



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

December 11, 2020

## The Winter Ritual

*By Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President*

As the weather gets colder and some areas have snow, we think about the oncoming winter season. What does Grange ritual teach us about winter activities?

The scene of the Fourth Degree is a farm in the winter season. The growing season is over, the harvest has ended, and the weather is no longer conducive for outdoor work.

“In winter, the season of rest from active toil, we sit down with our families, our friends and neighbors, and enjoy together the good things our labors in the lower degrees (prior seasons) have brought us.”

The Lecturer’s charge speaks eloquently of the pleasures of rural life and the beauty of nature that we who live in the country have the privilege to enjoy every day. In the busyness of spring, summer, and fall we may not take time to appreciate the splendor around us, but now in winter we should take time to really see, marvel at, and enjoy our beautiful surroundings—“to brush the dew from the glittering fields, as if our paths were strewn with diamonds.” The writers of our Grange ritual were most poetic in their language expressed in all our Degree work.

In addition to winter, another symbol of the Fourth Degree is old age. As the First Degree is childhood, the Third Degree manhood or adulthood, the Fourth Degree candidate reaches full maturity and can rest after a life well spent in fruitful labor.

As the Overseer teaches us, it is the responsibility of a mature Granger to teach the children to follow in our footsteps. We must make our homes and farms pleasing and attractive so our children will not “lose all interest in it and seek enjoyment elsewhere.” Of course, this is true of our Grange halls as well as our homes.

“Fill its atmosphere with affection, and thus induce all to love and not to fear you; for love is the only enduring power.” What a child sees makes the most lasting impression. I can still see in my mind my father and uncle reciting the degree work in their suits and ties, showing respect and honor to our Grange and its founders by working to present the ceremonies in the best possible way. I still strive to live up to their example.

The emblem of the Fourth Degree is the agate, a hard, semiprecious stone with striped coloring. It represents fidelity, the lesson of this degree. “May your principles of manhood and womanhood be as firmly impressed as the lasting colors in the stone, and may our friendship be as firm as the stone itself.” In these difficult times, as we are again confined to our homes and may not be able to gather with family for the holidays, be assured that my friendship to you is firm and lasting, and I hope to visit you in the new year to reaffirm our brotherhood and sisterhood in the Grange.

## **New Grange Foundation Fund Development Director**

*By Kennedy Gwin*

The National Grange and the Grange foundation would like to welcome the newest member to our team, Donny Oleniczak. Donny will be working for the Foundation as the Fund Development Director and brings many years of experience to the job.

Donny has 37 years of marketing experience, crop protection (sales) and account management with Bayer Crop Science as well as other legacy companies. He has worked with row crops, fruits, vegetables, and worked for a short time in the realm of cotton.

Donny previously worked as a consultant with a crop protection management company in New Haven Florida.

Donny received a B.S in Crop Science and a M.S. in Weed Science and Herbicide Physiology from Michigan State University.



We are excited to see what a great addition he will be to the Grange Foundation and what new ideas he brings to the Foundation. Welcome to the Grange team, Donny!

## **The Role of the National Grange Digest in Your Grange**

*By: Joe Stefanoni National Grange Membership Director*

The 2021 version of the National Grange Digest of Laws has recently been released with the changes adopted by the delegates to the 154th Session of the National Grange, but what is this book, and why does it matter to your Grange? The National Grange Digest of Laws (or ‘Digest’) is in short, the collection of laws, rules and procedures that govern our organization. Or in other words, it is the playbook that we all agree to use when we join the Grange, or are elected to serve as an officer, and helps to keep us all “between the navigational beacons”. The Digest can also be a resource to Granges and Grangers by answering any question that may arise. The Digest contains 13 chapters, which can be grouped into five sections; the Constitution, the Declaration of Purposes, the Articles of Incorporation, the By-laws and the Codes.

Chapter 1 of the Digest is the Constitution of 1986. The Constitution is the guiding document that lays out the divisions of the Order, its organization, regulation and administration, types of membership and other items considered necessary for the general guidance of the Order. Chapter 2 is the Declaration of Purposes which outlines the general objectives of our Order and provides specific objectives that we as an Order are seeking to obtain. Chapter 3 is the Articles of Incorporation of the National Grange. This chapter is the legal document that is filed with the District of Columbia where the National Grange is incorporated. The Articles of Incorporation lay out the legal structure of the organization with regard to its name, period of duration, objects, types of members and who are voting members of the corporation.

Chapter 4 contains the by-laws of the National Grange and is probably the most widely applicable chapter of the 13. The By-Laws are the laws of the Order that provide for the general operation of the organization. There are 18 different articles contained in the By-Laws which outline a variety of topics including the information to form, close or consolidate Granges, the dues/membership fees collected by the National Grange, the duties of offices and how to amend the by-laws.



Each of the remaining chapters are called the Code Chapters. They provide for more details than is provided for in the By-Laws. Chapters five through nine are the codes of the various divisions of the Order (i.e. Junior Granges through the National Grange) and provides for the organization and structure of the division of the Order. Chapter 10 is the Code of all Granges and provides for the items that pertain to and is common to all of the divisions of the Order. Chapter 11 is the Code of Ritual, Degrees & Regalia and provides for details about the ritual of the Order, including the Degrees and Regalia. Chapter 12 is the Code of Judicial Law and provides for procedures on how rulings (interpretations) are made and by whom, and the rules and regulations for Grange trials. Finally, Chapter 13 is the Code of Parliamentary Law which provides for the parliamentary rules of the Grange. In general, the sections of this chapter cover the instances when the parliamentary rules of the Grange differ from Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. Whenever this chapter is silent on a topic or question, then Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised will apply.



## SUPPLY STORE

[www.grangestore.com](http://www.grangestore.com)



**Grange Resource Binder**

The Grange Resource Binder is a comprehensive tool for Community Granges that outlines important information on business procedures, Grange meeting procedures, Grange law, Grange officer resources, and program resources. This was edited and revised by Joseph Stefanoni, Director of Membership & Leadership Development. Each Resource Binder is 434 pages that comes with a flash drive that contains certain documents in a digital format.

Cost is \$30.00 plus shipping, for only the Flash Drive the cost is \$10.00 plus shipping

The governing laws of the Grange has evolved along with the organization over the last 153 years. The organization was originally governed by the Constitution adopted in 1873. The current Constitution is known as the Constitution of 1986. Over a period of several years prior to 1986, all of the laws of the National Grange were reviewed and rewritten into a new format. This Constitution replaced the prior version. Both versions begin with the Preamble to the Constitution, which was written by William Saunders, the first Master (President) of the National Grange. It was adopted on January 9, 1873 and has never been changed. At the National Grange's 154th

Annual Session only two amendments to the Digest of Laws were adopted. The first resolution added further definition to the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee into the by-laws. The second amended provisions dealing with the sale, encumbrance or transfer of the real property of Subordinate and Pomona Granges.

As an organization, the Grange derives all of its laws and authority from the National Grange level. All of the Granges of the various divisions of the Order must have governing documents that guide and direct their activities and therefore should have a current copy of their by-laws available to their members. Each Subordinate Grange should maintain current copies of the National Grange Digest of Laws and their State Grange by-laws. One useful way to make sure that your Grange is keeping these documents up to date and members have access to them is to create a Google Drive folder. If your Grange does not have a copy of your current by-laws, or if your by-laws are greatly out-of-date, the National Grange has a simple fill in the blank template available for your use (or check with your State Grange to see if one is already provided for you).

## **Store Announcement**

*By: Loretta Washington Director of Sales*

Are you ordering Grange merchandise for the loved ones in your life for the holidays? Check out this important announcement so you receive your packages on time.

National Grange Supply Store order must be received by Dec 16 to be shipped out by 12-22-2020. All orders received after Dec 17 will be shipped out the week Of Jan 4, 2021.

Hope to see your orders soon!

## **A FEW GREAT MENTIONS**

*This is a new section we will include each week with a few of the links to articles in which the local, State or the National Grange have been mentioned or our statements have appeared.*

- [At Age 153, the National Grange Confronts the Pandemic](#) , New York City, NY
- [Rural advocate sounds alarm on accessing a vaccine.](#) Washington, DC
- [Public puts farming as No. 1 industry in Gallup poll](#), Rochester, MN
- [Name Tags](#) Ephrata, PA

## **GRANGE COMMENTS ON WEEKLY ITEMS OF INTEREST**

*This is a new section we will include each week with at least one quote from the week prior made about a policy issue or current event by National Grange President Betsy Huber or other Grange leaders for inclusion by media or to spark interest in the rural perspective.*

### **Vilsack tapped by Biden to again lead USDA**

“President-elect Biden has made a wise choice to lead the Department at a time when farming is even more essential and food security is a serious issue for more Americans than ever. ... His ability to rise above partisanship will serve USDA well as it prioritizes efforts to connect unserved rural residents with high-speed broadband for distance learning, telehealth, remote business, essential services and smart agriculture.”



### **Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction results positive step for rural Americans**

“The sound regulatory approach and carefully calibrated incentives championed by the FCC have delivered results, yielding \$9.2 billion in support during this first Phase. We applaud the continued efforts of the FCC to expand high-speed internet access to rural communities that are too often neglected or underserved.”

### **Grange lauds party choices for House Ag Committee leadership**

“We expect [Glenn] “GT” [Thompson] and Rep. [David] Scott will provide strong agricultural leadership together in the new Congress and we look forward to working with them and the rest of the committee to ensure a bright and prosperous future for each of us as we’re touched everyday by the products and services our agriculture industry provides.”

### **Challenges of access faced by rural Americans must be addressed in vaccine roll-out**

*In a letter to the FDA and press statement:* “The question of how rural communities will fare in obtaining any future COVID-19 vaccine is becoming steadily more pressing as we are learning more of potential distribution and storage challenges. Many communities do not currently have the infrastructure necessary to maintain and store these vaccine candidates and do not have the ability to put the necessary resources into place in the immediate future.”

Retractable Grip Pen - \$ .75 ea  
JG Lunch Bag - \$3.00 ea  
Magnet, 4.25" W x 4.75" H,  
.03 thickness - \$2.50 ea  
Front Line Hero Pins - \$2.50 ea  
Playing Cards - \$8.00 ea  
Stuffed Cow or Duck - \$12.00 ea



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Order on line or call Monroe Classic, Inc. at 1-800-868-2330 or email [sales@monroeclassic.com](mailto:sales@monroeclassic.com)  
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## **It's Not Too Late to Get the Flu Shot**

*Article Provided by Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services*

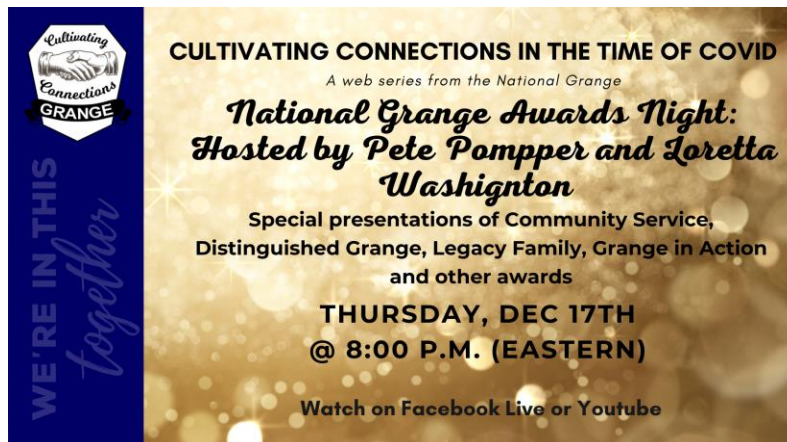
It's more important than ever for everyone to do their part to help prevent the spread of illnesses like the flu. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, fewer people are getting vaccines which puts their communities at greater risk for other preventable diseases, like the flu. When people get the flu shot, it helps protect them and keeps them from spreading the flu to others.

Racial and ethnic minority groups are disproportionately affected when it comes to receiving recommended vaccines, due to such factors as vaccination safety concerns and limited access to care and coverage. During National Influenza Vaccination Week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH), is highlighting vaccination disparities and reminding patients and their families that it's not too late to get the flu vaccine.

CMS has developed new flu vaccination resources for partners, patients, providers, states, territories, tribes, and others who can share our message and help combat vaccine disparities. Please use our resources to encourage your patients to get their flu shot so they and their communities can stay healthy.

#### Resources

- Find vaccination resources for racial and ethnic minority patients, as well as resources for providers and partners that serve these populations at [cms.gov/omhflu](https://cms.gov/omhflu).
- Visit [cms.gov/flu](https://cms.gov/flu) for a one-stop shop to help you find CMS's flu vaccination information and resources.
- Looking for additional languages? Find postcards in 18 languages.
- Review our From Coverage to Care (C2C) resources to learn more about health coverage and find preventive resources.
- Visit the Beneficiary Care Management Program immunization webpage.



**CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS IN THE TIME OF COVID**  
*A web series from the National Grange*

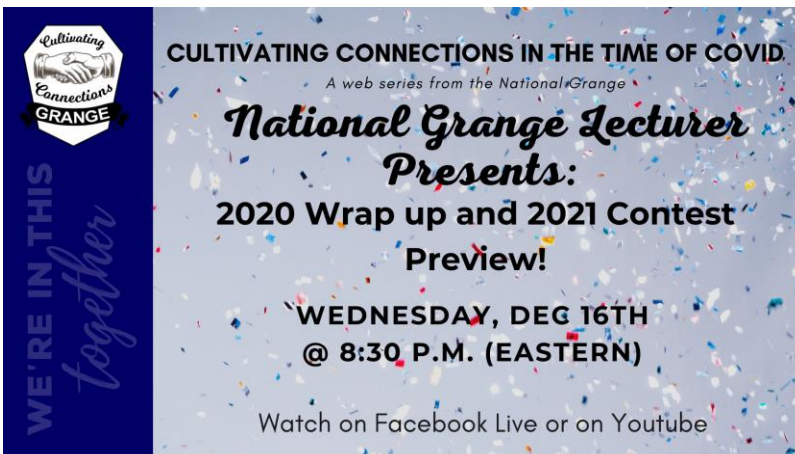
***National Grange Awards Night:***  
***Hosted by Pete Pompper and Loretta Washignton***

Special presentations of Community Service,  
Distinguished Grange, Legacy Family, Grange in Action  
and other awards

**THURSDAY, DEC 17TH**  
**@ 8:00 P.M. (EASTERN)**

Watch on Facebook Live or Youtube

**WE'RE IN THIS together**



**CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS IN THE TIME OF COVID**  
*A web series from the National Grange*

***National Grange Lecturer***  
***Presents:***

**2020 Wrap up and 2021 Contest Preview!**

**WEDNESDAY, DEC 16TH**  
**@ 8:30 P.M. (EASTERN)**

Watch on Facebook Live or on Youtube

**WE'RE IN THIS together**



## Introducing The National Grange Cash Back Connections Program

**A completely free way to get cash back when you shop online!**

We've partnered with more than 1,400 retailers, and *you* reap the benefits. Simply sign in, find your favorites stores, then shop as you normally would. The cash back (amount varies by retailer) is automatically added to your account, and once you've earned \$15 or more, you can request payment anytime.

**That's all there is to it. No catches. No costs. Just cash.**



Sign in.  
It's fast and free.

Shop as you normally would at  
your favorite stores

Once you earn \$15 or more,  
you get paid!

[www.cashbackconnections.com/grange](http://www.cashbackconnections.com/grange)

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