



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

November 24, 2020

## **Zoom Convention**

*By Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President*

The 154<sup>th</sup> Annual National Grange Session is completed, and it is certainly one for the history books! All 52 delegates plus officers participated virtually, with “Session Central” taking place in the National Grange Headquarters, Washington DC, with only staff present in person.

Zoom sessions were held for a total of 14 hours over two days and 97 resolutions were deliberated, two officers elected, and a meaningful memorial service conducted. Earlier in November the eight committees Zoomed for many hours to discuss, amend, and make recommendations on their resolutions and policy statements. Although we would rather have been together in person, it was great to see and chat with friends, but we missed having you there!

Of course, during this Thanksgiving week, we are reflecting on all the things we have to be thankful for. We were able to hold a National Grange convention and accomplish all our necessary business. Our Grange is alive and well, even though the many challenges of 2020. We all have plenty to eat—if you don’t, please call your local Grange; I know they would be happy to help. We still have family, even though we may not be able to gather around the table for a big dinner this week. We have technology to be able to talk with them even if we can’t be together.

The harvest was plentiful, and we have faith that next year will bring another season of planting and harvesting. We are indeed most blessed, and I am thankful for all of you and your Grange work in the local communities. Happy Thanksgiving!

## **154th Convention makes history**

*By Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Communications Director*

At one of the shortest National sessions on record, the officers and delegates of the Order met for a digital convention on Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 17-18, to discuss policy and procedures, honor past leaders of the organization and more.

Committees were assigned and met in advance of the convention through the Zoom platform, to work through the more than 75 resolutions that were put before the body, making the business much more manageable for the condensed format.

National Grange Legislative Director Burton Eller said the process went smoothly and allowed committees time to research, discuss and address the concerns of the members that had been moved through the grassroots process to this highest legislative body of the Order. “The committees have been meeting to review present policy in the past but allowing them to assess present policy and resolutions worked out well. This is something that can improve our process

for years to come, even when we get back to meeting in person,” Eller said.

Several new policies will allow Eller and other members to offer Grange perspective on the current state of agriculture in the United States. Additionally, delegates adopted resolutions related to topics of the day that are “off the farm,” such as vaccinations and pandemic preparedness, chronic pain and opioid issues, support for the USPS and local newspapers, the number of justices on the Supreme Court, and more.

Members and the public were able to see much of the convention on the National Grange YouTube channel live - and those livestreams remain available to view.

National Grange President Betsy Huber said she has heard much praise for the session.

“All the feedback I’ve heard has been positive,” Huber said. She said while everyone has noted their disappointment in not meeting in person in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, the virtual version was a suitable substitute.

The scaled-down session had little of the usual flair, but the Junior, Youth and Lecturer’s Departments made up for that with events Friday and Saturday evening, showing off talent of members and announcing new Youth Team members for the 2020-21 year.

Next year when we will all be able to meet it will be a convention to celebrate. We look forward to being with our Grange family in Kansas and hope to see you there.

## **2021 Grange Ambassadors**

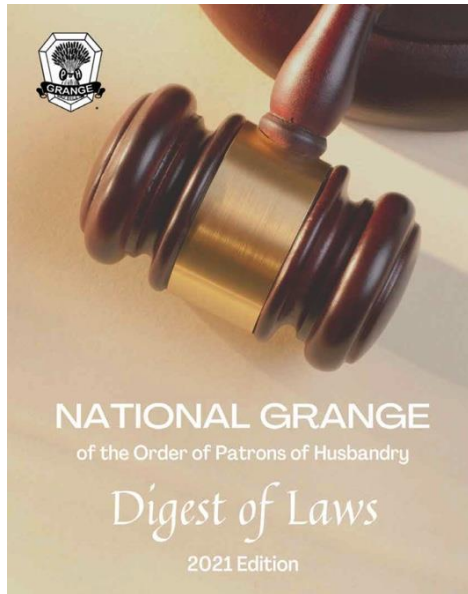
*By Kennedy Gwin*

With convention done virtually and many of the ambassador’s duties cut short due to COVID the 2021 teams are looking familiar. For the National Junior Grange Ambassadors Bryce Danko from Pennsylvania and Brianna Gervais from Connecticut will continue another year as ambassadors.

Their focus this upcoming year will be on continuing the Agriculture awareness project, continuing leadership workshops, designing and creating junior passports as well as hosting Cultivated Connections episodes. They also will be getting active in the Grange social media, so make sure to follow to check out what they have to say! We are excited they both get to carry on their work, and we look forward to the upcoming year.

Up next is the National Grange Youth team. Our new 2021 National Grange Youth Ambassador is Britney Mercado from New York. Britney was a National Grange representative in 2019 at the CADCA midyear training institute in Grapevine, TX. Next on the National Grange Youth Team are National Grange Young Patrons Molly and Vince Newman. Molly and Vince are high school sweethearts and have a daughter named Kimber, who they are raising to have a deep love of Grange. They also serve as Kansas Asst. and Lady Asst. Steward. When asked about goals for the team this upcoming year National Grange Youth Director Mandy Bostwick said “my goals for this next year is to continue to provide meaningful leadership opportunities for the Grange Youth to prepare them to be the future leaders of the Grange”.

This next year, Director Mandy Bostwick, went on to explain that her goal with this group is to “find a good balance between Youth and Young Adults in the program. We tend to focus on the youth side of things and praise our 14-23 year old’s (high school and college aged youth) but continue to tell our young adults, 24-35, that they’re too young to be in a major leadership positions. In the past few years there have been an increase in the young adults becoming state officers, but I want to use this team to come up with programming that benefits both the youth and young adults simultaneously.”



National Grange Digest of Laws updated, available now! Only one update was made to the National Grange Digest of Laws, on page 25 in Chapter 4. The change notes that Executive Committees may take action on behalf of the Grange between meetings **in time of emergency or need** (bolded text added per delegate action). The 2021 edition is now available online.

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