020**.
Send entries to:
Christine Hamp, National Lecturer
16418 N. Birdie Road
Nine Mile Falls WA 99026
- C. Any entries received after the deadline will not be judged. However, all entries received will be exhibited at the 154th National Grange convention in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.
- D. The quilt block you enter in the contest for judging must be made by you.
- E. There is no limit on the number of quilt blocks a person may submit, but choose one quilt block per person to be judged.
- F. All entries will be retained by the National Grange to be made into finished quilts and other items to be sold at a later date to raise funds for the Grange Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity.
- G. A 2020 Quilt Block Contest Entry Form must be completed for the block to be judged.

GROUPS

- Group I – Adult (Age 14+)
- Group II – Junior (Age 13 and under)
- Group III – MEN (Age 14+)

PRIZES

- Monetary prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each Group.
- Ribbons will be awarded to all entrants.

New Member Benefits Program

By: Brian Zibuda President of ABZ Benefits

As you might imagine, the effort to fund our organization is a never-ending one and 2020 has been especially challenging for us all.

But instead of raising dues or selling you products, we've discovered a better way for you, and us, to earn extra cash, simply by doing what we all already do – shopping online!

We are now introducing Cash Back Connections which provides a win-win fundraising program for organizations. Members and supporters get cash back on what they buy, and The Grange wins by earning revenue on what our members spend when shopping online through our customized platform. The program is free for us and free for you as a valuable supporter.

Please visit our fundraising site today at <http://www.cashbackconnections.com/grange>. There you can sign up for free and start earning cash back that will be crucial for our organization.



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www.cashbackconnections.com/grange

Cash back rebate amounts vary by store and product purchased.



New Poll Jump Starts Citizen Engagement Effort to Help Unite Americans

Courtesy of FixUS National Dialogue Project

Today FixUS, the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget's initiative to engage Americans to better understand and address the root causes of our growing divisions, released a new poll as a springboard for a national dialogue to identify areas of commonality within our highly polarized citizenry. The Ipsos poll explored the topic of what values, goals, and aspirations Americans feel most strongly about for themselves, their communities, and their country.

"It goes without saying that 2020 has been a tumultuous year already, and we are still in the closing chapter of a highly contested presidential election" said Maya MacGuineas, FixUS co-founder and president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. "Americans feel divided and alienated from one another and from the political process. It is important that no matter the outcome of the election, we remain focused on what will be the long and difficult work of reuniting the country."

Fielded last month, the poll was designed to better understand Americans' goals and values at the individual, community, and national levels. The findings confirm what many already suspect to

be true: Americans lack consensus on national goals, with starkly different views about the current state, direction, and future of the country.

The poll found that Democrats rank "improving healthcare affordability" and "improving racial justice" as their top priorities, whereas Republicans rank "having a strong and growing economy" and "putting America first" as top national policy goals. By wide margins Republicans much more than Democrats believe America has "a strong and growing economy" (81% to 37%), has "affordable healthcare" (57% to 22%), "ensures racial justice" (65% to 22%), and "provides jobs and opportunity for all" (85% to 35%).

But the poll also signaled potential areas of commonality. "While this poll only scratches the surface when it comes to understanding the challenges facing our democracy, it provides reasons to be hopeful," said Michael V. Murphy, director of FixUS. "The results show that despite our divisions, there are core values and goals at the individual and community level that, if better understood and focused on, may serve as a bridge to overcome the divides that at the national level dominate our daily discourse."

Most Americans believe the country to be characterized by certain underlying values. For example, more than 80 percent of Americans hold such values as free speech, equal justice under law, and ensuring everyone has an opportunity to succeed, as defining national values. Americans are also united on fundamental and simple goals for ourselves, our families, and our communities, including being healthy, having financial security, and living in safe communities. "One thing this poll tells us is that efforts to unite our divided nation are going to have to start at the community level, where people come together every day to solve hard problems and work toward the common good. As citizens, no matter our political viewpoints, we should demand no less of our leaders in Washington," Murphy added.

The National Dialogue on Common Goals, Values, and Aspirations will further explore these issues through volunteer focus groups, surveys, and other interactive engagements. Because of the deep distrust and divide between the public and leading institutions, citizens will have to take the lead in rebuilding our nation following the tumultuous events of 2020, and FixUS intends for this effort to serve as a possible model for how to do so.

New Fire Safety Passport for Juniors


By: Samantha Wilkins

Check out our new Fire Safety Passport made by Junior Ambassador Bryce Danko. This passport was made to support Fire Safety month and teach juniors about everyday hazards they may encounter. If you are interested in submitting a passport for Jr. Grangers across the country to do go online to the website below and click on a category and fill in the steps. This program is a great way to engage Junior Grangers outside of the classroom in topics that traditionally would not be taught. To find this specific passport go to <https://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org/junior-grange-passport/>



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