

154th Annual Convention of the

NATIONAL GRANGE

Journal of Proceedings





NATIONAL GRANGE

Founded in 1867 as the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, we proudly serve as America's oldest agricultural advocacy organization with deeply held nonpartisan ideals.

We are headquartered at the historic National Grange Building at 1616 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20006.

However, the heart of the Grange is located in the more than 1,600 communities in which fraternal local Grange chapters operate today. Our nearly 150,000 members initiate policy resolutions through a grassroots process and advocate for issues of importance to themselves and their neighbors. In addition, they serve as part of the social safety net and network that improves the quality of life for those living in rural America or following agricultural pursuits.

We welcome you to learn more about the Grange at nationalgrange.org or by visiting a local Grange meeting.

Journal of Proceedings
of the
National Grange
of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry

154th Annual Convention
Virtual, Washington DC
November 17-18, 2020

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*For more information, contact
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www.nationalgrange.org*

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The Grange strengthens individuals, families and communities through grassroots action, service, education, advocacy and agricultural awareness.

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Helen Lynch, DE
Cheri Watson, NH
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OFFICIAL CONVENTION PROGRAM

Tuesday, November 17

12 noon	Opening of 154 th Session in 7 th Degree
12:15 pm	Credentials report
	Presentation of budget
	Presentation of consent calendars by committee chairs
1:00 pm	President's internal address
1:20 pm	President's external address
2:00 pm	Suggestions for officers-- 2 Executive Committee
2:15 pm	Election of officers
2:30 pm	Committee reports
4:00 pm	Recess
6:00 pm	Reconvene – Committee reports
8:15 pm	Grange Advocacy report
	Grange Foundation report
8:30 pm	Memorial Service
9:00 pm	Session closes

Wednesday, November 18

12 noon	Session opens in 4 th Degree
	Committee reports
2:00 pm	Adoption of budget
	Committee reports
4:00 pm	Recess
6:00 pm	Committee reports
8:30 pm	Installation of officers
	Invitation to 155 th National Grange Convention
9:00 pm	Session closes

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 154th ANNUAL NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION

Pre-Convention Activities

Committee assignments were made by National Grange President Betsy Huber (PA). Each of the committees met prior to the convention to review the resolutions from the State Granges assigned to their respective committee as well as portions from the National President's internal and external reports.

154th National Grange Convention November 17, 2020 Day One

The 154th Annual convention of the National Grange was opened in the Seventh Degree in the annual session via Zoom meeting at 12:00 noon Eastern time.

Upon lowering to the Fourth degree, a roll call of officers and National Grange staff found all present. Roll call of delegates found all present except Delaware. The printed program for the session was adopted.

John Benedik (NJ) Chairman of the Audit and Budget Committee presented the Credentials Report, which was corrected and adopted.

President Betsy Huber (PA) welcomed everyone to this historic National Grange convention, it being the first time we are not all together due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but stated that she is looking forward to this convention via Zoom. She welcomed the new State President from New Hampshire, Bob Trombi and his wife, Jane. She also welcomed Ann Bercher (MN) who was elected last year, but this is her first time to serve as delegate.

John Benedik (NJ), Chairman of the Audit and Budget Committee, presented the budget giving highlights and taking questions. The budget will come to the floor for a vote at 2:00 p.m. tomorrow.

Consent Calendars were presented by each committee chairman, setting a time certain for vote in 24 hours. Joe Goodrich (VT), Grange Law committee chairman presented a resolution from his committee that falls under the 24 hour rule.

Phil Prelli, Vice President, introduced President Betsy Huber (PA) as she presented her annual Internal Address. Portions of the address were given to committees. This report will be printed in the journal.

Recess for preparation for streaming set-up.

Following a brief recess, after introduction by Vice President Phil Prelli (CT), National President Betsy Huber (PA) gave the annual external address, which was live streamed on YouTube.

The meeting was called back to order. Portions of the external address were assigned to committees by Vice President Phil Prelli (CT) and will be printed in the journal.

Phil Prelli (CT) stated that 48 years ago he was presented a gavel as the Youth officer team president when the National Grange met in Connecticut, and he is proud that he can use it again today for this National convention.

Suggestions were taken for election of an executive committee position currently held by Leroy Watson. Voting was online via a link sent to each delegate's email account. Leroy Watson (NH) was re-elected for a two-year term on the National Executive Committee. Suggestions were then taken for the executive committee seat currently held by Susan Noah (OR), who was re-elected.

Recess – Following recess work on resolutions began.

Agriculture committee chairman, John Plank (IN) gave a partial report.

Melanie Bostwick (KS), chairman of the Citizenship committee gave a partial report.

Recess until 6:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Following recess, Citizenship committee chairman, Melanie Bostwick (KS), resumed the committee partial report.

Conservation committee chairman, Tom Gwin (WA), gave a partial report.

Education and Health committee chairman, Debbie Vine (WI), gave a partial report.

Glenn Gibson (MA), chairman of the Labor, Judiciary & Transportation Committee gave a partial report.

Recess.

Following recess, the report of Grange Advocacy was presented by Leroy Watson, Chairman of Board of Directors, which report was live streamed via YouTube. Joan Smith, Chairman of the Grange Foundation gave the foundation report, which was also live streamed.

Barbara Borderieux (FL), National Grange Chaplain lead in the Memorial Service. Those also taking part in the service were Betsy Huber (PA), soloist Stephanie Wilkins (MD), Cindy Greer (CO), Lena Shufeldt (OK), Kay Stiles (MD), Judy Sherrod (TN), and Martha Stefenoni (CA). The tribute for each deceased Granger was given by the State President for their respective states.

The Grange was closed at 9:33 p.m.

Day Two – November 18, 2020

The 154th Annual convention of the National Grange was opened in the Fourth Degree in annual session via Zoom meeting at 12:00 noon Eastern time, and live streamed on YouTube. Opening song was “The Welcome Song”. Upon lowering to the Fourth degree, a roll call of officers and delegates found all present. Minutes of yesterday’s session were read and adopted.

Phil Prelli (CT) chairman of the Board of Directors gave a report. They met several times during the year via Zoom.

The Chairman of the Grange Growth and Development committee, Debbie Campbell (PA) gave a final report, which was adopted.

Recess 10 minutes. Following recess, the Grange was called back to order.

John Benedik (NJ), Chairman of the Audit & Budget Committee, gave a partial report, asking if there were any questions or discussions regarding the proposed budget. Joe Stefenoni (CA) stated that although he is a delegate to this convention he is also a member of the staff, and he feels it is inappropriate to vote on the budget. Therefore he abstained from the vote.

Agriculture committee chairman, John Plank (IN) gave the committee’s final report, which was adopted, followed by the final report of the Audit and Budget Committee by chairman, John Benedik (NJ), which was adopted.

The Grange Law committee chairman, Joe Goodrich (VT) gave a partial report.

Recess at 4:24 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Eastern

The Grange was called back to order in the Fourth Degree. The committee report of Grange Law continued by Chairman, Joe Goodrich (VT), which final report was adopted.

The Citizenship and Taxation Committee chairman, Melanie Bostwick (KS) gave a final report, which was adopted.

Tom Gwin (WA), Chairman of the Conservation Committee, gave a final report which was adopted.

Education and Health Committee chairman, Debbie Vine (WI), gave a final report which was adopted.

Labor, Judiciary and Transportation Committee chairman, Glenn Gibson (MA) gave a final report, which was adopted.

Lecturer, Chris Hamp (WA) presented some facts about Pennsylvania regarding inventions, food, and other fun facts.

Membership Leadership director, Joe Stefenoni (CA) gave his annual report.

Betsy reported that National Youth and Young Adult Director, Mandy Bostwick (KS) is online with us this evening since she was teaching school today. Her report will be printed in the Journal as well as that of National Junior Director, Samantha Wilkins (PA).

Pete Pompper (NJ), Community Service Director, gave his annual report. Pete told of a new award entitled the National Grange Community Service Director’s Award. Several people have received this award in states across the country. Nominated also for the National Grange Community Service Director’s Award are Burton Eller and Betsy Huber, both of whom are presented with awards tonight.

Moved and seconded to release our proceedings to the press. Moved and seconded for Board of Directors to approve today’s minutes and to make edits.

Announcements – Reminder Friday night on Facebook live youth and junior contest winners at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday night on Facebook Evening of excellence participants will perform. In the next week or two will be Grange in Action awards and Community service awards on Facebook.

Installation of newly elected officers Leroy Watson (NH) and Susan Noah (OR) was conducted by High Priest Bruce Croucher (NY).

Melanie Bostwick (KS) presented an invitation on behalf of the Great Plains Region to the 155th Annual National Convention in Wichita November 9-13, 2021.

Betsy thanked everyone who attended this convention, expressing thanks for their diligence, time spent, and serious consideration of resolutions.

This historic session of the National Grange via Zoom was closed in regular form at 8:53 pm. Eastern, followed by singing “God Be With You.”

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESSES

STATE OF AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Delivered by Betsy E. Huber, National President

1:04 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2020

2020 will certainly go down in history as the most unusual year of our lifetimes. Although the country was closed for most of the year, legislative issues in Washington were busier than ever. Before everything shut down in March, we did have some successes on issues we had been supporting.

EARLY WINS

The EPA and Corps of Engineers released their final WOTUS (Waters of the U.S.) rule that farmers and others have long been waiting for. It replaces an earlier rule that was an overreach of Congress' original definition of navigable waters that would have allowed the federal government to regulate all land use including agriculture. The revised definition provides four clear categories of waters that are to be federally regulated under the Clean Water Act and details what waters are not subject to federal control. This is good news for farmers, ranchers and landowners.

In mid-December, U.S. and Chinese officials signed off on a partial "Phase One" trade deal that includes a Chinese pledge to buy \$200 billion more of U.S. products than they had in 2017. Further negotiations will be needed for a second deal that encompasses intellectual property, technology transfer, currency manipulation and more.

Unfortunately, the pandemic hit soon after the agreement was signed, and China was not able to reach the level of purchases they had pledged—agriculture purchases met only 43% of the goal by September 1st -- but there were increases in corn, soybeans, and pork.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) finally became law with the President signing it January 29. We issued a statement saying, "This agreement helps solidify trade relationships with our neighbors who buy more made-in-America goods than any other market. Every segment of American agriculture benefits from this agreement."

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) created the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund that will allocate more than \$20 billion for rural broadband expansion. These funds will go a long way toward reaching the "last mile" in rural areas with high speed connectivity. Access to real-time market data, web-based business initiatives, educational resources for remote learning, telehealth services and more will advance rural America into the mainstream of national and international competitiveness.

The FCC also approved removing longstanding regulatory barriers to clear the way for unlicensed white space devices to deliver wireless broadband services in rural areas. The so-called TV white space devices operate in portions of the broadcast television spectrum not currently being used. It appears to be well-suited to reach the "last mile" in rural areas with low population density and challenging topographies.

Paper Options, the National Grange and the Coalition for Paper Options have been waging a campaign to allow consumers the option to continue receiving paper bills, reports, statements, etc. instead of being forced to receive these electronically. A 2019 Toluna consumer survey indicated that 86% of Americans want the right to choose how they receive their communications. We've written numerous letters to Congress, op eds, press releases, and tweets about the issue this year.

IMPORTED DRUGS

Back in December, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a notice of proposed rulemaking which would allow states to import drugs from Canada. The problem is that Canada does not review, test or approve drugs transshipped through Canada from a third country. Those drugs may be produced in any country under any kind of conditions. National Grange policy continues to oppose transshipped imported drugs from Canada because

such drugs may be fakes that don't treat the patient's illness, may not contain correct ingredient combinations or levels for effective treatment, or may actually contain incorrect ingredients harmful to the patient's health.

The National Grange is leading a coalition of patient groups to raise awareness of these dangers of imported drugs. We've been concentrating on state legislatures that were considering bills to allow imported prescription drugs, cautioning that the assumption these medicines from Canada and certain European countries are safe is not correct.

On July 24 the President signed an Executive Order that we fear will import drug price controls and restrictive health care systems from foreign countries. We issued a statement urging the Administration to reconsider this proposal, saying cutting drug costs is a high priority for the Grange, but there are better ways to accomplish this. The fear is that the pricing Index will not directly reduce out-of-pocket costs for patients but instead restrict patient access to essential treatments and medication.

FLY-IN

In keeping with Grange tradition, the National Grange Fly-In this year was to New Hampshire in February to experience the "First in the Nation" Presidential Primary. The excursion included thirty Grangers from eight states who worked on the various campaigns of their choice, watched a candidates' debate, marveled at the vastness of worldwide media coverage, learned about the origin of the first in the nation primary, enjoyed breakfast compliments of the New Hampshire State Grange at their headquarters, and ate seafood at the local favorite. We appreciate the planning and hard work of Grange members Bob Haefner and Tara Sad and their team of New Hampshire Grangers. Bob and Tara are former long-time majority and minority chairmen of the New Hampshire House Agriculture Committee.

Later in the year, in preparation for the Democratic and Republican National Conventions in August, the National Grange submitted policy statements to the members of both parties' platform committees. The Grange emphasized several of its top policy priorities including emergency access to rural broadband connectivity and access to rural health care. The statements emphasized the urgent need to create Wi-Fi hotspots in rural areas and small towns to deliver distance learning, telehealth and tele-business as COVID-19 continues and sweeps more remote areas of the country. The Grange also called attention to rapidly disappearing health care services as rural hospitals and clinics continue to close, and offered several recommendations for platform consideration. Thanks to our intern Sean O'Neil for putting these statements together.

COVID-19

The early wins seem like so long ago, because in mid-March everything changed. Overnight we were all ordered to isolate in our homes; banks, restaurants, theaters, businesses, everything closed; and those who didn't have computers or internet service were left out. The President, governors and mayors took drastic but necessary lock-down steps to limit crowds and movement to slow disease transmission. The stock market fell overnight and unemployment skyrocketed.

Supplies of beef, pork and poultry backed up at the farm as more and more processing plants closed periodically. Milk was dumped and vegetables plowed under as restaurant and school demand dried up and processing facilities and distribution channels struggled to change their packaging to accommodate retail trade and government purchase specifications. Farmers and ranchers suffered devastating losses as export markets fell to around thirty percent of normal volume and overall farm gate prices fell 10 to 40 percent depending upon the commodity.

Congress acted quickly and the President signed on March 27th the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Stability (CARES) Act, a \$2.2 trillion relief package that expands domestic feeding programs, emergency food assistance, and suspends SNAP work requirements during the emergency. There's funding for hospitals, medical personnel and scarce medical supplies; direct government payments to individuals, grants and loans to small business and industries; emergency education funding; deferments on federal student loan payments, added unemployment benefits, and \$14 billion to replenish USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation fund.

The CARES Act also created a USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to compensate farmers and ranchers for losses due to severe price declines between January 15 and April 15, 2020. Payments were available to producers of dairy, livestock, commodity crops and specialty crops. Additional specialty crops were added several times through the summer months. In September USDA approved a CFAP-2 program with another \$14 million to cover farmers' losses after April 15. The CFAP program has been invaluable for keeping farmers afloat when their incomes dropped precipitously because of food chain disruptions.

The coronavirus pandemic has reminded new generations of Americans just how critical and vital medical care and agriculture are to our very survival. We are so grateful to the doctors, nurses, technicians, first responders, researchers, laboratories and so many more, and we're reminded how fortunate we are to live among these heroes who think of others first. These were the first wave of "essential worker" designations. As the pandemic surrounded us, our first thought was of course about medical care. But then our second thought was about food.

The second category of essential workers were those links in the food chain who continued in overdrive to make sure we have access to the food we need. There was plenty of food available, but the challenge was to keep processing plants staffed and running with large numbers of workers (while simultaneously preventing COVID-19 infections) to ensure a steady supply moving to the grocery stores. Closing down one plant, even for a few weeks, backs up production across the country, crashes prices paid to farmers and leads to huge surpluses at the farm and severe meat shortages for the consumer. Hours-of-service rules were suspended to enable truckers to make their essential deliveries.

The National Grange joined Feeding America and the American Farm Bureau to urge the Secretary of Agriculture to create a vouchers program with enough regulatory flexibility that would allow farmers, instead of destroying their products that were not marketable, to send them directly to food banks. The new Farmers to Families Food Box Program will help farmers cover their costs of harvesting, packing, storing and transporting surplus farm fresh food to food banks. Five million food boxes had been distributed by early June and by September 30th over 100 million boxes were provided to needy families.

USDA also approved Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) 40% emergency benefit increases for eligible households across all 50 states and 3 territories.

I hoped that COVID-19 would have become a common enemy that brought us together as we tackled serious new medical, economic and societal challenges; however Americans seem to be as divided as ever. As the infection rate from the virus rises exponentially and the death rate climbs, the medical community is trying everything in its arsenal to mitigate this disease and there is hope for vaccines to be available soon.

Altogether by April Congress had passed four major financial aid packages for a total of \$4.7 trillion that included direct payments to individuals, paycheck protection for idled workers, protective equipment for medical personnel and first responders, loans and grants for businesses, hospitals and schools, medicine and vaccine research, government commodity purchases, aid to farmers and ranchers, and much more.

RURAL BROADBAND

As their schools and colleges closed rural students faced a huge obstacle to distance learning: connectivity. Rural broadband went from important to essential overnight. The digital divide was exposed as wider than anyone realized when millions of students were unable to learn from home-- nearly 12 million rural students lack reliable broadband access at home and so could not participate in school during prolonged closures. Routine medical appointments were unavailable -- we probably won't know the effect on overall health for years. While great progress has been made in high-speed broadband deployment in the past few years, there remain huge gaps in rural connectivity yet to be filled.

As the COVID-19 pandemic became a national emergency in mid-March, FCC Chairman Pai proposed and 785 broadband and telephone service providers signed, the Keep America Connected Pledge to not terminate service and waive late fees for nonpayment of bills due to the pandemic and to provide WI-FI hotspots to anyone who needs

them. In addition, many providers said they would prioritize connectivity needs of hospitals and health care providers, work with schools and libraries on remote learning opportunities, and relax data caps and overage fees.

How many rural Americans lack access to broadband internet? Well, somewhere between 17 and 42 million. The previous method of FCC mapping was largely inaccurate to show actual connectivity in rural areas. Congress passed the Broadband DATA Act this spring to create more accurate mapping so public and private investment in rural broadband can be directed to where it's really needed. The Grange has urged Congress to now commit full funding to implement the Act. Current broadband mapping cannot accurately delineate the underserved areas of rural America for effective, targeted broadband investment.

In March I was appointed to the Deployment working group of the FCC Precision Agriculture Task Force to develop recommendations for facilitating expansion of broadband connectivity to agricultural lands as well as rural households. Precision agriculture can do much to increase productivity and income on farms as well as protect our environment by more targeted use of inputs, but it needs access to the internet.

I also participated on a panel hosted by the Connect Americans Now coalition focused on the urgency to address the digital divide, the progress that has been made to clear regulatory hurdles, and actions Congress can take to allocate funding to most rapidly and cost-effectively close the broadband gap. I was a panelist in mid-August on the Agri-Pulse webinar, "Why Broadband is Important for Growing Sustainable Food". Panelists also included Shirley Bloomfield, CEO of NTCA The Broadband Association, and Tom Vanverloh, Vice President of Sustainability for the United Soybean Board.

LIFELINE

The National Grange continued our support of the Lifeline program this year. We wrote to House Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader McConnell and members of the House and Senate Commerce Committees alerting them to recent actions by the Federal Communications Commission that could seriously impact Lifeline voice and broadband services. The FCC proposal, if enacted, would mandate a significant increase in copayment from Lifeline subscribers in this uncertain time, making the service unaffordable for many. Lifeline is a federally subsidized voice and broadband program specifically for disabled, isolated, chronically ill, elderly and low-income citizens and veterans. In September we had a phone call with White House Public Liaison and the National Economic Council on the same topic, asking them to urge the FCC to postpone the changes.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

One of the biggest focal points for political drama this summer was the U.S. Postal Service. Representatives of both political parties, the union, the media, the President, Hollywood and conspiracy theorists were all engaged in spreading rumors about the subject of mail delivery. Undoubtedly the Postal Service faces challenges that require congressional action to solve, but in the meantime, we need to get through fall elections and a pandemic. The prior postmaster, Megan Brennan, who spoke to the National Grange at our 150th annual session, made recommendations to reduce costs by removing underperforming mailboxes, sorting machines, and routes, and cutting overtime. When the new postmaster, Louis DeJoy, took office July 1st, he tried to make these changes; however, the timing was wrong. Carrying out these efficiency measures as if we are not in a pandemic with an emphasis on voting by mail will not work; the pandemic has changed everything about normal life, and the USPS is no different. Mail volume has dropped from 213 billion to 140 billion items over the last 14 years, but it is still an essential service, especially for rural America.

There are two major factors that frame the Post Office debate for the Grange:

Mail is an essential service. Rural America needs the Post Office to deliver mail and bring supplies, medicines, groceries, ballots and more to citizens in remote areas and to isolated populations throughout the country.

Secondly, Business efficiency. The Post Office will have to operate effectively and efficiently going forward without regular cash infusions from the federal government to continue operations.

The National Grange and a group of business organizations petitioned the leadership of the Senate and House Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committees to include funding in the coronavirus relief package as necessary to keep the Postal Service fully functional during this crisis and beyond, and Congress did approve a \$10 billion loan to the USPS in the CARES Act to assure its operation in the short term.

FUTURE ISSUES

Telecommunications

The pandemic-caused disruptions to daily life have done more to raise awareness of the rural-urban digital divide than anything for a decade. Students cannot attend classes and do homework without dependable internet. Telemedicine is useless without dependable internet. Telework doesn't happen without dependable internet. Congress and the White House responded in 2020 with levels of funding not imagined a decade ago.

The FCC began an auction on October 29th of unused spectrum under the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF.) Phase I will target those areas that are wholly unserved by voice and fixed broadband networks with minimum speeds of 25/3 Mbps and will prioritize faster speeds and lower latency bidders. The Phase II auction in 2023 will target unserved locations identified through the Commission's new Digital Opportunity Data Collection or a suitable alternative data source, as well as any areas not won in Phase I that remain unserved. In total the program will direct up to \$20.4 billion over ten years and will specifically target precision agriculture. USDA is also investing millions in broadband expansion through the Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant program.

K-12 Bridge to Broadband is a national effort to connect more students for remote and hybrid learning through a partnership with the non-profit group EducationSuperHighway. The program enables school districts to identify students without broadband and purchase service for low income families. USTelecom-The Broadband Association says its companies, in partnership with school districts and states, will work to identify student households that are unconnected but serviceable and will offer arrangements to connect students this school year. NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association is also collaborating on the project.

Challenges for the Grange in 2021 will be to assure that all these funds are used wisely and efficiently, rights-of-way and access challenges are addressed, and the way is cleared for mixed-technology systems to reach the last mile of rural America.

Climate Change

Climate change is receiving more and more attention in the press and among legislators. The House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis released a 547-page report in July which could serve as a blueprint for Democrats next year. Their Climate Crisis Action Plan calls for net-zero greenhouse emissions in the United States by 2050 and underscores a big role for agriculture conservation. It calls for greatly increased funding for working lands conservation programs, a reduction in agricultural emissions through nutrient management, rotational grazing, etc., support for next-generation farmers, increased technical assistance to farmers, support for renewable energy, preserving farmland from development, and reduction of food waste. The Agriculture and Conservation Committees should review our present policy to determine if any updates or changes are needed so the Grange can be involved in the discussions.

A related topic, carbon sequestration has received interest in DC and in the presidential campaigns. A bipartisan Senate bill is garnering support that would give USDA a key role in overseeing voluntary agricultural carbon markets. The Growing Climate Solutions Act would create a USDA system for certifying third-party verifiers and technical assistance providers. Farmers and ranchers could receive assistance and incentives for implementing practices which reduce carbon emissions on their operations. In addition, they could sell excess carbon credits to commercial firms who exceed their carbon emission cap. During a Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on June 24, the bill appeared to have broad support among committee members.

Gene Editing

Recent advances in gene editing offer promising opportunities to mitigate emissions from agriculture and other sectors, and to capture carbon from the atmosphere. Gene editing differs from genetic modification, or GMOs, in that it is not random; the DNA is targeted-- inserted, deleted, modified or replaced-- in the genome of a living organism to change characteristics. A recent report from the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation titled "Gene Editing for the Climate: Biological Solutions for Curbing Greenhouse Emissions," concludes with a set of policy recommendations urging governments around the world to accelerate the development and deployment of gene-edited climate solutions by acting to:

1. Eliminate unscientific regulatory burdens and barriers that hinder the development of safe gene-edited products.
2. Increase investment in research and development (R&D) priorities such as advancing CRISPR tools, enhancing photosynthesis, and improving methods to measure soil carbon.
3. Improve coordination of existing R&D efforts within the United States and around the world.
4. Expand incentives that will spur the rapid adoption of novel gene-edited technologies.

The Agriculture Committee should review our policy to support cutting edge research that will improve agricultural sustainability and profitability.

Food Security

On October 22 the National Grange hosted a webinar titled "Innovation from Farm to Table," a discussion about agricultural innovation and its role in domestic food security, supply and production. Panelists from Tyson Foods, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Farm Credit Council, and Feed the Children discussed this broad topic from their various viewpoints. Food security includes everyone having enough to eat of course, but it also involves farmers earning enough to stay in business; government not overregulating normal agricultural practices; advancements in scientific research and reliance on sound science not popular opinion. It includes reducing food waste, preparing for climate change, water and soil conservation, and animal welfare.

Food security was identified by National Grange delegates several years ago as a top priority and it will continue to be a focus in the coming year.

Other Issues to Watch in 2021

Election Results

The occupant of the White House could drive major public policy initiatives during 2021, the first year of the term, as Presidents historically tend to be most successful passing their agenda in the first year. Watch the role the newly elected Vice President plays during 2021. Will he lead Congress or vice versa? The VP may become more of a policy-driver than normal.

Control of the Senate and House next year will determine whether the President's policy initiatives see the light of day. If the Senate, House and White House are held by the same party, policy initiatives will move at warp speed. If the Senate and House are held by different parties, this will serve as a check-and-balance on policy initiatives no matter which party occupies the White House.

Coronavirus and the Economy

These are the two elephant-in-the-room serious concerns facing everyone in the world right now. How many viral waves will engulf the planet over what time period? Will there be enough food and can it be distributed to those in need? The answers will drive public policy initiatives in 2021. Then, once the viral infection rate subsides, what will it take to rebuild our economy over how many years?

Farm and Food Policy

Few expect major changes in farm policy for 2021. Food policy initiatives are more likely. Will the temporary food policies permitted during the pandemic be made more permanent? These include relaxed rules to encourage direct farm to consumer sales, allow truckers delivery flexibility with the 24-hour rule, expedite donations to food banks and more. However, if all three branches of government are controlled by one political party, some out of the ordinary food policies will likely emerge. Trade could become even more of an economic and diplomatic challenge.

Health Care

Healthcare will consume most of the Grange's public policy time in 2021. COVID-19 therapies and vaccines and who gets vaccinated in what order will be both medical and political questions. How much insurance at what price will patients be able to afford? Drug pricing debates will escalate. Treatments for chronic pain to move patients away from opioids and other addictive drugs look promising. The Grange will continue to be involved in many different healthcare issues in the coming year.

Taxes

The COVID-19 relief packages have added immense deficits to the country's debt. How soon will we begin making payments against that debt and who will be taxed to make those payments? At least some tax policy discussions will likely take place in 2021. The direction of those tax discussions will largely depend upon the Senate and White House. Be on the lookout for a roll-back of the latest tax cuts, a corporate tax increase, an increase in the capital gains tax rate, higher taxes on the nation's wealthiest individuals and higher death taxes on estates.

A Divided Nation

A September poll by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget confirmed Americans lack consensus on national goals and have starkly different views about the future direction of the country. Democrats rank "improving health care affordably" and "improving racial injustice" as top priorities. Republicans rank "having a strong and growing economy" and "putting America first" as top national priority goals. Overall, however, more than 80 percent of Americans hold such values as free speech, equal justice under the law, and ensuring everyone has an opportunity to succeed as defining national values. According to Michael V. Murphy, the Committee's initiative director to address the root causes of our growing divisions observed, "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." Here is our opportunity for Granges to make a difference.

CONCLUSION

2020 has been an extremely challenging year for the Grange, our government, and society around the world. We have all examined our lives in all their busyness and discovered what is really important to us and what we can do without. Many of us have learned how blessed we are and how small gestures of help to our neighbors can be lifesaving. The Grange has stood strong, persevered, and shown itself to be essential in hard times as well as good times.

In these tumultuous, trying times, let us commit ourselves to the words of George Washington: "The welfare of our country is the great object to which our cares and efforts ought to be directed—and I shall derive great satisfaction from a cooperation with you, in the pleasing though arduous task of ensuring to our fellow citizens the blessings which they have a right to expect from a free and equal government."

STATE OF THE GRANGE ADDRESS

Delivered by Betsy E. Huber, National President
1:25 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2019

Who could have imagined one year ago when we met in Bloomington, MN, the situation the world would find itself in just 4 months later? A microscopic virus turned everything upside down—society, the economy, education, everything about our daily lives has been affected and totally changed. We may have thought we were in control of our lives but quickly discovered that to be untrue.

The word for the Grange in 2020 is resilience—the ability to bounce back into shape after being pressed or stretched; or the ability to recover strength, spirits, good humor quickly. In spite of the huge challenge of not being able to meet in person, Granges have persevered as they always do, finding ways to stay in contact, conduct their business, and serve their communities. I'm so proud of our local Granges and individual members who immediately took action, making masks and gowns, opening food pantries, serving free drive-through meals, whatever they could think of to stay active and help their neighbors

ACTIVITIES

The year started out normally for me, with the Delaware State Grange Session in December and PA Farm Show in January.

We held a very successful Fly-in February 6-9 for the First-in-the-Nation New Hampshire Primary. Thirty Grangers of all ages traveled to NH, learned about the process, and participated in the presidential campaign of their choice. Thanks again to the NH State Grange for their excellent hosting.

Closely following that event was the Presidents Conference in Baltimore, MD, hosted by MD, PA, and DE State Granges. Thanks to Kay Stiles for her extraordinary efforts in planning and hosting the event, and thanks to all of you State Presidents who attended. I think attendance was the highest in many years, and because it was close to Washington, all our staff were able to attend and present workshops.

Just a couple weeks later we hosted the first Washington DC Experience for youth and Juniors March 7-10 in our newly remodeled conference room. The 25 attendees enjoyed a trolley tour of DC, a visit to USDA, and a tour of Reuters Washington news bureau, along with several additional workshops and visits with their Senators and Congressional Representatives.

However, by the next week the city and our building were totally shut down and we were all working from our homes. Overnight Washington DC became a ghost town and Zoom became our best friend. All regional conferences were canceled, and then all Grange camps and fairs and summer events. Congratulations to those State Granges who quickly adapted, purchased Zoom subscriptions, and offered Zoom capability to any of their Granges who wished to use it. It probably took a pandemic to force us into the 21st Century technology that can be so useful in growing our membership and recognition.

BUILDING

In spite of the shutdown, we completed the roof replacement project and installation of roof anchors. As I said, the conference room was renovated and updated with the latest technology and a new kitchen. We purchased three new laptops and docking stations for staff, and had a new phone system installed which will work even when the power is off (but not when Comcast is down!) We are preparing to install the new boiler finally to make our gas use more efficient.

The Board has been working with MGA, a real estate advisory firm, who presented a report listing four possible scenarios for upgrading our building with needed repairs, maintenance, and improvements. Potential tenants in Washington are looking for many more amenities in a building than we are able to offer, so our pool of tenants is

shrinking. The pandemic and remote work have drastically changed the office rental climate in DC faster than expected. We are very fortunate that we only lost two tenants so far, but several other long-time tenants are downsizing, and filling those spaces will be difficult. The Worthy Overseer and Chairman of the Board will be talking more about this in the Board report. We need to have serious discussions about the future of our building and important decisions need to be made in the near future.

FINANCES

Right after the National Session we changed our accounting process and hired an outside firm to handle the day to day bookkeeping and preparation of financial reports. This has given me much more involvement in the process and more confidence that we are following all the proper procedures with our accounts. However, between November and September I spent much of my time on bookkeeping, providing information to the accountants, paying bills and tracking deposits. The pandemic and its effects prevented hiring of a staff person to handle this clerical work until mid September. We were happy to welcome Kelly Klingman and she has been a great part time addition to our office, allowing me to get back to spending time on my own responsibilities.

The end of the CA litigation and the settlement have greatly eased our cash flow problems this year. We were able to pay back all of the State and Community Granges who were so generous to loan thousands of dollars to the National Grange for the chiller project. We still have the Eagle Bank and Grange Foundation loans but those payments are manageable on our usual income.

With our building almost totally empty for eight months because of remote work during the pandemic, our utility expenses are greatly reduced, and with the scaled-down convention we are saving a huge amount of money this year. This has allowed us to set aside a larger amount than budgeted for the capital building fund for 2020.

OFFICE

Thank you to our dedicated staff who continued to work throughout this pandemic. Even when the city was completely shut down, staff members took turns coming into the office to work and continued full time work remotely, meeting the needs of our members and Granges. Special thanks to Amanda who created the Cultivating Connections Facebook series, with programs every day for three months. This program was so valuable in keeping us connected, entertained, informed, and sane throughout the period of isolation. National Grange has never before been so visible and connected to our members, at least those who use the internet. It was an amazing feat to find speakers and material to present 92 different programs (and they are all available on our website.) Thanks also to Lecturer Christine Hamp for 12 live "Date Night In" talent shows to showcase our fantastic Grange talent. All of these shows kept us from feeling so depressed and isolated.

Leadership/Membership Director Joe Stefenoni used his time not traveling to create resources, update manuals and materials, and hold three virtual training sessions for any members interested in improving their Grange and developing strategic plans. Thank you Joe!

We were fortunate to have three interns this summer and continuing into the fall, in spite of the shutdown. They were invaluable in publicizing the Grange and our positions on current issues. Sean O'Neil was in the office almost every day for three months, attending Hill hearings and meetings (virtually) and writing reports on them for Burton and for the Good Day! magazine. Kennedy Gwin worked mostly remotely, writing press releases, op-eds, Twitter and Facebook posts, and helping Amanda with the magazine and Patrons Chain. Johanna Huber worked remotely, also writing items for Amanda and social media. Thanks so much to all of them for really advancing our profile this summer.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the entire population to reset. Months of isolation at home with family has caused us to reconsider what is really important to our lives—family, food, shelter, love. Hopefully you've realized that Grange is vital to your happy life. We need to use this opportunity to publicize our organization—newspapers and

people are looking for some good news. We need to share our personal experiences, show why we feel Grange is so important to us, and attract those people who have just realized the importance of serving others in their communities.

If you are still meeting virtually, this is a good chance to invite visitors to your meetings. They may have hesitated to enter your building where they've never been before and meet a lot of people they don't know. But joining a Zoom meeting is easy! They can see what you are doing, they can meet your members and get to know them with no risk—they can turn off their video camera; they can even hang up anytime. Then when you can meet in person, they will be more comfortable attending because they feel they know you and are familiar with your meeting process. Hopefully they will have seen that what you're doing is worthwhile and worth their time and effort.

We can step in now to fill that void created when all other activities are closed, if we show our value to the individual and the community through our service to others. Use these unusual circumstances as an opportunity to re-set your Grange as a vital resource in your community. We have a chance to make 2021 the biggest Grange growth year in our lifetimes!

CALIFORNIA

I am SO happy to report that we have reached a settlement agreement with the insurance company covering the California Guild, and both major court battles are over. We received a good compensation from the insurance—not enough to cover the costs over the last 7 years, but it will certainly help. (The check should arrive this week.) Unfortunately, the CA State Grange still must fight for each individual Grange hall that the Guild has refused to vacate; and this process will go on for several years. With the court precedent we now have, these cases should not be difficult to win but of course they are costly for the California State Grange.

Just because we have this infusion of money does not mean we have any extra to put in the budget. We have to pay the huge bill we owe our attorney and pay back all the loans we received for prior attorney fees, chiller and boiler repairs, new roof, etc. We will put some in a capital account but it will not be as much as we would hope.

This extended ordeal tested and tried our beloved Grange organizational structure and even our fraternal bonds, but our Grange laws were judged to be strong and valid by the U.S. court system. The test brought us closer together, like any family facing a challenge, and I thank you all for your support through the process, either financial or encouragement or prayers. We have come out stronger as an organization and as brothers and sisters. At long last we can put this battle behind us and look to the future growth of our Order.

HEROES

Our theme for the past year has been Heroes in our Hometowns, and it's been wonderful to see the many ways that Community and State Granges have used this theme in their displays and programs.

This theme references our community service work, and our Granges have again excelled in assisting their communities in so many different ways. I appreciate the work of Community Service Director Pete Pompper in compiling all the Granges' Facebook posts on his Community Service page so they are easy to find and copy by other Granges across the nation.

The heroic theme also references our legislative efforts to make the country better, and Legislative Director Burton Eller has been running in circles to keep the Grange visible in so many issue arenas in DC as well as state capitols. If we are to continue our involvement in so many issues that you determine policy on here, we desperately need an intern or additional staff member to help with the work.

We are heroic in our youth and Junior programs that train our children to be good citizens and leaders. Junior Director Samantha Wilkins and Youth Director Mandy Bostwick and their teams have worked hard this year to visit all the regional leadership conferences and deliver worthwhile workshops. They've also made changes in their programs to deliver valuable experiences and training that are useful to our young people. We are training them to take our places here in these offices and keep the Grange a vital part of society now and in the future.

Worthy Lecturer Chris Hamp works hard to honor the heroes who are veterans or service members through the Quilts of Valor program. This has been a very moving, emotional addition to our National Session for the past few years and will continue tomorrow night. It's great to see many State Granges and even Community and Pomona Granges participating in this wonderful program by honoring their own veteran heroes. Another way to gain publicity for your Grange and spread the news about the great work we do in our communities.

Quoting from Sister Lynette Schaeffer's President's Address, heroes are characterized by courage, passion, integrity, honesty, confidence, patience, selflessness and caring. I'm sure you all know many Grangers who exemplify these traits in their everyday lives. This week I'm going to recognize one Grange Hero each day of Session

and thank them for going above and beyond for the National Grange and for all of us. Of course, I really appreciate everything each one of you does to advance the Grange in your community, your state, and the nation. Thank you!

The theme Heroes in our Hometowns has surely helped to increase our pride in Grange, and the capes certainly attracted attention in many areas! We want to continue to increase our pride in our organization in order to show the public why we are important to them and why they should join with us if they want to make a difference in their world. The year and the theme may be ending, but the pride should continue to build as we continue to be Do-ers.

2020 THEME

Our theme for 2020 is Cultivating Connections. There's a lot included and inferred in these two words. First cultivating—makes me think of farming, that excited feeling of HOPE each spring when we turn over the brown soil and plant seeds; some growing into good things to eat, some into beautiful flowers to enrich our lives, some into crops to feed our animals. In the Grange we cultivate all these things, but we also cultivate our Juniors and youth to grow into responsible adults who nourish the world with their knowledge, abilities, and commitment. We continue to cultivate our adult members by offering new opportunities to learn leadership, new skills, and new friends.

Then the second word, Connections. The Grange is and has always been about connections—to each other within the Grange as family. Connecting to our communities around our halls, by hosting or assisting with community events, making our halls available to other groups, giving assistance to worthy causes in our areas and beyond. Connecting with government officials, from local to county to state to federal; expressing our opinions, promoting Grange policy, offering our assistance with agricultural or other issues, and thanking them for their service. Connecting with military members and veterans in our communities and honoring them with Quilts of Valor or Patriots Program certificates. Connecting Baby Boomers with Generations X, Y and Z in this age of disconnect so we can understand each other and appreciate our differences. Connecting these generations with our members who know how to preserve foods, do crafts, sew and knit and crochet, so these skills can be passed on. Connecting members and nonmembers with our rich history of contributions to rural America, and connecting our history to our future by involving citizens in today's issues that need to be addressed to improve lives. Connecting rural with urban, agriculture with consumers, to increase the understanding of modern farming methods and where our food comes from; how farmers care deeply for their land and animals. They have been conservationists for centuries because their livelihood depends on the soil and rainfall. Connecting people with the land, either directly through gardening classes or indirectly through the internet, making them appreciate those who do care for and preserve the land. In this way we can show the public that farmers are the original conservationists, that they care for their animals and the soil now as they have forever.

I could go on and on with ways the Grange connects, and I'm sure you can suggest many other ideas. I hope you will use this theme throughout 2020 to present the Grange, possibly in a new light, to residents in your communities so they can see the myriad of things we do and realize how they can be a part of us and contribute their own talents to our efforts.

We talked last year about Generation Y and how we need to change our approach to attract them to the Grange. Have you tried this? Have you planned something different to attract new people to your Grange? With many Community Granges drying up and blowing away, and several of our State Granges on the verge of losing their charters, it's time to take those risks. We must be willing to learn, unlearn, and re-learn to get ahead in this fast-paced digital world, as individuals and as an organization. It's going to take the hard work of every one of us to turn around our membership decline, unlearn the old ways of searching for members, and re-learning how to be an exciting, attractive, radical organization like we were in the 1880s.

In conclusion, I issue you a challenge—Disrupt yourself! We must stop looking behind us at our history, and look ahead—far ahead of the curve, to pounce on opportunities, take calculated risks, turn our understanding into concrete steps that take us from where we are today to where we will need to be tomorrow to be successful. I thank you for your work this past year, and look forward to the disruption that can occur in our Granges in the coming year.

STATE PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

CALIFORNIA

Submitted by State President Kent Westwood

Brothers and Sisters,

Well a year has passed since our last convention and what a year it has been, one that will probably be remembered throughout the 21st century.

Let's start out with some good California State Grange news. As you may know, we have been in lawsuits with several community Granges that have tried to stay with the Guild or turn into some other nonprofit organization. One of those was the Fort Bragg Grange where the Guild broke into the building, changed the locks, and stole valuable contents including substantial monies in its bank account. After several years of legal battling, we got our day in court—the judge decided in our favor *on every count*. The defendants will now have to reimburse the Grange for our legal costs, as well as restore the money they stole and all goods and paraphernalia they took. This was another high win for the Grange and will set the tone for other similar cases in the courts. We are encouraged.

Before I went on disability we went through quite a process putting together a strategic plan to revitalize the California State Grange—to focus our mission and make it more relevant to younger generations. The Grange has the structure to bring our desires to fruition through our legislative programs, the fair program where children can show their animals, as well as the fraternal structure where we all get together for fundraisers, community projects, or—just as important—having fun together.

We also intend to set some funds aside and invest in grant programs to fix up some of our halls in communities where fundraising is difficult and deferred maintenance is not getting done. We cannot afford to let our buildings fall apart. I would rather fix and revitalize a lot of these halls and make them viable community centers again. Still, we had to demolish one this year that was beyond fixing and there are a few more like that. A lot of the small communities where we have Grange halls no longer can raise money like they once did; while there are many different reasons, all ultimately revolve around changing economic conditions.

Now —or the news that's not so good. Carbon dioxide is now 415 parts per million in Mother Earth's atmosphere, unprecedented storms are coming out of the Atlantic Ocean pounding our country, giant fires are burning the western part of our country, and a freak storm this past summer has destroyed millions of acres of corn and soybeans in the midwest. These storms and fires aren't just happening in our country but worldwide. Fires and extreme storms are here to stay with us unless we wake up and deal with our over-use of fossil fuels. Folks, it's as simple as that.

We are all going to be affected by these climate changes to different degrees as the weather gets hotter in the southern states and the country's aquifers continue to be sucked dry. People are having to migrate, not just in our country, but worldwide. In the next 20 years a minimum of 13 million people may have to migrate within the United States alone due to rising water, extreme temperatures, and devastating storms.

What to do? As Grangers, we have to think about raising more of our own food. Most Americans don't have vegetable gardens as we depend on corporate agriculture to provide their food at their local supermarket. My community Grange, however, has started a seed library and seed bank with over 1,000 varieties of heirloom organic vegetables for our Grangers and the local community; we provide these seeds free of charge, and the community in turn provides seed back to the library to keep the system going. If you have gardeners in your hall, think about doing something like this because garden seeds are not cheap anymore, and *your* seeds will be acclimatized to your area.

In ancient days, mariners and explorers used the stars to navigate their way around our planet looking for new lands and places to settle. Now is the time for the Grange, our country, and the world to set our sights on new stars, to forge a new path for humanity and end this downhill progression towards what might be the end of humanity and the other living beings we share the planet with.

Stepping back, taking a real look at the truly "big picture"—now is the time to spend the kind of money we spend on the military on alternative energy, to get rid of the mountains of used plastic that exist around the globe, and to clean up our oceans. Do you know how much micro plastic you consume when you eat seafood? It's time we turn our soils into organic soils; that's the only way to grow healthy foods—from healthy soils!

So, let's advocate for our local communities to start seed libraries and seed banks. We can do this in our Granges. We can come together to teach our community the skills necessary, filled with organic seeds and learn to start growing part of your own food and help others who don't have the skills. My own Grange Laytonville #726 also houses a food bank to help feed the poor of our community, and this has grown greatly since the pandemic started and left so many people out of work. As a Grange, we can and must find ways to serve your community —because that is what the Grange does.

COLORADO

Submitted by State President Cindy Greer

Worthy National President, National Officers, Delegates and Fellow Grange members, greetings from Colorful Colorado.

We did begin the year by re-organizing the Sunflower Grange #163 in October and initiating their members and installing their officers January 11, 2020. They have accomplished many things this year despite the fact that in March we began dealing with COVID-19.

We were supposed to host the Great Plains Regional Leadership Conference in June, but that too was cancelled. We have opted to not host the conference in 2021.

I did participate in the Grange Insurance Association Annual meeting in March via teleconference.

The President's Newsletter has been sent out almost every other month. I try to get them out on months that the Granger doesn't come out.

The Colorado State Fair was reduced to 4-H exhibits only, so there was no opportunity to set up a table with display items.

Colorado Peaches suffered a freeze early in the spring which resulted in a reduction of available peaches. Many farmers in Mesa county lost 85 to 90 percent of their crop this year.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is in the process of establishing a Hemp Advisory Committee. This committee will be helping the CDA think through policy rulemaking and other items like the Center for Excellence that is being built with a lot of other partners. Colorado's Hemp Plan has not been greenlighted by the Federal government.

The Colorado Foundation for Agriculture teamed up with the Colorado State Fair to offer virtual Day camps for students. The camps were held online over 4 days during the fair. The content was geared toward 3rd to 5th graders, open to families and children of all ages. The goal was to take a little bit of the fair flavor and a little bit of fun and education and combine them all together in these virtual camps that were held via Zoom and broadcast on the Colorado State Fair website. There was a daily food preparation activity and several different agriculture-related topics and some hands-on demonstrations from CSU agriculture students.

Centennial Farms and Ranches recognition program was established in 1986 and in the last 34 years they have recognized 623 Farms and Ranches. Twenty were honored in 2020. History Colorado helps in getting these farms and ranches recognized.

We are now in the process of editing the 145th History of the Colorado State Grange. My goal is to have the book edited in the coming year in order to have the information printed in some form for distribution/sale at our 148th Annual State Session next year. Special thanks to Jeanne Davies and Loeda Westphal for their help and to the Granges who have sent in updates on their history.

A group of Hemp growers have inquired about becoming a Grange. Their efforts have been halted due to COVID, but we are still hopeful that when this is over we can get them organized. They are located near Windsor.

The children (5-14) we have in the Grange are our future. To be honest we don't currently have very many Junior Grangers or Junior Plus 1 members. It's something we all need to think about and work on. The current members we have who are 14 – 25 are unknown as we don't generally keep that information. These young people can lead us to more people their age.

CONNECTICUT

Submitted by State President George Russell

Worthy National President, National Officers and Delegates. I can't believe my second year as President of the Connecticut State Grange has come to an end and boy what an unbelievable year it has been. Who would have ever thought a virus would bring the world to a halt. When the Connecticut Governor asked everyone to stay at home and closed the schools, churches and non-essential businesses such as restaurants, clothing stores it brought our Grange meetings and activities to a halt. Social gatherings could have no more than five people inside and this made it so our Granges couldn't have a legal meeting.

The Connecticut State Grange Board of Directors continue to meet virtually at least once a month. We purchased a second Zoom account so that our community Granges could use to conduct their meetings. There were several Granges that have met this way for the last several months. In May our Board of Directors voted to provide a one time stimulus payment of \$1000 to Granges that own their halls and \$500 to those Granges who don't own the building but rent. We hoped this money could offset some of the fundraisers that the Granges were unable to hold. One program that the State Grange started this year was a \$1000 grant for Granges to use for Grange Hall improvement projects. Another State project is a \$250 grant to install Wi-Fi in their Grange Halls. We've been trying to put money back into our Granges to help them get through this pandemic.

This past year we have hired a Membership Director to work with Granges to get new members by putting on workshops and training them to be leaders. She had a workshop lined up for the spring of 2020 but unfortunately

had to be canceled because of COVID-19. She has been working with Granges to set up Zoom meetings to run their Community Grange meetings. Several Granges have taken advantage of this offer and have been meeting this way over the last several months.

Again this year we have had a decline in membership with a net loss of 130 members. We've had two Granges that have turned in their charter and three more that are looking to either merge or surrender their charter. I'm afraid that the longer this COVID-19 is with us, more Granges are going to suffer.

This year we held our 136th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange as a one-day virtual meeting for officers and delegates. We opened in the fourth degree, did the roll call of Officers and Delegates. We had several reports and acted on the budget and ten resolutions. This day seemed to work very well and we were able to complete our work. Let's hope next year we can be back to our three-day State Session.

FLORIDA

Submitted by State President Barbara Borderieux

Florida is delighted to send greetings across the country. This year has been a trying year. We started the year on an upbeat note with our state session February 1st. Joe Stefenoni National Membership director was present. We also had Joan Smith from Potomac Grange and her sister as guests as well. They all were very helpful. Joan's sister Linda played the keyboard for us. Joan and Joe helped us obligate three members of our new St. Pete Grange. The session was only one day but the state business was completed.

In end of February we were able to meet in St. Pete and obligated 5 more of St Pete Bay Grange. It looked like 2020 was off to a good start then COVID hit. We were all told to stay home and wear masks. Things have been pretty much at a standstill since. We have tried to reach out across the state a little but without much success.

Some of our Grange members have made masks and donated them. Since we have been home, others have sewn toys and clothing to be donated to Operation Christmas Child. Our Grange has been given over one hundred lap robes or small baby blankets. We have given some away to Manatee Children's service. At this time we are working on sharing the rest but due to COVID-19 some places are not taking things so we have lots to share yet.

Things are still very slow. We are hoping to have some zoom meetings this month. The new Junior Grange had to stop meeting in March due to schools closing. Now that school is back open partially they have been meeting again. This year they meet with fifth and sixth twice a month and seventh and eighth two other days a month due to the size of the groups. They have forty-four Junior Grangers this year so far.

It has been nice to hear from Grangers who have moved into our state or are visiting but sad we are not having regular meetings. We are praying things will get better in the months to come.

IDAHO

Submitted by State President Eileen Javaux

Greetings from Idaho. What a year, with COVID-19, a Presidential Election, learning how to use ZOOM and other virtual programs to communicate with, and we all got a year older. However, we are doing it together!

During this past year, Idaho State Grangers have devoted time and energy to the community. Members supplied masks for essential workers. They spent time calling and checking each other, delivering groceries if needed. Members that could not provide labor made donations to food banks and adopted families to provide food.

When I was elected in 2018, the Graces reached out to me and wanted to be more involved in the State Grange beyond the days of State Session. Our Graces project was Project Red, White, and Blue. They collected quilt blocks to make quilts to present to veterans. From November 2019 to November 2020, we provided 12 Quilts of Valor to Military Veterans. The three ladies: LanaMarie Bear (Ceres), Alissa Javaux (Flora), and Bonnie Mitson (Pomona), have brought a new look to our Graces. They provide an article for the quarterly newspaper with recipes and information about the degrees. The involvement of the Graces will help our Granges become more visible. I hope their spirit is catching, and all State Officers sponsor a project each year to help promote the Grange and good works in the community.

Idaho State Session was all virtual this year and seemed to be well received by our members. I hope we don't have to do it again; though due to our members' ages or those that cannot travel, we would like to continue to have a virtual option. We seem to lose touch when we only see each other once a year. We will be working on more communication during the year.

The Idaho State Grange website has been updated. It is always a work in progress, adding information we want our members to have access to. We publish the Idaho Insights newsletter with articles about Agriculture in our

State and information that keeps our members informed about what is happening in the State and National Grange. We have produced some interesting articles that our members are enjoying and learning from.

In February, the members of the Boise area hosted Grange Day at Legislature. We provide cookies, fruit, cheese trays, and quick bread for the Legislators and the public visiting the State House on President's Day. This is an annual event for us and a perfect opportunity to tell the public about Grange. The Idaho State Grange is also a voting member of the Food Producers of Idaho. This gives us a voice to what is happening in Idaho Agriculture.

Idaho is looking forward to hosting the Western Leadership Conference in August 2021 in Boise, Idaho if the situation with COVID allows. It was disappointing to cancel the 2020 Conference, but being flexible is the key to success this year.

On a personal note, this year has been fast and furious. As the Foodservice director of our local school district, it required me to be flexible from the first of March, when we began hearing more about COVID. Idaho issued a stay at home order, and schools shut down. USDA had to act fast and have waivers available to continue to feed the students who had to stay home. Thanks to the National Grange endorsement, we can continue serving free lunches to all students until June 30, 2021.

I certainly have enjoyed my 29-years working in school foodservice. When June 30, 2021, comes, I will retire. I hope I will be able to enjoy some travel and visit Granges throughout Idaho and our Nation. Blessings to all.

ILLINOIS

Submitted by State President Lynette Schaeffer

Worthy National Master Betsy, National Officers and Delegates of the 154th National Session;

This is the weirdest year I have ever experienced. COVID-19 is caused by a coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. March 15, 2020 the USA seemed to shut down. Everyone is wearing masks over nose and mouth when in public and are recommended to keep a safe distance of 6' from each other. Granges all over Illinois canceled in person meetings for months, some tried zoom, My Meeting or other online meeting products to conduct business meetings. The IL State Grange Executive Committee met via Zoom using the National Grange license, until we purchased a license as well.

There were two ISG sessions in 1919, January 21-23 and December 9-11. Master A. F. Pickard started his Master's address in January with "After an unavoidable delay we are again assembled in annual session, this time in territory not particularly strong in Grange work, but we come to Henry County with an earnest desire to do all we can, to assist the membership who are "carrying on" so bravely, and aid them by any means in our power to extend the influence of our Order, and advance the interests of all its members. Since we last met this Nation and the World has passed through a baptism of fire and carnage, compared with which all previous wars are but neighborhood quarrels. We do not yet realize the magnitude of and extreme wantonness of this awful struggle." The first act of business for the January 21, 1919 meeting was Frank Johns, then ISG Steward, introduced a resolution that was adopted. "Whereas, On account of a quarantine placed on the city of Galva, extended through the second week of December, it was impossible for the regular session of the Illinois State Grange to be held. Therefore, be it Resolved, By the Officers and Delegates, assembled this 21st day of January, that all acts and proceedings of this session shall be, and are, the regular time of holding the session."

The Illinois State Grange has 'weathered the storm' of a pandemic before; we survived so I believe we will survive again!

The 149th Illinois State Session was a one-day (October 18) Zoom session where only delegates and state officers were in attendance. Only official business was conducted-- we passed a balanced budget, elected a member to the Executive Committee and completed work on resolutions presented from Subordinate Granges. GRIT (Grange Resources Information and Training) conferences were held October 12 at Bluff Grange, and on October 27th at Flora Grange to distribute important information on programs/contests. Presentations were made by Earl David (Agriculture), Tracey Jones (Community Service), and Ruth Blasingame (Communication/Editor), Sharon Fidler (Family Activities), Bev Smith (Historian), Mindy Schiefer (Junior), Ethan Edwards (Lecturer), David Donley (Legislative), LindaKay Ebel (Membership), Robin Kindberg (Secretary) and Karie Blasingame (Youth) and me as Master/President. I was glad that many Grangers came to discover the upcoming programs for this year, many of which did not happen at State Session.

Don and I were delegates from IL at National Grange Session in Bloomington, Minnesota; as part of the host committee we were on site November 1 – 10, 2019. The 153rd National Grange session was a memorable session. Karie Blasingame, IL Overseer, was chair of the host committee. Forty-six IL volunteers outdid themselves with all the

hours they worked to make the 153rd National Grange session a success. Thanks Karie for all the leadership and structure before and during the National Grange Session. Thanks to Emalee Colver for all her work on the registration desk. Illinois was happy to host hospitality one day and assist Wisconsin and Minnesota. Ethan Edwards served as musician for session and 7th degree. I am so proud of all the hard work that IL Grangers did!

Many members of Prairie Grange and Jane Helms, Master of Turkey Hill Grange attended the Distinguished Grange recognition event, and Grange in Action went to Hopewell Grange. Quilts of Valor were presented to several IL members. National Grange Police Officer of the Year from Dixon IL! Phil and Tracey Jones are now the National Grange Young Patrons!!

Don and I had a great time at the Master's Conference in Baltimore, MD, February 14-16, 2020. It was hosted by Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware State Granges. Kay Stiles, First Lady of the Maryland State Grange did lots of planning and preparation. It was a great session and well worth the time. I shared much at the Leadership training in IL.

The Leadership conferences were held on March 7 at Turkey Hill Grange Hall, and Community Grange Hall March 8th. We were honored to have a special guest Amanda Brozana-Rios, National Grange Communications Director in attendance at the meetings. Presentations will be given by Amanda, Karie (Youth), Ethan (Lecturer), Mindy (Juniors), myself and others. Much was discussed, and much information given out. I was glad that many Grangers took the time to attend the sessions.

April was Grange Month with the theme of "Cultivation Connections." National Grange Communications Director started the Cultivating Connections Zoom daily presentations, and Saturday night date night talent shows. Illinois Grangers were part of the cast of presenters and talent.

Plans were made to work with RALI- IL in April for drug take back and Opioid crisis information sharing at the State Capitol. Due to COVID-19 these events were canceled.

There was one scholarship awarded and several Hall Improvement Fund grants.

We are active with our website illinoisstategrange.org and have several Facebook pages, to spread information to Illinois Grangers.

We lost no Subordinate Granges this past year. One Pomona Grange was closed due to only having two Granges in the area.

I have attended all the National Grange Executive Committee meetings and most National Grange Foundation meetings; most were via Zoom.

We remember State Officers and Committee Chairs that have passed to the Great Grange Above. It was with great sadness that we remember Brother Norman Keller, past first man of the Illinois State Grange. Sir Norm was the first 'First Man' of the IL State Grange. As a member of Enterprise Grange, he was active in community service and legislative events. He will be missed by many Grangers across the USA. "Well Done Good and Faithful Servant."

Don and I are delighted and proud to once again be delegates for IL, it will be a bizarre National session this year as the whole event will be Zoom Conferences. We look forward to the time we can all get together again.

In Conclusion

The Addenda that A. F. Pickard added to his Master's report days prior to the State Session states: "We are confronted with new conditions as we meet in this delayed annual session owing to the second wave of the epidemic sweeping across the country last month not only interfering with our meeting but with several other states as well. We trust that as we come together at this time, each will put forth every effort in their power to accomplish something for our Order, and for ourselves which will make this session one long to be remembered." Since the Illinois State Grange has passed on this road before, I hope that this session will be remembered as one where the delegates worked hard and completed much during a short time.

INDIANA

Submitted by State President John Plank

Worthy National Master, Officers, Delegates and Members of the 154th National Grange Convention:

It is an honor and great privilege for Susan and me to bring you greetings from the State of Indiana. As I look back on the last nine years as State Master, it has been a great journey for us so far.

We recently held our 150th Annual Session of the Indiana State Grange in October. This was the sixth year we held our session at Pine View Resort in Monticello. Our members really like the setting and what the resort has to offer.

We were planning to celebrate our 150th year as a State Grange this year but with COVID-19 virus things are postponed until next year. We held a shortened one-day session this year with no exhibits, contests or extra activities. With any luck next year COVID-19 will be under control and things will start to get back somewhat to normal or our new normal. Hopefully if things are better you can come and join us as we celebrate our delayed 150th Anniversary. We must be doing something right to be able to reach 150 years. We are Grangers who make a difference in the world.

In July we normally have our food stand at three different events but as you all know this was not a normal year, and all three events were canceled. Unfortunately the stand is one of our money making projects for our State Grange Committees. The food stand has been a great opportunity to get the Grange name out for the public to see and get to know us.

COVID-19 has affected almost all of our Subordinate Granges in Indiana with meetings being canceled along with community activities. It has been a year that will go down into the history books and will have an effect on us for many years to come. Let's pray that 2021 will be a year of new beginnings and growth.

May all Granges have a successful year and Happy Holidays to all! See you next year in Wichita, KS for the 155th National Convention.

IOWA

Submitted by State President Dwight Baldwin

Worthy National President, officers, delegates, brothers and sisters of the National Grange, it is with great pleasure that Kathy and I bring greetings from the members of the Iowa State Grange at this 154th annual session.

The 151st annual session of the Iowa State Grange was held on zoom this year. We conducted our meeting by zoom because of COVID as many other states were also doing. This year has been hard not meeting in person but we will persevere.

Our Juniors were unable to meet for camp this summer but are looking forward to having camp next year COVID permitting.

Our Lecturer kept our members engaged with activities by email. Our community involvement was also hindered as everyone was confined to their homes by our governor. The next year is going to start slow as we are still under restrictions to our everyday movements.

I congratulate the county that was holding this year's session as many of their plans had been made for our state session. This year for the Grange will be remembered as the year that the coronavirus controlled the whole world and destroyed many lives both in the Grange and all around us.

KANSAS

Submitted by State President Roger Bostwick

Who would have imagined that when the delegate body of the National Grange at the 150th National Session in Washington, D.C. voted to allow members to attend Grange meeting by electronic means, that just four years later, Granges across the nation would be conducting their meetings over the internet? Subordinate meetings, committee meetings, State Grange meetings, even the 154th National Grange Session were conducted over Zoom. I was even able to participate as a National Grange Representative to a virtual State Grange session in Nebraska.

When I think about the pandemic that the world is experiencing today, I wonder what it was like 102 years ago when the influenza pandemic swept through the planet near the end of WWI.

I found a 2018 article by Robert Kessler written for the pandemic's centennial, in the article he said, "By October 1918, the United States had been an active participant in World War I for more than a year. And while the declared enemy was overseas, there was a killer working stateside as well. Cities were gripped with fear: school was canceled; theaters, places of worship, and other places of "public amusement" had been shuttered. That month alone 195,000, Americans died, making it the deadliest month in American history; the killer was none other than influenza."

With the death toll in the United States from a pandemic that some believed to have its first cases reported in Kansas in January 1918, I wondered how that affected the Kansas State Grange.

The Journal of Proceedings of the 47th Kansas State Grange January 7, 8, 9, 1919 reported that on December 10, 1918.

"A quorum not present". The order of the health officers preventing the assembling of a quorum, it was agreed to adjourn until January 9, 1919"

They postponed the State Session one month. Nowhere else in the 1918, 1919, or 1920 Journals is the flu even mentioned. As Grangers, they strived forward, continuing to build healthier communities, and working for the betterment of rural America.

In March of this year, many students, and teachers from Kindergarten to College left their classrooms for Spring Break, not realizing that most would not be back in the classroom until after Labor Day. School did not end; it moved online. Getting on the computer to attend class was not a problem in the larger cities where quality internet is readily available. But what about our rural communities? Students and teachers alike had limited or no broadband available. Unfortunately, quite often, neither the schools or parents in those areas can afford to provide the tools to meet virtually.

Long before anyone heard of COVID-19, the Grange has been striving for better Broadband in our rural communities. This just emphasized the need for better service. Just as the Grangers in the early part of the 20th century continued to work for a better rural America, we must do likewise.

Many Grange activities across the nation this year were canceled or conducted virtually. However, as Grangers do, we found ways to participate still. National contests were conducted online just as were the regional rounds.

We will get through this. We will be looking forward to being able to attend the 150th Kansas State Grange Session in 2021. Grangers will be ready to attend the 155th National Grange Convention when the Great Plains Region hosts in Wichita next year. So, make plans now to attend as we will welcome Grangers to Kansas.

MAINE

Submitted by State President Sherry Harriman

Worthy President, Officers, Delegates and Members of the National Grange,

Hello again from the grand state of Maine. It is an honor to present my annual Maine State Grange report. Jim Owens and I represented Maine last November as delegates, participated in all activities and found it valuable. I served on the Citizenship and Taxation Committee. I attended the President's Conference held in Maryland in Feb which was again informative and very worthwhile.

I hosted Instructions for Deputies and others, held Officers & Directors' meetings early in the Grange year, gaining a lot of input and ideas from those attending.

Both Grange and public planned activities and scheduled events had to be cancelled, once the pandemic hit. Quite a few Granges met by conference calls or by Zoom, finding this a useful way to conduct business. Some smaller Granges still met in their hall practicing social distancing protocols and wearing masks and once the weather improved, many met outside.

Our membership stays about the same. A few Granges have consolidated or closed not necessarily because of the COVID-19 but had been struggling for some time.

Many Granges and Grangers stepped up even more during this difficult time, setting up drop/pickup boxes at the halls providing needed items to those in the community such as bottled water, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, cleaning products, and other items, some even providing grocery staples in their swap boxes, with many members helping with home deliveries or doing errands for their neighbors. Masks quickly became a necessary item and the Grange crafters and stitchers from all over the state took up the call and got involved adding those to the swap boxes or just handing them out to all who passed by. Many new people tried "grow your own" this year and received advice and assistance from local Grangers. Community gardens picked up in number. Granges reported providing free to-go meals to communities and transported them to health care workers.

Fundraising events became more creative with the restrictions in place. Take out or drive up meals were sold such as baked beans, coleslaw & biscuits, lasagna & garlic bread, turkey dinners, drive by bake sales including breads and goodies. One Grange told me about selling 200 fresh strawberry shortcakes in a couple of hours, then sold blueberry pie slices when the blueberries came in season.

We made an Executive decision early this summer to assist our Granges by exempting ALL 94 Granges from paying quarterly dues to the Maine State Grange for the September and December quarters. This was very welcome news to the Granges.

We discussed our options for an alternative State Session, scheduling a one-day convention at our usual time in October limiting our activities, then re-evaluated that plan later in the summer and decided to be more on the safe side and cancel the in-person meeting. We are voting on resolutions and budgets by mail in ballots, mailing reports, etc. and other information plus posting items on the web site covering State Grange business.

We presented Agricultural, Educational Aid and Howes Nurses Scholarships during the year, Community Service, Family Health & Hearing, Membership, and Tree Farmer Awards. Thanks to the generosity of our Granges,

we donated to a Veteran's Program here in Maine (House in The Woods Military and Family Retreat), donated cash and Christmas gifts to Home for Little Wanderers, and received other donations for different departments and projects.

Our office building is still on the market with several showings. We have had some discussions on our options but no concrete plans have been made as yet. I am looking forward to a more successful year in the Maine State Grange. Our Granges continue to carry out the principles of our order and we will persevere in our endeavors.

MARYLAND

Submitted by State President Allen Stiles

This was a year that started with big plans and high hopes. First Lady Kay Stiles was elected to her first full term as National Grange Pomona. We were excited to have the opportunity to visit the Oliver Hudson Kelley farmstead while in Minnesota.

Back home, the Maryland State Grange continued to support the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation by buying a table of 10 at the annual MAEF banquet. Later, the State Grange was honored as one of the organizations that has been a sponsor for all 50 years of formerly the Maryland Agricultural banquet, now known as the Taste of Maryland.

Sister Kay invited National Grange to Maryland as host of the National Grange Masters Conference. The facility that was supposed to hold the event cancelled on us at the last moment, leaving us scurrying to find a suitable site. After touring multiple facilities near BWI airport we chose the BWI Hilton. They treated us like royalty! A huge thank you to Pennsylvania and Delaware State Granges for their financial assistance! After touring, we had lunch at the Cracker Barrel, where I found a sign that became the unofficial motto of the weekend. "Manure Happens!" Little did we know that it would be the theme for the entire year!

Much of our community activity revolves around volunteering at local fairs and sponsoring Community Shows. These are also our best fundraising events. We put displays at Maryland State Fair and local fairs. Since most shows were either cancelled or scaled back significantly, these opportunities were lost. We planned to repay our Delaware State Grange neighbors by patronizing their State Fair food pavilion. That also will have to wait for another year.

Most of our Granges do not have halls, but those who do utilize them by continuing to be community centers. Some had mini food pantries. Many members volunteered at local food kitchens.

Sister Amanda of National Grange challenged us to use social media to promote the Grange during Grange month. I did my best to accomplish this. I have received positive feedback from non-member friends. Hopefully, that created some interest in the tremendous work that Grange does.

The Maryland General Assembly Session was cut short by the pandemic, with limited access to the legislative process. The Grange continues to advocate for agricultural education while stressing the need for fiscal responsibility. We continue to advocate for broadband access which has become even more critical as education has been done virtually and telemedicine has become especially necessary. Baltimore City has an agricultural education program. Unfortunately, there is a movement to disband this program. I represent the Grange on the Maryland Council of Agricultural Educators. We are involved with the effort to retain this quality, effective program.

Moving forward, I am challenging local Granges to remain relevant in their communities.

MICHIGAN

Submitted by State President Christopher D. Johnston

Worthy President, Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters. Welcome to the 147th Annual Session of the Michigan State Grange.

As you may have noticed things are a little different this year than they have been in previous years. While some State Granges have gone to virtual sessions, along with the National Session next month, we have the ability to meet in person with a limited number of members. I feel the fellowship of meeting in person can never be replaced by an electronic session. Some organizations and businesses across this state and nation have closed completely due to this virus that is still taunting us. The Grange as an organization has survived many trials over its 150 plus years. From the ending of the Civil War to 2 World Wars as well as the Great Depression. This virus, like those events in our history, shall pass. I look forward to next year's convention when we can hopefully return to a form of normalcy.

During this year, many Granges and Grangers have shown the ability of our organization and its members to persevere through troubling times. From a young man in the Upper Peninsula using his 3D printer to make face shields to members across the state using their sewing ability to make face masks. We have the ability to network amongst ourselves to acquire the supplies we need to continue to serve our communities and surrounding areas. While the coronavirus pandemic was not enough, Mother Nature decided to throw some of our members a curve ball with massive flooding. Grangers stepped up to the challenge and worked with stores to get items donated and spent some of their funds to purchase needed items for the flood victims, once again adhering to the words of the President's charge in the opening of the Subordinate manual "The hour of labor has arrived and the work of another day demands our attention." When natural disasters occur or pandemics arise, Grange members have always been some of the first to say "What can we do to help?" Over the last couple months, entire Grange halls have been destroyed in the wildfires of California. Once more Granges from across the country have been making donations to the California State Grange Foundation towards the rebuilding of those Granges. The Michigan State Grange will be joining them in offering some of the regalia we have in storage for Granges after they have rebuilt. I am reminded of Judy Bowers who used to coin a phrase from President Kennedy "Ask not what your Grange can do for you, but what you can do for your Grange." During this last summer it is evident that many members have asked themselves this question. We should commend ourselves for a job well done.

One of the hardest tasks I had to do this year is to tell our Grangers they can't have meetings; that they cannot open their halls to the public. That they cannot have fundraisers, or even participate in Grange Month during Grange Month. I appreciate everyone's cooperation with helping to keep our members and our guests healthy and safe. I am excited to hear of the Granges that found ways to continue to operate within the guidelines set forth from our Governor, the CDC, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. From meeting in county parks with social distancing to utilizing the new Michigan State Grange Zoom account to have virtual meetings, once again, Grangers have risen to meet the challenge, and I'd like to thank you all!

This country and this state are in turmoil. While I do not want to get into a political debate, we as Grange members have the ability to agree to disagree and still move forward. Many years ago, Granges were a strong supporter of a movement in this country known as the Women's Suffrage Movement. We proved then and we can prove again that we can have our voices be heard by exercising our civic duty with going to the polls and casting our votes. The United States House of Representatives, United States Senate, and the White House need to be reminded from time to time that they work for us. We have the ability to remind them by voting for them again or voting against them. Collectively we can make a difference in the future of our State and Nation. I encourage every one of you to do your own research on the candidates that represent the area where you live and choose the best one that aligns with your thoughts. Do not rely on social media to be your only source of information. Sadly, it seems there are times you aren't even able to rely on your local news channels to give you accurate or complete information regarding issues that could affect you.

As we deliberate on the resolutions before us today, let us remember the President's Charge in the opening of today's session. "As the legislators of our Order, I rely upon your calmness in deliberation, your forbearance toward those who may differ from you, and your charity toward their motives." As with the election process coming in the next couple weeks and the long drawn out campaign that seems to get longer every four years, remember not everybody agrees on everything. Yet, we as Grangers have the uncanny ability to completely disagree with one another and still leave the session as friends and most importantly as Brothers and Sisters.

MINNESOTA

Submitted by State President Ann Olson Bercher

This is a time in history that none of us have ever experienced before with the exception of those who survived the Polio epidemic in the 1940's. I am thankful to the members of our State Grange and to all of the members of the National Grange for the patience and perseverance everyone has exhibited during this global pandemic as we learn to navigate modern technology and try virtual formats to keep everyone, especially our most vulnerable members, safe and healthy. Congratulations on your perseverance during this unprecedented time.

Accomplishments and achievements

We began the year on a high note as we co-hosted the National Grange Convention last November here in Minnesota! The weather was perfect for November, with just a sprinkling of snow and our great Minnesota hospitality overflowing! Thank you to the members of Clear Lake Grange, Zumbro Valley Grange and Sunbeam Grange for sending volunteers to help at the convention! During the convention, John Crippen filled in as our delegate as I had already committed to another year as a Communications Fellow. That is such a valuable experience, and I am happy that Troy Behnke from Sunbeam Grange also took part in the Communications Fellowship Program. A few highlights of the convention included the presentation of the Quilts of Valor with our own Gwen Swenson of Sunbeam Grange assisting. Micas Ostad, an Army veteran from Sunbeam Grange was presented with a Quilt of Valor. Clear Lake Grange won an honorable mention award for their Community Service Book.

Gwen Swenson and I attended the State Agricultural Society breakfast in January and enjoyed celebrating the largest Minnesota State Fair in history. Like many of you, I miss this year's fair and all the county fairs that lead up to it. I long for and look forward to next year's fairs across Minnesota.

We had a great GRIT day at the end of January where we were joined by Joe Stefenoni, the National Grange Membership and Leadership director. Thank you to the members and officers who participated in the day and helped to set the course for the year.

I personally attended the President's Conference in March (just before everyone was told to stay home!) where I met most of the State Grange Presidents and had several break-out sessions with Granges similar in size to Minnesota. The collegial atmosphere and work groups were most hopeful. The Grange is truly a remarkable organization.

Once COVID reared its ugly head in late March, everything changed. Minnesota basically shut down. Schools and churches closed. Restaurants closed. Libraries closed. We really had to get ourselves thinking as many of those venues were places where we had been able to offer our valuable community service efforts.

In addition to the support for food shelves, mask making, Quilts of Valor construction, and hats and mittens making, our Granges came up with some great projects to be useful and help our communities.

Lake Hubert Grange continued many of their outdoor projects such as ditch clean up and cemetery care. They also held their annual Relay for Life benefit for cancer research drive through event at the country fairground. Concessions were sold curbside and all proceeds were donated to Relay For Life – Crow Wing County.

Zumbro Valley Grange assisted elderly shut-ins by bringing meals, providing transportation, and doing some house and yard cleaning. They helped celebrate their community during Marigold Days by planting marigolds in the spring and tending to them all summer for the Labor Day event. They also helped at the Byron Historical Society where they were meeting to organize newspaper collections, greeting visitors where they were open, and into the "Past Perfect" program.

Sunbeam Grange continued with the Words for Thirds Dictionary project last fall. They donated 100 Beanie Babies to Operation Gratitude, where they were distributed to deployed troops, veterans, wounded heroes and their caregivers, military families, and first responders.

Clear Lake Grange continues their tireless work in their community even through these very difficult times.

Challenges and opportunities

At this time, the State Grange of Minnesota is in ever deeper violation of the requirement that we have 6 subordinate Granges to cast a vote with the National Grange. We are not the only state in this predicament. Being the realist that I am, I am looking forward to the challenge of growing two new Granges this coming year and strengthening the four remaining Granges we have. This year we have already faced some pretty daunting challenges, and have successfully begun exploring new ways to volunteer, reach out to our communities and to each other. Other organizations have grown during the pandemic using virtual tools as well as in person actions where feasible. Each community is different as we have seen among our own Granges. Urban areas face population density challenges that some rural areas may not. All the same, we have been busy despite the pandemic and I can see the State Grange of Minnesota growing stronger and in stature in the next year.

In Minnesota and across the nation, we have all been affected by the civil unrest that followed the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last May, and the tragic deaths that have followed across the country. These events beg to be understood. Our precepts call us to be peaceful citizens, yet we are called to action in our Granges and in our government. We need to participate in the process. As peaceful citizens, we have the right to protest. Peaceful protesters go home at the end of the protest. Rioters come out later. These are not the same people. We need to understand the difference.

Onward and Forward

Who knew that last year when National Grange President Betsy Huber announced the theme of the year, "Cultivating Connections" would become so meaningful? We have all discovered new ways to make connections within and without our communities. People are hungry for community. People are hungry for fellowship. People are

hungry for peace. And people are still hungry for connecting with one another. We have just had to learn how to do it in new ways. And as members of our Granges, we all need to participate in that process and be open to new possibilities.

The theme for this year's National Grange convention is "Focus on the Future." This does not mean that we should turn our backs on the past, but to remember and learn from the past, take the best of what has been and move it forward, and challenge ourselves to correct past mistakes and move forward with dignity and positivity. We can use the future as an opportunity to grow, to make our communities and ourselves better, peaceful citizens.

MONTANA

Submitted by State President Marilyn Johnson

Worthy National President, Officers, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters all; it is with pleasure that Bill and I bring greetings from the beautiful big sky state of Montana to this the 154th Annual Session of the National Grange. Although we are meeting in an unusual but safe manner may we all feel the warmth of each other as we communicate during this period.

As State President/President of Montana State Grange I have faced many challenges with number one being membership. Our community Granges continue to try and ignite the vibrant interest to bring in new members, but the ensuing sparks do not seem to become fires (members). The needed "fuel" in these Granges has become tired warm coals trying to hold it all together in the name of the Grange. Our focus has not been shaded. We are going to put full focus in the year ahead to see an increase in members and community involvement by putting the Grange out there.

Keeping up with the many electronic programs proposed and used by National Grange has been a challenge for this senior grey-haired President. But my passion for this great organization continues. I continue to learn there are many new avenues to venture on as we go down the virtual electronic highway.

In the past year I visited most of the Subordinate and Pomona Granges in our state. If you are at all familiar with the vastness of the state of Montana, this is a lot of miles. After the pandemic hit in March, several Granges began meeting virtually. My hats off to them because the number of members who were up to date on this way of having a Grange meeting was very minimal. It was helpful to hear/see what our community Granges were doing in their communities. The vastness of the many community projects that are happening are rewarding and certainly get the Grange name out to their communities. The concern and actions of Grangers checking the welfare of one another was rewarding during this time of isolation.

Montana has worked extremely hard and with perseverance to improve our Grange membership and reinvigorating those Granges that are about to lose their charter. We are excited by those who are striving to be a big part of their community and promoting the Grange.

Bill and I are delighted once again to be delegates for Montana State Grange at this 154th National Grange Session. We look forward to the challenges of a virtual session, our committee work, and completing session business. We will miss the in-person renewing of friendships and our Grange hugs.

NEBRASKA

Submitted by State President Kevin Cooksley

Greetings from the Nebraska State Grange to National Master Huber and the officers and delegates to the 154th annual National Session that was supposed to take place in Valley Forge, PA.

Nebraska State Grange, as well as many other State and Community Granges across the country made history this year, as this was the first time in Nebraska State Grange history that an annual session was conducted via the Internet instead of in-person, as well as lasting less than one day. The COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020 has forced organizations to be more creative as we all strive to hold on to as much "normalcy" as possible, and even that would be impossible without the technology developed in recent years.

Fortunately, "Zoom" meeting technology allowed us to take care of the mandatory annual business of election of officers, annual audit & budget consideration, resolution discussion, legislative review and other concerns. The "down side" is we missed the personal interaction that always occurs at our annual session. I am sure the same can be said for not having our National Grange Annual Session.

All things considered, membership has held steady this past year, which seems to be a bigger challenge each year. On the Legislative front, we were active in submitting written testimony on many state issues before our legislature. We co-hosted a legislative breakfast in early March, which allowed Grangers to mix and discuss issues with our legislators, as well as collaborate with other ag organizations on issues of common interest. The very next

week, the emerging Pandemic shut down our legislature, and it did not resume until July. The Pandemic also provided the opportunity for some of our Carver Grange members to be prime examples of community giving. Under the leadership of Carver Grange member Nancy Williams, the *No More Empty Pots* non-profit organization was a shining star during this pandemic. Through their efforts, beginning in March, tens-of-thousands of meals were delivered in the Omaha and Lexington areas.

I was looking forward to traveling to Valley Forge, PA this year, renewing friendships and making new Grange friends, but alas, that was not meant to be. I enjoy the work we do on the Ag Committee, and we will carry out our duties diligently this year, via Zoom. I hope to see most of you all at our 2021 National Session in Wichita, KS, so until then, make the best of what we have and may this year be a distant memory, never to be repeated again.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Submitted by State President Christopher Heath

The New Hampshire State Grange held its 146th Annual session at the Fireside Inn and Suites in Lebanon NH in October. Due to this last minute change, as the hotel lost our reservation, attendance was low because of the late change in venue but those in attendance had a great time. We were pleased to have John Plank, National Grange Assistant Steward, and his wife Susan as representatives. We did our best to show them some good olde Northeast hospitality including getting them some delicious clam chowder. On Friday the members in attendance at the State Grange banquet enjoyed a wonderful magician who involved everyone in his act. On Saturday the State officers exemplified the degree of Flora followed by a receiving line which included the National representatives.

In November, some members of the New Hampshire State Grange converged on the National Session in Bloomington, Minnesota. The delegates enjoyed the tour of the Kelley Farm, worked tirelessly on their respective committees and helped conduct the business of the National Grange. Others started arriving on Wednesday and stayed through to Sunday. There was a surprisingly large group in attendance despite the distance to travel to session. Mary West and Adam Terrell represented the New Hampshire State Grange well in the evening of Excellence.

In December the leadership and committees meet at our annual Leaders School which was held at the New Hampshire Fire Academy in Concord. Deputies, as well as the standing committees, met to plan their year and receive instruction in the programs, contests and events for the new Grange year. A delicious lunch was served by State Ceres, Kerriann Nightingale and Sister Jane Heath. Corn Chowder and Tomato Bisque for the soups, Tuna, Ham and Egg salads for sandwiches, chips, drinks and dessert were served. No one left the meeting hungry.

In February State Junior Director Joann Brandt and the State Youth director Rachel Scanzani held their respective events, Junior Grange Day and Winter Rally, at the State Grange building in Hooksett, NH. Both events were very well attended and all participants, especially Juniors, enjoyed all the activities and food. The Youth and Young at heart had the opportunity to take the Grange knowledge test. This is always a way to test your knowledge about everything Grange. Questions include knowing who are the Seven Founders of the Order, who are the current State Officers, who was the first Master of the State Grange as well as other questions about degrees and ritual.

The next event that was held was the State Lecturer's bowling contest. This was held in Manchester at Lakeside lanes. There was a small turnout due to COVID-19 but those in attendance had a great time bowling and fellowship with other Grangers. The Junior Grangers also joined in the fun. This was truly a family event for all ages.

Later in March the State Master, Christopher Heath and State Overseer, Robert Trombi attended the Master's Conference in Maryland. The hospitality shown to everyone by the Maryland State Grange was way above and beyond expectations. Allen and Kay Stiles were excellent hosts and deserve a ton of credit for doing an excellent job.

In case you have been living under a rock, you know that the COVID-19 virus brought everything, everywhere to a halt. Some of the Granges in New Hampshire were able to adapt to meeting in a different form than they were used to. Some were not able to meet at all. The State Master suspended all deputy visits as the Granges were not meeting in person. Those Granges that met used Zoom and other video/audio conferencing platforms to conduct their meetings. Other Granges kept in touch with each other via drive-bys and phone calls. Not being able to meet in person took its toll on some members. Meetings are the core of our organization and not being able to physically visit with each other was a hard thing to change.

In July, the Annual Grange Family weekend was held in Bristol NH. There were approximately 25 members, Juniors and Subordinate members, who enjoyed a great weekend. Campfires, swimming, stargazing and combined supper were just a few of the fun things that happened throughout the weekend. This was a new venue for the event but the campground was perfect.

On August 22, 2020 Youth Director Rachel Scanzani held a Summer Outing at Chucksters in Hooksett, NH. There originally was a barbeque set for the event but because of restrictions on gatherings by the Governor, this portion of the day was cancelled. There was a small turnout but those who attended enjoyed mini golf and ice cream all while practicing their social distancing.

The leadership and membership of the New Hampshire State Grange hope that the coming year will bring some well needed changes to the global pandemic. We hope that a vaccine will be developed that will protect the public from further outbreaks and allow our membership to meet traditionally. We wish the best for all Grange members around the country.

NEW YORK

Submitted by State President Stephen C. Coye

The Year of our Lord 2020 can certainly be referred to as the year that wasn't, or at least almost wasn't. The advent of COVID-19 changed everything, and not much of it for the better. Our State Grange public activities were for all practical purposes halted in March, and for the most part continues to this day, with no end in sight. The requirement that Subordinate Granges meet at least once a month was rightfully suspended by the National Grange as there is no desire to put our members into harm's way in relation to unnecessary exposure to the virus.

Even though this State Grange had to alter its public activities, we did not shut down. The Executive Committee kept its predetermined schedule, meeting by ZOOM teleconference as opposed to in person. We physically closed the State Grange Office during the lockdown period, opening on a limited basis with the advent of Phase Two. Even though our building was not open to the public during the lockdown, it did continue to be accessible to those who needed it, as four of our six tenants fall into the category of essential services. Janitorial services which concentrated on sanitizing were maintained during this time. Legislative activities were and still are carried out via email contacts with our representatives and email blasts to the membership enlisting their participation in the process.

The huge challenge before us is adaptation. We hear talk about the "new normal" but exactly what that comprises is nebulous at best. We attempted to ascertain what steps may have been taken in relation to the pandemic of 100 years ago, but found the Journals of Proceedings during that period basically silent to the situation. There was only a lament in the 1920 Journal that only just over 300 of the eligible 700+ Delegates were in attendance at the State Session. At that time every Grange in New York was entitled to representation, as opposed to the system we have in place today. There was no hint as to why the state of representation was as it was, pandemic, lingering situations caused by the aftermath of WW-I, people not caring -- nothing.

If we study our history, an honest assessment will show that a "new normal" has been the rule as opposed to the exception in the last 153 years. There is hardly any aspect of life that is the same now as it was when the Grange was founded, and that includes so called societal sensibilities in addition to all of the technological things we take advantage of every second of every day, without giving a single thought that 97% of them didn't exist in 1867. I suspect the big difference is that none of the other developments along the pathway of progress changed things in such a short time. New normals over time changed most from economic independence to dependence, and thus wiped out many small viable communities across our State and Nation that supported businesses, churches, schools, and Granges. The Grange was an early and vehement supporter of centralized education, and continues to support education today, which is a good thing. However, in so doing the educational establishment slowly but surely increased its programming to include sports, clubs, and a plethora of other very good programs and opportunities for both children and adults, that effectively pushed the programs and opportunities offered by the Grange into the background, as there was no longer enough time for everything, and funding levels offered opportunities with bells, whistles, and facilities with which the Grange was unable to compete. Grange was a priority because there was the opportunity for social fellowship and activity, along with the learning experience from the Lecturer's program. The new normal today is Facebook and Google, leaving many, if not most, to view the Lecturer's program as not really an appropriate use of their time, or even to come out for a meeting for that matter. My dad used to say that a problem with the Grange is that it does "too good of a job" fixing what needs to be fixed, and thus suffers because of it. Interesting thought, especially with the benefit of hindsight.

Very frankly, I live in fear that this "new normal" is not going to have a positive effect on our organization. Given our demographic, I fear that many once faithful folks will prefer to stay out of social situations, even with the future advent of a vaccine, as it will be "too risky" to venture out. It is a position we must be very respectful of, and hopefully the impetus to engage new folks.

Perhaps the most glaring and concerning aspect of this "new normal" is its impact on civil liberties. There have been quarantines in the past, and other types of restrictions, but nothing comparable to the authority given to and taken by officialdom to restrict the movements, employment, business, civic and religious activities, and the here-to-fore day to day activities of much of the citizenry. We can debate all day long as to whether this situation is driven by science, politics, or both, but the fact of the matter is we are in such a situation at the present. I am sure we are all

aware of the very old idiom that states: "Absolute power corrupts absolutely," along with the history proves its truth. We thus need to be vigilant and watchful that the powers that were perhaps rightfully granted to deal with this pandemic don't become permanent. Unfortunately many times powers granted for extraordinary situations remain in force in perpetuity, as those that have them wish not to give them up.

As we embark on a new Grange year that is fraught with a lot more uncertainty than usual, I would like to remind us of the familiar words presented by the Installation Officer near the closing of that Ceremony – *"And now Patrons, cherishing in our hearts every kind feeling toward all other orders and associations which seek to promote human welfare let us strive with them, working hand in hand for the good of our fellow beings. Let us remember that amid all that is bright and beautiful in Nature there is nothing that blooms with such unfading colors, there is no perfume on earth fraught with such fragrance, as the flowers of good works, and the sweet-smelling savor of that pity which feels for the wants and relieves the distresses of our sisters and our brothers."* There is a more than even chance that this effort will take on a completely different look than it has in the past, but we must remember that first sentence in the above charge wasn't presented as an option, and the second sentence, using nature as a powerful alliteration, sets forth the aspects of Faith, Hope, Charity, and Fidelity, the basic principles to which each of us pledged ourselves upon joining the Grange, thus serving to define who we are as individuals, without even mentioning them. Timeless words for all of us embrace *Esto Perpetua!*

NORTH CAROLINA

Submitted by State President Jimmy Gentry

The Community Service Director of NC Grange selected as a state-wide project for the year a program called Baby Bundles. Through this effort, all local Granges are being asked to collect baby clothes, bibs, blankets, books and toys that will be contributed. Because of interruptions from COVID, the program is being extended another year.

The annual Winter Youth Conference was held in February 2020, shortly before the effects of COVID hit. It was a great, well-attended conference where the new youth team was selected as well as state youth officers.

We were pleased that one of our members James Lamb from Taylor's Bridge Grange was named the 2020 Sunbelt Expo Farmer of the Year for North Carolina. The Expo is a large event held each October in Moultrie, Georgia, and is made up of southeastern states. Each state names a winner, and among the state winners, an overall winner is named. Unfortunately, because of COVID, the expo could not be held this year.

During the Pandemic, some of our members faced some serious financial hardships. The NC Grange Board approved a COVID Financial Assistance Program that we offered to members who suffered catastrophic losses due to loss of income related to business closings. Up to \$500.00 was offered for each application. We had two members to apply for assistance, and it was gratifying to be able to help.

NC Grange also provided a contribution to the NC Agromedicine Institute for the purpose of buying personal protective equipment for farm workers in the state.

To help with breaking the monotony of being stuck in our homes, NC Grange hosted several sessions of Bingo on Zoom. We had several Grangers from other states to participate. These were enjoyable events.

We continue to be involved with advocacy as we desire to be an effective voice on behalf of our members. August 13 was the deadline for providing comments in connection with the effort to create recommended dietary guidelines by the US Department of Health and Human Services along with the US Department of Agriculture. Jimmy Gentry provided comments advocating that whole milk be added to the federal dietary guidelines along with lower fat milk. In addition, we signed onto a coalition letter with GRAIL advocating that tests for early cancer detection be covered by Medicare. We also joined into a letter to the EPA from a coalition of agriculture groups in North Carolina advocating for a timely and judicious decision regarding new registrations for Dicamba products.

Along with the National Grange, we have been advocating for years about the necessity for broadband expansion in rural areas. The good news is that progress is happening with this effort as federal funds continue to come through along with some state assistance. There is still a long way to go, but efforts will continue.

The NC Grange Scholarship Program continues to be a vital project for our organization. This year 16 scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$1000.00 each. Members can reapply if they remain full time students and maintain no less than a 2.8 GPA level.

We realize that the misuse of drugs is a huge problem. NC Grange has been supporting a drug rehab program in Raleigh called Healing Transitions. A grant from PhRMA was awarded to the State Grange in the amount of \$1500.00. We matched the grant with an additional \$1500.00 and donated these funds to Healing Transitions. In addition to supporting this rehab center, NC Grange participated in a Webinar with the Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI) that highlighted current efforts. The webinar also included the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) and Code 3.

NC Grange was forced into a different kind of state convention in September which was held completely by Zoom. Steve Troxler, NC Commissioner of Agriculture spoke to the group, and our session only included the necessary items – resolutions and the budget! Election of board members was deferred until next year. The

committee work was done prior to convention by Zoom, and our awards program was held the evening before, also by Zoom. It was not the kind of convention we wanted, but we were pleased with how well everything went.

We are hoping for a better 2021, hopefully with a vaccine and a return to something more normal. Regardless, we will continue our mission of representing our members and providing them with good service.

OKLAHOMA

Submitted by State President Billy D. Shufeldt

Greetings from the Oklahoma State Grange to the 154th National Grange Convention. I know this has been a very trying and stressful year for everyone, with a lot of firsts. From social distancing and the wearing of masks to "Virtual" meetings and doctor's appointments. Despite this year's hardships this year too has seemed to pass rather quickly.

This year's Degree Day was supposed to be hosted by Pleasant View #354 & Clear Creek #84 at the NAFI Building in South Coffeyville, OK on March 28th, 2020 had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

I am happy to announce that we have awarded nine Oklahoma State Grange Scholarships for the Fall 2020 - Spring 2021 school year. The Scholarships were awarded to:

Katelyn Bailey – South Coffeyville # 351

Olivia Shufeldt – OU # 355

Jason Foley – Bluejacket - # 353

Avery Couch – Cabin Creek Grange # 359

Christopher Thomsen – Thompson # 352

I would like to congratulate this year's scholarship recipients; we are all very proud of each and every one of you and encourage each of you to strive to do your best so you can succeed in everything you do.

The 2020 Great Plains Regional Conference that was to be hosted by the Colorado State Grange on June 12th thru 14th in Denver CO had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Our IT Director Yvonne Meritt has been doing a great job at maintaining and building our Oklahoma State Grange website at <https://okgrange.net> if you haven't been to the website, you will be impressed. Thank you, Yvonne.

I hope everyone has a great time today during the Oklahoma State Grange Session and that we all have a successful, productive and fun session.

OREGON

Submitted by State President Susan Noah

Worthy National President, Officers and Delegates, it is again an honor for Mark and I to represent the great state of Oregon. As I am sure every report this year will attest, this has not been a normal year for Grange, but I am happy to say that in Oregon in spite of the COVID-19 restrictions our Granges are still finding ways to function, and in some cases even grow as they all deal with this most unfortunate year.

In January we kicked off our membership program of *Come Together at the Grange* by enlisting the aid of the State Officers, the Program Directors and the District Chairmen to deliver Grange Resource Binders to each Grange. These resource binders contained some information provided by our National Membership Director, Joe Stefenoni, as well as a selection of information specific to Oregon. February and March were the target dates to deliver to each Grange and around one-half were delivered, but as we all know by the end of March, we were out of business due to the COVID crisis.

Since then only a few books have been delivered as Granges come back to life. Some areas of our state are locked down more than others, and some that were open are sliding backwards as we passed the Labor Day holiday, the end of summer and the start of school. I am still hopeful that eventually all will be delivered, but our momentum has certainly been slowed this year.

In March our Executive Committee set up a COVID-19 grant in the amount of \$500 for our Granges who had lost income due to the shutdowns. So far we have handed out nearly \$30,000 and have just opened up a second grant for the same amount with a few more restrictions.

Our State session, normally scheduled for June, was postponed until the middle of September in the hopes that the worst of the Coronavirus would be over by then. Not only was this not the case, but just as we were wrapping up the final preparations for a hybrid session of both in-person and virtual, the fire season took off and fires

in at least three parts of the state destroyed forests as well as many homes and businesses. Members who originally planned to attend in-person were now either evacuated or on fire watch as fires crept closer to their neighborhoods. Members lost homes and crops in the devastating fire damage, but thankfully no members lost their lives.

For all the turmoil that preceded our annual session, it actually went very smoothly. We pared business down to two and one-half days, mainly for resolution work, our annual memorial and the election of State Officers. For the first time ever, some delegates were in-person and some attended via Zoom. The election was held via Survey Monkey for the Zoom attendees and by paper ballot for those in person. And finally the Installing Officer was able to install all but one of our elected officers, some in person and some via Zoom!

This has been a year with no travel, no events to speak of and a lot of cancellations on the calendar but just like the first shoots of a plant in the Spring, I see signs of life. I see Granges who have been meeting outside to meet social distancing requirements; I see members with hand-made beautiful face masks that are fun as well as functional; I see members who are donating masks and gowns to front line medical workers, I see Grangers doing what they always do – helping others. So, while I too, am ready for the year 2020 to be behind us, I have to say I am proud of our Oregon Grange members and proud to be a member of this great organization!

PENNSYLVANIA

Submitted by State President Wayne D. Campbell

National Worthy Master and fellow Delegates to the 154th Annual Session of the National Grange, it is with great pleasure that I am here virtually representing Pennsylvania, the Keystone State.

Pennsylvania was able to add 205 new members in the past year. This is a decrease from last year but considering all activities literally stopped in March, it's a good number. We continue to look for new ways to promote the Grange and to find new benefits.

The Pennsylvania State Grange has been very active in the past year legislatively. Due to the Coronavirus, many bills on Broadband were generated. Unfortunately, not many made it across the finish line as of this report. Listed here is a recap of Broadband legislation in Pennsylvania:

Senate Resolution 47 was adopted by the Senate. It directed the PA Joint State Government Committee to do a study on Broadband options. Pennsylvania State Grange was the only rural advocacy membership group appointed to the advisory committee that put it together.

Status: Report completed September 2020.

Senate Resolution 48 was adopted by the Senate to have a review done by the Legislative Budget & Finance Committee on whether telecommunications companies were complying with state law regarding minimum band width.

Status: Report completed June 2020

Fiscal Code bill, SB 712 contained two \$300,000 expenditures for Broadband pilot projects in north central PA and parts of PA included in the Appalachian region of the state.

Status: Enacted as part of the FY 2019-2020 State Budget.

Capital Budget bill, SB 905 provides \$10 million to the Northumberland County Industrial Development Authority for a regional Broadband expansion project. NOTE: Although in FY 2020-21, the Capital Budget listing does not necessarily mean that the money will be spent. There is more legislative activity on bills before you get to enactment.

SB 835 sets up an independent Broadband Authority with grant-making powers.

Status: it passed the Senate and is in the House Consumer Affairs Committee.

SB 1118 makes it easier for rural electric cooperatives to extend Broadband using existing lines.

Status: It is on the Senate voting calendar. Companion bill, HB 2438, was on the Senate calendar but was tabled although it passed the House.

HB 3848 converts a telecommunications tax credit fund to a Broadband expansion matching funds grant program.

Status: It passed the House and is on the Senate calendar.

HB 305 requires that a state-owned property inventory be conducted to determine which could be leased to telecommunications companies for cell phone and Internet expansion.

Status: It passed the House and was on the Senate calendar but was tabled.

HR 64 would establish a bipartisan Bicameral Broadband Commission.

Status: It passed the House committee and is currently on the House calendar.

There are at least eight additional bills or resolutions that were introduced but are in their original committee.

SB 725 and HB 1585 would create Restore PA. A \$4.5-billion-dollar loan which would fund multiple projects including an unspecified amount for Broadband expansion.

Status: They are still in their respective Senate and House Environmental Resources Committees.

House Consumer Affairs Committee:

- HB 2786 million from CARES Act Federal COVID-19 money dedicated to Broadband expansion
- HB 1400 would make it easier for telecommunication companies to install small-cell facilities on utility poles
- HB 2055 would make it easier for municipalities to become their own Internet Service Provider
- HB 2722 mandates Broadband accessibility for residents of public housing
- HB 2637 mandates "Broadband emergency lifeline" for low income residents
- HR 63 would direct the PA Joint State Government Commission to audit telecommunications companies to make sure they are compliant with PA law

The Pennsylvania State Grange worked very hard for the passage of an Agri-Tourism bill that would have limited the ability to sue unless it was negligence. This bill did not get across the finish line. We will try to get it reintroduced in the new session in 2021. Farmers need as many ways to diversify and this would provide an excellent way for people to spend time on a farm and learn how food is produced.

The Pennsylvania State Grange was very proud to be represented by Dina Zug from Walker Grange #786 in Juniata County on the Dairy Future Commission. Dina was selected to Chair the Markets Sub-committee within the Commission. This group was established by legislative action and was charged with reviewing the current Dairy situation in Pennsylvania and presenting ideas for improving the Dairy industry in the future.

I had the opportunity to take Bryce Danko, the Pennsylvania State Grange Junior Prince and the National Grange Junior Ambassador, to Washington D.C. for the first National Grange Youth Legislative Event in March. We were joined there by Elisabeth Reich and her mother Tina. Elisabeth is the Pennsylvania State Junior Grange Princess. Youth from all across the country participated in this event. It gave them a chance to meet with their Congressmen and voice their opinions. They toured the Capitol and were the first to use the newly remodeled conference room at the National Grange Headquarters. This was the last event either of them were able to participate in live, as the COVID Pandemic swept the nation in the following months.

I must take this opportunity to say thank you to Lurae Benzio the Junior Director and Ellen Wadsworth the Youth Director who held some totally awesome events virtually. Due to COVID-19 all camps were cancelled. The camps were held virtually but this was not the same as in person events. It still gave Juniors and Youth a chance to take part in activities and maintain those social contacts.

The 148th annual session of the Pennsylvania State Grange was held in Erie, PA. It was a State session like we have never experienced. The members were able to hold an in-person session under the Governor's COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions due to the large size of the facility. 118 members participated. Only Pennsylvania State Grange officers and Delegates were invited to attend. Couples or people from the same Grange were allowed to sit together, all others were seated individually one per table. We really missed not having visitors, Honored Guests, a National Grange Representative, Juniors, Youth, or any display rooms. It was a session we hope we never have to repeat!

Debbie and I didn't travel nearly the miles we have other years due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, but we still tried to stay in touch and attend events when we could safely do so. **Cultivating Connections** has taken on a whole new meaning this year. ZOOM meetings, Google Meets, and other virtual ways of conducting business and meetings have become the "norm." Grangers have been forced out of their comfort zones and have learned to adapt to a new normal. Grangers everywhere, not just in Pennsylvania, made masks, turned their Grange Halls into food distribution points, made grocery store runs for high risk neighbors, and took neighbors to doctor's appointments. Yes, it has been an unusual year, but we still found ways to **"Cultivate Connections."**

RHODE ISLAND

Submitted by State President Eileen Hebert

It is my honor to report the activities of the Granges of Rhode Island for the year 2019-2020.

Our Grange year started off as any other year in November. We had the statewide meeting to distribute the department program books for the coming year. December, January and February are typically quiet months in Grange activities due to the holidays and inclement weather. Ironically, this year's snow tubing day for the youth department had to be canceled twice due to warm weather and lack of snow.

In March, activities usually pick up - youth nights, the state Lecturer's Rummikub tournament and My Favorite Anything contests. But on March 13th (how appropriately Friday the 13th) everything came to a screeching halt when the governor shut down the state for 30 days. There could be no gatherings with over five people which effectively shut

down all of the Grange meetings and any other activities. Then that became another 30 days. One or two Granges started having virtual meetings because it became evident that we might be shut down from much longer than anyone originally thought.

In May, out of curiosity, I asked Grange secretaries if they could do some research into what their Grange was doing during the 1918 pandemic, and received several replies. Most Granges, including my own, held monthly meetings and other activities right through 1918 and 1919. For the most part life did not shut down during that time.

Going into June a number of Granges had election of officers scheduled and asked for advice. By now the governor had opened up meetings to 15 or less, so technically Granges could have held a meeting, but many were reluctant to do so. I advised the Masters of Granges to contact the members to get a consensus of what they wanted to do about elections--they could either agree to keep the current officers or have a meeting only to elect officers and do so by a hand written ballot to cut down on the length of the meeting. Most Granges agreed to keep over their officers until next year but one or two Granges did hold an election.

During the shutdown, one Grange made over one thousand face masks, which they donated to emergency and essential workers, doctor's offices, the RI Food Bank, and 4H groups to name a few. This same Grange held a "takeout dinner" and packaged the to-go meals in reusable shopping bags that were imprinted with the Grange name and information about the Grange.

In July, the State Overseer, Walter Hartley, organized a "social" zoom meeting where anyone could join the meeting just to chat about any what they had been doing during the shutdown. We had about 15-20 people during this call and everyone had a good time. It was good to see and talk to members again.

By August, we had already canceled a number of major events - state degree day, women's activities day, youth activities day, junior activities and awards and the state church service. It was also announced that the Washington County Fair, which is a major fundraising event for the Granges of Washington County and the State Grange, would be canceled this year. It would take place online as a virtual event. Donations were solicited for various vendors that normally have a booth at the fair to help replace some of what they lost. While most did receive donations it was significantly less than what they normally make during the Fair.

In August, some Granges had started having in-person meetings once a month using social distancing and wearing masks. Although we did have five Grange members in the state that contracted COVID-19, it was not as a result of any Grange meetings or events.

At this time the executive committee met to plan the state session, which would be a one day event at a Grange, but we hoped it would still be in person. By the beginning of September however, cases of the virus were increasing and it was evident that we would not be able to meet with all delegates in person. Instead we planned a virtual meeting with delegates attending at one of the two "zoom" sites to participate in the meeting. We also had approximately 16 delegates and members attending virtually from home. Everyone agreed that, under the circumstances, the meeting was very successful and we conducted all necessary business. The election of officers was held via Survey Monkey approximately five days before the session, with results being announced at the session meeting. The one positive thing that has come out of this is that many people now see some alternatives to what we have been doing at state sessions and are more open to trying something different.

The shutdown of almost all Grange fund raising activities during this time has been very difficult on Granges financially. The trustees of the Rhode Island State Grange Foundation recently voted to offer a grant to Granges to help with their expenses. This is not a long term solution so we hope that this shutdown due to the virus will soon be over.

One bright spot in all of this is that at least two Granges in the state have taken in new members during the shutdown.

I would like to thank all of the officers and members of the Rhode Island State Grange for their patience and support during this difficult year. As we start the new Grange year, we will hope for the best, but plan for the worst. We will look for some innovative ways to keep members in touch and active in Grange projects. And when things get back to the new "normal", we will all appreciate each other even more.

TENNESSEE

Submitted by State President Judy Sherrod

Greetings from the Volunteer State. Because this past year has been extraordinarily different from any year we have experienced, most of our activities were at the end of year 2019 and the first months in 2020. Despite many people having to stay at home, there was still service activities in our communities and efforts to help others. We had community service reports from almost all of our Granges. Several Granges reported events to help those who needed assistance due to places of business being closed, so our members throughout the state found several places and many people to serve. Donations were made to local schools for COVID supplies, feed for animals on the farm and in homes during store shutdowns, purchase and donation of fabric to make face masks to donate to school children, working at food donation centers packing boxes, and participating in walk-a-thons to help raise money for local charities.

Our State convention was originally scheduled for the end of August. This was going to be a new date for us since we have historically met in early October. However, our date had to be changed again due to the pandemic. Many other State Grange conventions across the country were held via zoom or other online meetings, but because we in Tennessee meet at Grange halls in very rural parts of the state we were unable to meet via zoom. So, a first for us, our delegates met for the 112th Tennessee State Grange convention outside under a large picnic pavilion where we were able to social distance. The day was beautiful with warm weather and lots of sunshine. Because we had no judging for contest entries in art, photography, crafts, needlework, or canning, and only officer election for executive committee members, we were able to complete our work in one afternoon.

We are thankful for our Grange family and what we mean to each other, and how we can always count on Grangers to help whenever possible. And, as we have asked ourselves for years, what would our communities look like without our Grange? We fully embrace our motto: In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity. We find hope in all these attributes.

TEXAS

Submitted by State President Karen Overstreet

Worthy National Master, National Officers, Delegates, Members and Guests of the 154th National Grange Convention: Greetings from the great state of Texas!

"Cultivating Connections".....How appropriate was this National Grange theme for our 2020 year! We definitely had to find creative ways to stay connected. Through phone calls, conference calls, e-mails, Zoom meetings, social media, we could stay connected with our members and community. It has been a crazy roller coaster ride, but we made it!

I was getting all caught up in this COVID-19 Pandemic, and thinking of all the meetings, projects, fairs, social gatherings that could not take place. Then I had to readjust my thinking from the negative to the positive and take a look at all the things that DID occur in spite of the quarantine, school closures, virtual learning/teaching, restaurant closures or minimal capacity, shortage of food and toilet paper. A few projects and activities that occurred throughout Texas this past year were:

- Farmers Markets
- Market Days
- Presenting quilts through "Under Our Wings Quilts of Valor"
- Words For Thirds
- Serving meals to Military trainees, First Responders and senior citizen centers
- Donating toys to the "Toys for Tots" program
- Donating to the Methodist Mission Home in Waco, TX
- Providing music to nursing homes and hospice patients
- Pet vaccinations
- Budget Class
- Sewing protective masks
- ZOOM Zumba classes
- ZOOM children devotional times
- Drive by donating food baskets for families in the community

Even though this is a very challenging time, Grangers across Texas have continued to sponsor community service projects to help others through this time. Whether it be making masks, creating food baskets, collecting items for food pantries, supporting local businesses, giving a little extra tip, or paying for the person behind you in the drive thru line, Grangers have made a positive influence across our great state!

One positive aspect during this time is that many of our Texas Grangers are feeling more comfortable using technology and social media to stay connected. Some are trying Facebook and/or Instagram for their first time and are learning more about the various ways these avenues can be utilized.

In February, Buddy and I attended the Presidents' Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to the conference beginning, we had the opportunity to visit the National Grange Building in Washington, D.C. It was wonderful to be able to walk the halls where so many Grangers have walked before us.

Texas was not able to have our Leaders' Day Workshop in March; however, the information gathered from the Presidents' Conference was shared with each leader via e-mail.

Some of our Texas Grangers appeared on the Virtual "Cultivating Connections" series, participated in Trivia Night and the Saturday Night Date Night that were sponsored by the National Grange which was wonderful to see.

Texas Grangers continue to be concerned about Rural Broadband. It is a necessity now more than ever! With everything becoming virtual; education, medical, local businesses, Rural broadband has become essential

across Texas. Grangers have also become concerned about the amount of time people's eyes are being exposed to 'blue light'. With the increased use of televisions, smartphones, laptops, and tablets that emit the brighter, shorter-wavelength (more bluish) light, one's eyes may become strained. Some Ophthalmologists recommend if a person uses these devices for 6 hours or more daily, a special computer screen or glasses may need to be used to block out the blue light from the eyes. Some people say that using blue light blocking glasses helps lessen eye strain, can protect your eyes from glare and have been known to help you sleep better at night.

Even through the many changes in our society, our Youth and Juniors continue to keep a positive spirit and want to serve others. One of Texas Juniors, Jazlynn Rodriguez, won first place in the virtual Great Plains Regional sign-a-song contest. Also, one of the Junior Grangers, Gianna Trillo, applied for and was awarded a seed grant fund which would allow her to continue a service project of a garden at Losoya Middle School. She wanted to better her school and share gardening knowledge with her peers and families.

I am praying things will start calming down throughout our nation and state. This year has been challenging, but we have managed to reach out to our community, find needs and organize projects and activities to meet those needs.

I hope to see you all at our 2021 National Grange Session in Kansas. Texas is so excited to be able to co-host this session!

VERMONT

Submitted by State President Joe Goodrich

2020 had its challenges in Vermont as I'm sure it did in the rest of the Grange states. In person meetings, if held at all, had to be done with extreme caution as the majority of our members fell into the most vulnerable category. Instead, most of our Granges met via electronic means such as Skype, Zoom or conference calls. This made for a very sharp learning curve for a lot of us as well as having to temporarily adopt a less traditional way of conducting our business.

Among the many challenges, fundraising seems to be one of the biggest. This of course has affected many of our Granges adversely, especially those that still own their halls. With winter setting in, and heating oil expected to go up in price, we will need to work together to make it through till warmer weather arrives in the spring. I have faith that we will persevere. Challenges are new opportunities for us to find solutions by thinking outside the box. As our history has proven time and again, Grangers will always find a way.

Unrelated to the pandemic, we have unfortunately had another Community Grange surrender its charter this past year with another at risk of having their charter revoked due to inaction. This is something that no State Master ever wants to do and it is only as a last resort that these actions are being taken.

On a positive note. We have interest in another community to possibly open a new Grange. We will be exploring this new opportunity and hope to increase our numbers.

As I close this report, it is my fervent hope that as this challenging year closes, the lessons learned will only need to be used a short time longer as we hopefully soon can return to a more traditional means of conducting our business.

WASHINGTON

Submitted by State President Tom Gwin

Greetings from the Evergreen State of Washington! It is indeed a pleasure to represent our beautiful and diversified state at this most unusual 154th Annual Session of the National Grange.

We chose the theme "Cultivating Connections to Provide Opportunities for Success" to represent our year. We began the year with 18 leadership conferences across the state in the late winter and early spring, working to increase communication, develop leadership skills, promote our Grange programs, and receive feedback as to the direction we were heading as an organization. I was joined at these conferences by our Lecturer, Secretary and department heads (Family Living, Membership, Juniors, and Youth) to assist in sharing information with our Grangers and to receive feedback to improve our programming.

Our 131st Annual Session was originally scheduled to be held in June at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds. We made the decision in March to postpone the session until October. As Walla Walla County was one of our counties hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, it became obvious we would not be able to hold our session at that location. Exploring the options and limitations from the Governor's Office, we decided to set up a business session at four locations around the state and then to zoom together to conduct our business. We had 139 delegates at this alternative session on October 30-31. We considered 50 resolutions and nine standing committee reports and elected five new state officers. All the social events that normally are a part of the convention were eliminated for this year.

Our 2021 session is currently slated for June 23-26 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Port Townsend. By early spring, we will need to make a decision whether to proceed or to make alternative plans.

The Washington State Grange is proud of our recognition as a Distinguished State Grange for the ninth consecutive year. We are also proud of our Distinguished Subordinate Granges: Goldendale #49, Humptulips #730, and Five Mile Prairie #905. In addition, over 40 of our Granges participated in the "Grange in Action" program. We collected the Grange in Action posters in advance and used them to make an attractive display at the Washington State Fair in September.

Our Grange departments are continuing to thrive. Our State Grange Youth Department continues to develop leaders for our organization. The Junior Grange Programs are gaining strength. While our six summer JG camps were all cancelled this year, we are seeing an increase in 1+ Junior members and an increase in activities of our chartered Junior Granges. Our total JG membership is over 700 members!

Legislative activities continue to remain a priority for the Washington State Grange. Our legislative day was held in February. More than 40 Grangers from across the state came to our headquarters building for a day of speakers and workshops. We facilitated tours of the capitol building and made appointments for our members to meet with their legislators. We are unsure of whether this day will be held in 2021 as the State Legislature will meet virtually next year.

The educational arm of our state organization, the Washington State Grange Foundation, experienced tremendous support this year. We returned that generosity by awarding 22 college scholarships, ranging from \$750 to \$1000 each, to Grange members and children of Grange members. Beginning next year, all applicants must be Grange members to be considered for a scholarship.

While the pandemic did affect our social activities for this year, the State Grange did host two Holiday Parties for Grange members, one on each side of the state. Our US tour program and Grange Day with the Seattle Mariners were put on hold until after the pandemic ends.

We will continue to work to "Provide Opportunities for Success" through the upcoming year. We are making progress with a stabilized membership, but we haven't quite reached the point of membership growth. Even through the pandemic, we see several Granges continue to bring in new members. We reorganized Birdview Grange in March and had plans to reorganize Orchardvale Grange in April. Our net loss of members continues to get smaller. One day, soon, we hope to see an actual net gain in membership.

Throughout the State of Washington, we are working to revitalize Granges and experiencing a resurgence of Grange activity. Granges and Grangers are working together to make their communities stronger. Our leadership team will continue to provide a diversified program and a wide range of tools that will allow our Granges to flourish in their communities.

Best wishes for a successful convention. We hope for an exciting year of progress for all Granges across the nation!

WEST VIRGINIA

Submitted by State President Jim Foster

We, in West Virginia, are still existing with COVID-19 reaching its heights. Our Granges are more or less on a stand down operation. Some Granges have continued to meet as usual, while others have not. If no other problems arise all Granges will return to a fully functional operation soon.

It appears we may lose another Grange due to the death of its present Master. There is no one willing to take over the position. This has happened in the past, and I unfortunately foresee the same problem in other Granges. I am at a loss as to how we prevent it.

The West Virginia State Grange attends Conservation Agriculture Day at the Legislature. We meet with our elected officials and present them with a copy of our policy book. One of our biggest problems is shortage of members who are willing to attend these events and can address our concerns.

The West Virginia State Grange will continue its struggle to recruit active members and will strive to increase members for 2021.

WISCONSIN

Greetings from Wisconsin! While the pandemic has taken a toll on the US, Granges in Wisconsin preserved through it.

Granges met in person when they were allowed to or came together virtually over Zoom meetings. And while many in person activities were not able to be completed, plans are being made across our state to come back in full force to bring our communities back together.

Our state session was held in person with officers and delegates only in attendance and was modified to be only a one-day session. Other state activities held quarterly include degree day, Lecturer workshops and annual picnic.

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Fees

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Sixth Degree Fees - \$450.00
Golden Sheaf Certificates Fees - \$2,735.00
Silver Star Certificates Fees - \$484.00
75 year Award Certificates - \$590.00
100 year Grange Hall Certificates Fees - \$130.00
125 Year Grange Hall Certificates Fees - \$30.00

Membership Recognition

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

6th Degree Certificates: 180
Golden Sheaf Certificates: 273
Silver Star Certificates: 176
40 year seals: 87
55 year seals: 111
60 year seals: 144
65 year seals: 103
70 year seals: 131
75 year award certificates: 59
80 year letter: 17
85 year letter: 2
100 year Grange Hall Certificates: 13
125 year Grange Hall Certificates: 3

MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

November 8, 2019-5:30PM Minneapolis Minnesota

All members present.

Betsy called the meeting to order following the closing of the 153rd Annual Session. Election for chairman was held, Phil was elected as the chair. Election for secretary was held, Susan was elected.

Discussion was held about the 401K small business retirement plan (Leroy's suggested group) and it was decided to have a Zoom with the group and us to gather more information.

Next in-person meeting will be at the Presidents conference in Westminster, MD February 13-14, 2020.

November 21, 2019-5:30PM Zoom Call

Chairman Phil Prelli called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. EST. In attendance were National Master, Betsy Huber, National Overseer and Executive Committee Chair, Phil Prelli, Susan Noah, Executive Committee Secretary and members Leroy Watson, Lynette Schaeffer and Stephen Coye.

Meeting was held to go over the building assessment reports received before the National session from TRC Engineering and MGA. Phil requested Betsy to start the discussion. Two items identified by TRC for immediate action are to complete the installation of the boiler and renovate the mechanical room ventilation system. Both projects total approximately \$55,000.

Betsy learned about and made MGA aware of a new law in DC that will require up to a 20% reduction in energy consumption as it goes into effect. Requirements will go into effect in stages with Federal buildings being first. MGA has suggested we hold off on improvements until their final report, partially because of this potential change to energy usage requirements and partially to perhaps secure other funding. They should have further studies finished by our February meeting. If baseline energy figures are from now the new boiler and chiller should help with our consumption reduction.

Next step – Betsy has requested an estimate from the firm engaged to hook up the boiler, has not yet received it. Phil would like an estimate for the items on the TRC report marked 4.3 c & d, or complete installation of the Weil McLain Boiler and renovate the mechanical room ventilation system for proper boiler system combustion air and an estimate for the renovation of the conference room. Per Betsy Amanda is currently looking into the types and costs of technology that will be made a part of the renovated conference room.

Betsy will work to get estimates on the three projects and provide us with the information. Once we have the information on those, we should be able to make some informed decisions. General agreement was to only take on a few projects, one at a time so as not to overload the management and staff. Phil requested Betsy check into possible charge backs on the upgraded lighting & battery backup lighting, and get back to us with that and the estimates on the three projects.

Betsy will send us parts of the study from 2006, just for general information.

Design for roof anchors are finished, the roofers are waiting for the anchors to be installed and Betsy has been trying to get in touch with the facility installing the anchors to complete the task. Both she and the roofers have reached out but the anchor installation is still stalled.

Audit was received, per Phil we plan on having a meeting with the auditors at the State Masters Conference. When the Proceedings are closer to being finished, if it is before the Masters meeting, we would have either an email or zoom meeting to approve.

Motion to go into Exec session, carried – 6:35 EST

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:00 EST, carried.

Stephanie will be added as a signer to all the accounts.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 EST

January, 27, 2020

Via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 8:03 pm Eastern time by Chairman Phil Prelli. All of the Executive Committee were attending, although Susan Noah was a little late due to technical problems. The meeting was called for the purpose of an informational discussion on the proposed Multi-employer 401K plan. Executive Committee members were joined on the call by Steven Scothorn, David Watson, and Bradley Troy all of First Financial Group Advisors. We were also joined by Kathryn Whitmore of Transamerica Corp. First Financial Group became involved through their consultation on the Grange Foundation's investment portfolio.

This meeting was set up for a Q & A with the Executive Committee before a larger meeting at the State Master's conference in February that will include the State Masters and some of the staff. One of the main questions was do we have the ability to set this up within our existing membership classes. Answer seemed to be yes, either on a national, state or subordinate level.

Another question was in our ability to meet the stated goal of \$10 Million in assets by the end of the first year following engagement. Several questioned if there was enough interest to even come close to that goal. Transamerica will perform an analysis of Grange businesses memberships through public information to identify if that goal is realistic. The hope is that we would start by targeting some of the Business Memberships already in place in our Subordinate or State Granges, giving us a good start on the \$10 Million. Following that this could be used as a recruiting tool, for Business memberships and potentially a long-term goal of Fraternal membership. Discussion continued with the information that would be needed to be provided by the State Granges. Falling short of the goal could mean that the plan fees would be higher. However, if they (Transamerica) believe that we are capable of meeting the goal, plans would be priced out as if the total invested dollars had been attained.

As this was just a Q&A for the Executive Committee, our partners in this will be available at the Master's conference for a more complete discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

February 13, 2020
Zoom Call

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chair (Overseer) Phil Prelli. Betsy Huber, National Master, Executive Committee members Lynette Schaeffer, Stephen Coye, Leroy Watson and Susan Noah were all present. Minutes were adopted for the 1/27/20 conference call, the 11/21/19 Zoom meeting, and the last regular meeting on 11/3 & 11/4/19

Leroy moved to go into executive session at 7:15, motion was seconded and carried to cover legal, state Grange issues and personnel.

Stephen moved to come out of executive session at 9:10 pm, seconded and carried.

Building – Roof is finished and the anchors are in. Conference room should be finished this coming week. All finished, the total cost should be about \$34,000 including the appliances. New chairs and tables were purchased totaling \$5,000. A new digital directory board out in the hall has been installed. The bathrooms seem to be the next issue that the tenants are the most anxious to see improved.

California Settlement – Approximately \$293,000 remaining from the settlement, following the payoff of the attorney, the outstanding loans, and the remaining hotel bill from the National session. Discussion regarding the building leases, two are currently somewhat in arrears. One small office is currently vacant. Some thoughts about using it as a shared workspace rental.

Tomorrow's meeting will be 8:30. We broke for the evening at 10:15 pm.

Meeting was called to order Friday morning at 8:37. All members were present, with Betsy Huber offering a prayer to start the day.

Department Reports

Sales and Benefits – Loretta Washington

Her report gave us figures for the sales at convention, up from prior years. The Worthy Master expressed that having Loretta and Pete Pompper in charge at Convention helped a lot and kept things running smoothly.

Junior Department – Samantha Wilkins

Her report was discussed – Junior Ambassadors were in attendance at the Fly In last week. Grange Advocacy is providing one meal at the March DC event. Leroy asked about how the Background checks are going – Betsy and Samantha are both being notified of completed or started reports. Some states are using it, others are still making use of their own resource. Samantha is requiring the one that National has chosen (Safe Gatherings) for any participation in a National event. Leroy requested feedback on how the program is progressing included with each of her reports. Discussion on the Background check issues and how national and states are handling continued. Phil wanted to commend the Youth and Juniors for their outreach to the States. A good effort on their part to involve the State Grange leadership, and keeping the line of communication open. Phil would like a report on the number of plus one members in each State.

Communication Department – Amanda Brozana Rios

Lynette commented on the frequency of the Facebook posts encouraging members and recognizing our Organization. Phil asked that we review the policy on media posting at our next meeting.

Good Day – still issues with the renewal efforts, but the magazine seems to continue to be received well to those who have subscriptions. Need to continue looking at ways to improve the process and to streamline the staff time. Leroy wonders if we should do some time studies to see exactly how much staff time is involved with the entire magazine process.

Patron's chain – some discussion about the frequency, being sent out every week, but taking up more staff time. Betsy has set up a schedule for a lead article for each staff member, so that not everyone has to have something each week.

IT Department – Stephanie Wilkins

Question of how to get the members to recognize that Stephanie has training videos that would be beneficial for database. Leroy asked about putting links in the Patron's chain. Stephanie recommended that we look into a subscription service for Good Day. Building security – we have accepted a quote from Protection Plus to install four professional videos, being taped over. Need to access the costs involved with upgrading to a longer storage system. Have to upgrade several computer systems this year, nothing was upgraded last year. Leroy – wondering if we could put a high def resolution camera on the roof, aimed at the White House generating an image we could sell. Set up as a subscription service.

Legislative Department – Burton Eller

Burton is doing well with getting information out to the public. He has an Intern currently and another scheduled for the Summer. Advocacy has helped.

Building – Samantha Wilkins

Samantha has plans to start a building-wide quarterly community service effort, selecting organizations to receive donated goods. She is also sending out a monthly newsletter to the tenants. She sees the elevators and the bathrooms as being the next projects to take on. Two leases are coming up for renewal and both seem to be on track for renewal. The newer leases that we have been negotiating do not want the operating charge that we have used in the past. MGA says that most places in DC are no longer doing this. Most leases are now being set up with a \$2.08 per sq. ft charge that is on top of the leasing fee, rather than a year end fee being triggered by excess expenses. The \$2.08 was arrived at by average of the last few years overages. Overtime all leases will be converted to this type of lease. Sparkmeter on the 9th floor has been updating their floor. We are giving them \$25,000 toward their renovation, partially to make code upgrades necessary. We need to get information and quotes on the bathroom upgrades, then show to tenants to acquaint them our plans. Also need to look into Elevator upgrades, the cost and what is involved.

Membership – Joe Stefanoni

Looked over Joe's report & discussed the 2020 goals. He has designated 5 Granges that are the most at risk that he wants to work on this year. He has noted that in Wyoming there seems to be a Grange still operating, without our oversight and at this point, authority. We need to check the IRS for filings and/or the Secretary of State for corporation filings. Joe also discussed working on a Parli-Pro booklet, but it was thought that this seems to be overreaching in what is needed for running a Grange.

Youth Department – Mandy Bostwick

Youth report was discussed.

Leroy moved that we go into Executive Session at 12:00 to discuss personnel matters.

Leroy moved to come out of Executive Session at 12:14, seconded and carried

Lunch

Called back to order at 1:48

Discussion of the Financials – The hosting committee only used around \$3,000 for their part. On their wrap up call, they voted to leave the unused portion of the convention fund with the National Grange for our use for future conventions.

Discussion regarding investments, policies, borrowing against funds. We need to look into setting up an investment policy. Settlement fund now has \$285,546. Difference from the Year end was transferred to payoff some of the outstanding loans. We have not paid Indiana or Red Lion Grange yet, which total around \$160,000. Phil asked if we are near a point where our operating expenses and income are somewhere near even. Phil believes that we need to be making an effort to move some money into a building fund.

New accounting firm has generated a year end statement, with the following possibilities of correction:

- A/R – possibilities of several thousand in write-offs.
- National Grange fixed assets – schedule missing
- Accrued membership assessments

Boiler room still in the same position, the new boiler has still not been hooked up.

We had decided to pay off all of the loans except for the Foundation, but we still owe Indiana and Red Lion, do we pay? Decision was made to leave the loans in place until the May meeting.

Unfinished Business – MGA report, they have not given Betsy the phase two report yet and probably will not have until sometime in March. Phase two was supposed to be a big picture plan for other options for the building. They will meet with Betsy around the end of February. She will make the report available to us after that.

401K – they will meet with the State Masters on Saturday.

New Business – Completed the Conflict of Interest policy, for each Executive Committee member. Phil moved that we accept the comments by Leroy on his past financial interests within the conflict of interest policy and agree that there is no conflict of interest. Seconded and carried. Steve moved that we accept the comments by Betsy within the conflict of interest and agree that there is no conflict of interest seconded and carried.

Next meeting - May 5th and 6th starting by 6:00 on the 5th and finished by 4:00 on the 6th

August – 11th and 12th same schedule as above.

Steve moved to adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 3:52

May 5-6, 2020

Zoom Call

Meeting was called to order at 1:10 EDT by Chair and Overseer Phil Prelli. National Master, Betsy Huber and Executive Committee members, Lynette Schaeffer, Leroy Watson, Stephen Coye and Susan Noah were present. Lynette led us in an opening prayer.

Leroy moved to approve the February 13th and 14th minutes as submitted. Seconded and carried. The March 27th Zoom meeting minutes were considered next. Leroy moved to approve as submitted, seconded and carried. Seconded and carried.

Lynette moved to go into Executive Session for legal actions, personnel issues and state issues, seconded and carried.

Stephen moved; Lynette seconded to come out of Executive Session at 2:10 carried.

Building:

Building anchors are still an issue. Window washing company wanted a copy of the certification for the anchors. The roofers were supposed to provide that, but we found the inspection had not been completed. The engineers are now saying that they were not installed per their description. They believe we need to have four more installed, Betsy objected to us paying. They are now redesigning. Betsy believes they need to certify as is or pay for any more that need to be installed. The agreement we had was for a design and installation. The roofers, the engineering firm, and the installing firm were all involved. Somehow a lack of communication between them resulted in this problem. They came out to certify, discovered the problem and then came out again to redesign. We do not know what they may want as a charge.

Building report – still only one small office not rented. (314 sq. ft). Betsy and Burton have discussed having Grange Advocacy rent on a month-to-month basis. Without the intern though the space is not needed. Four tenants have contacted the National office to defer rent due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Three have agreed to pay half rent for the next couple of months and make up through the rest of the year. Most tenants have not been operating in the building for the last six weeks. Might be looking at up to \$8,000 per month less. Capital Photography – still waiting on renewal agreement, but they are still paying and plan on staying.

We had one firm with a small space that was a year behind in payments – Betsy emailed and they paid current. Sparkmeter has been catching up and they are now paid up through February. They have made up five months of past due payments since February.

Break 2:25 – 2:30.

New Business – Convention contingency plan. Betsy has been in contact with a convention planner for advice. Discussion about the contract with Valley Forge. He suggested we try cancelling and rescheduling for next year, but we have contracts signed until 2023. Due to the other contracts we can't cancel and come back next year, soonest would be 2024. Otherwise we can renegotiate the contract cutting the room numbers, food, etc. and plan for a smaller convention. Right now, if we cancel, according to the current contract we still owe 50% or \$65,833, and as of July 14th we would owe 100%. Pennsylvania is still locked down right now, construction has restarted and about one third of the state will be allowed to transition to a partial reopening next week. Valley Forge is located in the Southeast area which has been a hotspot, so will be a few weeks before things are reopened in that area. Our contract is food & beverage - \$40,000 and 872 room nights. We need a discussion with the hotel to see what their plan may be, and what our bottom line will be.

General consensus was that we need to at least pare the convention down. Betsy requested permission to engage a convention planner to negotiate with the hotel for a fee. Work towards a reduction of room nights and a reduction of food and beverage with possible cancellation of the entire convention in person. Just officers, staff & delegates – approximately 100 people. For about 3 total nights. Possibly only lunches, no banquets.

Lynette moved that we allow Betsy to hire Paul Miller, Convention Planner, to negotiate with the hotel to achieve the best benefit for a pared down session. Stephen seconded. Motion was carried.

Phil suggested that Betsy discuss with Bruce that we will not be having the degree. Once we have an answer from Paul as to what he was able to negotiate with the hotel we will plan on a Zoom meeting with the State Masters.

Adjourned at 4:06 until tomorrow at 1:00

Meeting was called back to order at 1:16 on Wednesday May 6th with all members present.

Financial Reports:

Some of the Prepaid Convention Expense could be for conventions out a couple of years. We have sent \$37,500 to Valley Forge with another \$12,500 due June 14th. The 100% obligation deadline is July 14th. Discussed the financial statement. The auditor is now working on the Grange Foundation's audit, and will soon be ready to start on ours.

Department Reports

IT – Stephanie has been directed to order three new computer stations. Will do at least three this year and perhaps three more towards the end of the year, or next year. Total cost of the three between \$8,000-\$9,000. Lynette inquired about the Blue Tahiti fee – there will be an extra charge for the work planned.

Juniors – Per Betsy the youth and junior departments are working on a plan for a virtual presence for the National Convention if needed. They seem to have a plan ready to go. Leroy suggested that we need to have a communication ready for all State publications as soon as possible, outlining all of the changes we are looking at for National.

Legislative – Burton has been very busy with all the legislative issues during the COVID crisis. We still have a part time intern helping Burton that Grange Advocacy is paying for. Currently she is proofreading the Proceedings. Leroy pointed out some great press that Burton recently received. Burton was recognized by Kevin Scott, Chief Technology Officer for Microsoft in Mr. Scott's new book "Reprogramming the American Dream: From Rural America to Silicon Valley – making AI (Artificial Intelligence) Serve us All". Mr. Scott designates Burton and the Grange as major, national thought leaders on the issues of getting high speed digital internet service to America's farming, remote and rural communities. Kudos to Burton!

Sales, Benefits, Programs and Membership Recognition – Loretta is in the process of designing a new folder for the 25-year certificates. She is in the office at least two days a week during this shutdown.

Communications – Amanda has been doing a great job with the Facebook live interviews each day. Especially the FCC Chair, Ajit Pai Interview. She has stepped up to keep the Grangers engaged during this shut down. Lynette mentioned the conferences that Amanda attended in Illinois. Her presence was a great help to them.

Break – 2:30 – 2:37

Unfinished Business

MGA report will be considered at the August meeting.

Internet policy – Betsy has sent out the Youth and Junior internet guidelines, we believe it would be a good idea to update and send out to everyone. Also, the National social media policy is probably a good idea to promote with States. As we encourage Granges to do more with social media, we need to make sure that they are prepared for potential conflicts.

Investment policy – We should check with Merrill Lynch to see if we have an investment policy, if not we need to provide one. Susan requested a copy of the March statement, and requested that we discuss with our accountants the idea of placing all Convention Fund income/expenses at a point below the bottom line of our operating income/expense so that it is somewhat separate from our normal overhead.

New Business

2020 Hosting budget – placed on hold at this point, until we know what the convention will look like. Phil commented that we will need to reimburse the expenses already spent by the hosting committee. Reimbursing for employee unused vacation time was brought up. Some employees have been unable to take all their accrued vacation during the year, and they can only carry over two weeks. After discussion it was decided that we address this change through a possible change to the employee handbook. Betsy will set up a possible change and submit to us.

Phil brought up the need for a new employee that would take over some of the administrative duties that Betsy is currently handling as well as possibly some of the data entry like scanning the bills, code to proper accounts, make deposits, etc. Salary would probably run around \$40,000 plus \$15,000 for benefits. Cannot happen until DC is starting to reopen.

Next meeting August 11th and 12th hopefully in DC, starting at 4:00 pm on the 11th and finished by 4:00pm on the 12th.

Lynette moved to adjourn at 3:43, seconded and carried.

June, 8, 2020 - Zoom Call

A Special Meeting of the National Grange Executive Committee for the purpose of reviewing and adopting a proposed statement in relation to the present racial unrest was called to order by Chairman Prelli at 7:03 p.m.

Members present were National Master Betsy Huber, Overseer/Chairman Phillip Prelli, and Executive Committee

Members Leroy Watson, Susan Noah, and Stephen Coye. Chairman Prelli designated Stephen as Secretary Pro-tem, as Susan was mobile. Also in attendance was National Grange Communications Director Amanda Brozana-Rios.

Pursuant to a request by several Grange members for a statement from the National Grange regarding the current unrest, the committee reviewed and suggested edits to a document created earlier in the day.

Following discussion, it was moved by Phil and Second by Susan that a final document be formulated this evening, and submitted to the Committee for an email vote. Carried.

There being no further business, Chairman Prelli entertained a motion to adjourn, which was made by Stephen and Second by Susan. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

June 11, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Meeting was called to order by Chair Phil Prelli at 7:00 EDT. Those present were Betsy Huber, National Master, Stephen Coye, Lynette Schaffer, Leroy Watson and Susan Noah.

Leroy moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel items at 7:05, seconded by Lynette, motion carried.

Stephen moved, seconded by Lynette to come out of Executive Session at 7:11, motion carried.

Motion was made by Lynette, seconded by Stephen to amend our personal leave policy, points 1 and 5 as per the recommendations by our Worthy Master.

We reviewed the new contract with Valley Forge Casino and Resort. The planner Betsy retained to renegotiate the contract would like an addition acknowledging that this contract will replace the previous one. New room nights total 146 over three nights. This included staff (probably Burton, Stephanie, Amanda, Loretta, Samantha, not Joe or Mandy). Betsy was asked to request that the room rate be extended for three days prior and three days following the meeting. She thought this would be acceptable to them, but not sure if this could be used to fulfill the room nights required by the hotel. The Executive Committee will have to meet via Zoom approximately two weeks prior to the session to work the budget. Since all committee work needs to be done prior to the convention, we will need the budget ready.

Leroy quizzed Betsy if she would allow alternates if people did not feel comfortable attending. She may but there will also be the possibility of meeting via Zoom for those who are not comfortable coming in person. Amanda has been working on the logistics, and is still working out the problems with voting.

The new contract from Valley Forge Casino and Resort shows the room rates being reduced from \$119 to \$105. Also, no penalty if at least 80% of the rooms are used, she is going to ask that be reduced to 70%. The other guarantee is \$5,000 for rental, food & beverage, which should not be a problem. They actually gave us an extra office, just in case committees need to meet.

In addition to the officers, delegates and some staff we will have a pianist and sound person, some transportation people, but other than that none of the hosting committee will be present. Staff or possibly Assembly members will take care of the doors including taking temperatures as delegates enter.

Special Considerations - One complimentary parlor. A couple upgrades to business class, and we can hand out prepackaged snacks. We need large screens although we will bring our own projectors – hotel giving us a 15% discount on that rental. This is where we would add the three days prior and three days following the meeting. Force Majeure – planner added this, should give us good coverage. Phil suggested also adding language to include closure due to State of Pennsylvania restrictions.

Cancellation policy – 0 – 120 days out we would have to pay \$12,180 (80% of the rooms) and the \$5,000(100%) of rental, food & beverage. The consultant wants that changed until after August 31st – more like 75 days.

Total cost of the convention should be around \$28,000, not including the screens. Staff will work on Zoom possibilities for anyone who cannot be there in person. We will have a production room and will still be renting a copier.

Betsy – Question – we have already paid \$37,500, should we pay for the delegate planned meal events, as a further incentive for them to attend in person. Delegates/officers would still be responsible for their travel costs.

Stephen moved to pay for the four scheduled meals of the Delegates/officers/staff & spouses, seconded by Lynette, motion was carried.

Betsy brought up the idea of paying off the last two loans. Other than the property tax in September we do not expect any large bills. \$60,000 to Indiana and \$100,000 to the Red Lion Grange in Pennsylvania. We have only been paying interest on both of these. Phil questioned where we are with the roof anchors, in case that incurs another expense. Betsy does not think we will be paying anything, it is definitely the contractor's fault. The contractor is coming back out on the week of the 22nd. Leroy brought up the possibility of another staff position and how that may impact the financial picture. Betsy is still thinking of that but has not moved forward due to the pandemic. Still hopes to by the fall. Interest on the loans is 3.2 for Red Lion, Indiana is at 3%. Balloon payment due at the end of five years. May be about half way through on both of them.

Lynette moved to pay off the \$100,000 loan to Red Lion Grange in Pennsylvania, motion seconded by Betsy. Motion was carried.

Monroe Classic – Mike Warner has asked for changes to the agreement, wants to give us 10% royalty rather than 15%. Betsy has talked to our sales manager, Loretta Washington about this, they are in agreement to renew the contract as is with no reduction in percentage, or allow it to expire.

Discussion on the Foundation grant and how administering it could affect the National Grange. Leroy asked for a meeting of the Foundation, Betsy will have Burton Eller present to discuss the grant.

Motion to adjourn was made by Stephen, Leroy seconded, motion carried. Adjourned at 8:37 pm.

August 11-12, 2020

Via Zoom

1:05 EDT meeting was called to order by National Overseer and Chair Phil Prelli. Also present were National Master, Betsy Huber, Executive Committee members Leroy Watson, Lynette Schaeffer, Stephen Coye and Susan Noah.

Betsy moved, Leroy seconded to approve the May 5th and 6th minutes, motion was carried. Leroy moved, Lynette seconded to approve the June 8th minutes as written, motion carried. Lynette moved, Betsy seconded to approve the June 11th minutes as presented, motion carried.

Department reports:

IT report – Stephanie Wilkins – Three new laptops and docking stations were purchased, along with updated software operating systems and office 2019. New Mac Book has also been purchased for Communications Dept. A new phone system was installed and phone equipment was all moved to the 11th floor. An improvement has also been made to the subscription system for Good Day magazine. Leroy noted the “Freeroots” section of her report; he believes that there is some potential with this. He believes that Stephanie should be commended for her active role in working with the developer to make this program work more efficiently on a grassroots level and believes that her involvement will strengthen this partnership.

Junior – Samantha Wilkins – Not as much participation in the virtual contests as we could have hoped. Possibly in-person meetings create peer pressure to take part in the contests. Lynette seconded that idea and pointed out that the lack of Regional conferences this year due to the COVID crisis contributed in the same way. This is an area that needs study to see how the virtual programs could help the Junior plus one programs. Having the youth and juniors engaged in these virtual programs will help our Order. Safe Gatherings was discussed, we need to continue to remind state leaders to adopt a Child Protection policy and require background checks for all adults working with youth and juniors. Leroy suggested maybe an award program that recognizes the people who have signed up. Susan suggested State awards that encourage states to promote the use of Safe Gatherings.

Building – Samantha Wilkins – Things seem to be going well. Only one tenant asked for a reduction in paying rent through the COVID crisis. They will pay up later. Three vacancies now. Two left due to COVID– found it easy to work from home. Tomorrow at 1:00, the MGA people will be on to discuss the plan they offered. Protests have quieted down. Net Limousine lawsuit is still stalled, courts are still backed up. The new anchors have been installed on the roof so window cleaning can take place as soon as the certificate is received. Capitol Photography has not renewed their lease, but they are still paying. Not a lot of interest for the vacant offices due to COVID. No pushback from tenants regarding the COVID rules. Automatic hand sanitizer dispensers are set up at the entrance to the building.

Communications – Amanda Brozana Rios – Phil commented that he has heard that this has been a good group of interns, Betsy agreed that they have all been great to work with. Johanna Huber has been working with Amanda, Kennedy Gwin has worked with Amanda and Burton, Sean O’Neil has worked with Burton, and Joe Stefenoni had Sam Nonemaker. Kennedy and Sean will be here through the Fall. Phil wanted to have the Board

thank Amanda for her work through the COVID. Each day she has had a Facebook live event and has really stepped up our visibility throughout this time of shutdowns. Looks like Facebook and Instagram are growing in users. Leroy asked for an update on the subscriptions on Good Day. Amanda tracks the Social Media stats, but Stephanie has the information on Good Day as it comes through the database.

Community Service – Pete Pompper – He has designed a new Directors Award that would come with a pin he designed for Community Service. Grangers will have to go above and beyond to receive one; he will be distributing the pins. Other Community Service awards will go on as normal. The community service books are being sent electronically to Pete for judging. Pete has requested information from the State Directors regarding community service being performed relating to the COVID crisis.

Youth – Mandy Bostwick – Virtual contests have taken place. Graduate recognition saw over 150 letters sent out to Grangers that graduated at kindergarten, fifth grade, high school and college levels. Contestants for the Youth Ambassadors are now required to enter the prepared speaking contest as part of their requirement.

Legislative – Burton Eller – Has been working harder than ever from home. Burton is receiving a lot of kudos for his abilities. He made a good impression on the Facebook Cultivating Connections live events for his knowledge and ability to relate to everyone. He has great networking skills.

Leroy reported that Grange Advocacy is looking to review their compensation agreements with the National Grange, taking into consideration the amount of National Grange staff time that is contributed. Burton, Stephanie and Amanda are all doing work for the other two entities (Grange Advocacy and Grange Foundation). Leroy also reiterated the discussion in the Foundation meeting of the need to do a better job of making sure that fundraising efforts are streamlined and that each of the entities (Grange Advocacy, Grange Foundation and the National Grange) are all in sync with fundraising efforts. Perhaps we could consider the possibility of hiring one new person that divides their time and salary between Advocacy & Foundation.

Sales – Loretta Washington – Monroe contract has been worked out with a few minor changes. The percentage earned on sales to State Granges on consignment for State Sessions has changed. The National Grange will only get 90% of the overall 15%. The 15% on other sales would remain the same. Monroe still has inventory that belongs to us; Loretta is working to help Mike get it sold. It includes all the badges for the Junior Grange and some jewelry as well as Junior Grange shirts and other items. Some items have been around for years. Membership recognition – Silver star certificate would increase to \$5 if we continue to use the folders, without the folder, cost is \$3. Loretta is looking at a couple of new benefits – test driving them!

Membership – Joe Stefanoni – Will be holding two sessions of “Growth Through Action: Planning for the Future for Your Community Grange” and plans on one more during the fourth quarter. California has around 5,000 to 5,500 members in good standing, Kent Westwood has recovered and is back as the Master. Phil inquired about whether Nevada people who are working with children have gone through background checks since they are currently under control of the National Grange. Our policy says they should be using Safe Gatherings.

Recess 2:40 – 2:47

Finances – Phil requested that the budget figures be included with the financial reports. We decided to look at the finances again tomorrow when everyone has had a chance to look over the report. Red Lion Grange has been paid off. Leroy acknowledged the Lecturer’s Quarterly newsletter, gives a good update on the Lecturers programs and the programming for the National Convention. Well done and informative. Kudos to Chris and Amanda.

Stephen moved, Leroy seconded to go into Executive Session 3:16 for State Issues, Legal issues and staffing. Leroy moved, Lynette seconded to come out of executive session at 4:15, motion carried. At recess until tomorrow at 1:00 EDT.

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM EDT by Overseer and Chair Phil Prelli. Present were National Master Betsy Huber, Executive Committee members Leroy Watson, Lynette Schaeffer, Stephen Coye and Susan Noah. We were joined by representatives from MGA to discuss the National Grange headquarters study. This meeting was for the purpose of feedback from us to their group. They brought in experts for the construction details, people that had worked with similar buildings. They were asked if COVID has made a substantial difference in the market. Their answer was yes it has, mainly adding operating expenses, i.e. sanitation. Long term, perhaps the necessity to rent space. However, there is no clear answer as to whether working at home is actually better or worse. They see the answer not actually solidifying for 18 (+/-) months. Jury is still out. Mechanical systems will probably be the largest expense going forward – specially to bring in fresh air, to alleviate COVID fears. Option 4 would leave us owning our floor, like a condo. We would lose the rent, and be living off of the invested sale funds. Phil sees option 1 and 4 being the most viable, doesn’t believe we can handle the cash flow with 2 & 3. Risk factor to 2 & 3. Market value of only the 11th floor, or the possibility of us taking a lower floor instead. This depends on whoever buys putting the money into the building for remodel to turn it into Trophy class.

Lynette was asked to do the opening prayer as we started the remainder of our work.

Finances – Audit is almost finished; Betsy was sent a draft for review. We want the budget figures added to this report to refer to the budget planning.

MGA – Leroy believes we should send some of the paperwork we have received to the delegates prior to the convention. Still a lot of questions around this issue. Phil asked that we bring this back at the budget meeting. Budget meeting – mid October, Betsy would like to have the 3rd quarter finances. Planning a building discussion meeting for Tuesday September 29th. Zoom meeting at 1:00 EDT. Investment policy. Susan will send the Oregon policy and Betsy will compare to the Foundation policy as possible templates for an investment policy.

Unfinished Business – Indiana loan is still outstanding; Betsy would like to pay off. If it is paid off, we would only have the Foundation loan left. Betsy moved that we pay off the Indiana loan. Lynette seconded and motion was carried.

New Business

Leroy questioned the statement in the IT report made by Stephanie regarding the Diversity Task Force requesting the terms of Master and Overseer be changed to President and Vice President on the website. Betsy has assigned a diversity task force of nine members representing each district, with Phil as the Chair.

The task force has come up with a list of barriers to joining the Grange; the greatest discussion was of the titles. They also brought up the lack of diversity in our membership pamphlets. They have been looking at the degrees, draping the charter, all aspects. There has also been some discussion of Grange history; most of the task force wants to keep the degrees, the ritual as is, their full report is due out soon.

Convention – date on the new contract is August 17th for 50% cancellation fee. After that 100%. Could we get the date pushed back further – that request was denied.

Interns joined the meeting – Kennedy Gwin, Johanna Huber, Sean O'Neil. All were thanked for their contributions to the National Grange.

Convention – In person or virtual? If we cancel now the cost would be about \$8,000, after the 17th it would be about \$17,000. Susan moved that we wait until September 29th, our next meeting to make the call about an in-person session, with the caveat that we check with the hotel about when we can cancel based on the Governor's meeting requirements. Stephen seconded. Motion carried.

Leroy moved; Lynette seconded that we adjourn at 4:14 pm EDT, motion carried.

NATIONAL GRANGE DIRECTORS' REPORTS

NATIONAL GRANGE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Prepared by Samantha Wilkins, Operations Coordinator

Capital Coin- B-1- 814sf

April 1, 2017-March 31, 2021

April 1, 2019- March 31, 2020	\$33,708.96/\$2,809.08
April 1, 2020- March 31, 2021	\$34,720.22/\$2,893.35

STORAGE- Unit 7

April 1, 2017- March 31, 2019	\$86.25/mo
April 1, 2020- March 31, 2021	\$0.00/mo

PICF, INC- 105- 545 sf

August 1, 2019- July 31, 2022

August 1, 2019- July 31, 2020	\$19,800/\$1,800
August 1, 2020- July 31, 2021	\$22,200/\$1,850
August 1, 2021- July 31, 2022	\$22,800/\$1,900

Dr. Beth Dzaman- 106- 555sf

Feb 1, 2019 January 31, 2021

Feb 1, 2019- January 31, 2020	\$20,747.07/\$1,728.92
Feb 1, 2020 - Jan 31, 2021	\$21,162.01/\$1,763.50

VACANT- 200-480sf (3 office spaces)

Estimated Rental Income	\$18,758.40/\$1,563.20
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ICS Nett, INC- 201- 304sf

March 1, 2020- February 28, 2021	\$11,880.32/\$990.02
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Annual Operating Charge included in monthly rent

WHHA- 202- 895sf

March 1, 2019- September 30, 2022

March 1, 2019- February 29, 2020	\$33,600/\$2,800
March 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021	\$34,272/\$2,856
March 1, 2021- September 30, 2022	\$34,957.44/\$2,913.12

WHHA- 2nd Fl- 579.15sf

October 1, 2017-September 30, 2022

October 1, 2019-Sept 30, 2020	\$22,472.64/\$1,872.72
October 1, 2020- Sept 30, 2021	\$22,922.04/\$1,910.17
October 1, 2021- Sept 30, 2022	\$23,380.56/\$1,948.38

Ball & Associates- 204- 442sf

June 1, 2019- May 31, 2021

June 1 2019-May 31, 2020	\$19,200/\$1,600
June 1, 2020- May 31, 2021	\$19,584/\$1,632

Capital Photography- 3rd fl- 198sf

November 1, 2020-October 31 2022

November 1. 2020- October 31, 2021	\$9,900/\$825.00
November 1, 2021- October 31, 2022	\$10,197.00/\$849.25

VACANT- 300- 314.60sf (2 office spaces)

Estimated Monthly	\$1,000
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Burton Rand Associates, LLC-301 - 55.7sf

June 1, 2019- May 31, 2021

June 1, 2019-May 31- 2020	\$2,482.20/\$206.85
June 1, 2020- May 31, 2021	\$2,531.81/\$210.98

5 Stones Intelligence- 302/1015- 898/1050sf

August 1, 2019-July 31, 2021

August 1, 2019-July 31, 2020	\$85,188/\$7,099
August 1, 2020- July 31, 2021	\$87,743.64/\$7,311.97

STORAGE- Unit 3

January 1, 2020-Dec 31, 2020	\$1,200/\$100
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Maharashi Foundation-303- 898sf

May 1, 2018-April 30, 2021

May 1, 2019-April 30, 2020	\$51,986.76/\$4,332.23
May 1, 2020- April 30, 2021	\$53,546.40/\$4,462.20
May 1, 2021- April 30, 2022	\$53,546.40/\$4,462.20

**** Entered COVID Rent Deferment** (July, August, Sept, Oct 2020)****Tenant to pay half rent for four months and repayment over the course of 12 months****WHA-400- 3,158sf**

October 1, 2017-Sept. 30, 2022

October 1, 2019-Sept 30, 2020	\$137,332.80/\$11,440.40
October 1, 2020- Sept 30, 2021	\$140,079.46/\$11,673.29
October 1, 2021- Sept 30, 2022	\$142,881.05/\$11,906.75

The EOP Group-5th fl- 3,158 sf

November 1, 2019-October 31, 2024

November 1, 2019- October 31, 2020	\$101,529.70/10,152.97
November 1, 2020- October 31, 2021	\$116,149.88/\$10,559.08
November 1, 2021- October 31, 2022	\$131,777.42/\$10,981.45
November 1, 2022- October 31, 2023	\$137,048.51/\$11,420.70
November 1, 2023- October 31, 2024	\$142,530.45/\$11,877.53

Annual Operating Charge included in monthly rent

STORAGE- Unit 7

August 1, 2020-December 31, 2020	\$100.00/mo
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Van Smith Company-6th fl – 3,158sf

April 1, 2019- June 30, 2021

July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020	\$126,000/\$10,500
July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021	\$132,000/\$11,000

American Horse Council-7th fl- 3,158sf

August 1, 2017- July 31, 2022

August 1 2019- July 31 2020	\$133,552.44/\$11,129.37
August 1, 2020-July 31, 2021	\$136,223.40/\$11,315.95
August 1, 2021- July 31, 2022	\$138,947.88/\$11,578.99

Arrangements have been made to reduce the space on the 7th floor for AHC- this change will take place in DEC 2020.

RetireSafe-800 fl- 682 sf

July 1, 2019- June 30, 2022

July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020	\$20,460/\$1,705
July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021	\$20,664.60/\$1,722.05
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022	\$20,871.25/\$1,739.27

Generation-820- 2148 sf

October 1, 2019- Sept 30, 2022

October 1, 2019- Sept 30, 2020	\$93,000/\$7,750
October 1, 2020- Sept 30, 2021	\$94,860/ \$ 7,905
October 1, 2021- Sept 30, 2022	\$96,757.20/\$8,063.10

Spark Meter INC-9th fl- 3,158sf

August 1, 2019 – July 31, 2022

August 1, 2019-July 31, 2020	\$126,000/\$10,500
August 1, 2020- July 31, 2021	\$129,780/\$10,815
August 1, 2021- July 31, 2022	\$133,673.40/\$11,139.45

**** COVID AGREEMENT- March & April 2021 rent credit- freeze 2020-2021 increase at \$10,500 until 2020-2022 year. Then will pick up with \$10.815/mo Aug 1 2021.**

M Powered Strategies-1010/1030- 342/868sf

May 1, 2018- April 30, 2023

May 1, 2019- April 30, 2020	\$56,115/\$4,676.25
May 1, 2020- April 30, 2021	\$57,237.36/\$4,769.78
May 1, 2021- April 30, 2022	\$58,382.16/\$4,865.18
May 1, 2022- April 30, 2023	\$59,549.76/\$4,962.48

VACANT-1020- 410 sqft (2 office spaces)

Estimated Rental Income	\$22,966.36/\$1,913.86
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Storage Units**Unit 1-** Van Smith Company- on going contract**Unit 2-** Grace Gains- \$900 Annually- May 2019-April 2020**Unit 3-** 5 Stones Intelligence- \$1200 Annually- Jan 2020-Dec 2020**Unit 4-** National Grange**Unit 5-** Spark Meter INC- \$91.50/mo.- ongoing contract**Unit 6-** The Consultants International Group, INC (7th fl sub tenant)**Unit 7 –** Capital Coin- No Cost-ongoing contract**Unit 8-** The EOP Group- \$100/mo August 2020- Dec 2020**Unit 9-** Unoccupied**Mail Box Rentals****GAIN-** \$250 Annually –May 2019-May 2020**Peg Johnson-** \$250 Annually- March 2020-March 2021**REPORT:**

- **Above you will find the projected rental income for each tenant for the duration of their lease agreement at the National Grange Building.**
 - There are currently three (3) office spaces available: Suite 200, Suite 300, & Suite 1020.
- I have been working closely with the Brokers, MGA, to have these available spaces marketed on several platforms and have been working with them to show the spaces under the Buildings COVID-19 Restrictions.
- I have been working closely with President, Betsy Huber, and now Program Assistant Kelly Klingman, on the financial status for each tenant. We are working with tenants that are currently behind on their rent and helping them make a plan to bring their accounts current.
 - Most tenants remain in good standings with us and continue to pay their rent on time without any complications.
 - We have two tenants who continue to be delinquent; we have been working with legal counsel on how to move forward with these accounts.
- Located in the Sub-Basement of the National Grange Headquarters we have several storage units that are rented out by tenants.
 - In August of 2020 our Building Engineer built two (2) more storage units to meet the needs of some tenants. Currently all but one (1) unit is occupied.
- Currently we have made several agreements with tenants due to the impact of COVID-19 on their business.
 - We have lost two tenants this year.
 - Pandemic arrangements are listed above in the rent roll.
 - We are looking at the possibility of having two tenants reduce their space by the end of 2020.
- **WHATS HAPPENED IN 2020**
 - 2020 started off a great year. The building was a little over 98% in tenant capacity and we were only having minor issues that were dealt with on the day to day basis. Mujo Mrkonjic, our building engineer, was able to provide necessary repairs needed throughout the building on a regular basis. In January of 2020 we were able to start the renovation process on our conference room/kitchen, which is located on the first floor of the National Grange Headquarters building. The renovations took a little less than a month to complete. Upgrades to the space included: new flooring, lighting, paint, stainless steel kitchen appliances, desks/tables, chairs, and all new upgraded technology. These updates provided a much needed and beautiful facelift to our building. Tenants have been thrilled with the new space and the technological advancements it now has. We were excited to

have the very first event held in that space to be the Washington DC Experience, put on by the National Grange Youth & Junior Grange Departments. At the end of that event the world as we knew it began to shut down as the CORONAVIRUS pandemic infiltrated our society. Early in the year we were able to install a brand new security system- we now have security cameras in 5 different locations throughout the building- 2 in the basement level, 2 in the lobby level, and one on the 11th floor where the National Grange offices are located. Along with these updates we were also able to install a new digital directory board in our lobby- It is complete with a listing of each tenant, a welcome notice from the National Grange, weather updates, and a live feed from the National Grange Twitter account. With the updated conference center space we have been able to open the doors to outside vendors for other meetings and events. A Beautiful flier was created and distributed to several online rental resources as well as visitors/business bureaus and the DNC/RNC centers. We were also able to update the National Grange website to include information about possible available space and information on renting the conference room. Over the summer months we were able to have new roof anchors installed on the building and have them certified to for OSHA Requirements. This will allow us to provide outside window washing for the building on a more regular basis.

COVID AFFECTS THE NATIONAL GRANGE HEADQUARTERS

- In March of 2020 many tenants and their employees were issued a local mandate to work from home. We never closed our building, however; the flow of traffic in and out was significantly reduced. Very few tenants were coming into the building. With that, we decided to reduce to typical business hours for our security from 8am-7pm to 10am-5pm. We also made many adjustments and guidelines for anyone who was to enter the building. This included but was not limited to health screen checks, required masks, and limited number of occupants on the elevators. Cleaning and Sanitizing was increased by our cleaning crew and we have even done several decontamination days. Tenants were required to tell us if they have any cases within their office as well. We are happy to say that as of today we have only had one known case within our building. Several tenants during this time have faced hardships and as stated above we offered to make payment or other arrangements with those that needed it.
- As of October 2020 Tenants are slowly beginning to return to their offices. Many have made their own office rules for social distancing, while others have created unique ways to work from home and teleconference for needed business. Due to the increase of traffic coming back to the building we have upped the security guards hours to 9am-6pm, with hopes in being able to eventually get back to full hours.

PROTESTS AND UNREST AROUND THE NATIONAL GRANGE BUILDING

- Throughout 2020 we had to deal with many things- from a world health pandemic, riots around the country, and political unrest. In June of 2020 Riots burst out around the National Grange building, whose neighbor is the White House. These riots started with much destruction and chaos. Buildings all around the city were damaged. We are very thankful that our building only sustained minor damage- we had a broken window and some graffiti along our walls. Through help of community members and organizations nearby volunteers from the White House Historical Society cleaned the graffiti off of our building. Our building engineer quickly covered then repaired the broken window. For most of the month of June we dealt with building closures and road closures around us that prevented us from having access to our building. Secret Service kept us updated on everything on a regular basis. It took about one month for things to settle down; however protests and other demonstrations still happen on a daily basis around the building location. With the 2020 election right around the corner we have also been preparing the building, with the advisement of secret service, for possible unrest. As of the end of October 2020 windows have been boarded up and outside decorations have been removed. The windows will remain covered until after the election and possibly for the inauguration.
- Even with so much going on in 2020 the National Grange building has continued to operate and stay in communication with the tenants as much as possible. We have been able to come together as a community. There are still, however, many updates needed throughout the building.

National Grange Communications & Development Department

Prepared by Amanda Brozana-Rios, Communications Director

What a year! If we ever wanted to test faith, hope, charity, fidelity and perseverance to see who truly espouses the principles of the Grange, we could have designed no better test than this pandemic. What we've found – there are a lot more people who should be part of the Grange than we currently have as members; millions of our fellow Americans live these principles and act on them in the most challenging times; the human spirit longs for connection and fellowship like that offered in the Grange; and you can teach old dogs new tricks (so long as the treat you're offering is worth the effort).

The pandemic served as a backdrop for much of the year, of course, but also as a giant spotlight, shining on several of the issues we have raised concerns about for years with little attention being paid to them. For more than a century and a half we've sounded the call on things that negatively impact every person in the food system – from producer to consumer – and reminded anyone who would listen that without a safe and ample supply of food sourced within our borders, our society cannot function. Think of all the times we've said "rural broadband is essential" for telehealth, education, ability to work and do business and stay connected. Or consider each letter sent on behalf of rural Americans seeking better and more innovative access to treatments and healthcare facilities – and calling attention to the crisis in the rural health sphere. Because we have beaten the drum on these issues consistently and without partisan favor for so many years, we were able to garner more exposure than any year in at least the past decade.

From urging support for the USPS to expansion of broadband investment, the name of National Grange President Betsy Huber was on nearly 200 published pieces appearing in large and small newspapers throughout the country in 2020. Dozens of outlets ran an op-ed about the importance of voting, bylined by National President Betsy Huber and playing on the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, Grange's commitment to suffrage and engaged citizenship. Most exciting was the number of states in which this piece appeared where we currently have little Grange presence, allowing us to begin a name recognition and education effort in those states that can be of use to the Membership Department in the coming year.

Additionally, the summer and fall brought several good interns to us, who helped provide key labor, creativity, insight and talent that allowed us to produce several compelling op-eds, pitch interviews to new markets and more. Many thanks to Washington State Grange member Kennedy Gwin, and to Johanna Huber for their excellent work in this strange and busy year.

Because on-site convention was initially limited capacity, then canceled, no Communication Fellows program was held this year. In 2021, I plan to open applications early and select a Fellows group in advance to do online training prior to the Convention in Wichita. Please be on the lookout for application information by mid-February.

As always, the department completed the annual publications – the Journal of Proceedings, Digest of Laws, cover for the Roster, and the e-newsletters and quarterly magazine, Good Day! – in a timely manner. In addition, a Guide to Virtual Meetings was created and a Rural Health Report within a few weeks of the start of the pandemic. Each were both widely distributed internally and externally, respectively.

Our social media presence grew by more than 30% on Facebook and Twitter from this time last year, fueled greatly by our daily live-stream "Cultivating Connections" videos for the first three months of pandemic lock-downs. These videos included entertainment, education and interviews with individuals whose areas of expertise cross into areas where Grangers are most active or concerned, including FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, senior advisor of rural affairs to the White House Office of Drug Control Policy Anne Hazlett and several CEOs/Executive Directors of other nonprofit or advocacy organizations working in the rural sphere. In addition, we became more active on Instagram and provided training for local Granges on how to use the platform effectively for member engagement and recruitment.

While regional conferences and travel have been canceled since early March, I was able to attend leaders conferences in Illinois just before the pandemic and assist with the Washington DC Experience for the Junior and Youth Departments in early March. Both provided opportunities to interface with members and gather video and testimonials that were used or can be used in the future to encourage active, engaged membership.

The communications director and interns provided support for all other departments for the Grange and Grange Foundation, including preparing and providing follow-up support for a major t-shirt fundraiser and Grange Mercantile online auction. We created some social media content, ads and written materials used by other departments as well as flyers and brochures for departments and State and local Granges. In addition, several previously trained Communication Fellows were in regular communication with the director and advised on several state-level and local Grange projects and technological adaptations, including using Zoom or FreeConferenceCall.com and other meeting platforms, offering hands-on/phone support for members seeking to participate in meetings, offering outside-the-box thinking to change annual events to conform to COVID restrictions and protocols and provide marketing assistance and much more. Karen Cline, a Communication Fellow in 2019, also presented a workshop at the 2020 President's Conference in Maryland in February.

Good Day! magazine continues to struggle to reach every member or every Grange, with fewer than 1,500 subscriptions. However, several individuals have paid for multi-year subscriptions and sent letters or notes of support and encouragement for the publication. We also have a number of members who have become regular contributors and are fully engaged with the magazine by providing useful feedback and suggestions, story tips and more.

As a way to ensure that Granges who voted to purchase a subscription with their treasury to share with all members at meetings were able to fulfill their promise, the National Grange has made Good Day! available as an online, digital download through the platform issuu.com. This allows people interested to purchase single-copy digital issues or subscriptions for the same price as the print product, a choice made to ensure that the digital version did not uncut print and leave it with few print subscribers – something that would drive up the cost of the printed editions and make it rather inviable. The magazine may not be downloaded or printed, but accessed anytime online. In addition, we provided codes to each Grange or subscriber to access these digital versions for free for each of the Volume 4 (2020) issues and offered that this access may be shared as it was intended with friends or members who would normally see it at meetings or events. Starting in Spring 2021, even if COVID restrictions continue, we will encourage all Granges to suggest members purchase their own subscriptions or if they purchase a single subscription for the Grange, have someone report back on the contents of the magazine regularly. We hope individuals will appreciate the product and purchase their own print or digital subscription to stay informed of all the Grange has to offer for their small dues investment.

The department continues to work to modernize our outreach. Several things that have been tried, such as Grange Radio and text alerts, have been shelved because they have lacked an audience or desire by current members to engage. Striking a balance to satisfy and retain current members while working to provide potential members with products that are more in line with what they receive from other organizations or how they communicate in everyday life is a difficult task. In 2021, more effort will be spent working with the membership department on communication tasks for potential members and raising general awareness of the organization, but our commitment to serve our members is unwavering. Please do not hesitate to reach out for any help or resources we may be able to provide.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Prepared by Pete Pompper, Community Service Director

“As we separate and mingle with the world let us not forget the precepts of our Order.” How many of us heard these words at a Grange meeting earlier this year and never thought how impactful they would be? For many Grangers we would not hear them at a Grange meeting for several months or still haven’t. To say this has been a different kind of year would be an understatement. Not only have our Grange lives been disrupted but also our daily activities and routines.

I lead off with that quote from the 4th degree closing because I feel it is very appropriate for the times. If Grangers share one trait it is we do not forget but do our best to live our precepts and core values. Granges and Grangers have given back to your communities in such a wide array of ways it is impressive. I have given accounts and reported on what you have done in other articles or on the National Grange Community Service facebook page. You should all be very proud of what you have accomplished in these trying times.

In typical Grange fashion this organization at the grassroots level not only went to work helping those who needed it but, in some instances, quicker than other agencies did. But I am not surprised at that because I have seen first hand how Granges react to situations that need help and we have a skill that is needed that others do not have.

When we first heard that masks were in short supply you could hear Grangers firing up their sewing machines and going through their material reserves making thousands of masks. Out of those tens of thousands of masks made, most were given away to members of the community, first responders, front line workers and whoever else needed them. When members were not sure of the pattern for the masks we had members sharing that and also other helpful hints. I would be remiss for not thanking Ruth Blasingame (IL) who made and sent masks to NG Headquarters for your staff to wear. We had at least 2 members who have 3-D printers make the frames for face shields for those who could not wear a mask for various reasons.

Granges then started making and delivering or buying and delivering meals to hospitals for the frontline workers at those facilities that needed a hot nutritious meal. Granges in DE and NC did this on more than one occasion. Pencader Grange (DE) along with another group delivered meals to all the hospitals in New Castle County. Progress Grange (PA) utilized their Grange hall as a food distribution center and that is an ongoing program. Redwood Valley Grange (CA) has been able to use the wifi in their Grange Hall to produce some shows that were done live as a way for members in the community to have an evening of entertainment while other venues were closed.

Many Granges throughout the nation have started to have drive thru dinners not only as a fundraiser but also as a way for the community to get a homemade Grange meal they were missing. These have been very well

received and supported by the community with many if not all being sold out. Carver Grange (NE) working closely with the No More Empty Pots program has been able to help that group give out over 30,000 meals in the greater Omaha area.

With all the turmoil going on in our country, Granges have again become a beacon in our communities. The work Grangers and Granges have done recently to help in your communities has not gone unnoticed in any way. If you look at the support Granges have received from their local residents it is impressive. Dinners selling out with a long line of cars waiting at the hall. Community members donating items to a Grange that was raising funds by having a yard sale. Stanford Grange (NY) has a food pantry and every time it was low on items the community helped restock it or donated gift cards to be given to a family who might need groceries.

As Katie Squire (CA) said during a Zoom meeting Granges could hold some type of Graduation ceremony for those graduates this year who could not have that important event. So Mandy Bostwick (NG Youth,) Samantha Wilkins (NG Junior) and I organized the Operation Graduation program this year and sent cards to Grange members or family members congratulating them on this accomplishment. It was very well received with over 150 cards sent out from not only us but also National President Betsy.

With all that Grangers did this year I realized that we did not have a way other than a certificate to say thank you to a Granger who really stepped up to the plate. We had members who not only showed our core values through what they are doing in the community but truly exemplified what a Granger is. With the important council of my "unofficial" working group we came up with the idea of a National Grange Community Service "Directors Award" pin. This pin is awarded by me for those individual members who have earned such an award. This will be an ongoing award as members do outstanding work for their community that goes above and beyond.

In conclusion this has been a year where we as Grangers have had to adjust and adapt in how we hold meetings or fundraising to support our community service work. All I can say is you all have shown how we can do that and are willing to try a new approach to keep our Grange going. Yes, there were and still are growing pains but that is how we learn. Even as we learn new "modern" ways of communication I am deeply moved by the number of Granges who have restarted "phone trees" to check on their members during these times of isolation. I know to some this has been a blessing and a much needed personal touch they miss because we can't be with our Grange family.

CONVENTIONS & EVENTS

Prepared by Betsy E. Huber, National President

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2021 | 155th Annual National Grange Convention
Hosted by Great Plains Region
Hyatt Regency Wichita
Wichita, KS
316-293-1234
https://www.hyatt.com
November 9-13, 2021 |
| 2022 | 156th Annual National Grange Convention
Hosted by Western Region
Nugget Casino Resort
Sparks, NV
800-648-1177
http://www.nuggetcasinoresort.com
November 15-19, 2022 |
| 2023 | 157th Annual National Grange Convention
Hosted by Northeast Region
Conference & Event Center Niagara Falls
Sheraton on the Falls
716-285-3361
http://www.ccnfny.com
https://www.sheratononthefalls.com
November 14-18, 2023 |
| 2024 | 158th Annual National Grange Convention
Hosted by Midwest Region
TBD |

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Prepared by Stephanie Wilkins, IT Director

NATIONAL GRANGE ONLINE MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

A number of updates to local Granges have been made in the database as a result of the *Secretary Report Forms* that went out in the mail. These forms were returned to the National Grange office with valuable local Grange, and officer information such as mailing address, email address and date of birth. This information will be used for future mailings, email communications and benefit programs that are age specific.

When exporting information from the database, it was determined that some email addresses were not identified as a valid email address due to typos, missing @ symbol, multiple @ symbols, the wrong extension or no extension at all. The email address field now has to meet email specifications in order for it to be accepted in the system.

MemberID numbers were assigned to Good Day!™ Magazine recipients for the purpose of checking subscription status. (explained under Good Day!™ Magazine section)

Blue Tahiti and the National Grange have been working with the Han Group (National Grange accounting company) to determine additional functions of the Online Membership Database. Changes have been put in place to fully record all member transactions and track interactions such as items purchased from the Grange Store, and donations made to a specific fund. Transactions are also recorded for state Granges for the purpose of quarterly dues transactions. These transactions originally tracked using QuickBooks will now be tracked using the database. A detailed monthly report, approved by the Han Group will provide the necessary accounting details while allowing the Grange to track activity of members, their purchases, donations, etc. Tracking of event registration will be added in the coming year.

When quarterly report totals are entered into the database by the state, and editing for that quarter has been LOCKED, (indicating the final quarterly numbers) an email is generated and a notification sent to the National Grange. Further changes made to those quarterly report numbers, after being LOCKED, are now being tracked. This will allow the National Grange and Accounting Department to easily see what changes have been made to a quarterly report after it has been locked and payment has been submitted to the National Grange.

State Granges now have the ability to transfer a member from one Grange to another.

A unique officer type has been created for State Grange users. This feature allows the state user to create a unique officer type or position that they would like to track for their state. (i.e. Pianist, Editor, etc.)

A workshop was conducted for participants at the 2020 Masters Conference on all the functions of the online membership database and how to maintain an accurate account of their membership. An assortment of training videos were created for local and state Granges. These videos are visible depending on the user login credential.

TRAINING VIDEOS

LOCAL	How to add a new Member
LOCAL	How to generate a list with all members in it
LOCAL	How to search for a member
STATE	How to update or send login information to a local Grange user
STATE	How to generate a list with all members init

STATE	How to add a new member
STATE	How to post quarterly membership data

GOOD DAY MAGAZINE

Members and non-members can easily subscribe to the Good Day!™ magazine by visiting the National Grange website and navigating to the subscription interface found under the “NEWS” section or from the main slider. The process of subscribing and paying was primarily meant to be online with auto-renewals which would be the best solution for the small office staff. A number of tasks have been put in place to ensure that this process could be done with very little manpower.

Email reminders of expiring issues

- Email reminder of automatic renewal 7 days before processing
- Notice of how many Good Day issues remaining before time to renew sent with every magazine
- QR code directing members to the National Grange website to subscribe/renew
- Renewal/Subscription form in every Patrons Chain newsletter

Despite the reminders and automatic renewal, we still continued to receive numerous phone calls and emails from members regarding the status of their Good Day!™ subscription. Members would usually ask similar questions like (1) is my subscription current (2) has my subscription expired or (3) when is my subscription due to renew. These continuous questions from subscribers resulted in a website tool for members to check on the status of their magazine subscription. When visiting the National Grange website, members can click on the “Verify My Subscription” button to get this information.



By clicking on “Verify My Subscription”, members will be taken to a page that will allow them to retrieve your existing/previous subscription(s) to the Good Day!™ magazine, and verify its status by entering their last name and their 5-digit member ID which can be found on their Good Day!™ magazine above the mailing address (beginning Summer 2020 issue). When done entering the required information, members can simply click on the “Find Subscription” button. The results of their search allows members to see when their subscription expires as well as the option to renew if their subscription has already lapsed. It will also indicate if the subscription is set up to auto-renew. We anticipate that this will eliminate any confusion moving forward.

MY SUBSCRIPTION

BACK

This page enables you to retrieve your existing/previous subscription(s) to the GoodDay! magazine, and verify its status. In order to retrieve your subscription type in your member ID as well as your lastname and click FIND SUBSCRIPTION(S)

FIND MY SUBSCRIPTION

Lastname

memberID

FIND SUBSCRIPTION(S)

RESULTS FOR

Lastname Huber

MemberID 58444

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION(S)

Firstname	lastname	Expiry Year	Last Issue	Auto Renewal
Betsy	Huber	2020	Quarter 4	Yes

WEBSITE UPDATES/CHANGES

Information on the National Grange website is updated regularly to include the latest National Grange News. The following information has been added/updated:

Patrons Chain Weekly Newsletters
Policy Updates and Issue News
Updated list of National Grange Officers
Updated biographies for National Officers
Updated State Grange Directory for all states
National Grange News and Statements
Cultivating Connections Live Videos
COVID-19 Information
Facebook Stream (new plugin)
Fly-In 2020 Event
Regional Conference for 2020
Lecturer Programming information for 2020
Future Convention Dates
Washington DC Experience Event
Grange Month 2020
Grange Revival 2021 and more

The Find A Grange tool/map was updated removing any and all closed Granges. The list of closed Granges was determined by cross checking with quarterly reports, Membership Director Joe Stefenoni and directly with the state Grange for confirmation when needed. In addition, the email accounts controlled by SiteGround were also removed for these closed Granges. Lastly, the websites created by the National Grange were also deactivated and removed from the web for all closed Granges.

The National Grange website experienced some technical difficulties that resulted in temporary issues loading the site correctly. It was determined that there was an apache error in the database which needed to be repaired. Before the repair was run a backup of the website database was created for security reasons. The database repair was administered to correct the apache error. However, the site would not allow login access to the dashboard which was later resolved. The site layout was also altered. The site was ultimately restored using the backup created but was very slow loading the webpages. It was determined to be a conflict with an installed plugin. To resolve this issue, all plugins were deactivated and reactivated one by one in order to determine which plugin(s) was causing the issue. There were two plugins causing the site to load slowing, therefore they were deactivated and removed.

In compliance with the newly organized Diversity Task Force, the words "Master" and "Overseer" have been removed from all of the National Grange webpages as well as the webpages of all affiliated websites and replaced with the words "President" and "Vice President". Additional changes will be needed to the uploaded pdf documents and forms that contain these words.

A webinar entitled "Google Analytics for Nonprofits" was attended. This webinar discussed how to set up Google Analytics, provided answers to analytic questions and how to navigate the most relevant and helpful reports.

The National Grange installed Google Analytics Plugin for WordPress allowing us to know exactly how people find and use our website. This plugin, powered thru Monster Insights allows us to enable all advanced Google analytics tracking features with just a few clicks. The plugin comes with a Google Analytics Dashboard for WordPress that shows actionable analytics reports right inside your WordPress dashboard. The information captured thru this plugin will show the number of visitors, how long they stayed on our website, what pages they visited and more.

All domains associated with the National Grange are current and will renew automatically with GoDaddy. All websites have been verified by Google for searching. All WordPress websites have been upgraded to the latest version of 5.5.1. All other installed plugins and themes are up-to-date.

The National Grange now has 1137 user profiles registered on the website. This is an increase from 1048 user profiles. I believe this increase is due to the workshop held at the 2020 Master's Conference on how to register

and create a member profile and view member-only information on the National Grange website. Users are classified under 3 types of memberships (1) Grange Member (2) E-member and (3) Delegate Member. All users have the ability to reset their login password, if forgotten, by using the email address they used to register and create their profile.

www.nationalgrangeyouth.org

The Youth and Young Adults website has been revamped. The WordPress template *Colibri* was used to create the new website and National Youth Director, Mandy Bostwick, added content to the pages. After the site was completed on the test domain, the new site was migrated over to the National Grange Youth and Young Adults URL. Following the migration, some minor formatting was done and broken links needed to be repaired. A plugin to showcase the Youth Facebook Feed was added and additional edits were made to Regional Conference information following cancellations due to COVID-19 and social distancing.

www.nationaljuniorgrange.org

The National Junior Grange website received necessary updates to programs, forms and events as given by the Junior Grange Director to include the latest 2020 Junior Grange Manual and an assortment of Junior Grange Passports now available on the site. Additional passports will be added to the website as they are made available.

www.grange.org

Assistance has been provided for various local Granges and their website provided by the National Grange. Some sites have received basic information such as login credentials, while others have received more advanced assistance like creating navigation menus, online form submissions and setting up membership dues and embedding PayPal scripts for processing payments. An increased number of Granges have been inquiring about the local Grange website that the National Grange created for them as a result of 2020 Master Conference workshop. Written instructions and video tutorials are provided regularly to these Granges to assist them in customizing their site.

COMPUTER/HARDWARE/SOFTWARE

Symantec - The 1-year license subscription with Symantec was renewed on 1/31/2020 from Connection Business Solutions in the amount of \$550.67. The 10-seat license will ensure that all workstations continue to receive Symantec Endpoint Protection (version 14.0.3897.1101) which runs live updates to provide Virus Spyware Protection, Proactive Threat Protection and Network Threat Protection for all workstations. Virus definitions are updated daily. System updates and virus definitions for all office workstations are current and up-to-date. Symantec administers an automatic virus scan of each individual workstation nightly.

FIREWALL – The National Grange replaced its firewall that had become inoperable. The new SonicWall TZ350 Firewall is an all-in-one solution that protects networks from advanced attacks while allowing much faster internet speed for office workstations.

WIRELESS NETWORK - Two Wi-/Fi networks have been upgraded in the National Grange office. The previous access points were 5 years old and would drop its connection periodically and need to be rebooted. One of the access points is located in the 1st floor conference room and is a secured network available to tenants, guests and staff. The second access point is located on the 11th floor and is a secured network available to staff only and will allow access to server files. Staff can access the server files from anywhere in the building when connected to this access point.



COMPUTERS - The National Grange replaced 3 office workstations with 3 Dell Latitude 5400 14" laptops, and 3 Dell docking stations. All laptops are equipped with 1TB of hard drive space which will allow the necessary space required for roaming profiles as well as viewing server files locally on the laptop without the need of remote desktop connection. Going with a smaller drive would limit the ability to utilize roaming profiles and the full sync of local data when the future plans of moving server files away from the office and to the cloud.

Dell Model in the proposal:

Latitude 5400 14" (higher performance version)

-8th Generation Intel® Core™ i7-8665U Processor (4 Core,8MB Cache,1.9GHz,15W, vPro-Capable)

-16GB, 1x16GB, DDR4 Non-ECC

-1TB PCIe NVMe Class 40 Solid State Drive

-Windows 10 Pro 64bit English, French, Spanish

-1 Year Hardware Warranty with Onsite/In-Home Service after Remote Diagnosis

Dell Docking Station:

Ports & Slots:

-USB-C 3.1 Gen 2 | USB-A 3.1 Gen 1 with PowerShare | Combo Audio/Headset | Audio Out | DisplayPort

1.4 | HDMI 2.0b | USB-C Multifunction DisplayPort | Dual USB-A 3.1 Gen 1 | Gigabit Ethernet RJ45 |

Power In | Thunderbolt 3

-3 Year Advanced Exchange Base Warranty

A Microsoft License was purchased for these 3 laptops and they now run with the latest operating system Windows 10 and Office 2019. The software version is a significant upgrade from the previous version used which was Office 2010.

The additional 3 laptops have been ordered and will be installed when received.

Recommendation and purchase of a new MacBook Pro was made for the Communications Director, Amanda Brozana.

SHAREPOINT – The National Grange continues to use SharePoint as its collaborative platform for editing and viewing documents. Resolutions and other documents needed for the 154th Annual National Grange convention have been formatted and uploaded into SharePoint. Links to edit and view these files have been created and dispersed to the designated individuals.

COMCAST – The National Grange upgraded its internet package. The upgrade increased/doubled the internet speed from 150 Mps to 300 Mps. The package also came with 12 Polycom VVX 411 phones. These VOIP phones replaced our older Toshiba CIX phones purchased in 2009. TV service is also included which can be viewed on the installed smart TV's in the conference room and adding another amenity for current tenants and future rental agreements.



In addition to this upgrade, the internet and phone service was moved from the 10th floor telephone closet to the 11th floor telephone closet where it should be. This will separate the Grange network and electronic devices from those belonging to the 10th floor tenants.

ZOOM - The National Grange continues to schedule online meetings for local Granges, Executive Committee, and the national office using the meeting platform ZOOM. An increase in meetings has occurred as a result of COVID-19 and states holding virtual conventions. Additional security features, such as meeting passwords, have been put in place for each scheduled meeting. Settings have also been modified within the National Grange ZOOM account to allow Facebook and YouTube streaming.

NETWORK - An Ethernet line was installed in the first-floor lobby of the National Grange. The installation of this data line was required to operate the digital directory board. This data line also serves as the connection needed for the 1st floor security cameras.

User profiles and email accounts were configured for the Legislative Intern, Heather Simon and new employee Kelly Klingman.

The toll-free number for the National Grange was disconnected (effective 2/5/20).

MAILING/SHIPPING/PRINTING

Various emails are sent to our Grange members via Constant Contact. Emails vary from Memorial Notices, Fraternal Concerns, weekly Patrons Chain Newsletters, monthly President's Message, Grange Month material, monthly Legislative Policy Updates, COVID-19 Response, statements to Congressional Staff, notices to E-members and FFA contacts, Action Alerts, available publications for download and much more. The Constant Contact email subscription pop-up form on the National Grange website continues to increase the number of members we reach via email.

Mail processing/shipping is being conducted on a daily basis for all departments of The National Grange. This includes Grange Supply Store orders, membership recognition items, Good Day! TM Magazine issues, bills/payments, etc. Training the summer interns on how to operate the Pitney Bowes mail machine and process packages for shipping has not only provided an opportunity to teach but also benefited the Grange office during busy work days.

The software, Xpress SendSuite Processing, which is used to process mail on the Pitney Bowes machine, received the necessary updates needed to reflect the USPS update that went into effect January 26, 2020.

FEERROOTS - Recently, the National Grange partnered with Freeroots which is a free, non-profit grassroots platform empowering everyone to advocate for positive change. FreeRoots makes it possible for anyone who wants to create a grassroots campaign to do so – quickly, easily, and for free. With Freeroots, the simple step process of creating this campaign directs anyone to a custom-tailored homepage where they can join the action by contacting their state lawmakers to make change. To speed things up, the email tool comes pre-populated with each Advocate's state and federal representatives.

Since the National Grange is a grassroots organization, it was a great match for the Grange and the easiest way for members to contact their state and local representatives and make a positive impact. The National Grange created a campaign on "Emergency Rural Broadband Deployment!". There have currently been 455 Grange members that have taken action on this issue.

The 2020 National Grange Roster was published. Two large and two small versions of the roster were printed and distributed for each state Grange at the 2020 Masters Conference. An email was sent to all Grange members with a link to download a printable copy as well as a digital spreadsheet which can be useful when doing mail merge documents, creating mailing labels, group emails, etc.

BUILDING SECURITY

COVID-19 – Since the recent pandemic, the National Grange staff has worked remotely from home while rotating staff in the office to ensure a Grange presence in the building. Responsibilities carried out while in the office consist of, but not limited to, processing incoming and outgoing mail, assisting staff members not in the office, responding to building tenants, and preparing weekly checks and conducting deposits for National Grange accounts with Eagle bank and SunTrust bank.

Security – The National Grange installed five professional video cameras in the Grange Headquarters building. Two cameras are located on the first floor that record activity at the front door lobby area (covering the front door and

visitors signing in at the security desk) while the second camera records activity in the first-floor hallway (covering the elevators and 1st-floor offices). Another two cameras are located in the basement hallway covering the activity of the elevators, entrance to the Grange shipping area/store supplies, stairs to the sub-basement, the hallway and rear exit door. The remaining camera is located on the 11th floor covering activity at the elevators and the reception area. These cameras are monitoring activity 24/7 but in order to preserve storage, they are programed to only record when there is motion detected. This camera system includes five indoor cameras, one 22" monitor and a 16 Channel DVR 4TB. All equipment comes with 1-year parts and a 90-day labor warranty.

The 22" monitor is located on the 11th floor and displays real-time activity as it takes place in the Grange building. In addition, the cameras can be viewed/accessed from any workstation and or mobile phone when away from the office.

Passcards - An ongoing inventory of all front door *pass-cards* to the National Grange headquarters is being maintained. As of 11/1/20, there are a total of 321 passcards assigned and issued to a combination of National Grange employees, building tenants, subtenants, vendors, etc.

JUNIOR GRANGE

Prepared by Samantha Wilkins, Junior Grange Director

COMMUNICATION:

- National Junior Grange Ambassadors were trained by Communications Director, Amanda Brozana-Rios in order to gain a social media presence for the National Junior Grange Department.
- National Junior Grange Ambassadors:
 - Bryce Danko- Hosted two episodes of Cultivating Connections during the month of July for Junior Grange Month. These two episodes were focused around the Ag Awareness Program and his topics were 'Benefits of Composting' and 'Fire Safety'
 - Brianna Gervais- Hosted two episodes of Cultivating Connections during the month of July for Junior Grange Month. These two episodes were focused around the Ag Awareness Program and her topics were 'Soil Erosion' and 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'
- I have participated in several episodes of Cultivating Connections and specifically held some on topics directly related to Junior Programming.
 - Seeing the need from directors as well as many parents, including myself, I invited a mental health expert and school guidance counselor from Shippensburg Area Intermediate School, in Pennsylvania, on to an episode of Cultivating Connections to speak directly on the mental health for our children during these unprecedented times.
- Although 2020 activities became quiet due to the cancelation of many activities I have still had directors reaching out for ideas and strategies that can be utilized during this time.
- Through social media/emails/ and phone calls we have been able to keep up with many Junior Granges/leaders/directors. Information continues to be shared on our social media platforms and through email communications.
- I have worked to maintain a quick response rate to email, phone calls, and social media messages.
- I have been working with the Communications department to have frequent posts on social media promoting the Junior Grange as well as entries in Patrons Chain and Quarterly publications through Good Day Magazine.
- In collaboration with the National Grange Community Service and Youth Departments we created and participated in an 'Operation Graduation' to honor all of our Graduates from Kindergarten through College. In total over 150 names were submitted and we sent out letters signed by the directors and National Master, Betsy Huber. It is our plan to continue this for the following years.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

While many things have been hindered by the pandemic, leadership training has been ever present. I have been able to meet with the National Junior Grange Ambassadors via Zoom and other platforms to discuss how we can engage our members to support and create their own Junior Programming. The Ambassadors have done their

own steps in preparing for multiple Cultivating Connections episodes and writing for Good Day Magazine. They have also been very instrumental in creating Junior Grange Passports.

Leadership training has been happening not only for those Ambassadors but also for Grange leaders. With not being able to attend regional conferences most training has happened via social media and Cultivating Connections episodes which have been a great asset not just for the Junior Department but for many across the board.

TRAVEL

2020 Travel: Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 PANDEMIC Travel was suspended after March 2020 for all directors. However, I along with the National Junior Grange Ambassadors was able to attend the 2020 *National Grange Legislative Fly-In (Primary edition)* in New Hampshire for the first presidential primary election. We were also able to all attend the first Ever *Washington DC Experience*.

NATIONAL JUNIOR GRANGE AMBASSADORS

The Title of the 2020 National Junior Grange Ambassadors went to Bryce Danko, of Pennsylvania and Brianna Gervais, of Connecticut. The 2020 National Junior Grange Ambassadors have been absolutely amazing! They started off their year at the end of the 153rd National Grange Convention with a fire and ready to run. As soon as we were able to get together and make plans they were ready, excited and full of ideas. These young Grangers brought on a lot of enthusiasm and new ideas related to Grange leadership and growth. Early on in their term both were recognized individually in their states by State leadership. Brianna Gervais was recognized by her school and State Senator for her accomplishments. Bryce was recognized at the Pennsylvania Farm Show by the Secretary of Agriculture and Lieutenant Governor.

Both Ambassadors took on the task to learn about the legislative process of the Grange so that they could one day make a difference in their communities. By attending the National Grange Legislative Fly in they were both able to learn about the national process of running for president. This is an opportunity I wish more Junior Grangers would take advantage of. They were able to work on political campaigns, attend rallies, and sit in on different trainings in order to gain more knowledge about the national legislative process. During this trip they were also able to sit down with National Grange Legislative Director, Burton Eller, and ask questions and learn a bit more. A month later the Ambassadors each had the opportunity to attend the first ever Washington DC Experience (WDCE) This event was held by the National Youth and Junior Grange Departments. During this event they were introduced to numerous workshops, meetings with many different representatives and agencies, and were able to give a workshop of their own over the Fly-In. When we were last all together we were in Washington DC for the WDCE Event. Although their year was not what they dreamed of when being named the 2020 National Junior Grange Ambassadors they have made tremendous strides to still really make a difference while holding their titles. Bryce and Brianna have both participated in several Cultivating Connections episodes. They have also written several things or been a part of the writing for several Good Day Articles. Brianna and Bryce have both created several new Passports for us to utilize in the program. And Bryce has been on Social Media several times giving updates about Junior Programming or even asking members to write letters to a veteran Grange member from Oregon that was diagnosed with COVID early in this pandemic. Bryce and Brianna also created a video to support the National Grange Youth department's 20 for 20 Ice Bucket Challenge. Due to the pandemic Bryce Danko and Brianna Gervais have both been asked to continue their term as National Junior Grange Ambassadors for one more year. They will continue to do projects, workshops, create passports, and hopefully attend several regional conferences.

FUNDRAISING

Although it is the National Grange Youth Department's year to fundraise there are still opportunities being given for the Junior Grange Department.

- Founders Sponsorship will be ongoing- each founder of the National Grange has a dollar amount associated with their name- the proceeds from these donations are split 50/50 between the Junior and youth departments. We recently had a donation for \$2000 to that fund and there has been a slow trickle of donations coming in here and there.

Typically the National Grange Youth and Junior Departments have alternated years on fundraising, but after much discussion between myself and Mandy Bostwick, National Grange Youth/Young Adults Director, we believe

that if our efforts are combined we could be more successful in raising funds. She and I are both hunting for grants or other programs that we can apply for that would benefit both the Youth and Junior funds. .

PROGRAMS AND CONTESTS

With the cancellation of Regional Conferences and large parts of the National Session, the National Junior Grange Department decided to still continue many of the contests. Since many contest entries come directly to me and not to their state contests I made plans to continue those contests. Judging as always will continue as planned and winners will be announced in a special online format and in Good Day Magazine following the National Session. We had 51 contest entries this year for National Contests. Regional Sign-A-Song and Public Speaking Contests were held virtually on July 18, 2020. Winners from each region were as follows:

The Best of Show winners will go on to present their speech or sign-a-song at the 2020 Virtual Evening of Excellence, which is to be held in November of 2020.



2020 Virtual Regional Contest
Participants and Winners

SIGN A SONG
JUNIOR AND YOUTH CATEGORIES

Northeast Region
Adam Terrell (Youth Hobbyist)- New Hampshire*
Britney Mercado (Youth Novice) - New York
Elizabeth Van Kleeck (Youth Novice) - New York

Great Plains
Jazlyn Rodriguez (Junior Novice) - Texas*
Kimber Newman (Junior Novice) - Kansas

 

*Indicates Best of Show and qualifies for National Grange Evening of Excellence

2020 Virtual Regional Contest
Participants and Winners

PREPARED SPEECH
JUNIORS

Northeast Region
David Lehmann - Massachusetts *

SHORT STORY
JUNIORS

Northeast Region
Gregory Lehmann - Massachusetts

Great Plains
Kimber Newman- Kansas *



*Indicates Best of Show and qualifies for National Grange Evening of Excellence

PASSPORT PROGRAM

There are 5 themes to encompass a variety of topics that will bring interest to any and all involved in the program. They are as follows:

- Grange History
- States
- Career Readiness
- American History
- World Discovery

Throughout the last year we have had the opportunity to create many new passports. With the help of the National Junior Grange Ambassadors, National Grange Interns, and the Communications Department we have worked to create over 50 new passports. Most of them have already been published to the National Junior Grange Website and others are still being edited and designed for publication. In working with Amanda Brozana-Rios on design efforts we have discussed the desire to place one of these passports in Patrons Chain on a monthly basis. New Passports are already being created and added to Good Day Magazine for each publication.

I am encouraging any and everyone to be a part of the developmental process as we create new passports. Passports are now available on the website and will continue to be added as designs are completed. This program will only be as successful as its counterparts and I want to encourage states to send in their passport entries to

continue to grow the program. I will continue to push and encourage members in every region to submit passport entries. New Passports are frequently added and there is always a new one in each Good Day Magazine.

SAFE GATHERINGS

Each quarter the National Grange Board of Directors is given an updated list of Grange members who have obtained their clearances through our Safe Gatherings background check platform. Information to obtain the background check is posted on the National Junior Grange and youth websites along with the National Junior Grange Program book. We want to continue to encourage states to create a child protection policy of their own or utilize the National Grange policy. Each Granger that completes a Safe Gatherings check is notified of their completion and passing of the clearance. State presidents are then notified when a member from their state completes the check. Yes, this year without a doubt has been unlike any other and we have had to work to make many accommodations and changes along the way. However, I feel that this has only made us stronger internally with our staff and directors along with how we have been able to reach out to other members across the US. This has caused us to step out of our comfort zones and try something new. Plans for 2021 are already being made and with the continued support we will be able to create some great things. Will it be perfect? No of course not, nothing ever is. But our goal, my goal, is for it to be impactful and make a difference for future generations.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Prepared by Burton Eller, Legislative Affairs Director

Agriculture and Food

The National Grange spent much of 2020 responding to challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. These included efforts to keep the food supply chain open and moving, setting aside regulations that prevented food moving directly from farm to consumer, designating farm and food personnel as essential workers, providing meals to school children at home as well as at school, securing economic relief for farmers and ranchers suffering from severe market declines and more.

Health Care

The National Grange supported numerous efforts to streamline Food and Drug Administration procedures to speed COVID-19 therapy and vaccine development, increase Medicare coverages, deploy telehealth services where possible, reduce prescription drug costs and shorten the review process for new biologics and cell-based therapies.

Telecommunications

Access to broadband became a top-of-mind issue during the pandemic. Digital deserts Grange had stressed for years suddenly became real to the general public when millions of K-12 and college students could not attend classes remotely. Routine medical care for illness diagnosis, diabetes, heart conditions, chronic pain, respiratory conditions and many more just didn't happen for those without telehealth connectivity. Congress and the federal agencies have responded with funds and programs to alleviate digital deserts sooner rather than later but these actions will need close oversight by the Grange and other rural watchdogs to be sure they are administered effectively and efficiently.

National Grange Public Profile 2020

Opinion editorials (op eds) and public statements about public policy

Agriculture and food - 7

Aviation - 2

Telecommunications – 5

Health care – 11

Post office – 2

Official letters on public policy issues

Agriculture and food – 14

Telecommunications – 5

Healthcare – 14

Paper options - 1
 Post office – 2
 Taxes – 4
 Veterans – 1
Official public policy statements, briefs and other filings
 Agriculture and food – 4
 Telecommunications – 4
 Health care – 2
 Paper options – 1
TV and radio
 Telecommunications - 4
Public policy activities with State Granges
 Health care – 4
 Telecommunications – 2

Summary

Agriculture and food - 25
 Aviation - 2
 Health care – 31
 Paper options – 2
 Post office - 3
 Taxes- 4
 Telecommunications – 20
 Veterans - 1

TOTAL - 88

Grange Advocacy Impact on National Grange and State Granges

Grange Advocacy contributes to the issue-effectiveness and financial health of the National Grange:

- Keeps current and well-versed on major issues that affect grassroots Grangers
- Builds and maintains networks to effectively manage issues
- Promotes Grange as the voice of rural grassroots America
- Obtains grants to work on priority public policy issues vital to Grange members
- Supports interns at National Grange headquarters (\$19,000)
- Remits overhead recovery from project grants to National Grange to cover Grange operational costs (\$68,250)
- Supports media monitoring efforts and magazine production (\$10,300)
- Assumes traditional National Grange expenses for coalition work, issue monitoring tools, Hill contact programs, legislative fly-in, subscriptions, networking costs, awards, youth programs and training, memberships and more (\$19,200)
- Elevates the public profile of the National Grange and state Granges (88 major public policy hits)
- Shares project funds with state Granges when partnering on issues within the state (\$11,000)

Issues to Watch in 2021

Makeup of the White House

The occupant of the White House could drive major public policy initiatives during 2021, the first year of the term. Fresh off the election cycle, Presidents historically tend to be most successful passing their agenda in the first year. Watch the role the newly elected Vice President plays during 2021. Will he/she lead Congress or vice versa? The VP may become more of a policy-driver than normal.

Makeup of Congress

Control of the Senate and House next year will determine whether the President's policy initiatives see the light of day. If the Senate, House and White House are held by the same party, policy initiatives will move at warp

speed. If the Senate and House are held by different parties, this will serve as a check-and-balance on policy initiatives no matter which party occupies the White House.

Coronavirus and the Economy

These are the two elephant-in-the-room serious concerns facing everyone in the world right now. How many viral waves will engulf the planet over what time period? Will there be enough food and can it be distributed to those in need? The answers will drive public policy initiatives in 2021. Then, once the viral infection rate subsides, what will it take to rebuild our economy over how many years?

Agriculture and Food Policy

Few expect major changes in farm policy for 2021. Food policy initiatives are more likely. Will we be able to make the temporary food policies permitted during the pandemic more permanent? These include relaxed rules to encourage direct farm to consumer sales, allow truckers delivery flexibility with the 24-hour rule, expedite donations to food banks and more. However, if all three branches of government are controlled by one political party, some out of the ordinary food policies will likely emerge. Trade could become even more of an economic and diplomatic challenge. Watch for attempts to roll back the “waters of the U.S.” rule that gave farmers and ranchers relief from over-reaches by the Clean Water Act.

Climate Change

Watch for a plan to put the U.S. on a path to zero carbon pollution from the electric sector by 2035 and net-zero emissions nationwide by 2050. The goal will be to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the burning of coal, oil and gas and replace these fuels with renewable energy. Incentives for agriculture to sequester carbon could be part of the equation as well as a move to reduce animal agriculture production. Major infrastructure initiatives could have far-reaching climate change requirements.

Telecommunications

The pandemic-caused disruptions to daily life have done more to raise awareness of the rural-urban digital divide than anything for a decade. Students cannot attend classes and do homework without a dependable internet. Telemedicine is useless without a dependable internet. Telework doesn't happen without dependable internet. Congress and the White House responded in 2020 with levels of funding not imagined a decade ago. Challenges for the Grange in 2021 will be to assure these funds are used wisely and efficiently, rights-of-way and access challenges are addressed, and the way is cleared for mixed-technology systems to reach the last mile of rural America.

Health Care

Healthcare will consume most of the Grange's public policy time in 2021. COVID-19 therapies and vaccines and who gets vaccinated in what order will be both medical and political questions. How much insurance at what price will patients be able to afford? Drug pricing debates will escalate. Treatments for chronic pain to move patients away from opioids and other addictive drugs look promising.

Taxes

The COVID-19 relief packages have added immense deficits to the country's debt. How soon will we begin making payments against that debt and who will be taxed to make those payments? At least some tax policy discussions will likely take place in 2021. The direction of those tax discussions will largely depend upon the Senate and White House. Be on the lookout for a roll-back of the latest tax cuts, a corporate tax increase, an increase in the capital gains tax rate, higher taxes on the nation's wealthiest individuals and higher death taxes on estates.

A Divided Nation

A September poll by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget confirmed Americans lack consensus on national goals and have starkly different views about the future direction of the country. Democrats rank “improving health care affordably” and “improving racial injustice” as top priorities. Republicans rank “having a strong and growing economy” and “putting America first” as top national priority goals. Overall, however, more than 80 percent of Americans hold such values as free speech, equal justice under the law, and ensuring everyone has an opportunity to succeed as defining national values. According to Michael V. Murphy, the Committee's initiative director to address the root causes of our growing divisions observed, “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.”

MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT

Prepared by Membership & Leadership Development Director Joe Stefenoni

Worthy Master, National Officers, Delegated, Brothers & Sisters,

It is my pleasure to present the report of the membership department for the 2019-2020 year. While challenges to our membership development efforts are a regular part of the process, 2020 has presented a challenge that has forced us to adapt to the circumstances and truly discover the talents we have available to us as an organization.

Grange Growth

A hearty congratulations are in order for the State Granges of Oregon (+54), Minnesota (+19), Colorado (+14), West Virginia (+11), Florida (+7), Idaho (+7), Massachusetts (+5) and Wisconsin (+1) as well as Silver Sage Grange #24 in Nevada (+14) and Britton's Neck Grange #629 in South Carolina (+1) who all achieved net gains in membership. As a special note, although no State Grange has been organized yet, all Granges in Nevada saw a net gain of 93 members driven by the organization of three new Granges.

Overall, 332 Community Granges achieved a net gain, 460 were net neutral and 716 ended with a net loss. Of those 716 Granges, 206 (29%) ended with a net loss of only one member. As State Granges look at where to allocate their time and financial resources for membership development, these Granges are the place to start. By assisting those Granges achieve a net gain of just one or two members, we will be walking through the door of a national net gain in our fraternal membership.

For the 2019-2020 membership year, the following Community Granges led the country in membership growth.

Top 3 Net Gain Granges

Grange Name & Number	State	Net Gain
Big Cabin #156	OK	102
Simooore #857	CA	58
Blanchard #440	ID	52

Top 3 Percentage Net Gain Granges

Grange Name & Number	State	% Net Gain
Petersham #95	MA	238.46%
Simooore #857	CA	161.11%
Long Tom #866	OR	156.52%

From July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, 14 Community Granges and two Junior Granges were organized or reorganized. This is the largest number of new Granges we have welcomed into our fraternal circle ***in the last decade*** and represents an influx of 285 new members. With the reports I received from State Granges across the country, we were on track for this number to be 20 or greater, before we had to adjust to new requirements placed on in-person meetings due to COVID. As we all find the elements of success in the current situation, I sincerely hope that we can exceed this number of new Granges come the next National Grange Convention.

Grange Name & Number	State	Charter Date	Members	Type
Camp #1299	NC	July 7, 2019	20	New
St. Pete Bay #216	FL	August 13, 2019	14	New

Zumbro Valley #765	MN	August 20, 2019	13	Reorganization
Turlock #29	CA	October 6, 2019	46	New
Lone Mountain #25	NV	October 9, 2019	15	New
Smith Valley #26	NV	October 10, 2019	24	New
Sunflower #162	CO	October 12, 2019	26	Reorganization
Community #863	CA	October 28, 2019	22	New
Hessel #750	CA	November 5, 2019	17	Reorganization
Elko County #27	NV	November 14, 2019	23	New
Coalinga #779	CA	November 9, 2019	15	Reorganization
Capital #2111	PA	January 1, 2020	16	New
Vaca Valley #298	CA	January 5, 2020	17	New
Birdsview #957	WA	February 10, 2020	17	Reorganization
JUNIOR GRANGES				
Walton Junior #701	NY	July 29, 2019	7	Reorganization
Little Muskingum Junior #636	OH	September 1, 2019	10	Reorganization

California State Grange has kick-started the push for next year with the reorganization of Lucerne Valley Grange #673 just last month with over 40 Charter members.

This last year, the membership department released the Grange Organizers Handbook which replaced the old Grange Builder Kit. The Organizers Handbook is designed to create a concise guide for how to organize & reorganize Community Granges and incorporates the use of social media as well as follow-up mentoring steps after the Grange is chartered.

Nevada

The progress made in Nevada this last year has put us at the door of being able to begin the process of organizing the State Grange of Nevada. While Deputies Carl Clinger and Gloria Montero had to postpone Grange organizing activities, they have been working with all of the Community Granges, mentoring them to ensure that they have a healthy foundation on which to grow.

It had been our hope to hold a state-wide meeting with all the Community Granges to talk about the process of organizing a State Grange, the duties that entails and the new responsibilities which they must then assume. While that meeting did not happen in 2020, I am working with the National Grange Deputies to setup that meeting for 2021.

In October, I spent a weekend travelling the state with the Deputies visiting Granges and meeting with groups interested in organizing new Granges. From these meetings I believe that at least three new Granges will be organized in Nevada in 2021. The Patrons of Nevada are also looking forward to the national convention coming to Reno and are using that to excite their membership.

In ongoing conversations with the Deputies, we are working to prepare for the organization of a State Grange in 2022 so that the first ever delegates from the State Grange of Nevada will be seated in the National Grange body by the 2022 convention in Reno, NV.

Grange Resource Binder

The new Grange Resource Binder was unveiled at the 2019 National Grange Convention and beginning in 2020 with the increase in Charter application fee for Community Granges, all new & reorganized Granges are receiving a Grange Resource Binder as part of their welcome from the National Grange. By now, there is at least one copy of the Grange Resource Binder in each state. I am extremely proud that this tool has been so widely disseminated and adopted throughout the states. This binder represents a collection of institutional knowledge that is continually evolving. I hope that this resource will continue to reach the Community Granges and that they find it useful as they move forward.

E-Membership

At the end of this membership year there was a net loss of 58 e-members. With the increase in the annual fee to \$40, I worked with my colleagues to develop new content specifically for this program. Beginning in January, e-members were sent a quarterly update from the National Grange beyond the regular communications they receive. The overall goal was to provide modern, relevant communication to this demographic of our current e-membership and use it as a development tool for future e-members.

This year the e-membership program was given an evaluation from top to bottom. When I presented my goals for 2020 to the National Grange Executive Committee, I set a goal to have the e-membership program reviewed by digital marketing professionals. Over the last few months, the Communications Director and I have been working with a company who has done this review. They have proposed a two-phase digital engagement campaign.

Phase one will focus on collecting data about engaging the best demographics for our mission and vision on our social media platforms. With the data from phase one, phase two will focus on connecting with these people on social media and then enticing them to join as an e-member. The cost for this program is included in this year's budget proposal at an estimated cost for both phases is \$35,000. While this price tag may seem high, it is the reality that if we truly hope for the e-membership program to get off the ground and reach the level it was intended to, this is the cost of doing business. If 2020 has taught us anything, it is that digital engagement is of the utmost importance to the relevancy of any group or organization.

Internally, I have been working with Amanda Brozana-Rios and those that are on the e-member list to evaluate the mechanics of the program. Moving into the future, my goal is to have each new e-member sent a welcome message with the National Grange commercial video and a message from the National Grange President. It is also my goal to implement a subscription payment system so that e-members may pay their annual fee in installments rather than a lump sum and their membership would auto-renew each year.

Digital Training

Since I have not been able to travel to work with our Community and State Granges for most of this year, the membership department program for this year was converted to a digital webinar format. Beginning in August, I presented the first session of "Growth Through Action: Planning the Future for your Community Grange". This program is designed to teach Grange leaders the process of evaluating where they are as a Community Grange, determining where they want to be and then making a strategic plan of how to get there. As Grange activities have been placed on hold this year, it is the perfect time for Community Granges to evaluate their membership, programs & activities and set a course for future growth.

There have been three sessions so far with a participation from 62 individuals from 19 states. A fourth session is planned in December. I hope that you will encourage your Community and State Grange leaders to participate in a session so that they may have the tools available to them to assist Community Granges with creating their own strategic plan for growth.

In 2021, these digital trainings will continue and expand. My goal is to hold training sessions on serving as an effective Community Grange President, Secretary and Treasurer so as to encourage and develop the next generation of leaders for our Community Granges. Digital training sessions are also being developed for State Grange Deputies and Grange organizers.

Regional Assistants

The membership department is still looking for members to fill regional assistant positions in the regions (other than the western region). If you know of a member who is familiar with the organization and desires to learn more about the Grange on a national level, encourage them to apply to be a regional assistant.

When the vision for this program is fully realized, these regional assistants will be working directly with State Grange membership directors and State Grange leaders doing strategic planning, goal setting, follow-up & accountability and they will be a resource between the National Grange membership director and the State Granges.

Data Products

Throughout the course of this year, I have been working on harvesting data from and digitizing old quarterly reports and other historic membership data from the National Grange office. The goal of this long-term project will be to provide State Grange leaders, and potentially academic researchers, with data products they may use so that they may determine precisely what are the elements of success. Data products will serve to assist in evaluating trends in membership development, Grange organizing and demographic information. The future of membership development for the Grange will lie in a data-based approach to determining where we allocate our time and financial resources. This will enable us to instruct others and provide valuable suggestions for future use.

Future

As we move into a new year, the focus of the membership department will be digitally engaging with as many Grange leaders or future leaders as possible. While we all hope that in-person events will return over the next year, digital trainings will remain a regular part of the educational platform for the department. As I have been working with groups of individual Grange leaders teaching them to create strategic plans, I hope to start working one-on-one with specific State Granges to assist them in doing the same for their State Grange.

Their strategic plans will take a practical look at their current status and where they would like to be in the future. This will include evaluating financial and time resources & limitations, evaluating structural challenges and impediments and identifying opportunities for exposure to the public to build our name recognition. In addition to this planning, we will also be working with State Granges to develop member mentoring programs tailored to the Grange in each state.

Assisting the Granges in Nevada will also be a high priority, helping them to reach the point of organizing their State Grange.

The membership department will continue teaching about the changing landscape of generational shifts in our society and connecting with Millennials. To facilitate this, a number of presentations and workshops have been held in addition to a monthly Zoom meeting. This information is the foundation which we will build from over the next year to lay out plans for membership development in our Granges.

As we are able to move back toward some in-person activities & events, State Granges should be working to empower Granges at the local level to reignite their passion for our organization. It is at the community level that the heart of the Grange lives, and it is our duty to strengthen the Grange from the bottom, up. Stronger Subordinate/Community Granges will create stronger State Granges, which in turn will secure the future of the National Grange. I am looking forward to assisting our State Granges with this in any way I can.

Finally, I am looking to work with State Granges to develop growth plans where they strategically evaluate where they think Grange organizing needs to occur in their state.

Brothers and Sisters, it is a pleasure to serve this organization and I look forward to working with and assisting all Grange leaders to drive us into a prosperous future, looking forward to the place at which all our hopes center.

SALES, BENEFITS, PROGRAMS, AND MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

Prepared by Sales, Benefits, Programs and Membership Recognition Director Loretta Washington

WOW what a year! I had the opportunity to attend my 4th Convention, this time in the Midwest Region. It is nice to continue to meet Grangers from other regions whom I talked with over the phone on numerous occasions. During the convention I was the Onsite Co-Coordinator along with Pete Pompper National Grange Community Service Director. I had the opportunity to attend my first Presidents Conference (the Masters Conference) where I did a workshop on benefits and got some great ideas from the attendees. Everything was going smoothly until March 16, 2020; that is when our President Betsy Huber put a plan in place for staff well-being/safety because of COVID-19 pandemic. I am now coming in the office just about every day unless the street is blocked for protest or whatever may have happened, because of my responsibility of getting the Membership Recognition and Sales items out so that when Granges do open again they will have the certificates and items as needed. This report is based on October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

Grange Store:

The Grange Store and the New Grange Store @ Monroe Classic were doing ok until the pandemic.

Total Sales: income from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020: \$19,242.71

Sales commission income from the New Grange Store @ Monroe Classic was \$5,675.06

Sales income from the Grange Supply Store was \$13,567.65

I want to thank everyone that has purchased either in the Grange Supply Store or the New Grange Store @ Monroe Classic. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Programs:

Community Service

I worked very closely with Pete Pompper, National Community Service Director to assist him in all parts of this program ranging from getting all the information updated and ready for the website and to make sure that all states received their certificates in a timely manner. I assisted Pompper with the new National Grange Community Service Director pin. This pin is only given out by the National Director to individuals who have gone out of their way to do great things in the community.

Distinguished Grange

A total of 28 Subordinate Granges and 4 states qualified to receive the Distinguished Grange status for 2020. Due to the current situation the Distinguished Grange awards were part of the Cultivating Connections series. The award

program went over very well, and we received several emails and thank yous for the event. This is the 11th year of this program.

Grange Legacy

3 families will be recognized this year.

Grange In Action

Despite the pandemic we will recognize 52 Granges and 1 Junior Grange this year. During the 2019 Convention we recognized 97 Granges which include Pomonas and a Junior Grange.

2019 Showcase

This was the 4th year of the Showcase at National Convention. A special thanks to Robin Kindberg and her daughter for giving leadership to the showcase. This year American Hearing Benefits, who is in Minnesota, was able to be a part of the showcase. A special thanks to Letitia Pickering for assistance with the Grange Supply Store.

2019 Convention

It was an honor and a privilege to work alongside Pete Pompper, National Grange Community Service Director as the Onsite Convention Coordinators better known as the Dream Team. It was great to have all the National Grange staff in the same location in the National Grange Office/Production Room; Amanda Brozana-Rios who gives leadership to the Communication Fellows was in the Fellows Room. Mandy Bostwick, Youth Development Director, help designed the layout of the room which is now known as the "Mandy's Design" which we will try to use for the 2021 National Convention and future conventions. Pete and I shared with National President Betsy Huber what we learned in evaluation and what to improve on for the 2020 Convention.

7th Degree at 2019 National Convention

44 certificates were printed here at the National Grange and mailed out to all the recipients in December 2019. Stephanie Wilkins, IT Director assisted me in this task. Special thanks to Jim Owens, former Priest Annalist for getting the information to me in a timely manner

2020 Convention

The Dream team Pete Pompper and I along with the National President Betsy Huber were making plans for a site visit then the pandemic hit, and everything was on hold until final decision was made for a virtual convention.

Patrons Chain and Good Day Magazine

I have been asked by the National President Betsy Huber to identify at least one Benefit and one sales/Store item to be featured each week in the Patrons Chain except for the week of the View from the Hill. I continue to submit the Membership Recognitions and Grange Halls 100 year and 125 year anniversaries for the Good Day magazine. I have process 626 either renewal or new subscriptions that come in by mail for the Good Day Magazine in a timely manner in QuickBooks, then forward the checks every week to the appropriate person.

Membership Recognition and Awards:

40 Year Seals: 86	55 Years Seals: 87
60 Year Seals: 122	65 Years Seals: 71
70 Years Seals: 123	Silver Star Certificates: 181
Golden Sheaf Award: 216	75 Year Award: 43
Congratulatory Letter (80 & 85 year): 13	6th Degree from State (Session): 152

Grange Celebrating 100th Anniversaries:

Collinsville Grange #2264-OH, Loudon Center Grange #2276-OH, Salt Creek Valley Grange #2314-OH, Pleasant Grange #2311-OH, Mansford Grange #710-WA, Quimper Grange #2311-WA, Humptulips Grange #730-WA, Kennewick Grange #731-WA and Cowlitz Prairie Grange #731

Grange Celebrating 125th Anniversaries

Thurman Grange #1416-OH and Indian Camp Grange #1424-OH

Benefits:

I found two great benefits; one was a credit card program and the other was a cash back program. Both programs would have generated a little revenue back to the National Grange. The credit card program would have

given us the opportunity to put the Grange logo on the card; however we were not accepted because our membership numbers are too low. However, at the end of the day I am very excited to announce our new program, *CashBack Connection*

This is the newest benefit program, which was launched on Oct 16. I call this program a one stop shop in which the members get a discount as well as the Grange gets a little revenue back.

Gallagher Affinity

I worked with Justin DeMarco, account manager on the 12-month planning calendar to promote the various benefits that we have with them. We introduce a new health benefit called eHealth Medicare program during the 2019 convention.

Our Royalty payment for the 1quarter to 3quarter: \$457.14

In conclusion, during these uncertain times, I learned a lot about myself. It taught me how to lean on my faith to get through problems and maintain professionalism. I continue to try to provide good customer care/service at all times. As always, it is an honor and privilege to serve you as your Sales, Benefits, Programs and Membership Recognition Director (Customer Care Person) to this historic organization every day because "That's the Grange Way."

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Prepared by Mandy Bostwick

Communication

A new National Grange Youth website was launched in January. A fresh look and updated programs were included in the updated website. Changes continue to be made as new programs are added and changed.

State Youth Directors were all mailed a printed copy of the 2020 Program book in January with updated changes from the discussions that took place at the National Session. A zoom meeting was held on March 12th and attended by several Youth Directors and youth aged members. Valuable feedback was given and I was able to answer questions to help clarify things for the 2020 program book.

A virtual bingo card was posted on the National Grange Youth Facebook page called "Grange Youth Bingo" to encourage past and present youth to connect during the early stages of the pandemic. Letters were sent to honor Grangers that were graduating during the pandemic. About 100 letters were sent to High School and College Graduates.

Through the spring and summer months I participated in and hosted several Cultivating Connections. Episodes include:

Zoom Meeting with Rural Educators

- Rural Educators across the country discussed and presented how they were handing teaching virtual learning, helpful tips they had for others and resources they had for others to use. We were joined by a representative from National Ag in the Classroom and SAY (Safety in Agricultural Youth Project)
- National Grange Youth Team takeover of Membership Matters
- National Grange Youth Ambassador Alexis Kudsk, WA and National Grange Young Patrons Phillip and Tracey Jones, IL talked about How to Train the Next Generation of Grange Leaders. They gave their perspectives on what they do in their states and gave helpful advice to Granges who are struggling to pass the reins to the next generation and struggling to get youth involved.

Importance of Giving to the Youth Leadership Fund

- Former members of the National Grange Youth team, National Officer Team and State Ambassadors came together to talk about the importance of giving to the youth leadership fund and what they got out of their experiences that were funded by the Youth Leadership Fund.

Favorite Youth Memories/ \$20 for '20 Challenge

- Youth Alumni, current youth and young adults, and Past National Youth Directors joined a Cultivating Connections talking about their favorite youth memory and ended their time by taking the \$20 for '20 Ice Bucket Challenge.

CADCA Rural Youth Toolkit Explained

- Trent Coffey, author of the Rural Youth Toolkit and trainer with CADCA, joined myself and Amanda Brozana-Rios to discuss the collaboration between National Grange and CADCA with the publication of the Rural Youth Toolkit. Ava Greiner-Riley, Youth from Rhode Island, also joined to talk about her experience at CADCA events and how she's continuing in her community.

I continue to keep an open line of communication with State Directors via email, phone call, text message and Facebook message. Questions and comments have been slow this year in comparison to last year due to the pandemic and National Grange Session going virtual, but as they come in I continue to give a quick response.

Washington DC Experience

For the first year for this event it went really well and I look forward to continuing this in the future. We had 40 registered to attend the event, but 30 who were able to join us in DC. Participants learned about what it means to be non-partisan, the structure of government at a local, state and federal level, and how policy was made. Included in the registration was a tour of DC, tour of the Capitol Building and of Reuters Newsroom, three catered meals and snacks throughout the event. Connect Americans Now came and spoke to the group and interviewed several of the participants, including National Grange Youth Ambassador, Alexis Kudsk, about the Digital Divide and the importance of Rural Broadband.

Regional Conferences

All six of the in-person regional conferences were cancelled. Virtual Sign-a- Song and Public Speaking Contests were held as contingencies on July 18th. There were a total of 3 Youth Sign-a-Songs and 10 Prepared speeches. This year anyone applying for the National Grange Youth Team was to give a prepared speech. Of the 10 speeches, 4 of them were for the Ambassador/Young Patron contest. The numbers were lower than I would have thought they would be. Those who were Best of Show are able to participate in the Virtual Evening of Excellence after the National Session.

Sign-a-Song Participants include Adam Terrell*, NH, Britney Mercado, NY, and Elizabeth Van Kleeck, NY.

Prepared Speeches include Lori Wuest, TX, Emma Edelen*, IA, Connie Powell, OH, Jodi Keith-Kensinger*, PA, Sasha Secor*, NY, and Analise Scholten*, CA.

Ambassador/Young Patron Speeches include Britney Mercado, NY, Molly Newman, KS, Vince Newman, KS, Amber Corll, OH.

*indicates Best of Show from their respective region.

Grange Baseball

Grange Baseball was to be held virtually on September 20, but due to lack of participation the event was cancelled. It was disheartening to have to cancel the event, but I am hopeful that next year we will be able to play ball once again!

Fundraising Efforts

In January the \$20 for '20 Promise was published in Good Day! Magazine. The idea came from Eugene Fletcher, MI, at the close of National Grange session. If 2020 Grangers donated \$20 each, we could have raised over \$40,000. Donations slowly trickled into the National office. Then in June the National Grange Youth Team put together the \$20 for '20 Ice bucket challenge to help generate more donations in a fun way and help cool everyone off in the upcoming summer months. The \$20 for '20 was not as successful a fundraiser as I had hoped for it to be. Due to the underwhelming response in states to this fundraiser there will be a real possibility next year that the Youth Leadership Fund will not have the funds to pay for the hotel rooms of the Ambassadors, Young Patrons, and Youth Officer Team at National Session in 2021. It has been stated in the Youth and Young Adult Program Book that if funds are not available it will be up to the individual Granger or their State Grange to fund their way. I know that this may be a deterrent for some to apply, but that is the reality we are facing.

National Grange Youth Leadership Team:

This has been a difficult year to get the National Grange Youth Team out in the public eye, but we have managed to do a few things with the limitations that we had due to the pandemic. The Youth Team kicked off the \$20 for '20 Ice Bucket Challenge on social media in June.

Alexis Kudsk, WA, attended the Washington DC Experience and was interviewed by Connect Americans Now and was featured on two of their social media videos. She had a breakfast meet and greet with her U.S. senator and met with other representatives from Washington. Alexis also participated in the Youth Team Takeover of Membership Matters.

Jaycee Jette, MT, attended the CADCA National Leadership Forum in February.

Phillip and Tracey Jones, IL, welcomed their first child and future Junior Granger, Charlotte Grace, on January 23. They participated in the Youth Team Takeover of Membership Matters and other Cultivating Connections episodes.

A new youth team will be named in November, but I will be utilizing the 2020 National Grange Youth Leadership Team in 2021 at their regional conferences.

2020 Program Submissions

With National Grange going virtually this year a lot of State Granges have decided to hold over their Ambassadors, Young Patrons and Young Couples until 2021. I did get one application for Ambassador and an application for a Young Couple. They will still be interviewing via zoom on November 8th.

I had one Distinguished Youth Grange application submitted for 2020. Congratulations to the youth of Stanford Grange #808 in New York for all their hard work they continued to put in through the pandemic.

2021 Program Updates

Pillar Projects:

I will be continuing the Pillar Projects this year. With the pandemic still looming over us this is the perfect time for Grange Youth and Young Adults to get out in their communities to help. I will be including a Pillar Project Calendar within the program book this year to help directors come up with ideas on how to encourage their Youth and Young Adults throughout the year to do Pillar Projects. The idea behind the Pillar Projects are to build youth leadership skills and give them the opportunities to plan and organize events for their Grange and their community.

Grange Debate:

Grange Debate will be added to the program book for next year. It will be run as a regional contest with top teams from the regions competing at National Session.

Code Reading:

Code Reading will be run as a regional event in 2021. I have been working with The Assembly to have judges at each of the regions. The hope is that it will encourage more youth to participate so they don't have to travel to National Session to compete.

Final Thoughts

As my second year as National Grange Youth and Young Adults Director and first year of my program updates, I can definitely say that this has been a whirlwind of a year. The pandemic has put kinks in the program, but as true Grangers we have persevered and overcome obstacles. My goal is to continue to heavily emphasize Grange Youth leadership and give our Youth and Young Adults the opportunities to lead.

TRADEMARK PROTECTION

Prepared by SGR Law

National Grange Current Licensees, October 2019

November 2020

Licensee/ Matter No.	Mark	Use Status	Operation/Location	Terms/Status
KKT Management LLC (153)	GRANGE HALL	Use in commerce at https://www.tagrestaurantgroup.com/grangehallcolorado/	Food hall	· License Agreement executed on 1/27/2020. · Perpetual term for \$1,300 for the Initial Term, with an increase of \$1,100 every ten (10) years thereafter. · License fee for 2020 was extended to 2021 due to the pandemic-construction halted until January, 2021 with an opening date in June, 2021.
Larry Bell d/b/a Grange Hall Photography (164)	GRANGE and GRANGE HALL	Use in commerce of GRANGE HALL PHOTOGRAPHY at https://www.grangehallphotography.com/	Photography business	· License Agreement executed on 6/11/2020 · 1-year term, subject to annual renewal by mutual agreement of the parties. · In lieu of a licensing fee, Licensee will provide photography services to Licensor. · Terminates on 6/11/2021
HP Heights LLC (136)	LA GRANGE	Use in commerce at https://lagrangehouston.com/	Restaurant and event venue	· License Agreement executed 9/14/2019. · 10-year term for \$1300/year

Grange Co-Op (149)	GRANGE CO-OP	Application Ser. No. 88/580,360 – Expressly Abandoned; Use in commerce at https://www.grangecoop.com/	Retail store services providing a variety of goods needed by farmers	· License Agreement executed on 12/23/2019. · Indefinite term with no fee.
Brixham Grange Hall Café LLC (156)	GRANGE and GRANGE HALL	Use in commerce of BRIXHAM GRANGE CAFÉ at https://brixhamgrangecafe.com/	Café	· License Agreement executed 12/5/2019. · 5-year for \$500/year
Niwot Community Semi-Marching Free Grange Band (135)	NIWOT COMMUNITY SEMI-MARCHING FREE GRANGE BAND	Use in commerce	Band	· Draft license agreement prepared and will be sent to Licensee
Yorktown Grange Fair Association	YORKTOWN GRANGE FAIR	Use in commerce	Fair	· Related entity agreement prepared and will be sent to Licensee
Ascot Catering d/b/a Grange Fresh, LLC	GRANGE FRESH	Use in commerce	Catering company in Wethersfield, Connecticut	· License agreement executed 6/01/2018. · 10-year term for \$1300/year, additional \$600/year fee per new location.

Brooklyn Grange LLC (9628)	BROOKLYN GRANGE	Use in commerce	Rooftop farm in New York City	· License agreement executed 1/13/2012. · 5-year term for \$100 upfront fee, \$100 fee Jan. 2013; \$200 fee Jan. 2014 and Jan. 2015; \$300 fee Jan. 2016. · Renewable for three additional 5-year terms. · If license agreement is renewed, fee increases by 3% per year, payable in two installments in January and July. · License renewed on 3/6/2017 with 24 Carrots, LLC, which covers subsidiaries Brooklyn Grange, LLC's and Sunset Park Farm, LLC's use of "Brooklyn Grange."
Castle Rock Development Co. & Meadows Neighborhood Company (9993)	GRANGE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER	Use in commerce	Community center in Castle Rock, Colorado	· License agreement executed 3/2/2006; renews automatically every 5 years. · Agreement renewed March 2016. · Execution Fee: \$2500 · Charitable Contribution: \$4000 · Plaque · Subordinate Grange use 6x for 2hrs per year · State Grange use 1x for 5hrs per year · Subject to renewal in March, 2021
City Grange LLC	CITY GRANGE	Use in Commerce	Community garden center in Chicago, Illinois	· License agreement executed 11/27/2017 · 5-year term for \$1,300 fee. · Renewable for additional 5-year terms subject to negotiation. · A second location was opened since executing the Agreement
The Coyote Grange Farm (Kristi Fernholz & Brad Fernholz) (9767)	COYOTE GRANGE	Use in commerce	Farm in Minnesota	· License agreement executed 6/8/2016. · Donation of 20-pound bag of carrots a year to a subordinate Minnesota Grange. · Terminates on 12/31/2024.

Crowned Heads LLC (9749)	HEADLEY GRANGE	Trademark application and use in commerce (since August 2012)	Cigar maker in Nashville, Tennessee	· License agreement executed 6/24/2013. · 15-year term at \$500/year. · Cigar maker assigned HEADLEY GRANGE mark to National Grange (U.S. Reg. No. 4,495,306) and took a license back.
Delaware Grange Mutual Insurance Company (9641)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Insurance company in Dover, Delaware	· License agreement executed 2/3/2016. · 15-year term at \$100/year.
Digital Grange Fine Art Services (Bill Kane & Joseph McDonald) (9659)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Fine art photography, scanning, printing, digital imaging, graphic design and customer websites for artists in Petaluma, California	· License agreement executed 1/17/2017. · 5-year term at \$100/year. · Terminates on 1/17/2022
Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Company (054)	GRANGE HALL	Use in commerce	Event venue and history museum in Durango, Colorado	· License agreement executed 12/19/2016. · 5-year term with a \$500 donation per year. · Yearly use of event space for a Grange · Terminates on 12/19//2021

Friends of the Grange (014)	FRIENDS OF THE GRANGE	Use in commerce	Organization working to preserve the legacy and educate the public on the history of the Islip town	· License agreement executed 9/19/2016. · 5-year term at \$100/year. · Terminates on 9/19/2021
Friends of Zenger Farm (9766)	URBAN GRANGE	Use in commerce	Educational facility in Portland, Oregon	· License agreement executed 5/16/2013. · 10-year term at \$1,000/year, if renewed for additional 5-year term, the fee increases to \$1,300/year. · Fees for 2020 waived due to the Pandemic; discussion to reinstate semi-annual fees to resume beginning of 2021.
Grange Café (9622)	THE GRANGE	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Duvall, Washington	· License agreement executed 1/7/2009. · 15-year term subject to 5-year renewals; \$100 fee per year plus 10% discount to Grange members and catering within 25 miles. · Business has changed its name to "The Grange" and underneath a design of a chicken within a circle; it has also changed owners.
Genuine Hospitality Grp., Inc. d/b/a Grange Community Kitchen (050)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Hamburg, New York	· License agreement executed 2/14/2017. · Exclusive right to use the name in the New York counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming. · 5-year term at \$1000/year and 10% increase for each Renewal Term. · Automatically renews for successive 5-year terms.

Grange and Grub (049)	GRANGE AND GRUB	Use in commerce	Production and sale of meats and produce grown on a farm and sold through a market in Purcellville, Virginia	· License agreement executed 11/30/2016. · 5-year term at \$200/year. · License amendment removing the requirement for the National Grange to be listed as an insured was executed on 2/21/2017 · Terminates on 11/30/2021
Grange Hall Cultural Center (046)	GRANGE HALL CULTURAL CENTER	Use in commerce	Community gathering place in Waterbury Center, VT	· License agreement executed 8/15/2016. · 5-year term at \$100/year. · Terminates on 8/15/2021
Grange Insurance Association (9641)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Insurance in Western United States (based in Seattle, Washington)	· License agreement executed 8/1/2001 for \$1 consideration. · Indefinite term.
The Grange at New Milford, LLC (008)	THE GRANGE RESTAURANT AND LOCAL MARKET	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Warwick, New York	· License agreement executed 2/9/2016. · 10-year term for \$1,350/year, renewable subject to negotiation.
HP Heights LLC	LA GRANGE	Use in commerce	Restaurant and Event Venue in Houston, Texas	· License agreement executed 9/17/2019. · 10-year term for \$1,300/year, renewable subject to negotiation.

Kennex (Hong Kong) Limited	GRANGEHOUSE design mark	U.S. Reg. No. 5,273,821; Use in commerce	Household goods	· License agreement executed 7/5/2017. · 10-year term for \$1,000/year, renewable subject to negotiation. · Upon termination or expiration of the agreement, U.S. Reg. No. 5,273,821 for GRANGEHOUSE design mark will be voluntarily surrendered within ten days. · Renewal of the GRANGEHOUSE mark is due between 08/29/2022 – 08/28/2023, but use of the mark does not appear on the owner's website at https://www.kennex.com.hk
Groundhog Productions LLC (9763)	THE GRANGE	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Providence, Rhode Island	· License agreement executed 1/16/2013. · 10-year term at \$1,000/year.
Hamilton Point Granary LLC d/b/a The Grange Bar and Eatery (9761)	THE GRANGE BAR AND EATERY NYC	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Harlem, New York City	· License agreement executed 2/22/2013. · 12-year term at \$1,000/year; renewable by licensee for another 5-year term at \$1,200/year. · Business name changing to Sugar Hill 141 LLC; awaiting execution of Amendment to License Agreement from Licensee
HCSV Foundation , Inc. t/a Historic Cold Spring Village (9617)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Cape May, New Jersey	· License agreement executed 8/14/2009. · 15-year term; renewable for subsequent 5-year terms; annual fee of \$10 plus 10% discount to Grange members. · In August 2012, Tony Clark, the chef operating the Old Grange Restaurant, signed an amendment to his lease acknowledging that he is subject to the terms of the license. · Changed name to Cold Spring Grange Restaurant · License Addendum executed on 3/6/2017 reflecting the new name.

Home on the Grange Childcare Center (9662)	HOME ON THE GRANGE	Use in commerce	Child care services in Middletown, Connecticut	· License agreement executed March 2011. · Agreement for one-year term and \$100 fee; to be renewed by agreement. · Status of renewal: They keep sending fees annually · Amended to 3-year term at \$100 per year on 6/10/2014, due on January 1 of each year. · License renewed for an additional 5-year term on 02/27/2018 for \$125/year.
Lane Pomona Grange Fraternal Society	Lane Pomona Grange Fraternal Society	Use in commerce	Springfield, Oregon	· Royalty-free license executed 6/27/2014. · 10-year term.
Maine Grange Store, Inc. (9634)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Produce retail store in Maine	· Prior license agreements executed 8/25/2010 and 8/29/2011. · Current agreement executed 12/8/2014. · Agreement for 5-year term and \$100/year; to be renewed by agreement. · Contacting Maine State Grange Master regarding renewal.
Middletown Grange Fair	MIDDLETOWN GRANGE FAIR	Use in commerce	Annual event put on by the Middletown Grange in Penns Park, Pennsylvania (www.middletowngrangefair.org)	· Royalty-free license executed 8/26/2015. · 5-year term. · Contacting Middletown Grange Fair regarding renewal.
Monroe Classic, Inc. (9912)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Online retailer of GRANGE branded items (promoplace.com/grange)	· License agreement/sales agreement renewed and executed on 8/1/2019. · Status of renewal: Year by year. · Mr. Watson told them not to advertise Grange footwear.

Morris Press Cookbooks	P of H logo	Use in commerce	Cookbook publisher in Kearney, Nebraska	· Limited license in connection with the publication of a Maine State Grange sponsored cookbook. · Indefinite term
Newkoa LLC	GRANGE HALL 39	Use in commerce	Food hall in Buena Park, California	· License agreement executed 8/12/2019. · 10-year term for \$1,300/year, renewable subject to negotiation.
Oregon State Grange Foundation	OREGON STATE GRANGE FOUNDATION	Use in commerce	501(c)(3) corporation supporting Grangers and scholarships in Salem, Oregon	· Royalty-free license executed 6/27/2014. · 5-year term. · Contacting Oregon State Grange Master regarding renewal.
Purple Crayon Productions, Inc. d/b/a ArtisTree Community Arts Center (064)	THE GRANGE THEATRE	Use in commerce	Community theater productions and education programs at the former Teago Grange Hall in South Pomfret, Vermont	· License agreement executed 2/27/2017. · 5-year term at \$500 per year. · Legal fee for drafting and negotiation of the agreement was paid by ArtisTree. · Terminates on 2/27/2022
Rockford Grange at Bear Hollow Ranch, Inc.(002)	ROCKFORD GRANGE AT BEAR HOLLOW RANCH	Use in commerce	Event hall for weddings, reunions, corporate events in Washburn, Missouri.	· License Agreement executed 9/28/2015. · 15-year term, \$1,350 for first 10 years, and \$1,500 for the last 5 years.

Sacramento Hotel, LLC (9615)	GRANGE RESTAURANT & BAR	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Citizen Hotel, 926 J Street, Sacramento, Cal.	· License agreement executed 12/8/2009 with Cal West Partners, L.P. · 10-year term at \$1,000 per year, plus \$5,000 upfront fee (includes new licensees), 10% discount to overnight stays at Citizen Hotel for Grange members; · Automatically renewable for 10 years if Citizen Hotel continues to operate as a 3 star or better AAA hotel. · License agreement assigned to Sacramento Hotel, LLC on 9/1/2015. · Use of "GRANGE RESTAURANT & BAR" now seen at https://www.thecitizenhotel.com/en-us/dine?page_id=2691161
Santa Clara Grange #746 Charitable Foundation	Santa Clara Grange 746 Charitable Foundation	Use in commerce	Nonprofit connected to Santa Clara Grange in Eugene, Oregon	· Royalty-free license executed 6/27/2014. · 10-year term.
Smithington Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Atwood Ales (058)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Brewery in Blaine, Washington	· License agreement executed 4/21/2017. · 5-year term. · License fee each year would be the greater of \$200 or 1% of gross profits of the previous year. · Terminates on 4/21/2022
Granger Tavern, LLC d/b/a Grange Kitchen and Bar (9923)	GRANGE KITCHEN AND BAR	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Ann Arbor, Michigan	· License agreement executed 8/23/2010. · 10-year term; renewable for subsequent 5-year terms; \$1,000/year plus 10% discount for Grange members and use of facility for Grange events. · Need to ascertain whether this license agreement was renewed for a subsequent 5-year term.

Smooch Arts, Inc. (9646)	PORTAGE BAY GRANGE	Use in commerce	Urban farming and homesteading supplies store in Seattle, Washington	· License agreement executed 4/24/2012. · 5-year term for \$100 upfront fee; \$200 fee April 2013; \$300 fee April 2014; \$400 fee April 2015 and \$500 fee April 2016. · License renewable for another 5-year term; license fee can be increased by no more than 5% per year. · License was renewed for another 5-year term, until 4/24/2022. · Currently delinquent; licensee is contemplating closing business due to unprofitability; requested termination of license and prorated fee with last day of use to be 12/31/2019; · Contacting Licensee regarding unpaid license fees and termination.
Urban Grange Coffee & Bakery Company (9657)	URBAN GRANGE COFFEE & BAKERY COMPANY	Use in commerce	Coffee shop and bakery in Salem, Oregon	· License Agreement executed 4/2/2014. · 5-year term at \$1,000 per year. · Expired on 4/2/2019 · Letter being prepared demanding that former Licensee cease all use of GRANGE mark.
Urban Grange Farm, LLC (079)	URBAN GRANGE FARM	Use in commerce	Farm and CSA program in Hephzibah, GA	· License Agreement executed 8/17/2017. · 5-year term at \$500 per year. · Terminates 8/17/2022
Whallonsburg Grange Hall, Inc. (9798)	GRANGE HALL	Use in commerce	Hall in Essex, NY	· License agreement executed 4/24/2014. · 5-year term at \$100 per year. · Renewed April 10, 2019.

Willowsford LLC (9639)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Housing development in Loudoun County, Virginia	· License agreement executed 5/15/2012. · 10-year term, renewable. · Assignment agreement with NVR, Inc. executed on 9/7/2016.
Wilson Gardens (036)	THE GRANGE	Use in commerce	Event space at farm in Wilson, Arkansas	· License agreement executed 7/28/2016. · 5-year term at \$250 per year. · Terminates on 7/28/2021

TRADEMARK PROTECTION

Prepared by SGR Law

NATIONAL GRANGE: OTHER AUTHORIZED USERS OF GRANGE MARKS

November 2020

Company	Mark	Use Status	Operation/Location	Background
The Meat Block LLC and the South Greenville Grange	GRANGE HALL BROTS	Use in commerce	Bratwurst sausages/WI	· Joint sales agreement between Meat Block LLC and South Greenville Grange, Wisconsin executed 9/7/2010. · Not displayed or advertised to the general public on a regular basis. · Grange chapter earns 5% commission on all sales.
New England Grange Association	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Produce retail store operated by six Granges/New England	· Have photos of store and items on sale as evidence of use of GRANGE mark in commerce.
Connecticut State Grange	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Sale of GRANGE-branded foods by Grange chapters	· Have photos of labeled jars of food as evidence of use of GRANGE mark in commerce.
Grange Supply Cooperative	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Cooperative farm supply stores in Washington and Idaho	· Grange Supply was sold by the Washington State Grange to CHS Farm Supply Cooperative which included the rights to operate the stores under the existing Grange Supply name. · Legacy company

NC Grange Mutual Insurance Company (028)	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Insurance services to people in North Carolina	· License agreement negotiations have been put on hold. · Legacy company
The Oklahoma Grange Mutual Insurance Association	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Provides insurance to people in Oklahoma	· License agreement negotiations have been put on hold. · Legacy company
The Grange Mutual Casualty Group	GRANGE	Use in commerce	Provides insurance services to 13 states and is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio; Legacy company	· Legacy company

TRADEMARK PROTECTION

Prepared by SGR Law

NATIONAL GRANGE: FORMER LICENSEES November 2020

Licensee/Matter No.	Mark	Use Status	Operation/Location	Terms
Healdsburg Shed (9756)	A MODERN GRANGE	Use in commerce	Food market, retail sales, educational services, and meeting facility in Healdsburg, California	· License agreement executed 4/25/2013. · 5-year term at \$300 for first three years, then \$400, then \$500. · Renewable by licensee for two additional 5-year terms at 5% increase. · Terminated May, 2019 · Contacting Doug Lipton regarding expressed possible interest regarding taking a new license
Michele Woodbury (9990)	PAMOLA GRANGE CENTER	Use in commerce	Convention, banquet and social functions facilities/ME	· License agreement executed 8/11/2005. · Ceased licensed use in 2006, according to 6/5/2012 telephone call from Ms. Woodbury. · In March 2012, Machias Bank foreclosed upon and offered for sale to public; license terminates on sale; we informed bank attorney that new owner cannot use Grange name without authorization.
Best Fraternal Supply Inc.	GRANGE, NATIONAL GRANGE, GRANGE Logo, Emblems	Use in commerce	Promotional items, including Grange calendars, placemats, custom-ordered Grange logo clothing/OR (Ed Luttrell's daughter and son-in-law.)	· Company went out of business.

Grange Farm School (021)	GRANGE FARM SCHOOL	Use in commerce	Training programs providing hands-on experience and education on agricultural production methods and skills necessary as a farmer	· License agreement executed 3/23/2016. · 1-year term for a license fee of \$200. · At the termination of the license agreement, the name changed to School of Adaptive Agriculture.
Saco River Grange Hall (9631)	SACO RIVER GRANGE HALL	Use in commerce	Non-profit theater and concert hall/ME	· Phased out as of November 2012.
C.J. & R. Enterprises, Inc.; Rita Mueller (9653)	GRANGE HALL ANTIQUES	Use in commerce	Antique retailer in New Market, Maryland	· License Agreement executed 1/28/2014. · 5-year term at \$100 per year · Rita Mueller, a Granger, sought and obtained the local Grange's permission to call her business "Grange Hall Antiques" when she started the business in the old Grange Hall 22 years ago. · SGR contacted in Nov. 2013. · Rita emailed terminating the license agreement on 10/17/2016 because her business has closed.
Stone Barn Center for Food and Agriculture (9786)	VIRTUAL GRANGE	Use in commerce	Nonprofit farm and education center in Pocantico Hills, New York	· License Agreement executed 9/10/2014 for Growing Farmers Initiative (educational and training program for young and new farmer). · 10-year term at \$1,000 per year. · License Agreement terminated 3/12/2018 by David Lindsey after the business changed its concept; confirmed by Grange intern Mr. Drake.

Grange Hall Burger Bar (9744)	GRANGE HALL BURGER BAR	Use in commerce	Restaurant in Chicago, Illinois	· License agreement executed 5/14/2012. · 5-year term for \$500 per year. · Interested in renewing and draft license agreement was sent to Angela Lee on 4/27/2017. · Email received from Angela Lee terminating the license agreement on 6/5/2018 because the restaurant was changing concepts; confirmed by Grange intern Mr. Drake.
Grange & Company (022)	GRANGE & COMPANY	Use in commerce	Furniture making and design, architectural interior design and renovation, and graphic design services in Portland, Oregon	· License agreement executed 8/30/2016. · 5-year term at \$25 per quarter (total \$100 a year). · License agreement terminated 2/20/2018.
Queensway Limited (9613)	LA GRANJA	Trademark Office and in commerce	Wine company in Del Mar, California	· License agreement executed 6/30/2011. · 10-year term at \$1,000 per year; renewable by right for 5 years; renewable at option of parties thereafter. · Grange paid \$5,000 to Queensway for trademark (U.S. Reg. No. 4,154,376), money placed in escrow. · First 5 years to be deducted from Grange \$5,000 escrow. · On 3/25/2013, Queensway renewed assignment of LA GRANJA mark for wine to National Grange. · Recorded assignment with USPTO. · Queensway is not using LA GRANJA for wine.

TRADEMARK PROTECTION

Prepared by SGR Law

NATIONAL GRANGE: ACTIVE CASES

October 2019- November 2020

Adverse Party	Trademark/ Domain Name	Trademark App. or Use in Commerce	Goods or Services	Demand	Status/Next Steps
VermontStateGrange.org (048)	VermontStateGrange.org	Use in commerce	Blog website	N/A	· Submitted Whois inaccuracy complaint on 9/12/2016 · Complaint was closed on 10/5/2016 and on review, website content had been removed · SGR has obtained the domain name through a backorder and attempted to transfer to the Vermont State Grange in January 2019. · Contacting Vermont State Master to effectuate transfer again.
Tetra Capital Management LLC (130)	HEADLEY GRANGE	TM Application Serial No. 88/132,655	Financial services	Withdraw application	· Demand letter sent on November 29, 2018 · Opposition proceeding initiated on 2/26/2019 · On August 5, 2020, Tetra Capital filed a motion for summary judgment, · On September 3, 2020 we filed a response, · On September 23, 2020, Tetra Capital filed a reply brief in support of motion for summary judgment · Awaiting decision from TTAB

LaGrange (141)	LAGRANGE.STORE	Use in commerce	Parchment paper	Cease use	· Demand letter sent on March 29, 2019 · As of November 24, 2020, the LAGRANGE.STORE website is still active. · Following up with owner
Banner Grange (148)	BANNER GRANGE	Use in commerce	Event venue	Cease use	· Demand letter sent on August 19, 2019 · Mike Haney agreed to change the name to one without Grange by the end of the year. · As of 11/13/2020, the use of GRANGE was been removed – new name is Banner Event Venue; website at https://bannereventvenue.com/ · An Internet search revealed uses of “Banner Grange” in connection with a heading for Banner Event Venue Contact, which states “The Banner Grange” and a Yelp review from 2019 for The Banner Grange. · Contacting Mike Heney to resolve these outstanding uses of GRANGE
Rochester Grangers (158)	ROCHESTER GRANGERS	Use in commerce since the 1860's	Vintage baseball team from Rochester, Michigan	No action	· Investigating the use of this trade name and mark

Hong Kong NetEase Interactive Entertainment (159)	INFINITE LAGRANGE (App. Serial Nos. 88/673,442 and 88/673,449)	Trademark Office – Office Actions issued 8/7/2020, rejecting specimens of use.	Computer games and programs, gaming services	No action	· Monitoring use
The Hemp Grange / Thomas Dubiel (162)	GRANGE	Use in Commerce; http://thehempgrange.com/ appears to no longer be active	Hemp manufacturing and retail services	Cease use	· Demand Letter sent February 12, 2020 · Complaint filed in U.S. District Court for The District of Oregon on 4/13/2020 · We were not able to locate Mr. Dubiel to serve him until recently · Affidavit of Service being filed with the Court, although Extension of time to serve has been granted until January 6, 2021.
Grange Recorders / Keith Banning (166)	GRANGE RECORDERS	Use in commerce at https://www.grangerecorders.com/	Music producer / engineer		· Corresponding with Suzy Ramm, of Oregon State Grange to receive information about the Grange's support of local musicians Demand letter will be sent · Demand letter will be sent after we receive information from Oregon State Grange

Pradier Groupe (168)		TM Application Serial No. 79282800 and Use in Commerce at https://lagrangette.io/	Agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture and forestry related goods and services	Abandon trademark application and cease use of mark in the U.S.	· Demand letter sent August 12, 2020 · Response received Oct. 8, 2020; Reply sent Oct. 14, 2020. · Office Action was issued against LA GRANGETTE & Design trademark application – response entered October 30, 2020. · Followed up with opposing counsel on Nov. 3, 2020; followed up again with opposing counsel on Nov. 16, 2020 – No response yet.
Todd Miller and VRL II, LLC t/a Grain & Grange (170)	GRAIN & GRANGE	Use in commerce at https://grainandgrange.com/	Furniture store	Take license	· Demand letter sent June 25, 2020; · Response e-mail from Todd Miller received on June 26, 2020 requesting addtl information about taking license; · License template sent July 10, 2020 to opposing counsel – Patrick O’Hara · After several follow ups with opposing counsel, we received communication from opposing counsel requesting an extension to respond until October 31, 2020 – opposing counsel is tied up in prior litigation. · Followed up with opposing counsel on Oct. 30, 2020 and as of Nov. 10, 2020 we’re negotiating terms of License Agreement with opposing counsel. · We are corresponding with opposing counsel to finalize a license agrmt.

Wang Jinming (171)	GREINGWAYS	Registration No. 6122535	Apparel	No action	· Monitoring use of mark by registrant, who is located in China.
Bodega y Vinedos Fernandez Rivera, S.L. (175)	DEHESA LA GRANJA	Registration No. 6,184,913	Alcoholic beverages	No Action	· Monitoring for importation of alcoholic beverages by registrant, who is located in Spain.
Not known (178)	GRANGE.WINE	No use in commerce	Website not active		· Monitoring website
HerdDogg, Inc. (180)	THE GRANGE	TM Application Serial No. 90144667 and Use in Commerce at https://www.herddogg.com/grange/	Data collection and tracking of livestock	Abandon trademark application and cease use of mark; On October 20, 2020 we proposed that HerdDogg take a license.	· Demand letter sent September 16, 2020 · Held phone conversations with opposing counsel to discuss demand letter, and on October 14, 2020 we received a written response from opposing counsel; Reply sent Oct. 20, 2020. · Followed up with opposing counsel on October 29, 2020; Response received from opposing counsel Oct. 30, 2020; sent reply e-mail Nov. 2, 2020 and License Agreement Template on Nov. 6, 2020. · Followed up with opposing counsel regarding license agreement on Nov. 16, 2020.
Not known (181)	PELTONGRANGEFARM.COM	No use in commerce	Website not active		· Monitoring

Grange Food Co. and Grange Digital Marketing (184)	GRANGE FOOD CO. / GRANGE DIGITAL MARKETING	Use in commerce at https://grangefoodcompany.com/ and https://grangedigital.com/	Food vlog and digital marketing	Cease use and delete domains	· Demand letter sent September 28, 2020 · Opposing Party responded on October 8, 2020 that they will discontinue use of “Grange” and change business names à 3-months phase out period until January 12, 2021. · Opposing party is in the 3-month phase out period and we will monitor thorough January 12, 2021.
SWVP Nashville Hotel LLC (185)		TM Application Serial No. 90179918	Restaurant services	Take license	· Demand letter sent October 2, 2020; License agreement template sent October 5, 2020 · Phone conversation with opposing counsel on Oct. 9, 2020 about taking license à opposing counsel requested reduced fees - Corresponded with client about opposing counsel's proposed terms · Sent proposed license agreement terms to opposing counsel 11/2/20 · Followed up with opposing counsel on Nov. 16, 2020.

Granger's International Ltd. (186)	GRANGERS (Stylized)	TM Application Serial No. 90/199,803	Various goods/services – including clothing in Class 25.	Amend identificat ion to delete disputed goods	· Demand Letter sent October 21, 2020. · Nov. 2, 2020-received confirmation that opposing counsel is checking with client; · Followed up with opposing counsel on Nov. 16, 2020.
Granger insulation (187)	GRANGERINSULATION.COM	Use in commerce	Home insulation services		· Investigating the use of this trade name and mark
Millbrook Grange (188)	MILLBROOKGRANGE.COM	No use in commerce of GRANGE	Vacation home for rent in Brownsville, Vermont		· Investigating the use GRANGE by this entity
Lagrange smokehouse (189)	LAGRANGESMOKEHOUSE.COM	Use in commerce	Reviews of mattresses		· Investigating the use of this trade name and mark
Cannabis Grange (190)	CANNABISGRANGE.COM	Use in Commerce	Online retail sale of cannabis products		· Researching company information
Color Grange (191)	COLORGRANGE.COM	Use in commerce, including on Etsy at https://www.etsy.com/shop/ColorGrange	Online retail sale of art prints and photographs		· Investigating the use of this trade name and mark

COMPLETE INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS & ACTIONS

AGRICULTURE		
RES. # STATE	TITLE	ACTION
101-CA	Small Farmer Resolution	Adverse
102-CA	Solar Powered Tractors & Farm Equipment	Policy Statement
103-IL	Agriculture Mental Health	Policy Statement
104-MD	Consider All Relevant Data for Dietary Guidelines	Adopted
105-MD	Farm System Reform Act	Present Policy & Covered by (AG-109-PA)
106-OR	Support for Right to Repair	Present Policy
107-PA	Food Donation Improvement Act	Adopted
108-PA	Livestock Slaughter Processing	Adopted
109-PA	Reinstate Country of Origin (Cool) Labeling	Policy Statement
110-VT	Community Food Security Plan and Food Security Act	Transferred to Grange Growth
111-WA	Brand Inspections	Withdrawn
112-WA	Definition of Meat and Meat Products	Adopted
113-WA	Expand Livestock Grazing to Reduce Wildfire Load	Adopted
114-WA	Livestock Diseases	Withdrawn
115-WA	Preventing Animal Disease	Present Policy
116-WA	Support for Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act	Adopted
117-WA	Support for the Agricultural Fairs Rescue Act	Adopted
118-AG	Secular Foods	Adopted

AUDIT & BUDGET		
RES # STATE	TITLE	ACTION
	Audit and Budget Committee Resolution #1	Adopted

CITIZENSHIP & TAXATION		
RES # STATE	TITLE	ACTION
301-CA	"Gut and Replace" and "Gut and Amend" Legislation	State Issue
302-CA	Ownership of American Media Companies	Adopted
303-IL	Destruction of Monuments	Policy Statement
304-IN	False News Stories	Adverse
305-MD	Term Limits for Congress	Present Policy
306-MD	Virtual Learning Requires Broadband	Present Policy
307-OR	Change National Primaries	State Issue
308-OR	Citizenship for Veterans	Adopted
309-VT	Rural Broadband Services	Present Policy
310-VT	Strive for Social and Racial Justice	Policy Statement
311-WA	Homeless Veterans	Adopted
312-WA	Local Newspaper Support	Adopted
313-WA	National Observance Day for Eleanor Roosevelt	Adopted

EDUCATION & HEALTH		
RES # STATE	TITLE	ACTION
501-CA	Support Aggressive Testing and Contact Tracing During Pandemics	Policy Statement
502-CA	Support the Center for Disease Control and Recommendations for the Control and Prevention of COVID-19	Policy Statement
503-CA	Support the World Health Organization	Adverse
504-IN	Foreign Medical Drug Supplies	Covered by 509-ME
505-IN	Project 1619 Curriculum	State Issue
506-MD	Chronic Pain Management	Covered by 517-PA
507-MD	Provide Remote Learning Devices	Policy Statement
508-MD	Reopen Schools	State Issue
509-ME	Essential Supplies	Adopted (covers 504)
510-NC	Pandemic Preparedness	Adopted
511-NC	Senior Care During Pandemics	Adopted (Covers 518-PA)
512-NY	Lower Drug Costs Now Act	Present Policy
513-NY	Outpatient Observation Stays	Adopted

514-NY	Seeding Rural Resilience Act	Adopted
515-OR	End Price Gouging for Insulin	Policy Statement
516-OR	Healthcare Open Enrollment	Adverse
517-PA	Chronic Pain Management	Adopted (Covers 506-MD)
518-PA	Protection of Nursing Home Residents and Staff for COVID-19	Covered by 511-NC
519-PA	Service Animal Certifications	Rejected
520-WA	Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Vaccine	Policy Statement
521-WA	Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act (SRSCA	Adopted
522-E&H	Vaccinations	Adopted

GRANGE GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT		
RES # STATE	TITLE	ACTION
110-VT	Community Food Security Plan	Policy Statement
601-CA	Update Community Grange Manual	Adopted as amended
602-DC	Youth and Junior Program Funding Assessment	Adverse
603-NJ	National Grange Building	Adverse
604-OR	Pomona Grange Recognition Programs and Awards	Adverse
605-PA	National Grange Virtual Hall of Fame	Adopted
606-TX	Electronic Submission of Community Service Reports	Adopted as amended
607-WA	National Grange Building Repair	Rejected

GRANGE LAW		
701-CA	Amend 4.6.6 of the National Grange Digest of Laws	Withdrawn
702-CA	Amend Section 4.10.6 (A) of the National Grange Digest of Laws (2ND READING)	Adopted
703-CA	Amend 4.8.2(G) of the National Grange Digest of Laws	Withdrawn
704-CA	Amend Instruction for Community Grange Alternative Opening	Policy Statement
705-CA	Amend Section 4.10.7 (B) of the National Grange Digest of Laws	Covered by committee resolution 722
706-CA	Amend Sections 4.10.7(B) of the National Grange Digest of Laws	Covered by committee resolution 722
707-CA	Officer Titles Name Change	Rejected

708-CA	Update Language of the National Grange Digest of Laws	Rejected
709-CO	Amend Section 4.10.6 (A) of the National Grange Digest of Laws	Policy Statement
710-CO	Round Table Format for Grange Meetings	Policy Statement
711-CO	Video Degrees	Policy Statement
712-CT	Sale of Grange Property	Adopted as amended
713-DC	Add Youth Member to Executive Committee Board of Directors	Adverse
714-MN	Amend section 4.10.7(B) of the National Grange Digest of Laws	Covered by committee resolution 722
715-NJ	Three Graces Titles	Adverse
716-PA	Pomona Grange Password	Adverse
717-TX	Annual State Dues to National	Adverse
718-MI	Gold Sheaf Membership	Adverse
719-WA	Removing Barriers to Membership	Present Policy
720-WA	Round Table Format for Grange Meetings	Policy Statement
721-	Update Language Of The National Grange Digest Of Laws	Rejected
722	Procedure for Suspension and Removal of officers	Adopted
RES # STATE	TITLE	ACTION

LABOR, JUDICIARY & TRANSPORTATION		
RES #	TITLE	ACTION
801-CA	Repeal USPS Pre-Funding of Retirement	Present Policy
802-IL	Roundabouts	State Issue
803-IN	Open Ended Monthly Service Contracts	Adverse
804-MD	Repeat Violent Offenders	Adopted as Amended
805-NC	Supporting the United States Postal Service	Covered by 808
806-NY	Dairy and Sheep H-2A Visa Enhancement Act	Adopted
807-NY	Developing Responsible Individual for a Vibrant Economy Act	Rejected
808-NY	USPS Emergency Funding	Adopted
809-OR	Support of Law Enforcement Officers	Present Policy
810-TX	United States and Mexico Water Treaty	Adopted

811-VT	Support for the United States Postal Service	Present Policy
812-WA	Aid to Developing Countries	Adopted
813-WA	Membership of the United States Supreme Court	Adopted
814-WA	Minimum Wage for Younger Teens Age 13-15	Adverse
815-WA	Updating the National Grange Policies Regarding Undocumented Immigrants	Adverse

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT

POLICY STATEMENT

Agriculture is, as always, a foundation of America's economy, providing directly or indirectly through value-added processing, and is currently approximately 5.2% (\$1.109 Trillion) of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For over 150 years, the National Grange has been working to improve agriculture in America and the welfare of those who work the soil or care for the creatures of the field. Our roots are in agriculture, and our future is tied to our faith in the perennial cycle of planting and harvest.

Conservation of our soil, water and air quality remains a priority for the Grange, keeping in mind that all pertinent regulations should reflect local conditions. A key component of the future security of our water supply for both domestic and agricultural uses is the ability to store it. Challenges from environmental groups and climate change have brought progress in that area to a standstill. The National Grange will continue to promote water storage projects that benefit agricultural and domestic needs while appropriately safeguarding fish and wildlife safety concerns.

Agricultural producers have been leaders in protecting the environment. The National Grange urges Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agencies to implement Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs). Good soil health, including proper nutrient management, is a priority, and we encourage all farmers to develop and follow a Nutrient Management Plan to ensure that no more nutrients are applied than are needed to grow the crop. As computer technology becomes more integral to farming and the equipment used, we encourage the use of precision agricultural technologies to benefit the environment and improve farm operational efficiency. The National Grange should engage in public relations efforts to showcase the work and leadership of farmers and ranchers in adapting to and utilizing best management practices. The National Grange also supports research and development of alternative fuel sources for agricultural use that will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The National Grange wishes to express its appreciation to the USDA for its support to farmers through programs like the Farmers to Families Food Box Program. These programs enabled the purchase of foods that would have potentially been destroyed. As well, the Paycheck Protection Program provided a real lifeline to both business and agriculture by providing badly needed financial resources to replenish lost revenues caused by drops in livestock and grain prices. The National Grange recognizes that an additional challenge facing producers is the fluctuation in commodity prices coupled with ever-rising cost of inputs and the yearly increases in property taxes. We will continue to work on solutions to help minimize their impact on the agriculture sector.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for local processing of our food supplies of beef, pork, poultry and dairy has become more evident than ever before. Increased regional or local processing would have helped offset the devastating losses caused by the shutdown of large food processing plants. Closing down one plant, even for a few weeks, backs up production across the country, crashes prices paid to farmers and leads to huge surpluses at the farm and severe meat shortages for the consumer.

The National Grange continues to monitor issues concerning GMO-related food production and labeling. Specifically, we endorse the recommendations of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation titled "Gene Editing for the Climate: Biological Solutions for Curbing Greenhouse Emissions", which concludes with a set of policy recommendations urging governments around the world to accelerate the development and deployment of gene-edited climate solutions by acting to:

1. Eliminate unscientific regulatory burdens and barriers that hinder the development of safe gene-edited products.
2. Increase investment in research and development (R&D) priorities such as advancing CRISPR tools, enhancing photosynthesis, and improving methods to measure soil carbon.
3. Improve coordination of existing R&D efforts within the United States and around the world.
4. Expand incentives that will spur the rapid adoption of novel gene-edited technologies.

The National Grange supports voluntary labeling of Genetically Modified products. We further request that the National Grange Legislative Director share the latest reliable research on this subject with State Granges on a continual basis. As consumers become more concerned about where and how their food is produced, the National Organic Program (NOP) has become more popular. The National Grange supports the continued growth and federal support for the NOP, in order to meet the increasing consumer demand for organic food products.

Support for Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) is a long-standing position of the National Grange and is favored by consumers. We support food labeling programs that provide clear information about country of origin and processing, so that consumers can make informed choices about the food they feed their families. Furthermore, we believe that a food that is labeled Product of the USA shall be both grown and processed in the USA.

Food safety continues to be a significant issue for Americans in light of the ever-increasing amount of our food that is imported. We believe the responsibility for all food safety inspection should fall under one federal agency, preferably the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

On climate change, the National Grange supports The Growing Climate Solutions Act which would create a USDA system for certifying third-party verifiers and technical assistance providers. Farmers and ranchers could receive assistance and incentives for implementing practices which reduce carbon emissions on their operations. In addition, they could sell excess carbon credits to commercial firms who exceed their carbon emission cap. Healthy pollinator's populations are critical to food production in the US. We are pleased that the USDA has information available to assist first-time beekeepers in learning how to begin production. The National Grange supports ongoing efforts to preserve proven pollinators health practices, while identifying new pesticide crop treatments that are not harmful to pollinator's populations. Although Neonicotinoids are a critical component of seed treatments, their misuse via over-the-counter products has resulted in their increasing presence in water and wetlands. Their toxic effect on pollinator's populations has reached the point where we feel it is time to consider designating Neonicotinoids as a restricted use pesticide. We support additional education efforts designed to inform producers as to the toxic nature of Neonicotinoids that are present in treated seeds and the positive aspects of having untreated seeds available for planting.

The use of drone or UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) technology is rapidly becoming an important tool for agricultural production. However, privacy concerns have arisen as drones have become more popular. The National Grange supports the implementation of developed FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) regulations governing the use of drones, and will continue to work with USDA, FAA and other agricultural organizations to address issues related to drone use as they pertain to agriculture.

The National Grange continues to support extensive research by our Land Grant Colleges and Universities into both short-term and long-term effects on the environment and on human nutrition, of all new crops, whether Genetically-Modified or traditionally bred. One of the major issues facing animal agriculture in our country are the efforts by certain "Animal Rights" groups to define "Humane Treatment" of animals. The National Grange should work together with other like-minded groups, to ensure that sound science is used in determining humane treatment of animals. The National Grange strongly supports agriculture education at all levels, including agriculture science as well as Cooperative Extension Service, and encourages the partnership between 4-H, FFA and Cooperative Extension Service to draw on and develop leadership abilities. Adequate funding of Extension must be continued and increased if we wish to ensure the availability of innovative practices and new tools beneficial to agriculture and society. We support educational programs, such as Farm to Table or Farm to School, that teach the importance of proper diet and nutrition. It is more critical now than ever to help consumers understand the basic food system, where their food comes from, and what, if any, genetic alteration was integral to its development. It is vital that we encourage the younger generation to enter into farming. We support programs or policies that will enhance the ability of young farmers to be successful as they pursue production agriculture as an occupation. Opportunities exist to expand agricultural tourism as an additional source of income for farm families. The National Grange urges government at all levels to remove unnecessary laws and regulations and work to pass legislation to limit liability exposure that hampers the expansion of agricultural tourism.

As production agriculture becomes more dependent on computer technology, access to high-speed internet has become critical to farming and marketing activities. High-speed internet access is also critical to the agricultural operations that desperately need it to enable their high-tech precision farming equipment that is used to grow crops using less water, seed, fertilizer and pesticides. The National Grange strongly supports expanded funding efforts necessary to develop high-speed internet access in rural areas that are currently under-served.

The 2018 Farm Bill provided additional funding to help close the existing gap between feed costs and average milk prices. This, along with restructured premium rates, benefitted small-to-medium sized dairy producers. The National Grange also appreciates the establishment of a new Foot and Mouth disease vaccine bank. These improvements and other provisions designed to provide equitable treatment for all commodities on all farm sizes in all regions of the country need to continue to be addressed. The National Grange also strongly supports retaining adequate levels of financial support for the USDA Risk Management Division and the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP), so that coverages accurately reflect cost of production and provide adequate price protection; yet ensure that premiums remain affordable. Disaster Relief programs are also a critical component of farm income safety nets. We also strongly urge that provisions are made to adequately address the needs for a reliable source of seasonal as well as year-round farm labor. Bills have been introduced, but none have been able to advance through Congress. This lack of action has been frustrating because the need for an affordable and adequate work force remains a critical agriculture issue. While many issues were resolved by the 2018 Farm Bill, plenty of challenges still

need to be addressed, such as the creation of more mental health programs for production agricultural workers. In order to incorporate these urgent needs, we suggest work begin soon on a new Farm Bill.

The National Grange continues to support the principle that only those foods from mammalian sources should be allowed to use the term "milk." The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) should not allow the labeling of nutritionally inferior plant or artificial substitutes as "milk," "yogurt" or "cheese". The USDA must retain the authority to regulate the emergence of the efforts to grow "meat" in a laboratory setting. The Grange supports the principle that the term "meat" can only be used to describe animal protein derived from harvested production livestock, poultry, seafood or wildlife, wild or domestic.

Milk prices to the farmer have continued to drop over the past 20 years, while production costs have continued to climb. The Grange must continue to work to educate consumers on the positive qualities of whole milk and lowering the unacceptable level of waste of our food that currently occurs on a daily basis in this country. Education efforts such as these will lead to more demand for our domestically produced milk, thus leading to higher prices for our producers, and less waste of food will make more available for government-assistance food programs. Food security includes everyone having enough to eat of course, but also involves farmers earning enough to stay in business, government not overregulating normal agricultural practices, advancements in scientific research, and reliance on sound science not popular opinion. Food security includes reducing food waste, preparing for climate change, water and soil conservation, and animal welfare. Food security was identified by National Grange delegates several years ago as a top priority and it will continue to be a focus in the coming years.

Individual incomes in developing countries are rising, leading to changes in diet that will increase demands on the world's food supply even as population growth adds its inevitable impact. The National Grange supports new and progressive trade pacts that lower trade barriers and promote fair trade. Farmers prefer fair trade for their products rather than government payments.

Cooperative nonpartisan effort is the "Grange way," and an understanding of the direct relationship between science and the natural world. The words written by National Master Oliver Wilson in 1919 are appropriate today, in that the time has come to simply classify agriculture as one of the great industries that make up our economic structure, and the need to treat agriculture as a vital part of that structure. Over one hundred years later we are still facing the same struggle, still selling products at less than the cost of production. We have the choice- pay the farmer a fair price or import our food. "No nation can prosper whose agriculture deteriorates."

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

AGRICULTURE		
RES. # STATE	TITLE	ACTION
104-MD	Consider All Relevant Data for Dietary Guidelines	Adopted
107-PA	Food Donation Improvement Act	Adopted
108-PA	Livestock Slaughter Processing	Adopted
112-WA	Definition of Meat and Meat Products	Adopted
113-WA	Expand Livestock Grazing to Reduce Wildfire Load	Adopted
117-WA	Support for the Agricultural Fairs Rescue Act	Adopted
116-WA	Support for Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act	Adopted
118-AG	Secular Foods	Adopted

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

AG-104-MD-CONSIDER ALL RELEVANT DATA FOR DIETARY GUIDELINES

WHEREAS: the Dietary Guidelines for America (DGA) program was introduced in 1980 to set our nation's nutritional policies, and it directly influences Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), SNAP, and the School Lunch Program and is used by physicians, nutritionists, dietitians, and other health professionals to promote good health, prevent chronic disease, and help Americans reach a healthy weight; and

WHEREAS: by law, these guidelines are updated every five years by a partnership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Health and Human Services (HHS) and are supposed to incorporate the latest research and advances in nutritional sciences; and

WHEREAS: the DGA committee is packed with proponents of the low-fat diet and have rejected the findings of studies showing that childhood obesity, diabetes, and heart diseases have risen dramatically since the low-fat diet has been implemented; and

WHEREAS: recent research has shown that whole milk and meats are an outstanding source of vital fat-soluble vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients, and can be a significant part of a healthy, well-balanced diet; and

WHEREAS: in 2015 Congress commissioned a third party review of the process by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine but the DGA committee has ignored their recommendations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: The National Grange urges the President and the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services to force the Dietary Guidelines of America committee to consider all legitimate and pertinent health studies to make when making their recommendations for a well-balanced diet, rather than a low fat diet.

AG-107-PA-FOOD DONATION IMPROVEMENT ACT

WHEREAS: under current regulations, many food items that might be donated or sold at a reduced price to those in need are lost due to possible liability issues on the part of the donor; and

WHEREAS: farmers, retailers and private organizations often have food items of good quality that could readily and easily be made available to food banks, soup kitchens and others providing food to the needy; and

WHEREAS: Senators Toomey and Blumenthal have introduced into the U.S. Senate, the "Food Donation Improvement Act" which would, if passed into law, extend to food donors, caterers, and others, additional liability protections; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the National Grange support the goals of the "Food Donation Improvement Act" and similar legislation to furnish additional liability protection to food donors who would meet the requirements of regulations established and monitored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ensure quality and labeling standards.

AG-108-PA-LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER/PROCESSING

WHEREAS: the Coronavirus Pandemic has shown us some weak spots in our food supply chain; and

WHEREAS: one issue has been the processing of livestock for sale at the local level. Local butchers are not able to kill, process, and sell to individuals unless an inspector is on site when the animals are slaughtered; and

WHEREAS: the local butcher is only allowed to slaughter for individuals if the packaged meat is marked "Not for Resale." This makes it impossible for the local farmer to sell his livestock to two or three families to be split at the time of processing; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the National Grange urge the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to review existing meat inspection policies and to provide additional marketing opportunities which allow privately owned custom butcher shops to slaughter, package and sell animals from local farms to the local in- state communities for individual use without an USDA Inspector on site.

AG-112-WA-DEFINITION OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS

RESOLVED: that The Grange supports the principle that the term "meat" can only be used to describe animal protein derived from harvested production livestock, poultry, seafood or wildlife, wild or domestic. The USDA must retain the authority to regulate the emergence of the efforts to produce cell cultured protein in a laboratory setting.

AG-113-WA-EXPAND LIVESTOCK GRAZING TO REDUCE WILDFIRE LOAD

WHEREAS: more than 7 million acres have burned thus far in 2020 across the Western United States, levelling whole towns and destroying businesses and livelihoods; and

WHEREAS: livestock grazing is an essential tool in reducing wildfire on both public and privately owned lands; and

WHEREAS: grazing livestock can each consume hundreds of pounds of wildfire fuel through grazing each year; and

WHEREAS: grazing reduces the wildfire fuel load by hundreds and thousands of pounds per acre; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: the Grange encourages public education on the value of livestock grazing on public and privately owned forest land and range land as a tool in reducing the wildfire fuel load.

AG-116-WA-SUPPORT FOR THE EMERGENCY WILDFIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

WHEREAS: more than 7 million acres have burned thus far in 2020 across the Western United States, levelling whole towns and destroying businesses and livelihoods; and

WHEREAS: much of the wildfires are on federally owned land; 60% of forestland in Oregon is owned by the federal government, 44% of forestland in Washington is federally owned, 57% of forestland in California is federally owned., and 80% of forestland in Idaho is federally owned; and

WHEREAS: the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act (S 4431) has been introduced in the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS: this legislation aims to improve the management of federal forests and reduce the risk of wildfire; and

WHEREAS: the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act (S 4431) would allow for expedited environmental reviews regarding the installation of fuel breaks, establish grants to build biomass facilities near forests to offset the cost of transporting dead and dying trees out of high-hazard forest zones, lift the export ban on unprocessed timber from federal lands in the West for trees that are dying; and establish a prescribed fire center to coordinate research and training of foresters and forest managers in the latest methods and innovations of fire practices; and

WHEREAS: if the federal government owns the forests, it is obligated to manage them in making sure they don't become a tinderbox for potential massive wildfires; therefore be it

RESOLVED: The Grange support The Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act, or similar legislation, that will assist in reducing the threat of wildfires across the Western United States.

AG-117-WA-SUPPORT FOR THE AGRICULTURAL FAIRS RESCUE ACT

WHEREAS: the COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of agricultural fairs across our state and nation; and

WHEREAS: the cancellation of agricultural fairs translates into a loss of revenues to keep fairs operating in future years; and

WHEREAS: the cancellation of the 2020 fairs came after many agricultural fairs already expended considerable funds in preparation for the 2020 fair season, much of which will not be recoverable in future years; and

WHEREAS: HR 7883, the Agricultural Fairs Rescue Act, is a bipartisan effort to support the agricultural fair industry by providing \$500 million in Agricultural Fair Rescue Grants to agricultural fairs, administered by the US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS); and

WHEREAS: the AMS will provide the grant funding to states or state departments of agriculture based on the loss of attendance those fairs have experienced in 2020, as compared to 2019; and

WHEREAS: the states or state departments of agriculture will then be required to make grants to fairs, prioritizing those that have faced the greatest financial hardships; and

WHEREAS: the grants must be used to assist fairs to continue events that are drivers and promoters of agribusiness; and

WHEREAS: eligible fairs are local, county, or state fairs that help agricultural producers promote their products to expand agricultural markets through conservation programs, agricultural research, educational programs, or other events that encourage agriculture, horticulture, and the domestic arts; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: The Grange, at all levels, support the Agricultural Fairs Rescue Act or similar legislation that will financially assist the agricultural fairs across the nation in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

118 AG Committee-Secular Foods

WHEREAS: Certain food & non-food products are prepared in accordance with specific secular requirements in order to become certified as "acceptable" to a particular religion, and

WHEREAS: there have been concerns raised as to where and how the revenues raised from certification fees are used, with regards to activist and militant activities, and

WHEREAS: there is enough investigative research data available to the public to give credence to the concerns raised, and consumers should be made aware of these facts; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Grange urge all consumers to be diligent in researching how food and non-food products certification revenues are used with regards to any secular category, so that they can buy with confidence.

PRESENT POLICY

Agricultural Exports & Embargoes

1. The National Grange encourages its members to work through their commodity export promotion organizations on increasing the producers' participation in export market development. We strongly support retaining the present system of private enterprise and cooperatives in export sales. We continue to support government export credit programs, including blended credit, and propose the establishment of a revolving export credit fund. We further support the formation of a national marketing federation of regional marketing cooperatives to cover all agricultural export commodities and better serve the world's markets. We encourage all segments of the agricultural community to increase their private investment in export market development for American agricultural commodities.
2. The National Grange supports legislation or administrative action that will continue to maintain and increase the exporting of agricultural commodities. We recommend new emphasis on cash sales for agricultural products along with aggressive exportation of high value-added products. Consideration should be given to greater participation by the USDA in the administration and distribution of American food-aid programs.
3. The National Grange urges the Grain Inspection Service of the USDA to take all necessary steps to insure only grain of the quality specified in the purchase be moved into the export markets.
4. The National Grange supports increasing market development programs conducted through the USDA and AID (Agency for International Development) with emphasis on financing and development of the infrastructure of recipient countries to facilitate the receiving and distribution of U.S. agricultural products.
5. The National Grange will oppose restrictions being placed on imports into the United States that could result in retaliatory action being taken against U.S. agricultural exports by the exporting country. We recommend that further legislative and/or administrative actions be taken to enhance the exportation of U.S. agricultural commodities. We strongly support keeping the authority to determine national agricultural export policy in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We support all efforts to maintain the sanctity of export contracts. We support monitoring and full public disclosure of information concerning sales to foreign countries. We support negotiations to eliminate all tariff and non-tariff trade restrictions against United States' agricultural exports.
6. The National Grange will oppose any attempt to embargo, restrict or otherwise burden the export of logs or any other privately grown agricultural commodity by a complete or partial ban, quota, or tax of any nature.
7. The National Grange supports swift implementation of the Taft-Hartley Act's provisions against workers who refuse to load agricultural commodities for export.
8. The National Grange supports developing agricultural trade with Cuba. We seek means whereby Cuba might be extended loans and/or credit to purchase U.S. agricultural products.

Agricultural Imports

1. The National Grange supports strict enforcement of laws regulating the importation of harmful species of plants and animals. We further support measures which will require tighter oversight and control at port of entry and market outlets in an effort to control the importation of exotic fowl, pet birds, and the establishment of procedures for the treatment of imported cargoes to prevent the importation of plant or animal insects or diseases.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would require the USDA to certify that food products coming into the USA for human consumption have not been grown or treated with products that are not currently registered for use on food products in the United States.
3. The National Grange does not approve of using inspections, grading, health, and sanitary or labeling standards as non-tariff barriers to trade. We do support placing import quotas and/or import tariffs on agricultural commodities as a means of protecting domestic markets from seasonal and over trend market penetration surges. We urge Congress and the President to investigate dumping of food products from other countries to the US market that affect the agriculture industry in the United States. We insist that all imported

agricultural products, including value-added commodities, meet the same strict inspection, unapproved pesticide residues, grading, and labeling standards as domestically produced products and that these standards be strictly enforced, and the country of origin supply certification that the imported product is free of harmful diseases and pests. We specifically recommend that all imported products be labeled with the name of the country of origin until the consumer purchases it. We further support the elimination of all export subsidies on agricultural products imported into the United States or the imposition of countervailing duties to offset the subsidy value.

4. The National Grange supports strict enforcement of existing countervailing duties to offset the subsidy value on certain agricultural and timber products being imported from Canada to protect the agriculture and timber industries in states along the Canadian border.
5. National Grange supports continued restrictions on imports of animals, meat, meat products and bone meal into the United States from any country having Mad Cow Disease until sound scientific data proves it is safe.
6. To allow for the consumers' right to know where their food comes from, the National Grange supports country-of-origin labeling for beef, pork, lamb, fish, and shellfish that is compliant with World Trade Organization (WTO) trade rules.

Agriculture Trade Policy

1. The Grange must continue to work for sound trade agreements for agriculture by encouraging the Administration and Congress to aggressively ensure that American farmers achieve access to all markets covered by trade agreements. The National Grange opposes non-transparent, non-amendable fast-track pacts which are not open to debate by our legislative bodies.
2. The National Grange supports the dairy industry being adequately represented in World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations.
3. The National Grange supports the permanent appointment of a Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. We support the strong representation of U.S. agricultural interests in all negotiations regarding U.S. trade relations, and to ensure that the cost of research and development is not born solely by the American farmer.
4. The National Grange continues to work for an adequate food supply for the entire world. We encourage increased food production in developing countries. To that end, we support an international food program that provides for the support of all nations in a cooperative endeavor to meet current and projected food needs in deficient areas and ensure that food will be available and efficiently distributed. All nations should give more support for research, education and development of programs designed to improve the capability of farmers in food deficient areas to meet more of the food needs of their people.
5. The National Grange supports the development of a consistent policy on the use of sanctions by the U.S. government. The Grange opposes trade embargoes as a first choice of action, but should all choices fail, short of military action, and a trade embargo becomes the only alternative, the Grange urges the federal government to embargo all products - agricultural, industrial and technical - instead of specific agricultural commodities. If sanctions become necessary as a tool of foreign policy, then sanctions should be used only as a consequence of multilateral sanctions.
6. In any new trade negotiations or discussions in re-opening any existing trade pacts, the National Grange strongly supports the inclusion of policy to protect state laws, including defense of such laws by the proper authorities in any trade court.
7. The National Grange insists that representatives of USDA and the Department of Homeland Security be present at all Free Trade negotiations to ensure that an adequate supply of domestically produced dairy products be maintained. Congress should diligently scrutinize all Free Trade Agreements to protect agriculture production in the event of serious food shortages caused by natural disaster, disease or terrorism before voting the Trade Agreement "up or down."
8. The National Grange insists that trade pacts require all imported products from signatory countries, not just agricultural products, meet the same strict standards as domestically produced goods for environmental protection, residue, labeling and worker safety. These standards must be strictly enforced.
9. The National Grange believes trade pacts should not cede judicial power to foreign tribunals, such as the World Trade Organization, not bound by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Antitrust Issues

1. The National Grange recommends that Congress investigate the possibility that very large corporations that

own and operate livestock/poultry slaughtering plants as well as very large livestock/poultry feeding facilities are violating antitrust laws. We question whether or not those firms are engaged in price manipulation resulting from their control of an extremely large portion of the market; their lack of competitive bidding because of the regionally specific location of the slaughtering plants that are owned by these corporations and their access to their own large numbers of fed animals or poultry in their own feeding facilities. If any firms are found to be in violation of antitrust laws, the Department of Justice or the Federal Trade Commission should take the necessary action to uphold the laws.

2. The National Grange calls on the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the agricultural supply, agricultural transportation, grain handling, pricing policies and the potential anti-competitive marketing practices of all large corporations in the food processing and food marketing industries. We oppose the concentrated growing, marketing and distribution of agricultural production by large corporations other than farm cooperatives in the US. We call upon the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the pricing policy of the food industry and anti-competitive marketing practices, such as the purchasing of shelf space and product location that places new and less expensive generic brands at a marketing disadvantage. We express deep antitrust concerns regarding the control of the U.S. seed supply to both Congress and the Department of Justice and urge both to conduct a close review of acquisitions and mergers.
3. The National Grange urges the Secretary of Agriculture to appoint a study committee composed of representatives from farm organizations, commodity groups, and integrators to study the terms of grower contracts to determine fairness to both parties and their acceptance by lending institutions. We further support better nationwide reporting of price and contract information, including forward contract prices, and on-going studies of the relationship between farm gate prices and retail prices. We urge the USDA to fully fund these efforts.
4. The National Grange urges continued awareness of issues related to the electronic trading of grain and other agricultural production. We urge the imposition of necessary regulations on Internet trading of grain where appropriate to protect the farmer.
5. The National Grange opposes any effort to exempt commodity check off funds from being subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to continue transparency.

Biotechnology Policy, Research and Application to Agriculture

1. The National Grange supports a federal policy to allow the use of biotechnology in agriculture. We recognize that genetic engineering of plants and animals has already had a positive impact on increasing the availability of food; decreasing the environmental impact of agriculture and creating foods that are safer, longer-lasting, more nutritious and better tasting. We further support continued research on biotechnology and genetic engineering, including further scientific research into non-human cloning. We support an approval process for genetically modified plants and animals that utilizes science-based decision making to assure the safety of agricultural products. To that end, the National Grange philosophically supports the efforts of National Science Foundation (NSF) concerning their Plant Genome Initiative.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that provides that patented plants and livestock that have been developed through biotechnology (gene-splitting, cloning, genetic engineering, etc.) will be made available to farmers by provisions that will not result in a concentration of the patented livestock in the hands of a few large firms and will not interfere with their availability to all farmers.
3. The National Grange urges the FDA, EPA, USDA and other national farm organizations to publicize the safety of GMOs to help reduce the resistance to the use of this technology providing correct and scientifically verified information on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) to news media and other outlets to enhance the availability of truthful information and ultimately provide more information to the world community. The Grange supports a voluntary GMO-free labeling certification program regulated by USDA and urges that the USDA Certified Organic label automatically qualify as GMO-free.
4. The National Grange supports ongoing educational efforts by the Cooperative Extension Service that address growing concerns about GMO genetic material drift to non-GMO plants.

Chemicals for Agriculture: Weed, Pest and Predator Control

1. The National Grange urges the EPA to consult with state, industry, and user groups when developing policy and regulations that relate to pesticide industries. The National Grange also urges the EPA to use a

reasonable approach in carrying out the provisions and requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. We recommend relying on impartial scientific research data that is based on the normal human consumption patterns of a product before suspending or canceling the use of a particular chemical. We urge more review and study of a chemical before the public is advised that an agricultural chemical may be harmful to their health. We support increased research and education being done by the USDA and EPA to improve integrated pest management, including comprehensive strategies to minimize weed resistance issues. To that end, we support the reinstatement and full funding of the USDA's Pesticide Data Program. We further recommend that Congress provide additional funds for Land Grant Colleges and Universities to be more actively involved with biological pest control research.

2. The National Grange supports efforts to provide information to growers and farmers on actions that can be taken when adverse public statements are made questioning their use of agricultural chemicals that are legally registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We support legislation that would allow producers and handlers to seek criminal and punitive damages from people or organizations that disseminate false or unsubstantiated information that causes punitive harm to a grower or handler of an agricultural product, including seeking equal media time. We further seek legislation that would protect a farmer from criminal or civil liability regarding that farmer's use or disposal of an EPA registered and approved herbicide or pesticide in accordance with the manufacturer's printed instructions.
3. The National Grange supports the reasonable and practical use of agricultural chemicals as well as reasonable and practical standards for reentry to fields or areas treated with agricultural chemicals. We continue to support the USDA to establish a certification program that encourages herbicide applicators to use best management practices to prevent damage to adjacent property. We continue to support adequate funding for increased research by all appropriate government agencies to develop, improve, and disseminate information on alternative or sustainable agriculture. We continue to support educational programs for farmers on the safe use and disposal of agricultural chemicals, including their containers, in an environmentally safe way.
4. The National Grange supports certification and re-certification programs for all restricted use pesticides. All applicators of restricted-use pesticides should be certified in the application of restricted-use pesticides.
5. The National Grange opposes the federal Environmental Protection Agency's proposed increased requirements for recertification of private and commercial pesticide applicators licenses.
6. The National Grange supports allowing the continued and appropriate use of the following farm chemicals: 2-4-D for weed control; triazines as a crop protectant; Elgetol for thinning apples; Compound 1080 for predator control; Methyl bromide for controlling insect infestations in stored commodities and any chemicals found to be effective in controlling fire ants. We further encourage the EPA to reevaluate their restrictions on certain pesticides that are used for grasshopper control so that a more effective environmental control program may be offered to farmers and ranchers.
7. The National Grange supports legislation that provides increased and continuous funding for the Inter-regional Research Project Number Four (IR-4) minor-use pesticides program. We recommend streamlining the approval process for minor use pesticides by reducing the cost and time necessary for registration or re-registration.
8. The National Grange supports a federal Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) that updates standards pertaining to pesticide and chemical residue in food be revisited, utilizing new technologies for determining food safety based on the negligible risk standard. We specifically urge the Environmental Protection Agency to implement the FQPA by using sound scientific data based on actual use of pesticides and agricultural chemicals and by providing a transition period for agriculture to adjust to the withdrawal of an approved pesticide.
9. The Cooperative Extension Service and the State Departments of Agriculture, in cooperation with retail and wholesale dealers of lawn and garden pesticides, should conduct special pesticide application classes for homeowners to ensure the proper use and disposal of unused chemicals and their containers. The sale of lawn and garden pesticides should be monitored closely by local and state authorities to ensure that restricted-use pesticides are not sold to uncertified applicators.
10. The National Grange opposes the EPA classifying plants as a pesticide based upon genetic engineering.
11. All fertilizer manufacturers using toxic, heavy metal, chemical or radioactive wastes should be required to list those components on the package label.
12. The National Grange will support a high priority program for the control of noxious weeds on all lands,

including Witchweed, Tartanian, Honeysuckle, Russian or Autumn Olive and Multiflora Rose. The National Grange supports Integrated Pest Management Programs and other safe alternatives to Glyphosate use.

13. The National Grange urges the USDA to continue funding for the control of the Asian Gypsy Moth, Pine Beetle, Tussock Moth and the Asian Long Horned Beetle. We support additional funding and legal authority to restrict the importation of foreign pests into the U.S. We urge USDA to alert the general public to the potential threat that foreign insects pose to our native species.
14. The National Grange supports legislation allowing farmers, ranchers and others to protect their property from predators, including endangered species.
15. The National Grange urges Congress to prohibit all sales of any form (live, dried, seeds) of any plant that has been placed on a state, regional or national noxious weed list.
16. The National Grange urges the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continue to allow the use of atrazine after its registration review.

Dairy Policy, Milk Marketing Orders, Dairy Prices, and Inspections

1. The National Grange supports a milk supply management program that recognizes regional differences based upon the cost and amount of production, availability of markets, percentage of production that is allocated to CCC (Commodity Credit Corporation) stocks, and the percentage of Class I use.
2. The National Grange supports the use of Basic Formula Price (BFP) in determining the base price for dairy products, as well as multiple-component pricing for all classes of milk in all federal milk marketing orders.
3. We support the continued payment of Class I differentials and oppose any effort to form a national pool of Class I milk differentials.
4. The National Grange opposes any change in the classification of reconstituted milk and the de-pooling of Class III milk.
5. The National Grange requests of all appropriate agencies, associations, and boards that milk prices received by dairy farmers be quoted in terms to which consumers can relate, such as price per gallon rather than price per hundredweight.
6. The National Grange urges Congress to pressure the USDA to raise the support price of milk to a level for the benefit of both the producer and the consumer. The National Grange supports legislation that is geared toward controlling volatility of month-to-month milk prices.
7. The National Grange also supports efforts that assist struggling dairy farmers by revising the national milk pricing system. We believe that a federal order system for milk pricing should include such concepts as: (1) supplying side controls, (2) charging Class I processors an assessment to fund the cost of cooperatives that balance the pool of milk in their areas, (3) keeping multiple component pricing, (4) declassifying Class I prices from other classes, (5) making major improvements to the dairy producer income insurance program that is complimentary to the Livestock Gross Margin Program, returns to the original feed cost formula and takes into account local prices paid, (6) creating a mechanism to more quickly respond to changing market conditions and reduce price volatility, which would include a growth management program that is flexible and responsive to market conditions while providing producers with the ability to grow, and (7) providing that any Growth Management Program must contain a minimum time period of 5 years before a total buy-out of a dairy operation can be restarted or if a partial buy-out of a herd, before an increase in production from the operation will be allowed.
8. The National Grange supports the implementation of a forward contracting pilot program for all classes of milk other than Class I. We support close monitoring of this program to assure that forward contracting does not adversely affect dairy farmer profitability. However, any monitoring or review of the forward contracting policy program must be sensitive to, and protect the privacy of, individual dairy farmers participating in the pilot program.
9. The National Grange continues to seek an increase in exports of milk and milk products. We support funding of the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) to the full limit permitted by WTO agreements. We urge milk cooperatives and other associations to become actively involved in the development of export markets for dairy products. We support additional funding for USDA to provide technical assistance to private sector dairy export trading entities.
10. The National Grange opposes the importation of caseinates and urges the adoption of tariff rate quotes on

Milk Protein Concentrates entering the country. The National Grange also supports having milk used to produce Milk Protein Concentrate (MPC) included in the total milk produced in the area Federal Milk Marketing order and urges the adoption of standards on how MPC is used and inspected to ensure compliance.

11. The National Grange continues to support the National Dairy Product Promotion Program as a means to promote and increase the consumption of dairy products. We urge the USDA to periodically account to the public for any monies that have been collected from dairy farmers under any assessment programs, including required reports to Congress.
12. The Extension Service, nutrition educators, farm organizations, processors, and vendors should promote the nutritional value of "Real" dairy products and should promote use of the "Real Seal" merchandising program. Only those foods from mammalian sources should be allowed to use the term "milk."
13. The National Grange continues to support government purchases of dairy for domestic programs.
14. The National Grange opposes the Food and Drug Administration's proposal to allow products with the "nutritional equivalency" of a food to be labeled "substitute." We suggest that any "imitation" or "substitute" product which resembles a dairy product, whether or not nutritionally equivalent yet includes substitute dairy ingredients, may not in any manner be allowed to bear the name of the dairy product which it is purported to resemble. This also includes imported "imitation" or "substitute" products. The National Grange supports Federal Government oversight to enforce strict labeling regulations concerning organic milk, ensuring that all milk labeled organic comes from certified organic farms only.
15. The National Grange opposes legislation that requires the labeling of milk/milk products as it relates to rBST.
16. The National Grange supports legislation that would extend the present pay and trust provision of the Packers and Stockyards Act to the dairy industry. We further support a national security fund, funded by processors or secured by bonding, to protect against processor bankruptcy if the fund does not preempt a stronger state program.
17. We recognize the need for dairy farm and dairy plant inspections to help ensure the highest quality of dairy products but insist that duplication of inspections by the several government entities (city, county, state and federal) be discontinued where possible. The several levels of government should agree to accept uniform and reciprocal dairy farm and dairy plant inspections.
18. The National Grange encourages the continued performance of dairy genetic evaluations for the dairy industry.
19. The National Grange at all levels encourages the Dairy Co-ops to voluntarily initiate a program that allows membership of the Co-op to vote on any program that takes money out of the farmer's pocket with a yes vote for approval.
20. The National Grange urges the Food and Drug Administration to keep dairy as a separate food group and assure a place on the Food Pyramid or daily recommendations for dairy and meat products.
21. The National Grange should actively participate in education activities that are focused on informing the public of the value and protection provided by the pasteurization process.
22. The National Grange urges a change be made whereby Commodity Credit Corporation purchases of surplus dairy products are of dairy products that are in demand by domestic and international markets.
23. The National Grange supports legislation that would expand the definition of qualifying livestock eligible for the 50% bonus depreciation to include all dairy cows purchased by a dairy farm operator for business use.
24. The National Grange urges the reform of Federal Milk Marketing Order regulations so that excess milk can more easily be donated to food banks while still protecting milk processors from unfair pricing practices and protecting the price being paid to farmers for their milk.
25. The National Grange encourages fundraisers to purchase excess milk to donate to food banks.
26. The National Grange urges FDA to adopt the 2017 higher California Standards for protein and solids-not-fat fluid milk to help standardize and improve milk quality.

Disaster Assistance and Risk Management

1. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of the multi-peril federal crop insurance program (FCI) that provides coverage on all program, non-program and specialty crops on a nationwide basis. We support changes in the FCI program that would include multi-peril insurance for all crops, including double-crop soybeans. We recommend that federal crop insurance coverage be updated annually to reflect the cost of production. We further believe that area coverage should be dropped, and a realistic production base

should be established for each tract of land.

2. The National Grange urges the USDA Risk Management Division to take steps to accelerate the processing and payment of claims. We support using uniform standards for grading fruits for market, hail and other damage payments.
3. The USDA Risk Management Division should discontinue providing insurance coverage on a percentage basis. Coverage should be changed to insure crops on a dollar amount of loss per acre (or unit). The National Grange recommends removing any percent cut on estimated yields if weather conditions prevent timely planting. In addition, the USDA Risk Management Division should delete the current footnotes and should clearly state all exceptions, limitations and other provisions concerning crop coverage in the insurance policy.
4. The National Grange supports disaster aid relief that is based on individual rather than countywide losses. We urge the federal government to distribute surplus stored grain, at no cost and on a need basis, to limited resource farmers in disaster-stricken areas as well as make available a recourse loan on a need basis for damaged commodities.
5. The National Grange urges the USDA Risk Management Division to allow an option that will permit wheat producers covered by the USDA Risk Management Division's crop insurance to obtain a replant payment if replanting is required.
6. The National Grange urges the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to streamline procedures that will expedite implementation of the disaster and market loss program payments. Funding for these payments must be an "emergency" and not otherwise reduce any other program spending.
7. The National Grange supports the Farm and Ranch Risk Management (FARRM) account program allowing farmers and ranchers to deposit a set-aside amount of pre-tax dollars into an interest-bearing account to average income fluctuations.
8. A farm yield or county average yield history for any government farm programs shall not be influenced when a yield is less than 50% of the normal yield of a given crop and is caused by any God-given weather-related disaster (drought-heat, flood, wind, hail, etc.) that is out of a farmer's control.
9. The National Grange supports a compromise that will lower the federal crop insurance subsidy for farm operations with an adjusted gross income over \$750,000 or \$1.5 million for a married couple from 62% to 42% and opposes lowering the subsidy for farmers with an adjusted gross income of less than \$750,000. The National Grange further supports crop insurance subsidies for all agricultural producers and urges the Risk Management Agency to adequately train insurance agents about the Whole Farm Revenue Protection Program.
10. Because extreme weather conditions are devastating to producers, The National Grange encourages Congress to provide additional insurance programs for catastrophic losses to livestock, crops and timber not covered by existing insurance programs. The National Grange supports the continuation of the current funding levels for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and the Conservation Reserve Grasslands Program in the 2018 Farm Bill.
11. The National Grange support the goals of the "Food Donation Improvement Act" and similar legislation to furnish additional liability protection to food donors who would meet the requirements of regulations established and monitored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ensure quality and labeling standards.

Family Farm Policies and Farm Preservation Programs

1. The National Grange believes that policies that promote a viable family farm structure in America's agricultural sector are in the best interests of all citizens. We reaffirm our support for farm commodity programs that serve the best interests of producers and consumers. The purpose of the Federal Farm Program is to ensure Americans an adequate supply of safe and wholesome food, provide some income protection to the food producers and protect our environment by providing incentives for soil and water conservation. The National Grange supports programs that will stimulate interest and appreciation for an expanding agriculture industry that provides an abundant supply of reasonably priced food and fiber to meet our domestic needs and still export the products of one out of every three acres into the world markets.
2. The National Grange continues to strongly support family farms as an integral and important contributor to a

stable agricultural production and rural communities. We call upon the President and Congress to support programs and policies that will help sustain and enhance family farms by increasing the net farm income, providing economic and tax incentives, and credit and/or tax credits for soil and water conservation - without escalating the advantages to non-farm investors. This includes recognizing Alpaca and Llama farming as a livestock business enterprise.

3. The National Grange believes that a family farm is a business or enterprise involved in the production of food, fiber and related products or services that is owned and operated by the members of a family who make the management and financial decisions and supply at least part of the labor. We urge USDA to modify its programs to provide additional assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers.
4. The National Grange request federal, state and county governments streamline the process to transfer farms and other small businesses from one family member to another, so that the cost of compliance and tax consequences do not prevent the transfer from occurring.
5. The National Grange will continue to support the use of lands for production of food and fiber, as long as the enterprises are operated under best management practices as established by the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
6. The National Grange encourages the U.S. Department of Agriculture to maintain the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) as individual agencies in order to enhance their critical roles in supporting farmer-owned cooperatives and the rural communities they serve.
7. Federal, state, and local agencies should work for efficient economic development policies that treat the agriculture industry on equal terms with other businesses and industries, such as small farmers. The National Grange supports government rural development programs that provide local off-farm employment for rural people and that provide an improved income for small and medium-sized farms.
8. The National Grange supports public relation programs that disseminate accurate information on the efficiency and productivity of American agriculture, as well as the contributions it has made in providing an adequate supply of food and fiber, and the important role the food and agricultural industry plays in the nation's economy. A coalition of farm and commodity organizations working together on common problems is in the best interest of agriculture and rural communities. Such a coalition will strengthen and preserve the economic well-being of the family farm. The National Grange will continue to support and take an active role in maintaining an effective national farm coalition. We support efforts to organize farm-city meetings, farm-city visits, as well as efforts to enlist the cooperation of the news media in presenting agricultural news. We endorse the efforts of the Agriculture Council of America, Livestock and Meat Board, Animal Industry Foundation, National Milk Producers Federation, and other agricultural organizations in a united program to tell agriculture's story to the American public. We will cooperate with and support the efforts of other agricultural organizations in their educational programs pertaining to false, unproven, and misleading statements about the production and safety of agricultural commodities in order to present a true picture of environmentally safe farm and ranch best-management practices.
9. The National Grange supports efforts to enhance new economic opportunities for urban agriculture by supporting programs that provide mentorship and education.
10. The State Granges and the National Grange urge state and federal government to strengthen, expand, and enforce farmland protection programs to save our farmland for food and fiber production by designing tax laws to enable farm families to pass their land on to future generations. The National Grange supports a reduction in capital gains as relating to personal income tax for retiring farmers who are willing to sell to beginning farmers. The National Grange will also work with Congress to find additional ways to contain urban sprawl through the use of purchasing development rights and conservation easements on agricultural land. However, we oppose the development of agricultural land trusts by financial institutions. We further oppose land purchase programs that involve the federal government as the purchaser and leaser of farmland.
11. The National Grange supports Farmers' Markets, family farms and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's) that produce and sell homegrown agricultural products. Grange policy also supports the creation of pilot programs that endorse the buying of local fruits, vegetables and produce.
12. The National Grange urges the USDA to strictly enforce the Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act. We further oppose the use of public funds and/or the services of government agencies in the development of U.S.-based, foreign-owned agricultural enterprises.
13. The National Grange urges that a high-level staff position with appropriate resources, targeting the

prevention and minimization of agro-terrorism be appointed as part of the Department of Homeland Security.

14. The National Grange encourages federal, state and local governments to protect agriculture against bio-terrorism.
15. The National Grange supports allowing farm parcels with less than the new 10-acre minimum, but which have a previous history in the federal farm program, to continue to receive federal farm program payments.
16. The National Grange strongly supports beginning farmer and rancher programs and urges USDA to modify its programs to give additional consideration individuals and families who qualify.
17. The National Grange supports price insurance protection for farmers that considers the diversity of crops, commodities, production methods, target markets and regional differences.

Farm Labor

1. In the organization of farm laborers on the West Coast and other farm labor-intensive areas, it is evident that the consolidation of production units may lead to increased costs to the consumers and the producer because of possible disruptions caused by labor disputes. Therefore, while we continue to support the rights of individuals to organize, we call for sound approaches when dealing with labor problems in the agricultural industry. Labor and management in the food and agricultural industries should seek solutions to labor problems without striking. To further this goal, we recommend establishing procedures for negotiating labor disputes that will minimize disruptive labor strikes, especially during critical growing and harvesting periods. We also support a prohibition on the exclusive use of hiring halls for supplying agricultural labor and a prohibition on the use of secondary boycotts.
2. The National Grange supports a youth differential minimum wage rate for youth under the age of 18 so agricultural employers will be willing to employ such persons.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that will reduce federal funding of the Legal Service Corporation (LSC), a federal agency that provides legal services to the poor, including migrant farm workers. The LSC legal services should be limited to representing the poor in the courts, not an advocacy group for farm employees that investigate perceived violations of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act.
4. The Workman's Compensation Insurance Program should be the exclusive remedy for work-related injuries under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act.

Farm Safety

1. The National Grange supports a comprehensive farm-safety training program for operation of farm machinery, use of chemicals, and animal management to be funded through the Cooperative Extension Service at land grant universities.
2. Machinery and wagons should be equipped with reflector tape. Farmers should be encouraged to use lights and reflectors or a reflective material on all sides of tractors and machinery that is traveling on public highways.
3. The National Grange strongly opposes any attempt by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to require that farmers, farm workers or ranchers have commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) to transport their crops and/or their landlord's crops on the public highways.
4. The National Grange supports public awareness initiatives for rural road safety involving the presence of agricultural equipment, to improve signage, education awareness and promotional efforts.

Farmer Credit Programs and the Farm Credit System

1. The primary function of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan officers should be a lender of first opportunity for farmers/ ranchers and veterans seeking funds for agricultural purchases. Caution must be exercised to avoid granting undue advantage to large operations at the expense of family-sized farming units. The Grange urges the FSA to strengthen farm loan programs. Loan programs should provide needed short and long-term low interest credit for soil and water conservation. We support providing emergency loans and management assistance during times of natural disasters, commodity embargoes, or economic setbacks to expedite the application, review and granting process for these loans. During situations of

economic stress facing FSA farm borrowers, we support maintaining the right of mediation on farm loan foreclosures. We further believe that the present owner/operator or beginning farmer should be given the first consideration of sale or lease in disposing of foreclosed farms.

2. The National Grange supports the separation of the truly agricultural production and farm ownership lending programs from lending programs generally associated with rural development such as the Business and Industry Loan Program, water and sewer loans, and non-farm family homes, to free Farm Service Agency county office staff to better supervise agricultural production loans. Business and Industrial Loan Guarantee Programs should be administered so they do not interfere with providing credit to family farmers.
3. The National Grange supports Farm Credit Services programs that will service the needs of farmers who are actively and directly engaged in the production of agricultural commodities. We support retaining the present tax exemptions that apply to the Farm Credit, Services, and we specifically recommend that the Farm Credit Services create policies and programs that will assist young and beginning farmers. We oppose efforts by the Farm Credit System to increase its activities regarding insurance coverage for its farm borrowers.
4. The National Grange recommends that the lending authority of the Farm Credit Services be expanded to address the total needs of rural communities, including rural economic development. We support the financing of on-farm and off-farm facilities that add value to agricultural commodities or provide services to agricultural production and marketing as well as financing for agricultural exports to all foreign markets. We further support FCS financing directed toward the development of rural enterprises engaged in the development of alternative uses for agricultural commodities and the development of rural infrastructures, such as water and sewer systems and the creation of state-of-the-art telecommunication systems for rural areas.
5. The National Grange supports requiring all agricultural lending institutions, including those under the Federal Reserve System, to consider the security and payment history of the applicant rather than relying entirely upon his/her cash flow.

Federal Programs, Commodity Loans, Target Prices, & Farm Storage Programs

1. The National Grange supports legislative and administrative actions that will obtain an economic return for the farmer on his investment of capital, labor, and management that is equal to that of the other segments of the economy. We support permanent programs for cotton, tobacco, peanuts, rice, corn silage, wool and mohair. Farm programs should be based on units of production, not acreage, and provide the individual farmer with maximum flexibility in their planting and production decisions. Target prices for major commodities should be based on economic need, set in relationship to the national average cost of production, and set at a level that will not encourage over or under-production. Marketing loan programs for major commodities, including soybeans and minor oilseeds, wheat, feed grains, cotton, rice, and other government-supported commodities, should provide for a loan rate that is set at the national average cost of production and that redeems the loan at the lesser of the original loan or the state's monthly, weekly, or daily average market price as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. The difference between the regular loan rate and the marketing loan is to be retained by the farmer, provided the loan differential is subject to the \$50,000 payment limit. In the absence of a marketing loan, the traditional loan rate should be set at or near the cost of production.
2. The National Grange supports the Farm Storage Facility Loans Program (FSFL) and a farmer-owned reserve program that will place limits on the total amount of a specific commodity that is to be held in reserve as well as place limits on the amount of a commodity that any one farmer can place in the reserve. Storage rates should be commensurate with the cost of on-farm storage to enable farmers to be in a better position to take advantage of storage payments. The Secretary of Agriculture should have discretionary authority to waive the interest charges on reserve loans. We further urge that there be a strict monitoring of grain stored under loan contracts by county, state and national USDA officers, and State Departments of Agriculture.
3. The National Grange supports port terminals and storage facilities for feed grains.
4. The National Grange continues its long-standing support of the County and Community Committee System as the proper means of supervising and administering all farm programs. We pledge our full support for the federal government in investigating incidences of discrimination and in implementing action that will bring about changes to end racial discrimination in USDA policies. We urge stricter monitoring and enforcement of the USDA's farm programs in order to eliminate any abuse of farm program regulations. The Grange

supports funding and staffing of local USDA programs and offices at levels that are consistent with congressional mandates. In meeting these mandates, we will support co-location and cross-agency use of personnel from various agricultural agencies within counties where offices now exist.

5. The National Grange encourages the United States Department of Agriculture to actively enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act.
6. The National Grange supports immediate legislation by Congress, enacting the "Constructive Receipt" exemption in the 2002 Farm Bill, and in all future Farm Bills, to exempt advance program payments from taxable income for the year they are received and, instead, treat those payments as potentially taxable income for the year they were intended to cover.
7. The National Grange supports expanding funding to develop Broadband infrastructure in rural areas.
8. The National Grange urges Congress to maintain funding for the National Organic Program and the Specialty Crops Block Grant Program.

Food and Meat Inspection Programs

1. The National Grange urges an increase in inspection on all livestock, feed, meats, dairy products and all by-products being imported from all countries to the United States for the protection of our animal industry. We support extending mandatory inspection regulations to seafood. We support legislation to implement pathogen detection and reduction strategies based on sound science that targets micro bio-contamination by pathogens that may be harmful to consumers. We request the USDA to strengthen the inspection process for meat and poultry that is being imported into the United States. However, we will oppose adopting "user fees" to pay for inspection services and or any changes in the system that will result in less than continuous inspection during processing of meat and poultry for human consumption.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to eliminate the unfair prohibition against the interstate shipment of state inspected meat and poultry products if the state meat and poultry inspection service is equal to or better than the federal meat and poultry inspection service system.
3. The National Grange urges Congress to fund, and the USDA to develop and disseminate educational programs relative to safe handling of foods.
4. The National Grange will seek legislation to have the uniform expiration date stamped, not coded, on all processed food.
5. The National Grange strongly urges that the USDA work with State Departments of Agriculture on a cooperative effort to enforce and inspect egg production, including egg grading and egg safety. Furthermore, the National Grange supports the effort where USDA and FDA work more closely together on food safety issues and that the two agencies should be given more power to order food recalls and close firms with records of serial contamination violations.
6. The National Grange supports legislation requiring more open notice to the consumer on products containing M.R.M (machine removed meat).
7. The National Grange opposes federal legislation that would presume that all food, including food produced for local market sale and consumption, should be treated as potentially hazardous and would require family farmers to produce and maintain onerous amounts of paperwork indicating what production inputs were purchased and when food produced on an individual farm will be consumed, in order to reach an unattainable goal of total traceability of all food produced in the United States, all the way through the food system. Additionally, the National Grange opposes federal legislation that would add an unwelcome layer of national bureaucratic paperwork to the business of producing food to meet local demand without demonstrating any commensurate food safety benefits to consumers, or cost reductions that benefit family farmers or their local customers.
8. The National Grange supports the establishment of additional mobile slaughterhouses meeting USDA standards.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would eliminate the second inspection of bulk bin apples by the Department of Agriculture before being exported to Canada.
10. The National Grange supports a rewrite of the Veterinary Feed Directive regulations to exclude on-farm animal feed or storage products.
11. The National Grange urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to review existing meat

inspection policies and to provide additional marketing opportunities which allow privately owned custom butcher shops to slaughter, package and sell animals from local farms to local in-state communities for individual use without a USDA Inspector on site

12. The national Grange urges all consumers to be diligent in researching how food and non-food products certification revenues are used with regards to any secular category so they can buy with confidence.
13. The National Grange urges the President, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. department of health and Human Services to force the Dietary Guidelines for Americans Advisory Committee to consider all legitimate and pertinent health studies when making their recommendations for a well-balanced diet rather than a low-fat diet.

Horticulture, Beekeeping and Honey

1. The National Grange recommends continuing research to improve the development of more freeze-resistant nursery stock and methods of frost control.
2. The National Grange recommends that a realistic tariff be placed on imported honey to protect the financial position of the U.S. bee industry that is necessary for the pollination of U.S. agricultural crops. We support the enactment of federal laws that will provide for the inspection of honeybees and honeybee hives that are transported across state lines in an effort to better control the spread of honeybee diseases and parasites. We urge Congress to set up a "bee zone" and appropriate the necessary funds to stop or at least slow down the northward invasion of the killer bees. We further recommend that the USDA promote a program to educate the general public on the importance of bees, and on the destructive Africanized bees now invading the southern U.S.
3. The National Grange supports research efforts aimed toward solving the problem occurring with honey bee colony collapse. While a cause for this syndrome has not been identified, research strongly suggests that colony collapse may be caused by a combination of many factors, one of which is the prophylactic use of neonicotinoid pesticides in agriculture production. Therefore, the National Grange supports the designation of neonicotinoids as restricted use pesticides.
4. The National Grange supports continued efforts by all Granges to utilize Managed Pollinator Protection Plans to make their properties better habitat for pollinators and to improve honey bee health.
5. The National Grange encourages agricultural universities and pesticide companies to develop pesticides that are not harmful to bees and other beneficial insects.
6. The National Grange opposes the ban or prescription restriction of over-the-counter antibiotics for treatment of honeybees unless such restrictions are based on scientific information.
7. The National Grange supports increased research through the states in growing mushroom spawn.
8. The National Grange supports expansion of Federal Crop Insurance and Multi-Peril Insurance Programs to include horticultural crops.
9. The National Grange calls upon the Department of Agriculture, Land Grant universities, and industries to continue research efforts to determine expanded uses for surplus fruits and vegetables.

Livestock and Poultry Disease Control

1. The National Grange supports continued efforts to eradicate Brucellosis, Johne's Disease, Foot and Mouth disease, Bovine Leukemia virus, tuberculosis, and screw worms, as well as the continued monitoring of our nation's borders against re-infestation of these and other infectious livestock diseases.
2. The National Grange supports funding of increased research to control and eradicate poultry diseases and parasites. The National Grange also urges the USDA to work with State Departments of Agriculture on a cooperative effort to enforce and inspect egg production, including egg grading and egg safety.
3. The National Grange supports blood testing for Johne's disease in cattle. We further support the development of a test that can isolate the causal organism of Johne's disease in a shorter time frame.
4. The National Grange requests that health charts show freedom from TB and Brucellosis when dairy cattle are either sold or shown.
5. The National Grange opposes any ban on the use of antibiotics in livestock and poultry feed, unless the Food and Drug Administration or other agencies have scientifically established and determined that the use of these antibiotics are detrimental to human health. We oppose any proposals to reclassify over-the-counter animal drugs as prescription-only drugs unless scientifically based information suggests drugs should be reclassified on a drug-by-drug basis. We strongly recommend that all producers who use antibiotics, growth

stimulants and other feed additives abide by the directions for the use of, and withdrawal provisions for, such products.

6. The National Grange supports the establishment of firm guidelines for the management of bison and elk in the National Parks to control the spread of brucellosis and the high risk of undulant fever in humans.
7. The National Grange supports enforcement of puppy mill laws and regulations.

Livestock Production and Animal Care

1. The National Grange supports effective regulations to require interstate transporters of livestock to maintain transport vehicles in a sanitary condition in order to prevent the spread of disease.
2. The National Grange seeks a federal indemnification standby program for livestock and poultry diseases that are not presently covered. Such a program would apply only in cases that require condemnation and slaughter to eradicate or control the given diseases. We further support federal indemnity programs to indemnify farmers against loss through no fault of theirs in cases such as radioactive fallout, chemical contamination, and bioterrorism.
3. The National Grange supports legislation and rulings that will strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act to ensure producers have adequate price discovery, price transparency, and fairness in the marketing of U.S. livestock.
4. The National Grange supports exotic animal farming, provided it does not create a health hazard for the domestic livestock industry.
5. The National Grange continues to support the beef promotion programs. We urge State Beef Councils to join in cooperative efforts to target Beef Check-off Funds to larger consumer audiences. However, the National Grange recommends that the National Beef Promotion Board consider eliminating the \$1 "Beef Check-off" on any animal that, when sold, the farmer would receive \$20 or less.
6. The National Grange strongly supports the livestock, poultry and dairy industries as suppliers of food and fiber that are so necessary for today's standard of living. We will continue to inform the public of the economics and importance of the livestock industry and their contributions to a balanced nutritional diet. We will continue to cooperate with the Animal Welfare Coalition to combat misleading statements made by animal rights organizations regarding animal agriculture.
7. The National Grange believes that the regulation of livestock and poultry care should be a state issue and does not support the establishment of federal standards.
8. The National Grange supports the use of lean fine textured beef in any beef products. The National Grange will work to develop a commercially acceptable term for cell-based proteins and support USDA to be the regulatory oversight agency responsible for cell-based protein production.
9. The National Grange supports using animals in animal agricultural research in order to advance the science of animal husbandry in the most humane and economic fashion. The National Grange opposes efforts to declare animals to be "sentient beings," and all efforts to give animals the legal protections to which humans are entitled. We support the development of educational programs that demonstrate the advantages and humanness of modern animal husbandry. We oppose any legislation and/or regulations that would hinder good animal husbandry practices. Instead, we support developing a code of "best management practices" for the care and maintenance of agricultural animals and other animals that are under human control. We also support efforts to severely punish any individuals and organizations that commit illegal actions against animal agricultural producers and animal agricultural and biomedical researchers and facilities. We support the voluntary efforts of farmers in reducing the number of injured or downer animals. We encourage livestock auction markets to continue their programs of not accepting animals that are injured or are too weak to stand. We support the efforts of commercial processing facilities to continue the humane disposal of unwanted agricultural animals.
10. The National Grange strongly opposes legislation calling for the severe curtailment of the veal industry by such measures as eliminating confinement stalls and crates. However, the Grange will work with the National Veal Association to correct or remove the veal production practices that are not within the guidelines of best veal management. We further recommend that a USDA grader be assigned to all veal calf slaughtering plants, so that a farmer or seller receives a fair price from the packing plant for their veal based on the grade that was determined by the inspector and not the plant manager.

11. The National Grange supports rodeos, the use of animals in rodeos and the great heritage rodeos represent.
12. The National Grange supports efforts to deal with concentrated animal feeding operations issues emphasizing sensible control and enforcement, the development of nutrient management plans, developing cost efficient odor reduction technology, and the zoning of agricultural districts. We continue to support the development and use of “the best management practices” for the handling of animal and poultry wastes. We support liability protection for farmers who follow the appropriate regulations and “best management practices.” We also support strict laws that regulate large livestock enterprises, so that they apply nutrients according to an approved nutrient management plan to assure that excess nutrients will not contaminate the waters of the United States. We continue to support strict construction standards to new earthen manure lagoons and set a phase-in period after which existing lagoons would have to meet appropriate standards. We support prohibiting indefinite storage of animal waste by requiring treatment according to federal wastewater standards, if the waste is not applied to land or used in another environmentally sound matter. We further support regulations or other provisions to prevent animal owners from using contracts or similar arrangements to avoid responsibilities for animal waste management. We support imposing tough new penalties on the worst polluters. However, we believe that the implementation of any rules and regulations forcing compliance with the Clean Water Act for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations should not become mandatory until all technical expertise and funding is secured and available for the timely compliance with these directives.
13. The National Grange believes the Environmental Protection Agency should not be empowered or allowed to levy fines, fees, or any other monetary pressure based on natural emissions of livestock that may ultimately affect greenhouse gases.
14. The National Grange at all levels seeks legislation to accomplish a national identification for livestock and poultry. The program should include safeguards to protect the privacy of the farmers and the Grange will work at all levels to have farmer privacy provisions included in the national identification for livestock program legislation.
15. The National Grange encourages all livestock operations to follow the goals of the Beef Quality Assurance Program and the Pork Quality Assurance Program. These actions will help manage their herds with respect to the following:
 - a. proper use of pharmaceuticals;
 - b. management of their feed sources;
 - c. low stress animal handling techniques;
 - d. proper housing and living standards;
 - e. proper transportation techniques and transport space requirements;
 - f. culling strategies to maintain optimum herd health; and
 - g. numerous other management tools that help to make the animals healthier, more comfortable and as a result, more productive.
16. The National Grange encourages public education on the value of livestock grazing on forest land and range land as a tool in reducing the wildfire fuel load.

Marketing and Cooperatives

1. The National Grange opposes any repeal of the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922, and strongly supports agricultural cooperatives and the special legal status granted to agricultural cooperatives under this Act.
2. Agricultural cooperatives should be owned and controlled by farmers. We support tax law changes that would allow cooperatives to raise additional equity capital to expand cooperative operations as long as such equity does not undermine farmer ownership and control of their cooperative. We support allowing grain-marketing cooperatives to receive commodity loans.
3. The National Grange supports purchasing, processing, and marketing rural electric and telephone cooperatives that are providing high quality products and services to their members.
4. The National Grange urges the USDA and other appropriate agencies to continue their educational programs for farmers on the use of the futures market through hedging and other marketing options to increase farm profitability.
5. The National Grange continues to support the efforts of commodity organizations to improve the promotional activities for their products.
6. The National Grange endorses federal and state legislation to protect the bargaining status of cooperatives.

Purchasers should be required to recognize and negotiate in good faith with the designated representatives of their producers. The right of producers to control by democratic means the selection of bargaining cooperatives to represent them should be guaranteed by law. Processors of agricultural products should be prohibited from intimidating growers or withholding growers' contracts because of membership in a bargaining association.

7. The National Grange supports extending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1937 to include all agricultural commodities. Following the marketing order approval by a referendum of respective producers, regulations covering allocating aggregate market supply among markets in time, space, and form; trading practices; grading standards; container and other terms of sale should be issued under the order. The USDA should have the administrative responsibility to implement Federal Marketing Orders.
8. The National Grange urges the USDA to cooperate fully with the states in developing direct farmer to consumer marketing programs.
9. The National Grange recommends that the provisions of any check-off be approved by a majority of the producers of that commodity in a national referendum. Following producer approval, the programs shall be mandatory, without refunds, and no more than 5% of the check-off funds can be used for administrative costs. The funds shall be under the control of the promotion board with oversight responsibility in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
10. The National Grange supports a study to determine the feasibility of a check-off program for wheat to fund a research, educational and promotional program on the nutritional benefits of wheat flour products.
11. The National Grange supports increased research by government and industry to discover and develop new uses and markets for agricultural commodities, including the development of value-added products with the aid of non-farm groups. We further support a national agricultural marketing policy which would encourage farmers to retain important production and marketing decisions in their own hands and that would encourage domestic regional marketing cooperatives to develop a cooperative marketing federation that is capable of entering into the international market for selling farm commodities.
12. The National Grange supports integrating and coordinating existing state and federal governments' export marketing programs, such as the Market Access Program, the Market Promotion Program, and other similar programs that are designed to develop and expand foreign markets for U.S. farm products. We believe that these programs should be limited to domestic firms and targeted to new exporting companies, small businesses and individual farmers who sell directly into export markets. We urge Congress and the USDA to reinstate the Export Enhancement Program in order to meet the price competition in world markets. New efforts should be made in the development of marketing programs to expand agricultural exports that encourage the participation of new export marketing groups, such as farm cooperatives and export trading companies. Farmers selling commodities directly into the export market should be subject to all of the protections and restrictions that apply to corporations and other commercial ventures that are selling into the export market.
13. The National Grange supports retaining present state standards for maple syrup and opposes any mandatory federal regulations that would be less stringent than present state regulations.
14. The Grange vigorously opposes any effort that would abolish the current practice of carcass quality pricing of beef and swine in favor of one value fits all price concepts.
15. The National Grange supports the principle that the term "meat" can only be used to describe animal protein derived from harvested production livestock, poultry, seafood or wildlife, wild or domestic. The USDA must retain the authority to regulate the emergence of the efforts to produce cell cultured protein in a laboratory setting.

Production Management Programs

1. The National Grange supports voluntary production control programs as a way of balancing supply with demand. Production control programs should be based on controlling the number of bushels (amount of product) allowed to qualify for price supports and by the requirements to set aside a specific percentage of a farm's crop production. We support eliminating any offsetting compliance requirements between farms related to production control programs, but support maintaining cross compliance requirements for crops grown on the same farm. We support paid production diversion with payments made in cash or in-kind, if

farmers first comply with set-aside and other non-paid production control programs. We further recommend that any land diverted from agricultural production under farm programs remain eligible for conservation cost-share practices. Program benefits, such as loans, deficiency payments, etc., should be set at a level that is sufficient to accomplish the program's objectives and should be made available only to producers who comply with the program's requirements.

2. Production yields should be based on the proven yield of the land on that farm. We support allowing farmers to re-establish their proven yields, but we further support requiring all crop production bases to be established using a soil suitability criterion rating rather than past crop history and changing farm programs, so that a farmer will not lose their farm base from under-planting.
3. The National Grange supports the concept of a Cover Crop Program that is voluntary and incentive-based for all farm programs that involve government funding.
4. Surplus food purchased by the Government should in no way be sold at reduced prices to be in competition with ongoing farm prices. Instead, we encourage surplus foods to be given to charitable organizations. The National Grange encourages increased USDA purchases of surplus agriculture products to be given away through various food assistance programs.

Research and Extension

1. The National Grange strongly supports the cooperative Extension Service (ES), as well as the land grant universities in their effort to maintain a quality extension program in their respective states. The ES should continue to provide leadership to the agricultural and rural sectors with programs directed primarily to improving the quality of rural life. We recommend renewed federal funding for the State Farm Safety Specialist position and farm safety programs, establishing a job retraining program for displaced, disabled, or injured farmers and ranchers, maintaining a viable 4-H Program, and increased funding by all government entities so that the ES can provide information on alternative and sustainable agricultural practices and marketing methods.
2. The National Grange continues to strongly support adequate funding for basic and applied agricultural research from federal, state and private sources. We encourage state departments of agriculture and state experiment stations to conduct research designed to achieve the same results. We specifically recommend full funding of the federal share of agricultural research, especially in cases of emergencies when increased research is required. We strongly support additional research to provide the technology that is pertinent to small-scale agriculture, including more emphasis on research in the areas of marketing, insect control, disease control, energy use, improved product quality, and soil and water management.
3. The National Grange supports increased funding for the National Seed Storage Laboratory in an effort to preserve plant material and seed germ plasma.
4. The National Grange will support the goals of sustainable agriculture research and education programs that will promote the most efficient and effective Best Management Practices (BMP) to reduce soil loss due to erosion, protect water quality from degradation by substance discharge from agricultural operations, and to identify methodologies that will result in higher profitability from production through market development.
5. The National Grange supports expansion of precision agriculture practices to include poultry and livestock production to make animal nutrition more effective, reduce the amount of waste, and reduce the nutrient levels in the waste.
6. The National Grange endorses organic farming research and education.
7. The National Grange urges continued research on the benefits and risks of using biosolids as agricultural fertilizer.
8. The National Grange encourages USDA and state agriculture experiment stations to identify and promote fire-resistant plants and encourage their planting in fire-prone areas.

Tobacco Policy

1. The National Grange recommends that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture use simple regulations in requiring cigarette manufacturers to report only the total use of domestically grown and imported tobacco by class or kind of tobacco, thus leaving manufacturers the flexibility to adjust blends for their various brands of cigarettes to meet their customer demand.
2. The National Grange supports programs at the federal level to help tobacco farmers diversify their farming operation by raising and marketing of alternative crops and will support new research programs to discover new uses for tobacco, such as a new source of protein.

3. The National Grange supports negotiations, regulations, or legislation to control the importation of low grade, inferior quality tobacco.
4. The National Grange supports steps to make U.S. tobacco more competitive in the world market. We urge that all tobacco that is exported as U.S. tobacco must be certified as 100% U.S. tobacco.
5. The National Grange continues to support the Tobacco Auction System and the necessary improvements to modernize the Auction System to meet new packaging ideas and technology in order to facilitate the movement of tobacco through the Auction System.
6. The National Grange opposes any proposals to ban the use of menthol in cigarettes.

USDA Responsibilities, Authorities & Organization

1. The National Grange strongly supports the U.S. Department of Agriculture remaining as an independent agency with the Secretary of Agriculture as a member of the President's Cabinet.
2. The National Grange supports the repeal of the USDA's personnel regulations that forbid USDA employees from actively participating in the meetings and other activities of farm organizations, from holding office in farm organizations, from participating in membership recruitment campaigns, or from acting as a volunteer financial or business agent of a farm organization. This should not change or alter the USDA's other regulations concerning general employee conduct.
3. The National Grange strongly urges the USDA to devise plans to reduce the paperwork for farmers to participate in federal farm programs. We urge the USDA and its agencies to format all reports, applications and paperwork that are to be filed by farmers, so that they may be filled out via computer media using commonly accepted word processing programs and returned to the agency for processing.
4. The National Grange urges the USDA to increase oversight of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to decrease fraud and ensure that SNAP is only used for its defined purposes.
5. The National Grange urges the USDA to review and recommend changes to current EBT (electronic benefit transfer) eligibility guidelines in order to avoid unintended consequences to the beneficiary.
6. The National Grange supports legislation to simplify the business application of the current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) so that businesses may more easily become participants.

Miscellaneous

1. The National Grange supports the agricultural weather forecasting service.
2. The National Grange continues to support the development of aquaculture. We urge aqua cultural farmers to use care and caution in the placement of rearing pens in public waterways so as not to interfere with common waterway uses.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would ensure a producer the "right to harvest" any legally planted crop regardless of any environmental or regulatory action arising between planting and harvest time.
4. The National Grange supports the production of industrial hemp when production is done within the guidelines of applicable state and federal laws.
5. The National Grange opposes EPA regulations that concern dust blowing attributed to agricultural operations.
6. The National Grange actively supports revising the standards, so that all meats in the national school lunch program are required to meet the new standards used by the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service.
7. The National Grange urges the United States Congress to direct the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to amend their rules to allow consumption of grapes, whole milk, flavored milk and potato products by students in school meal programs and to insert that language into the next Farm Bill.
8. The Grange at all levels support initiatives to encourage the use of farm structures as a base for communication antennas.
9. The National Grange seeks a more aggressive position on the issue of irrigation water shared by the U.S. and Mexico on behalf of the U.S. interest and that the period of payback for the excess usage of irrigation water to be limited to two years rather than five years.
10. The Grange supports legislation that offers a form of reimbursement of student loans for large animal veterinarians committing to work in private practice.
11. The National Grange supports the market availability of GPS (Global Positioning System) tracking devices to

monitor the locations of agricultural/farm equipment.

12. The National Grange supports legislative efforts that would allow individuals involved in agriculture as well as independent mechanics to have access to diagnostic software, information and other necessary technological tools used to repair modern farm equipment.
13. The National Grange opposes the expansion of the definition of areas considered “navigable waters” as was defined under the 1968 Clean Water Act.
14. The National Grange urges all appropriate agencies of federal, state and local governments to expedite the harvest and removal of beetle-kill trees from all public lands.
15. The Grange will support a cotton program that provides for a marketing loan at a level that will encourage the continued exportation of cotton, as well as research into the eradication of detrimental insects.
16. The National Grange, at all levels, supports the Agricultural Fairs Rescue Act or similar legislation that will financially assist the agricultural fairs across the nation in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.
17. The National Grange support The Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act, or similar legislation, that will assist in reducing the threat of wildfires across the Western United States.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Agriculture Committee for their hard work and many long hours before the Convention. Having an outstanding committee made the difficult task of this committee go very smoothly and efficiently.

Thanks to National Grange, Betsy, Burton, Phil, Kennedy and Sean for attending our ZOOM calls, and adding value to our discussion. Thanks for National Grange and IL State Grange for use of ZOOM. We were able to use that time to deliberate on resolutions, construct the Policy Statement, and examine the National Grange Agriculture Policy that needed to be updated.

Thank You.

John Plank, IN, Chr.
Allen Stiles, MD
Bill Johnson, MT
Wayne Campbell, PA
George Russell, CT
*Kennedy Gwin – Intern

Lynette Schaeffer, IL, Sec.
Kevin Cooksley, NE
Jimmy Gentry, NC
Royal Vine, WI
*Alexis Kudsk, WA – Youth team
*Sean O’Neil - Intern

AUDIT & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Policy Statement

The members of the Audit and Budget Committee thank the National Master, Executive Committee and the National Grange staff for presenting us with a budget that allows us to continue with the programs and projects of the National Grange.

Dues on all levels of the Grange are the lifeblood of our Order and it is imperative that Granges on all levels and in all states encourage membership growth. Every member should make a serious effort to attract new members while working to retain our existing members.

We encourage all members to continually monitor the many member benefits that are listed on the National Grange website and to take advantage of these benefits as they are not only a benefit to the membership, but many of these programs provide an ongoing revenue stream to the National Grange. Few organizations give such value for the small monetary contribution from its membership.

Generations of our members have enjoyed our National Grange headquarters and it is a major asset to the Order. The income generated by the rentals is a significant portion of our annual operating funds. The Audit and Budget Committee recommends that each State Grange consider donating to the National Grange Building Fund in lieu of savings resulting from no travel to this year’s convention. We must maintain this financial asset for future generations. A 60-year-old building needs regular maintenance and we encourage the Executive Committee to put away funds for future maintenance needs. These funds should be used only for the maintenance and updates of the National Grange Headquarters building. We continue to encourage members and Granges to consider making donations to the National Grange for ongoing building maintenance.

The Communications Department continues to expand communications to the State Granges, Community Granges and our membership. Some of these programs include The Patrons Chain, and our quarterly subscription based 'Good Day!' publication.

We applaud the Communications Department for the continued innovation in our quarterly 'Good Day' magazine. 'Good Day' is now available as an online magazine in addition to the printed version. In order to remain financially viable, we encourage all members to subscribe to the 'Good Day!' magazine. With current subscriptions at approximately 1000, there is a need for an increase in subscriptions of at least 20% in order to make the production of the magazine financially viable. In an effort to make the Grange more visible, why not consider a subscription to the magazine for your local library or FFA chapter? Communication between the National Grange and our membership is vital and the outstanding 'Good Day!' publication is an essential part of that effort, but to continue, it must receive support by us as leaders as well as our members. Why not take few minutes and renew your subscription, or subscribe to the magazine today?

We commend the Communications and Membership Departments for their implementation of a new marketing program to increase the social media presence of the Grange and to attract new E-Members. It is our responsibility as leaders of the Grange to work with our Membership Director to design and create strategies for success in our membership recruitment efforts. Has your Grange considered offering members requesting to be dropped from the Grange an e-membership for this individual for a period of 1 year to keep them informed of the activities of the Grange? Hopefully, these E- members will see the benefit of membership and maintain their E-membership moving forward.

The past several years has been a financial challenge to the National Grange. We commend the delegates as well as the National Master and Executive Committee for their perseverance in seeing that we come out of the challenges that we have faced stronger and more visible.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

STATE & RES. #	TITLE	COMMITTEE	ACTION
	AUDIT & BUDGET COMMITTEE RESOLUTION #1 COVERED EXPENSES FOR OFFICERS AND DELEGATES	Audit & Budget	

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION #1 - COVERED EXPENSES FOR OFFICERS AND DELEGATES

RESOLVED, the National Grange pay room costs for the required days at the National Grange Convention for delegates, officers and approved non-delegates for the 2021 National Grange Convention.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Audit & Budget Committee for their hard work and many long hours before and during the Convention. Having an outstanding committee made the difficult task of this committee go very smoothly and efficiently.

Thanks to National Grange, Betsy and Burton for allowing us to ZOOM prior to this meeting. We were able to use that time to agree on the points of the National Grange Audit & Budget Policy that needed to be updated or researched prior to arrival at the session.

Thank You.

John Benedik, NJ, Chr.
Judy Sherrod, TN, Sec.
Phil Prelli, CT
Chip Narvel, DE

Dwight Baldwin, IA
 Sherry Harriman, ME
 Buddy Overstreet, TX
 Duane Hamp, WA
 *Tracey Jones, IL – Youth team

CREDENTIALS REPORT

This is the report of the Committee on Audit and Budget that deals with the credentials of the delegate body. The Secretary's records show the following states have 15 or more Granges, have their dues paid for the current year, and the following duly elected delegates are entitled to be seated as representatives of these states at the 154th Annual Convention of the National Grange.

California	Kent Westwood	Joe Stefenoni
Colorado	Cindy Greer	Harry Greer
Connecticut	George Russell	Sharon Russell
Idaho	Eileen Javaux	Richard Javaux
Illinois	Lynette Schaeffer	Don Schaeffer
Maine	Sherry Harriman	Richard Harriman
Massachusetts	Glenn Gibson	Kathy Gibson
Michigan	Christopher Johnston	Connie Johnston
New Hampshire	Bob Trombi	Jane Trombi
New Jersey	John Benedik	Pete Pompper
New York	Stephen Coye	Sharon Croucher
North Carolina	Jimmy Gentry	Anita Gentry
Ohio	Sue Roy	Bruce Roy
Oklahoma	Billy Shufeldt	Lena Shufeldt
Oregon	Susan Noah	Mark Noah
Pennsylvania	Wayne Campbell	Debbie Campbell
Rhode Island	Eileen Hebert	Walter Hartley
Vermont	Joe Goodrich	Lisa Goodrich
Washington	Tom Gwin	Duane Hamp

The Secretary's records show the following states have the required six to 14 Granges, have their dues paid for the current year, and the following duly elected delegates are entitled to one vote and are entitled to be seated as representatives of these states at the 154th Annual National Grange Convention.

Delaware	Michael Lynch	Helen Lynch
Florida	Barbara Borderieux	
Indiana	John Plank	Susan Plank
Iowa	Dwight Baldwin	Kathy Baldwin
Kansas	Roger Bostwick	Melanie Bostwick
Maryland	Allen Stiles	Kay Stiles
Minnesota	Ann Bercher	
Montana	Marilyn Johnson	Bill Johnson
Nebraska	Kevin Cooksley	
Tennessee	Judy Sherrod	
Texas	Karen Overstreet	Buddy Overstreet
Virginia	James Taylor	
West Virginia	James Foster	Earlene Foster
Wisconsin	Debbie Vine	Royal Vine

Potomac Grange No. 1, Washington, D.C., is represented by Joan Smith.

Alexis Kudsk (WA), Jaycee Jette (MT) Tracey Jones and Phil Jones (IL), Youth Team Members are entitled to be seated as the Youth Representatives for the 154th Annual National Grange Convention.

2020 Projected Income

2021 National Grange Proposed Budget

Income	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Q3 Actual	Proposed 2021 Budget	% of Budget
Dues and Fees Income						
Subordinate dues	\$ 742,535.50	\$ 732,442.00	\$ 710,251.50	\$ 515,209.95	\$ 685,000.00	73%
E-membership	\$ 250.25	\$ 738.30	\$ 693.44	\$ 1,537.50	\$ 3,000.00	222%
Subordinate & Pomona charter fees	\$ 105.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 500.00	62%
Junior Grange charter fees	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ 30.00	0%
6th degree fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 155.00	\$ 270.00	\$ 300.00	174%
7th degree fees	\$ 2,010.00	\$ 2,490.00	\$ (1,225.73)	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	0%
GIA Supportive Membership	\$ 62,500.00	\$ 62,500.00	\$ 81,402.55	\$ 38,002.50	\$ 56,250.00	47%
Dues and Fees Subtotal:	\$ 807,410.75	\$ 798,220.30	\$ 791,641.76	\$ 555,219.95	\$ 747,080.00	70%
Other Income						
Building Income	\$ 1,663,199.25	\$ 1,102,513.66	\$ 1,171,277.51	\$ 922,773.80	\$ 1,234,000.00	79%
Grange Store Income	\$ 31,723.22	\$ 30,853.84	\$ 32,168.58	\$ 13,763.99	\$ 34,000.00	43%
Legislative Income	\$ -	\$ 31,750.00	\$ 46,125.00	\$ 55,750.00	\$ 125,000.00	121%
Junior Grange Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	0%
Licensing Agreements	\$ 25,410.00	\$ 19,420.36	\$ 24,776.25	\$ 16,186.25	\$ 20,000.00	65%
Communications Income	\$ 143,075.00	\$ 24,034.44	\$ 19,996.05	\$ 12,761.50	\$ 24,000.00	64%
National Convention	\$ 77,917.06	\$ 67,635.15	\$ 75,756.73	\$ 6,846.34	\$ 81,200.00	9%
Bonding Commission	\$ 8,257.40	\$ 12,603.00	\$ 6,080.00	\$ -	\$ 14,000.00	0%
Interest, Dividends, & Investment Income	\$ 50,211.95	\$ -	\$ 7,226.73	\$ 7,424.98	\$ 1,100.00	103%
Assessments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,759.28	\$ 52,368.00	\$ 52,400.00	110%
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 2,154.10	\$ 1,539,924.93	\$ 15,733.59	\$ 4,750.00	1%
Other Income Subtotal:	\$ 1,999,793.88	\$ 1,290,964.55	\$ 2,971,091.06	\$ 1,103,608.45	\$ 1,595,450.00	37%
Total Income:	\$ 2,807,204.63	\$ 2,089,184.85	\$ 3,762,732.82	\$ 1,658,828.40	\$ 2,342,530.00	44%

2020 Proposed Expenses

2021 National Grange Proposed Budget						
Expense	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Q3 Actual	Proposed 2021 Budget	% of Budget
Personnel						
Board of Directors	\$ 3,383.42	\$ 4,677.74	\$ 915.89	\$ 460.89	\$ 6,500.00	50%
National Master	\$ 54,999.88	\$ 55,211.42	\$ 68,332.96	\$ 42,307.60	\$ 65,000.00	62%
National Lecturer	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	100%
National Secretary	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	100%
Staff Salaries, taxes, benefits	\$ 572,311.00	\$ 555,428.24	\$ 633,124.57	\$ 462,226.59	\$ 546,100.00	73%
High Priest	\$ 1,539.49	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	100%
Personnel Subtotal:	\$ 633,233.79	\$ 616,817.40	\$ 703,873.42	\$ 506,495.08	\$ 619,100.00	72%
Departments						
Building Expenses	\$ 617,514.54	\$ 810,054.17	\$ 589,881.91	\$ 268,889.80	\$ 519,000.00	46%
Grange Store	\$ 11,898.64	\$ 16,331.74	\$ 50,416.37	\$ 6,446.18	\$ 17,300.00	13%
General & Administrative	\$ 1,154,756.57	\$ 828,945.01	\$ 429,980.69	\$ 328,907.20	\$ 417,550.00	76%
Loan Interest	\$ 160,245.01	\$ 505,384.43	\$ 103,951.03	\$ 69,310.80	\$ 85,700.00	67% A
Communications/Publications	\$ 109,099.86	\$ 46,723.62	\$ 59,159.95	\$ 9,633.60	\$ 52,300.00	16%
National Convention	\$ 184,070.25	\$ 128,819.43	\$ 178,251.96	\$ 1,147.20	\$ 131,300.00	1%
Junior Grange	\$ 13,546.52	\$ 21,985.88	\$ 22,497.98	\$ 11,315.86	\$ 24,200.00	50%
Legislative	\$ 15,628.18	\$ 7,074.10	\$ 4,343.92	\$ 506.90	\$ 32,800.00	12%
Membership	\$ 700.00	\$ 2,525.59	\$ 30,310.64	\$ 5,811.19	\$ 69,100.00	19%
Grange Youth	\$ 19,393.40	\$ 18,845.25	\$ 20,360.59	\$ 7,104.27	\$ 20,200.00	35%
Department Subtotal:	\$ 2,286,852.97	\$ 2,386,689.22	\$ 1,489,155.04	\$ 709,073.00	\$ 1,369,450.00	48%
Other Expenses						
Depreciation & Amortization	\$ 20,685.32	\$ 31,348.79	\$ 85,549.50	\$ 61,654.05	\$ 82,457.25	0%
Convention Assessment Payment	\$ -	\$ 27,712.49	\$ 7,773.27	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00	0%
Other Expenses Subtotal:	\$ 20,685.32	\$ 59,061.28	\$ 93,322.77	\$ 61,654.05	\$ 122,457.25	0%
Total Expenses:	\$ 2,940,772.08	\$ 3,062,567.90	\$ 2,286,351.23	\$ 1,277,222.13	\$ 2,111,007.25	56%
Change in Net Assets:	\$ (133,567.45)	\$ (973,383.05)	\$ 1,476,381.59	\$ 381,606.27	\$ 231,522.75	26%

A. The National Grange Loan Expense is only inclusive of the interest paid. Payments toward principal are not included as expense to National Grange.

CITIZENSHIP & TAXATION COMMITTEE REPORT

POLICY STATEMENT

The National Grange supports Broadband internet service for all areas of the United States. Work should continue updating service maps, which have proved an obstacle to connectivity, and utilizing the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund and encourage private enterprise cooperation to obtain high speed internet for every family.

The importance of retaining a Tax-Exempt Status for all qualified Granges must be maintained. We encourage the National Grange to provide State Granges with information via electronic or paper communications of filing procedures for the necessary 990N form.

The National Grange encourages every individual to participate and provide requested information in the current census when taken every ten years. Using the new information being attained from the 2020 census, the National Grange supports legislation that the Federal Government create an updated formula for the current poverty level.

The National Grange encourages the SNAP and WIC Programs to cover necessary products for recipients with babies.

The National Grange recommend that people charged with vandalizing or destroying historical landmarks and monuments be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The National Grange urge local and State Granges to strive for social and racial justice, equality and compassion in human relations by initiating open public meetings in collaboration with other local and State organizations fighting against social injustice and harsh racial practices.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES # STATE	TITLE	ACTION
302-CA	Ownership of American Media Companies	Adopted
308-OR	Citizenship for Veterans	Adopted
311-WA	Homeless Veterans	Adopted
312-WA	Local Newspaper Support	Adopted
313-WA	National Observance Day for Eleanor Roosevelt	Adopted

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY DELEGATE ACTION

CT-302-CA -OWNERSHIP OF AMERICAN MEDIA COMPANIES

WHEREAS: Section 310(b)(4) of the Communications Act of 1934 currently allows up to 25% foreign ownership of American media companies; and

WHEREAS: Cumulus Media petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow up to 100% aggregate direct and/or indirect foreign investment (voting and equity) in order for Cumulus Media to exit bankruptcy protections; and

WHEREAS: On May 29, 2020, the FCC granted a petition, the "Cumulus Media petition;" therefore be it

RESOLVED: The National Grange reaffirms its support for the 1934 Federal Communications Act; and be it further

RESOLVED: The National Grange favors allowing up to 49% foreign ownership of a U.S. communications company as a method to exit or avoid bankruptcy for a short term (less than or equal to seven years) period; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the National Grange believes that no one foreign entity should own more than a 25% stake in a U.S. communications company in the long-term; and be it further

RESOLVED: That upon adoption, the National Grange will lobby the FCC to reverse their decision on the Cumulus Media petition adopted on May 29, 2020.

CT-308-OR-CITIZENSHIP FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS: Legal residents of the United States who are not naturalized citizens may still enlist in the armed forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS: This is a common occurrence and many non-citizens have served our country with distinction; and

WHEREAS: Following an honorable discharge, these veterans are still subject to deportation because they are not legally citizens of the U. S.; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That any non-citizen who has served in the armed forces of the United States, and their immediate family, shall be offered an expedited path to full citizenship during their service or upon receiving an honorable discharge.

CT-311-WA-HOMELESS

RESOLVED: the Grange-encourage the development of “tiny house” villages to house homeless veterans; and be it further

RESOLVED: The Grange encourage alternative housing units (i.e., tiny houses) for housing the homeless.

CT-312-WA-LOCAL NEWSPAPER SUPPORT

WHEREAS: Local newspapers are in crisis due to COVID-19 with many shutting down; and

WHEREAS: Local newspapers are important to our republic and civic life; and

WHEREAS: in many places there are no viable alternatives to provide in-depth, community focused news; therefore be it

RESOLVED: The Grange supports the Local Journalism Sustainability Act or similar legislation.

CT-313-WA-NATIONAL OBSERVANCE DAY FOR ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

WHEREAS: since 1914, Congress has authorized national observances to recognize, support, honor or acknowledge; codified in Title 36, United States Code these national observances include days for individuals, groups, events, and other commemorations; and

WHEREAS: new national observances can only be created statutorily; and

WHEREAS: Eleanor Roosevelt is the longest serving First Lady of the United States, first United States delegate to the United Nations, first Chair of the United Nations Human Rights commission, was a prolific writer and syndicated newspaper columnist, and an influential advocate for democracy, civil rights, and social justice; therefore be it

RESOLVED: the National Grange adopt the following statement in their legislative policy: “we support a national observance day honoring Eleanor Roosevelt, a fellow Granger, for her work and contributions both to the American people and on behalf of international human rights”; and be it further

RESOLVED: the National Grange urge Congress to approve legislative measures recognizing Eleanor Roosevelt’s contributions both to the American people and on behalf of international human rights by creating a national observance day in her honor.

PRESENT POLICY: CITIZENSHIP

Broadcasting

1. The National Grange supports the concept of public broadcasting and urges improved service for our rural communities. The National Grange supports continuing the present level of federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting through self-supporting sources of financing.
2. The National Grange supports the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in its efforts to help rural areas receive satellite TV reception. The National Grange supports legislation to ensure that satellite dish owners in rural areas pay no more for their service than cable TV subscribers in the cities do. The Grange supports regulations requiring satellite television companies to provide rural customers access to more than one predetermined set of local channels including local public access channels in the customer's region.
3. The National Grange supports the continuation of religious broadcasts on radio and television.
4. The National Grange urges Congress to maintain the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as a watchdog agency to protect the public from unfair practices and monopolies. We oppose media mergers where one company can control all forms of media. We encourage the FCC to provide ample opportunity for new media companies and medium-sized media companies to be able to compete.
5. The National Grange supports elimination of the foul language, obscenities, and vulgar images used on TV, radio, or public places and fully supports the increased penalties for violations imposed by the FCC. The National Grange supports legislation to prohibit advertising the use of the "900" number during children's shows.
6. The National Grange lobbies the FCC to ban the use of emergency vehicle sirens in all radio advertisements to prevent hazards and confusion on the roadway.
7. The National Grange urges Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to require broadcast media to maintain a constant volume level during an entire broadcast, including commercials.
8. The National Grange supports the current financial assistance to support quality, commercial-free educational children's programs.
- 9.

Elected Officials

1. The Grange favors changing the term of office of Congressional Representatives from two to four years. We also favor a maximum of 12 years consecutive service for Senators and Representatives.
2. The National Grange supports a ban on automatic salary increases for elected officials and Members of Congress, separate from those of judges and other federal government employees. All Congressional pay raises should be considered by Congress during normal business hours and on their own merits as a separate entity to be discussed in open committee hearings and voted on by roll call with a three-fourths majority voting in the affirmative as opposed to being attached to an unrelated piece of legislation. Any approved Congressional pay increases should take effect at the next session of Congress. The National Grange further favors strengthening the law limiting the number of gifts and money that members of Congress can accept.
3. The National Grange urges members of Congress to participate in both Social Security and the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS). We further recommend that all laws, including employment laws, apply to Congressional members.
4. The National Grange opposes rules that permit members of the United States Senate to block other members' bills from being placed on the floor. However, should this practice be permitted, the dissenter should be required to disclose his/her identity and reason for dissent.
5. The National Grange supports an amendment to the United States Constitution that should read: "Congress shall make no law that applies to the citizens of the United States that does not apply equally to Senators and/or Representatives, just as Congress shall make no law that applies to the Senators and/or Representatives that does not apply equally to the citizens of the United States, including health care insurance programs and rates." Further, when the federal government is shut down because Congress has failed to pass proper funding, Congress should not be paid for the period of the shut-down.

Elections

1. The National Grange reaffirms its support for the 1934 Federal Communications Act; and The National Grange favors allowing up to 49% foreign ownership of a U.S. communications company as a method to exit or avoid bankruptcy for a short term (less than or equal to seven years) period; and that the National Grange believes that no one foreign entity should own more than a 25% stake in a U.S. communications company in the long-term; and upon adoption, the National Grange will lobby the FCC to reverse their decision on the Cumulus Media petition adopted on May 29, 2020.
2. We believe that projections and/or final results of national elections should not be reported or broadcast by the news media until the polls have closed in all western states.
3. The National Grange urges all of its members to exercise their right to vote. We further recommend that all ballots and pertinent instructions for all elections be printed in the English language only. Proof of citizenship is to be required at the time of voter registration with federally approved photo identification when voting. We oppose same day registration voting laws.
4. The National Grange supports the current Electoral College system for presidential and vice-presidential elections.
5. The National Grange supports a change in the qualifications for appointment as a United States Supreme Court Justice requiring the candidate to be a citizen of the United States of America.
6. The National Grange supports the federal campaign law that requires public disclosure of the names of persons who contribute \$1,000 or more and anyone who contributes \$100,000 or more to be posted on the Super PAC website within 24 hours and must stay on the website until the completion of the campaign.
7. The National Grange opposes United Nation representatives at any U.S. polling location.
8. The National Grange supports laws requiring individuals to show appropriate/proper identification at the polls and/or anyone requesting an absentee ballot, to verify they are a legal voter within this country and proper state.

Government and Legislative Affairs

1. The National Grange believes:
 - a. that all government-mandated programs and agencies must contain “sunset” provisions, including a target termination date;
 - b. that systematic and continuous reviews of all mandated programs be made periodically by an appropriate board of review;
 - c. that all mandated programs must be funded and financed by the government of origin and that at any point funding is not provided, the mandate will be removed.
2. The National Grange strongly opposes the use of any commission, council, or other consortium of non-elected appointees to create legislative mandates that Congress must adhere to, that are not subject to judicial review or the American system of checks and balances.
3. The National Grange supports the present status of Washington, D.C. as both a “federal city” and the nation’s capital, which is not affiliated with any state government and not a separate state in and of itself. We further favor restricting the Congressional delegates from non-tax paying territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico to being non-voting members of Congressional committees.
4. The National Grange supports legislation that would specifically make protection of private property rights and compensating private property owners for property that is taken for public use as a part of the federal statutes. The National Grange supports strengthening the Constitution’s guarantee that a person owning property has the right to control such property, including restricting trespassers, and excluding liability for injuries to a trespasser.
5. The National Grange supports a constitutional amendment that allows the President to exercise a line-item veto for budget appropriations and authorization bills.
6. The National Grange opposes all legislation limiting the individual’s ability to lobby and communicate with our elected officials either directly or through organizations such as the Grange.
7. The National Grange supports the continuation of public tours of the White House.
8. The National Grange supports allowing military recruiters to bear arms inside recruiting centers.
9. The National Grange supports the inclusion of a question on census forms as to whether a person is a U.S. citizen.

Government Service

1. The National Grange supports efforts to improve the collection and dissemination of accurate and timely statistical data by all federal agencies. The National Grange encourages legislation to require the Commerce Census Bureau to return to inclusion of a separate category for farm families.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would make compliance with regulatory requirements regarding equipment and services for volunteer fire departments contingent upon providing financial assistance to those volunteer fire departments.
3. The National Grange encourages the federal government to provide assistance immediately following the successful request by a State Governor for a declaration of a national disaster in the United States.
4. The National Grange supports legislation to reclassify public safety telecommunicators and dispatchers to the same protective first-responder classification as police and firefighters.

Government Spending

1. The National Grange strongly advocates for Congress to put aside partisan politics to pass a balanced budget, prevent federal government shutdowns and ensure a permanent solution to our deficit problems. The National Grange believes the issuance of Social Security, other critical social service monetary supplements, military salaries, benefits, or expenses should not be affected, delayed or reduced, should a federal government shutdown occur.
2. We support efforts at all levels of government to reduce costs and excessive paperwork, to review regulations, and to generally reduce any undue influence of government on the private sector. We favor the review of all tax supported federal incentive programs for possible reduction or elimination. We encourage all levels of government to downsize and/or eliminate government jobs where possible.
3. The National Grange supports the enforcement of regulations to assure that government programs abide by the bidding process, when appropriate.

Native Americans

1. The National Grange supports the continuation of all rights and privileges enjoyed by Native Americans as U.S. citizens, including fulfilling all responsibilities associated with such citizenship, which includes being subject to the same laws as other citizens.
2. The National Grange supports laws to prevent the robbery or desecration of Native American graves and burial sites.

Patriotism, Prayer, and Religious Observances

1. The National Grange strongly supports maintaining The Star-Spangled Banner as our National Anthem. The National Grange supports legislation to maintain the wording of the current Pledge of Allegiance including the words "Liberty," and "under God." The National Grange believes that the Pledge of Allegiance should be recited in every U.S. school classroom and by members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives during their opening sessions each day.
2. The National Grange favors making new National Veterans Cemetery facilities available.
3. The National Grange believes the American flag be treated with all due respect in accordance with recognized flag etiquette and protocol. We support the purchase of American flags made in the USA and made from domestically produced materials.
4. The National Grange opposes any attempts by any federal, state or local government agency to dictate membership qualifications for any social or fraternal organizations.
5. The National Grange joins with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and other Veteran Service organizations along with churches and individuals to protect our religious freedoms and the First Amendment. We support the words "In God We Trust" remaining on our currency and as our national motto.
6. The National Grange supports maintaining November 11th as Veterans Day.

Social Security

1. The National Grange encourages Congress to positively reform the Social Security System to ensure its future solvency. The National Grange urges the continuing investigation of all Social Security programs

ensuring that only those who are eligible are receiving benefits. The National Grange supports using Social Security funds for Social Security programs only. We oppose the utilization of any funds from the Social Security Trust Fund to achieve a balanced federal budget or for any purpose other than Social Security benefits.

2. We ask Congress to proceed with caution when proposing changes to Social Security and we request that the public be provided with explicit and concise information concerning any major changes in the Social Security system.
3. The National Grange urges Congress to revise Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and other programs for the elderly and handicapped so that an individual's benefits will not decrease if they decide to marry.
4. The National Grange favors making Social Security benefits completely exempt from personal income taxes. The National Grange supports legislation that would remove all Social Security "Earning Limits" for individuals.
5. The National Grange supports any and all federal bills that would eliminate the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions, therefore restoring full Social Security benefits to public employees and surviving spouses.
6. The National Grange supports reform that would expedite the application for, and processing of, Social Security Disability benefits for all clients.
7. The National Grange lobbies to amend the Social Security Act to assure that a beneficiary is paid for the month of his or her death. However, the Grange encourages the Social Security Administration to remove deceased persons from the rolls of social security and terminate all benefits to that person; this includes being more diligent in updating its Death Master File.
8. The National Grange encourages legislators to raise the Social Security Death Benefit to at least \$500.

Social Welfare Programs

1. The National Grange urges enforcement of current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations and encourages related social agencies to assist SNAP recipients with information about foods that meet their nutritional needs. The National Grange asks the SNAP program to allow essential non-food personal articles, such as laundry soap and toilet paper, to be purchased using SNAP and opposes replacing SNAP with cash distributions. The National Grange further urges Congress to reduce current welfare rolls and take steps to reduce fraud.
2. The National Grange supports requiring additional means to facilitate the identification and location of each child's parent for purposes of welfare recovery.
3. The National Grange supports the continuation of the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program.
4. The National Grange supports legislation that would require drug testing to be included in the eligibility requirements for welfare recipients.
5. The National Grange supports having well-advertised places in our communities/counties where residents can safely dispose of outdated or unused medicines, vitamins and/or supplements, etc.
6. The National Grange urges Congress to update the Department of Energy code that governs the Energy Weatherization Program for low income families.

Telecommunications

1. The National Grange supports legislation to promote an integrated telecommunications network to assure widely available, high quality telecommunications to all of the nation's users at a reasonable cost as was originally intended by the Communications Acts of 1934 and 1996. We further believe that access to affordable and reliable broadband Internet service is vital to preserving the quality of life in rural America. The National Grange supports the modernization of the Universal Service Fund (USF) to secure last mile (wireline or wireless) connectivity for rural Americans to broadband, thereby creating jobs, enhancing the economy, and boosting local businesses. The National Grange supports a national broadband policy that will:
 - a. provide federal government funding for rural broadband infrastructure improvement.
 - b. remove the regulatory uncertainty that has deterred broadband investment in rural America.
 - c. provide the incentive for private businesses, government agencies, and private citizens to invest in rural broadband deployment, stimulate broadband competition and impose reasonable taxation for private investment in rural broadband infrastructure improvement.
 - d. spark the creation of new service providers and new innovations that will assist a host of new

technologies becoming more affordable, including cutting-edge wireless technologies that promise to deliver broadband to even the most remote parts of our country.

- e. reallocate unused government agency spectrum (broadband connectivity) for commercial and rural broadband connectivity; and
 - f. allow Public Utility Districts (PUDs), or other public utilities to get involved in establishing the wireless communication systems.
 - g. encourage USDA's continued investment in broadband expansion through their grant programs including but not limited to Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants.
 - h. work to ensure that the wholly unserved and underserved locations in rural America are accurately and adequately mapped.
2. The National Grange supports continued strict enforcement of the Federal Communications Commission's national "Do Not Call List." The National Grange supports expansion of the Do-Not-Call list to include computer dialed political telemarketing, including, but not limited to, charities and political groups. No one calling a household for commercial or charitable request reasons may use a restricted number or call a phone with a restricted number. Telemarketers, as well as computer-generated or robocalls, should be prohibited from calling cell phones. The National Grange supports the Robocall Enforcement Improvement Act.
3. The National Grange recognizes the importance of the Universal Service Fund (USF) to the American public, especially in rural communities. The National Grange urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve any petitions by wireless telephone companies that demonstrate their ability to meet the obligations of Lifeline service, especially in rural areas, so they can serve low-income consumers with wireless Lifeline telephone service through the federal Universal Service Fund. Further, the National Grange opposes measures that would limit or reduce the Federal Communications Commission Lifeline Program.
4. The National Grange will work with telecommunications coalitions to encourage an increase in the number of cellular towers and new technologies where needed in rural America.
5. The National Grange urges U.S. Congress to expedite funding for a resilient, mobile, wireless, data network between local and state first responders and emergency personnel with federal emergency agencies, such as FEMA, Homeland Security and the National Guard.
6. The National Grange urges Congress to appropriate the necessary funding to combat the continuing cyberspace warfare threats to the United States in the 21st century.
7. The National Grange opposes any relinquishing of control of the American internet access to the UN or any foreign entity.
8. The National Grange reaffirms its support for the 1934 Federal Communications Act, and the National Grange favors allowing up to 49% foreign ownership of a U.S. telecommunications company as a method to exit or avoid bankruptcy for a short term (less than or equal to seven years) period, and that the National Grange believes that no one foreign entity should own more than a 25% stake in a U.S. telecommunications company in the long term, and upon adoption, the National Grange will lobby the FCC to reverse their decision on the Cumulus Media petition adopted on May 29, 2020.

Veterans Affairs

1. The National Grange supports the continued operation of all Veterans' Hospitals and veterans' eligibility for medical care and benefits. We further support continuation of the current Disabled Veterans' Compensation Schedule, maintaining the current benefits and the criteria for qualifying. The National Grange encourages additional federal funds to be appropriated for the Veterans' Administration for the purpose of improving the service and care of servicemen in the Veterans' Administration hospitals.
2. The National Grange believes disabled veterans should remain eligible to receive all their service-related retirement benefits and any other benefits to which they are entitled without offsets or reductions. Also, the National Grange supports legislation requiring the U.S. Veterans Administration to pay all benefits to veterans, effective the first day of the month that the veteran was diagnosed with the service-connected presumptive condition. Further, the Grange calls upon Congress to support the inclusion of 100% service-disabled veterans in the Space Available Program operated by the Air Mobility Command.

3. The National Grange urges all levels of government to protect the parental rights of military personnel, such as custody or visitation rights, while serving in combat on active duty.
4. The National Grange supports allowing all veterans registered in the Veterans Administration health care system and residing in nursing facilities, both private and state owned, to receive their drugs through the VA pharmacies at the patient's co-pay price prior to admission.
5. The National Grange urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue the use of Veterans Administration Medical Centers and allow Veterans to seek community based medical attention. All veterans' medical services be paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs Services.
6. The National Grange supports legislation allowing for a separate 10% disability rating by the Veterans Administration for each ear when veterans suffer from Tinnitus as a result of military service.
7. The National Grange urges the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to efficiently use their resources to resolve the serious backlog of veteran's benefit claims.
8. The National Grange supports the extension of the Veterans Administration Mortgage Protection Life Insurance to all service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.
9. The National Grange supports legislation to increase to \$50,000 the maximum coverage a service-connected disabled veteran can purchase under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance Program.
10. The National Grange supports legislation that would direct the VA to select a VA medical facility to serve as the national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of biological children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of service members exposed in combat to toxic substances.
11. The National Grange supports legislation to increase active-duty service members' payroll deduction to one dollar per month for the Armed Services Retirement Home.
12. The National Grange supports legislation to extend "Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers" to caregivers of all war era veterans.
13. The National Grange supports legislation that would direct Veterans Affairs to assist female veterans to reintegrate with their communities after discharge from the Armed Forces.
14. The National Grange support legislation that would allow any non-citizen who has served in the armed forces of the United States, and their immediate family, shall be offered an expedited path to full citizenship during their service or upon receiving an honorable discharge.
15. The National Grange encourages the development of "tiny house" villages to house homeless veterans and encourages alternative housing units (i.e., tiny homes) for housing the homeless.

Miscellaneous

1. The National Grange supports programs that strengthen families and advocates for educational programs that emphasize the importance of families and the prevention of family dysfunction.
2. The National Grange supports all rights that are granted in the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights and urges Congress not to consider legislation eliminating or repealing these rights.
3. The National Grange favors a Constitutional amendment to make English the official national language. The National Grange supports legislation to require that English be used on all government forms throughout the United States.
4. The National Grange favors the establishment of a new branch of the Smithsonian dedicated to the nation's food and farm heritage.
5. The National Grange opposes government regulations that infringe upon personal nutritional choices within our homes and diets.
6. The National Grange supports the National Council on Disabilities efforts to ensure rights of parents with disabilities to raise children.
7. The National Grange urges Congress to reject the United Nations "Small Arms Treaty".
8. The National Grange urges elected officials to address ongoing problems facing homeless and at-risk youth and to make more resources available day and night until they can become self-sufficient.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would allow distribution from Individual retirement accounts as needed without required minimum distributions based on age.
10. The National Grange encourages the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee to issue a Plymouth 400th Anniversary of Plymouth Colony stamp.
11. The National Grange supports the National Weather Service and other alert systems that relay important

life-saving storm warnings over streaming services.

12. The National Grange supports a national observance day honoring Eleanor Roosevelt, a fellow Granger, for her work and contributions both to the American people and on behalf of international human rights and urges Congress to approve legislative measures recognizing her contributions both to the American people and on behalf of international human rights by creating a national observance day in her honor.
13. The National Grange supports the Local Journalism Sustainability Act or similar legislation.

PRESENT POLICY: TAXATION

Business, Investment, Capital Gains, and Inheritance Taxation

1. The National Grange supports legislation to permit farmers to use the method of depreciation that is most suitable to the uncertainties of their businesses. We support depreciation schedules for agricultural capital assets that accurately reflect the useful life of those assets. In particular, we support a depreciation schedule of 15 years for single purpose farm structures. The National Grange supports legislation to eliminate the reporting of government funded environmental and conservation cost-share monies as income to the recipients. We oppose the use of income tax write-offs from farming to reduce the amount of taxes that are owed on the earnings of non-farm businesses or professions.
2. The National Grange supports an Investment Tax Credit or accelerated depreciation with a \$100,000 value eligibility limit.
3. The National Grange supports preferential treatment for capital gains income. We support the abolishment of the capital gains tax. Until then, we support indexing the basic value of an asset, so that only the real gain, and not the inflation value, is subject to the capital gains tax. We support excluding capital gains up to \$500,000 from sale of agricultural lands from taxable income. We further support excluding all of the proceeds on the sale or exchange of qualified farmland development rights to a tax-exempt conservation organization from all capital gain taxes. We further support allowing farmers to invest any un-excluded capital gains from the sale of real and personal property into tax-deferred accounts, such as IRAs.
4. The National Grange believes that employees should not be liable for un-remitted income or FICA taxes if the employer properly withheld those taxes from the employee's pay but then failed to make the proper payments to the IRS or the state.
5. The National Grange opposes the enactment of any federal tax on securities transactions.
6. The National Grange supports the uniform application of all timber depletion allowances in the tax code to all timberland owners regardless of the size of their timberland holdings.
7. The National Grange supports legislation abolishing the federal estate tax, especially for small business and agriculture as long as their ownership stays in the family and the farm stays in productive agriculture. We support retaining current provisions for a full stepped up basis on inheritances. We favor using the current use value as the basis for the property for estate tax purposes. The National Grange further supports a personal exemption from federal estate taxes of ten million dollars.
8. The National Grange supports federal tax credits or tax deductions to growers or grower co-operatives that build or own ethanol production facilities.
9. The National Grange supports legislation prohibiting employers from borrowing from an employee's pension fund. The National Grange supports legislation that would place employees or former employees, who had invested in their employers' stock as part of their retirement plan, ahead of payments to other creditors during bankruptcy.
10. The National Grange supports prosecution of cooperative executives and others suspected of illegal actions resulting in a cooperative declaring bankruptcy.
11. The National Grange urges Congress to oppose any future legislation allowing the IRS to implement percentage fees on banking transactions.

Personal Income Tax

1. The National Grange supports developing a simpler and fairer federal income tax code, written in precise, plain and understandable language. We further support simplifying the language that is used in the government's instruction pamphlets for filing individual income taxes.

2. The National Grange favors continuing 5 and 10-year averaging of lump sum distributions of pension funds for income tax purposes.
3. The National Grange favors indexing all federal income tax brackets for inflation.
4. The National Grange supports income tax deductions for two-wage earner families. The National Grange supports deducting state sales tax from federal income tax returns.
5. The National Grange supports a 100% tax deduction for all qualified charitable contributions for all federal taxpayers.
6. The National Grange supports equalizing the mileage rates for volunteer services and medical transportation with mileage rates permitted for businesses for tax purposes.
7. The National Grange favors income tax credits for those families who care for their elderly or handicapped relatives, who otherwise would become residents of a nursing home. We support legislation to allow a federal tax deduction for all Long-Term Care Insurance premiums. We further support exempting all benefits paid under Long Term Care insurance from all income taxes.
8. The National Grange supports the continuation of all current tax deductions allowed on real-estate mortgages and on state and local taxes.
9. The National Grange supports legislation to allow voluntary contributions of \$1.00 to be solicited on all federal income tax forms to fund our national parks. The Grange supports permitting an individual to designate \$1.00 on his/her federal income tax return for the USA Olympic Program.
10. The National Grange supports a federal income tax credit for law enforcement officers for purchasing their own bulletproof vests.
11. The National Grange supports expanding medical flexible spending accounts to allow employees or retirees to set aside part of their pre-tax pay or pension. We further recommend that any unspent medical flexible spending account balance be rolled into the next year's account or refunded to the employee or retiree as taxable income.
12. The National Grange supports a 100% federal income tax deduction for all medical insurance.
13. The National Grange supports legislation to allow parents or students to utilize all student loan interest as an adjustment of income on their federal tax return.
14. The National Grange supports legislation to prevent illegal aliens from receiving earned income tax credit or any other financial benefit from the United States government.
15. The National Grange urges Congress to give farmers and ranchers flexibility in the tax code to adjust quickly to estate planning challenges.

Sales, Excise Taxes, and Internet

1. The National Grange opposes the enactment of any national sales tax or any form of value added tax.
2. The National Grange supports federal law prohibiting any charges or taxes on e-mail or the use of the Internet. The National Grange opposes any new or increased excise tax on telecommunication. The National Grange supports legislation that would prohibit mail order houses or Internet retailers from collecting state or federal sales or use taxes on mail order or Internet purchases.

Taxes - General

1. We support the present tax treatment of agricultural cooperatives as non-profit entities.
2. The National Grange supports a federal prohibition on the imposition of any tax or fee on water that is drawn from private wells, lakes, and irrigation ponds.
3. The National Grange supports tax policies that will preserve the ability of this nation to find and produce domestic oil and gas resources. We support the current oil import fee and the domestic crude oil fee.
4. The National Grange supports tax exemption for income that is raised by non-profit organizations such as the Grange.
5. We support a further strengthening of the "Taxpayers' Bill of Rights." We support placing the burden of proof on the IRS - not the taxpayer - under due process of law and providing a course of action in which the taxpayer could defend himself and recover his costs and attorney fees should the IRS fail to prove its case. We support giving the taxpayer the right to record all interviews with IRS representatives and to set a reasonable time and place for meetings. We support prohibiting the IRS from sending out bills that are in excess of owed taxes, except for interest and penalties.
6. The National Grange supports the rights of local governments to use tax-exempt municipal financing without further limitations being imposed by Congress.

7. The National Grange supports requiring a two-thirds vote of each House of Congress to increase taxes. We further support federal legislation to explicitly limit the authority of all courts in the United States to order a state or political subdivision to levy or increase taxes as a remedy for any civil litigation.
8. The National Grange opposes any sale of information from individual tax returns to any agency or individual.
9. The National Grange believes that tax preparers should be vigilant in their obligation to comply with the privacy standards of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and the privacy rules of the Federal Communications Commission.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Citizenship Committee for their hard work and many long hours before and during the Convention. Having an outstanding committee made the difficult task of this committee go very smoothly and efficiently.

Thanks to National Grange, Betsy and Burton for allowing us to ZOOM prior to this meeting. We were able to use that time to agree on the points of the National Grange Citizenship Policy that needed to be updated or researched prior to arrival at the session.

Thank You.

Melanie Bostwick, KS, Chr.
Earlene Foster, WV
Chris Johnston, MI
Steve Coye, NY

Martha Stefenoni, CA, Sec.
Sue Roy, OH
Bob Trombi, NH
Michael Lynch, DE

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

POLICY STATEMENT

We encourage the responsible stewardship of our natural resources from all who own or use them. We define responsible Stewardship as a balance between use, preservation, and the environmental standards appropriate to the regional needs. Our organization has been a strong advocate for land stewardship. We believe that protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources are vital. We further believe that education of the public regarding the importance of our natural resources is an absolute necessity. We support current federal guidelines on the control of air and water quality.

The National Grange should continue to advocate for conservation programs. These programs should encourage farmers to operate in an environmentally sound manner, focusing on scientific and technical assistance, research, education, loans, and cost-share programs.

Climate change is receiving attention not only in our nation, but across the globe. The National Grange understands agriculture is a part of the total picture on climate change and the efforts to accomplish Net-Zero greenhouse emissions in the United States. We demand American Agricultural Data, rather than worldwide data, be used to provide a more accurate picture of greenhouse emissions in our nation and that consistent sources of data be used. The National Grange supports the use of Best Management Practices and any mandates on agriculture in regard to reducing emissions be accompanied with economic incentives to lower the impact on our agricultural producers.

We recognize that plastic and other non-biodegradable materials are a significant environmental nuisance. The National Grange supports legislation that will promote the use of shorter life plastic and biologically degradable materials.

The National Grange recognizes the unique role agriculture plays in land and environmental management. The National Grange supports transparent disclosure of details of any environmental testing and/or modifications being conducted by any governmental agency. We advocate for greater flexibility in the interpretation of environmental laws to allow for traditional land uses taking into consideration varying environmental situations across the country and encourage agricultural producers to engage in best management practices in all aspects of their operations.

The National Grange supports coordination among Federal, State and Local Governments when developing land use management plans. We urge Congress to include voluntary incentive-based assistance for conservation practices by farmers, ranchers, foresters, developers, and landowners in future Farm Bills, which will maintain a commitment to conservation. In that light, we also urge USDA to ensure that they use only scientifically based research when crafting regulations to implement the conservation portions of the Farm Bill. The optimum result should be that the environment be protected with the least amount of prime, productive farmland taken out of production.

PRESENT POLICY

Clean Air Act

1. The National Grange supports a clean air policy that will best protect agricultural interests, relieve automotive passengers, freight users and carriers of costly and unnecessary restrictions, and will protect the physical and economic health of industry and the general public.
2. The National Grange proposes that Congress determine state compliance to the Clean Air Act by statute and not by administrative regulations. Until then, we urge state and national administrative flexibility in deadlines for meeting Ambient Air Quality Standards. The National Grange strongly urges the EPA to retain the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ground-level ozone.
3. The National Grange opposes any national mandatory motor vehicle emission inspection and maintenance programs. We oppose any national law or regulation that would require the use of "stand alone" vehicle emission testing facilities. The National Grange supports exempting agricultural equipment and machinery manufactured prior to January 1, 1993 from the current Clean Air Act.
4. The National Grange supports the use of Freon until such a time until safer and more suitable alternatives are found or a proven substitute.
5. The National Grange favors reducing sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions from coal-burning plants. The National Grange encourages more research into clean technology and revision of EPA standards for use of coal and gas in building new generating plants. The National Grange opposes any "Cap and Trade" bill or related legislation concerning climate changes that would restrict greenhouse gas emissions.
6. The National Grange opposes adoption of the United Nations Climate Change Treaty or the Kyoto Protocol agreement on greenhouse gas emissions by the United States until uniform standards for greenhouse gas emissions are applied to all major countries, regardless of their economic development. In the meantime, we support the following measures: expansion of voluntary efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions; scientific research and educational programs on climate; investing in the development and deployment of new technologies and urging utilities to update their older plants bringing them into compliance with the current Clean Air Act.
7. The National Grange supports a program of government incentives that will reduce commuting by private vehicle, increase subsidies for mass transportation or carpooling, and sponsor more research to make alternative energy cars viable.

Clean Water Act and Wetland Management

1. The National Grange supports federal clean water laws and regulations that are enforced uniformly between the states. While our goal is a zero percent pollution standard, we understand that this goal is unrealistic and unobtainable.
2. The National Grange recommends that adequate State and Federal funds be provided for any soil or water conservation program required by the Clean Water Act, including at least 75% of the federal cost share on agricultural best management practices (BMPs) for non-point source pollution abatement administered through local conservation districts. The National Grange urges Congress and the President to clarify Clean Water Act Section 303 (d) so that the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) will be reasonable and attainable without extreme hardships placed on agriculture and other industries. Furthermore, the National Grange urges State and Federal Governments to fund conservation programs that will help farmers and municipalities to meet the goals of TMDL, and Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) with regard to the Chesapeake Bay cleanup.
3. The National Grange supports legislation to provide funds to study water quality regarding groundwater contamination. We further support the creation of groundwater protection and management plans that will limit the amount of toxic chemicals in groundwater realizing that a policy of no degradation is unobtainable. We support local control of groundwater management and management plans and support the enforcement of penalties to cities and towns that improperly dump waste in our streams and waterways.
4. The National Grange opposes efforts to require states to designate any watersheds with populations of threatened or endangered species as an Outstanding Resource Watershed that would further impede use of that water by traditional agricultural users.
5. The National Grange supports the US Supreme Court's holdings regarding the Congressional intent of the phrase "navigable waters" as used in the Clean Water Act that limit the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the US Environmental Protection Agency to regulate inland waters and wetlands. We oppose legislative efforts to remove or amend the definition of "navigable waters" in the Clean Water Act.

6. The National Grange supports legislation to improve the wetland regulatory programs by Federal, State and/or Local Governments to streamline the permitting process; delineate wetlands by categories based on readily identifiable natural characteristics, environmental value, function, and abundance; refine the wetland mitigation system; improve the system of compensation for private landowners; and increase the role of the states in the wetland permitting process. We further support exempting wetland designations from areas that are artificially created by irrigation, stock water ponds, fire protection ponds, or have been cropped for one of the last five years.

Conservation Reserve and Agriculture Conservation Programs

1. The National Grange supports a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that will provide long-term solutions to natural resource concerns on our nation's farms. We believe that CRP programs should be integrated with other environmental protection programs and should have a high environmental benefit to the cost-ratio by accepting only highly erodible land for 10 years at a rental rate that is in relationship to its productive value. We believe that the commodity base acres in CRP land should remain as a production reserve and only be transferred to other production acres to meet increased export demand. However, we favor eliminating the offsetting and cross compliance provisions as they relate to the Conservation Reserve Program.
2. The National Grange recommends that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) enforce the inspection of CRP land for noxious weed control. CRP payments should be withheld from the owners of the CRP tracts that are infested with noxious weeds until the (FSA) or NRCS certifies that the noxious weed control program is being carried out by the landowner. To assist landowners in their responsibility to control noxious weeds, we further urge the USDA (subject to state FSA Committee rules) to change the date, when mowing to control noxious weeds is allowed on CRP lands from July 15 to at least as early as June.
3. The National Grange supports federal funding for soil conservation, including sufficient funding to retain technical assistance for conservation. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) appropriations should be maintained at a level that will significantly help meet the conservation needs of America's farmland. EQIP to complete needed conservation practices and CSP to maintain those practices. Conservation contracts should follow land ownership with penalties assessed for destruction of said practices before the final contract date. In the event any federal conservation cost-share funds are granted to states, all such funds should be made available to farmers for cost-share payments. EQIP and CSP funds should be used for the cost-sharing program for which they have been appropriated and none of these funds should be diverted for administrative costs of the states' delivery systems.
4. The National Grange urges each State Grange work with their respective Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agencies implement Nutrient Management Plans (NMP's).

Energy Conservation

1. The National Grange supports voluntary and economically viable energy conservation for agriculture, industry, commerce, and the home.
2. The National Grange encourages the voluntary "energy efficient" construction of new structures without mandating retrofitting existing structures.
3. The National Grange supports economic assistance to low-income persons and those who are on small, fixed incomes to assist them in paying for the high cost of energy.
4. The National Grange endorses the continuation of state and federal subsidies for home and business generation of solar energy.
5. The National Grange supports all oil and gas price decontrol as a positive step in reducing our need for foreign oil and gas. We oppose any increase in taxes and/or any decrease in tax credits (i.e. depletion allowance) on natural gas and oil production. The National Grange believes that all companies, including farm cooperatives, should be allowed to sell gasoline at both the wholesale and retail levels without divesting. The National Grange supports the following practices to guard against supply uncertainty and unreasonably high prices:
 - a. retain one billion barrels of U.S. oil reserve while supplies are adequate; and
 - b. encourage greater use of natural resources, especially those that are renewable and non-polluting. The National Grange only supports further releases from the U.S. Strategic Oil Reserve in the event of war or interruption of delivery of foreign supplies of petroleum into the U.S.
6. The National Grange supports legislation to direct the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to set fuel economy standards at their maximum feasible level, taking into account technical feasibility, safety, and the economic impact to the public. The National Grange urges increased research and development of more fuel efficient, internal combustion engines.

Energy Development

1. The National Grange urges the repeal of laws and regulations that have discouraged United States' energy production by private enterprise. We support a national energy policy that will encourage the development of all forms of domestic energy, traditional and alternative in a scientific and environmentally sound manner in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. The National Grange believes all domestically produced hydroelectric power should be classified as renewable energy under all applicable Federal and State statutes.
2. The National Grange favors the complete utilization of petroleum and the other mineral resources, including the exploration and production of oil reserves on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and from any outer continental shelf lease sales in accordance with the terms of an environmentally sound development plan.
3. The National Grange supports the building of the Keystone Pipeline system as long as it is built to acceptable appropriate engineering and environmental standards.
4. The National Grange supports legislation requiring the nation's motor fuels to contain a renewable component (Biodiesel and/or Ethanol). We support increased development and use of ethanol and ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE) in gasoline blends with adequate income tax incentives to make the production and use of ethanol and ETBE economically feasible.
5. The National Grange supports the use of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas production in all hydrocarbon-producing strata.
6. The National Grange supports regulated oil and gas production in the United States that protects landowners and allows adequate compensation while allowing production to continue.
7. The National Grange supports an examination and reform of environmental laws so that new oil refineries can be built to supply our fuel needs. We further support a study of the need for different mandated formulations for gasoline, and if possible, a reduction in the number of gasoline blends to make it easier and less expensive to refine and transport the finished product.
8. The National Grange endorses the goal of generating at least 25% of domestic energy needs from domestic renewable resources while continuing to produce safe, abundant and affordable food, feed, and fiber by January 1, 2025.
9. The National Grange urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, and any other pertinent Federal agencies to develop and strengthen regulations regarding the siting of liquefied natural gas terminals, and consideration should be given to the overall economic impact on the region before any site is approved.

Environmental Regulations and Controls

1. The National Grange supports requiring all appeals or court actions against properly approved and financed federal state or municipal construction projects to post a security bond equal to the projected cost of the project before the appeal or lawsuit may be adjudicated that will, in turn be forfeited if the appeal or lawsuit subsequently fails.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to require that all environmental impact statements under the National Environmental Policy Act must equitably balance and weigh economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts of proposed Federal actions to reduce unnecessary delays on worthwhile and vital projects.
3. The National Grange supports the EPA's standards on the use of dangerous trace metals. We further support continued EPA programs to monitor the industrial and farm uses of materials that contain dangerous trace metals.
4. The National Grange supports new "Right to Farm" laws at the local, state and federal levels to further protect them against charges of civil or criminal violation of environmental regulations when those charges apply to activities that are essential to a normal farm operation in that area.
5. The National Grange urges Congress to keep the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at its current status as an independent federal agency, and not elevate the agency to a Cabinet level.
6. The National Grange urges USDA to use only scientifically-based research when crafting regulations to implement the conservation title of the Farm Bill.

Federal Grazing

1. The National Grange supports basing all decisions on Federal Grazing regulations, including grazing fee pricing formulas, upon solid economic principals, current livestock market prices, good conservation practices and extensive public input from existing grazing permittees. We favor legislation that would further limit any overall reduction in grazing to 10% or less on any given allotment except in the case of emergencies such as drought.
2. The National Grange strongly supports considering the economic impact that restrictions on grazing in riparian areas may have on farmers before legislation is passed.
3. The National Grange encourages the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to carry out an aggressive program to fill all grazing allotments on Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands. However, we support restricting the selling of Federal grazing permits to anyone other than someone using the permit for grazing purposes.

Land Withdrawals and Wilderness

1. The National Grange supports releasing all public lands not currently designated as Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas to multiple uses. We oppose any further designations of National Forest lands as wilderness, especially in Alaska. We believe that all public lands suitable for producing commercial timber, farm or grazing resources,

commercially valuable minerals, or public recreational facilities (including motorized sports activities) should be precluded from future consideration for wilderness designation and, instead, actively managed to achieve sustainable multiple use goals.

2. The National Grange believes that regulations governing the management of Federal Wilderness areas should allow for controlled access by motorized vehicles in cases of emergency, especially when lives or private property are at stake. We further support the harvest of timber resources from Federal Wilderness areas following natural disasters. We oppose the destruction or obliteration of any Forest Service roads and further oppose designating any roadless areas of the National Forest System as permanently off limits to logging, mining or other development.
3. The National Grange strongly opposes the use of eminent domain or any regulatory property taking via administration designation by any Federal agency to include any private property in any Federal Wilderness area, any part of the Federal Wild and Scenic River System, any part of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, any land conservation program authorized by an international agreement or treaty or any habitat management area under the Endangered Species Act.
4. The National Grange supports legislation directing mitigation of identified losses of public and private lands from the state tax base due to federal acquisition through transfer of an equivalent acreage from federal land to public or private ownership, or by providing an annual payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT), based on an independent economic impact analysis to be adjusted annually for inflation.

Mining

1. The National Grange urges Federal agencies to work with the states to develop surface mining guidelines, giving the states the flexibility to control and supervise the surface mining of coal, gravel, and similar materials. To ensure against the destruction of surface mined areas, a performance and a completion bond should be required of the mining companies that would assure the completion of reclamation plans as they are developed. Such plans should require the return of the land where strip mine operations occur to a reasonable topography and fertility level and should be enforced by law. The deposits that are required under Section 402(a) of the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 should be returned to the states for strip mine reclamation. The National Grange further supports any regulation or law that holds the coal company liable for subsidence damage to structures caused by underground mining.
2. The National Grange supports changes in the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act that recognize the special conditions of small independent mine operations and provides for greater forbearance in correcting violations.

Preservation of Fisheries Resources

1. The National Grange urges the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission to support the designation of only those marine sanctuaries that guarantee fishery usage and recognize the fishery management authority of the current sanctuary boundaries.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to reauthorize the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation Management Act. We urge all appropriate federal agencies to work closely with all state wildlife agencies to maintain sustained fishing yields by regulating sport and subsistence fisheries in order to allow for the adequate recovery of fish and aquatic species in areas where they have declined. We support the United States working with all countries to regulate commercial fishing to allow for the adequate return of fish into many areas where fish yields have declined. We further support an extension of the U.S. territorial sea to not less than 50 miles where foreign commercial fishing may not be performed. The National Grange favors all reasonable measures to save the Pacific Salmon in the Columbia and Snake Rivers as long as the priority for these river systems is power generation, water use, and navigation. We support securing the passage of a treaty between Canada and the United States to govern the operation of the salmon industries in each respective nation. We support uniform regulation of all net fishing in the Columbia River, Puget Sound, and the Pacific Ocean before drastic economic measures to reestablish wild runs of Pacific Salmon are enacted. The National Grange recommends that fish ladders be included in the planning of any future dam construction on streams or rivers where fish that migration may be affected. We favor the transport of juvenile fish, the hatchery propagation of salmon stocks, flow control, and control of the salmon harvest until a final Pacific Salmon recovery plan is in place. We support the establishment of a program to audit the harvest of salmon on the lower Columbia River. We further believe that all salmon fishing on the Columbia and Snake Rivers should be restricted to hook and line methods only. We recommend to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that spawned out salmon carcasses be planted near remote site incubators for smolt releases as a food source for the young fish.
3. The National Grange urges the federal government to continue funding the National Marine Fisheries Service at a sufficient level to enable them to continue the biological studies that will lead to the elimination of drift net fishing by all nations.

4. The National Grange supports adequate funding of the Marine Mammal Protection Act for use by the various states in developing appropriate marine mammal management plans and policies. In addition, we urge Congress to exclude Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions from the Marine Mammal Protection Act and place them under the control and protection of the states, including a controlled harvest season for Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions, until the yearly run of the Pacific Salmon increases to the point where the salmon will no longer be considered for protection under the Endangered Species Act.
5. The National Grange supports research and long-term solutions to prevent the introduction and the spread of invasive and/or destructive aquatic organisms as well as the necessary destruction of established populations of these species such as, but not limited to, Asian Carp and *Pfiesteria*. We support legislation requiring all shipping lines to change their ballast water in the open ocean to curtail the further introduction of foreign species, such as the Zebra Mussel, into our domestic waterways.
6. The National Grange favors the regulated harvesting of fresh water clams and mussels.
7. The National Grange supports legislative and regulatory measures to prohibit the National Marine Fisheries Service from taking control of private lands, breaching of dams, and killing of hatchery salmon under the authority of its 4 (d) Rules. The National Grange urges Congress to order the National Marine Fisheries Service to reconsider the proposed setbacks on private property along all bodies of water or to pay for the taking of the property. We urge Congress to intervene and formulate a true scientific basis for establishment of buffers/setbacks and buffer/setback restrictions along all bodies of water. We encourage the National Marine Fisheries Service do more to start identifying corrective measures beyond licensing and regulation to save the fish off our nation's coasts that include avoiding by catch, single-species management, ocean sanctuaries, eco-friendly gear, and consumer alertness. We further believe that alternative sources of fish production i.e. aquaculture, should be encouraged where appropriate.

Private Land Use, Planning, Zoning, and Eminent Domain

1. The National Grange urges the USDA, in conjunction with land grant universities, to provide assistance to local governments and citizen groups in educating the public on the importance of keeping land in agricultural production and in developing farmland retention programs which protect the rights of landowners and the prerogatives of local governments. The National Grange supports land use planning and zoning remaining a function of local and state governments.
2. The National Grange urges that the transfer of development rights be used to protect family farms. Whenever land is designated for permanent agricultural use, farmers should receive adequate compensation for the loss in land value.
3. The National Grange urges the Farm Service Agency or any other agency not to relinquish the use of any farmlands, wetlands, or other lands to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or any other government agency.
4. The National Grange supports efforts to improve locally controlled site-specific resource and environmental management in the Columbia Basin.
5. The National Grange supports legislation reaffirming congressional power over international agreements concerning disposal, management and use of lands owned by the United States and also protects state powers, from federal actions designating lands to international agreements.
6. The National Grange supports legislation to mandate that when private property is acquired for a specific purpose by any federal agency through eminent domain, condemnation, foreclosure or negotiated price, and the property is subsequently not needed or used for the specific purpose it was acquired for, the original owner shall have first right of repurchase at either the original price or the current market price, whichever is less.
7. We support legislation that eminent domain be used only for public purposes, such as rights of way for transportation and utilities.
8. The National Grange urges the federal government to replace, whenever possible, condemned private land with public land of equal value/productivity, and to maintain a balance between public and private lands throughout the nation.
9. The National Grange supports changing laws so that, in points of controversy, private property rights take precedence over environmental regulations.
10. The National Grange supports legislation to prohibit the Federal Government or any agency or authority of the Federal Government from exercising its power of eminent domain to be used for private economic development unless there is an immediate danger to the health and/or safety of citizens. Furthermore, the National Grange supports federal legislation to require that no state, political subdivision of a state or any person or entity to which such power has been delegated shall exercise its power of eminent domain, for the purpose of private economic development or over property that is subsequently used for economic development unless there are situations of immediate danger to the health and/or safety of citizens. Any state or political subdivision that exercises the power of eminent domain for private economic development shall be ineligible for any federal economic development funds for any purpose for a period of at least two years.

Private Timber Land Management

1. The National Grange supports the use of best management practices (BMPs) and sustained yield management practices on private forestlands. The National Grange believes that in return for public benefits resulting from improved forest management on individually owned forest lands. Any forest management assistance programs

should recognize the multiple use aspects of private forest lands, including timber production, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, recreation, and scenic values.

2. The National Grange requests Congress to control arbitrary appeals of U.S. Forest Service timber sales assessing penalties to the appellant to cover the costs of failed appeals. We further support legislation to require each appeal of a timber sale to post a security bond equal to the value of the timber sale before the appeal may be adjudicated that will, in turn, be forfeited if the appeal subsequently fails.

Public Lands Management Practices

1. The National Grange believes that multiple use of non-reserved land should be the cornerstone of the United States' public land policy in order to achieve the following objectives: energy exploration and development; sustained yield management for food and forest production; recreational uses for all citizens; responsible wildlife management; soil conservation and watershed protection.
2. The National Grange supports the maintenance of appropriate conservation practices on all public lands leased to private individuals yet will continue to support placing a moratorium on the acquisition of private land by the U.S. Forest Service. The National Grange recommends that a user fee be implemented for all commercial and recreational use of federal land requiring a permit.
3. The National Grange supports prescribed burning on public forestlands as a forest management technique to reduce uncontrolled fires on public lands. We oppose public forest management plans that include the use of natural, uncontrolled forest fires as a forest management technique. After a major natural forest fire, we support a maximum two-year administrative deadline for applicable Federal State and Local forest management agencies to formulate a forest recovery plan and complete all appeals. We support expedited restorative actions, such as reforestation and harvest of dead or dying timber resources as part of every forest recovery plan.
4. The National Grange supports appropriations for the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service to adequately carry out an expanded silviculture program, wildlife management, water and soil protection, weed control, recreational needs, protection of natural, historic and cultural resources, to develop additional forest campgrounds and increase the available spaces in existing campgrounds to keep them open year-round where economically feasible. We also urge that U.S. Forest Service campground fees be raised to more nearly cover the costs of operating these campgrounds.
5. The National Grange favors the increased planting of lumber-producing trees on both national and state forest lands, including increased funding for Federal and State tree nurseries, to produce additional seedlings for timber. We urge the U.S. Forest Service to permit selected timber stands to reach old growth and be harvested on a sustained yield basis. Furthermore, we support prohibiting states from exercising authority to restrict the sale or export of logs that are harvested from State-owned land.
6. The National Grange recognizes the states' rights to own and/or manage Bureau of Land Management (BLM) unreserved lands, not including National Forest lands. Revenues that are received by counties should be protected when control of any Federal land is assigned to State Governments.
7. The National Grange supports legislation to require Federal and State Governments to pay a proportionate share of monies, in lieu of taxes, to those counties, cities, and communities that provide public services to the parks and recreational areas within their boundaries. In addition, the Grange supports Federal legislation allowing National Parks to keep a major portion of entrance fees to be used for the development and maintenance of recreational facilities.
8. The National Grange calls on Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement Agencies to investigate and prosecute incidents of tree and trail spiking and the destruction of logging equipment on Federal and State Lands.
9. The National Grange supports amending the National Antiquities Act to include public comment before any regulation or Executive Order designating any additional public land as a National Antiquity becomes effective.
10. The National Grange supports a policy that any responding agency to a fire, whether it is local, state or federal, be required to notify adjacent landowners and other authorities with jurisdiction, for their own safety, of all wild and grass fires in the area.
11. The National Grange supports the use of state and/or federal funds to reimburse small landowners for the mitigation of loss of land values due to any state or federal logging restrictions on private lands.
12. The National Grange opposes the creation of the Owyhee Canyonlands Monument in Oregon and Idaho.

Recycling

1. The National Grange supports legislation that would require a deposit on non-biodegradable beverage containers and urges manufacturers to use recycled materials.
2. The National Grange supports requiring all government agencies to initiate a recycling program for paper, metal, glass, etc. Government agencies should also be required to use recycled paper whenever feasible. The National Grange supports a review of recycling agricultural plastic wastes, such as Cornell University's Recycling Agricultural

Plastics Project (RAPP), and encourages funding from the USDA for this type of research in order to help all American farmers with this concern.

3. The National Grange supports legislation requiring the use of biodegradable feedstocks in all appropriate consumer-based products such as retail plastic bags, product packaging, diapers and packing materials. We support legislation to require single-use and short-life plastic products and packaging to be manufactured with biodegradable ingredients that will completely degrade within three years when exposed in a biologically active environment.
4. The National Grange encourages the use of alternative bags such as canvas, cotton, mesh, biodegradable paper, or other biodegradable products. We urge all manufacturers to reduce their use of packing materials in their consumer products.
5. The National Grange supports efforts to restrict the disposal of tires in landfills. We support additional efforts to recycle used tires to recover valuable petrochemical feedstocks and to utilize recycled tires in road and other construction projects.

Rural Electric Cooperatives, Public Power and Rural Electricity Consumers

1. The National Grange supports the continued application of the existing preference concept of the Federal Power Act being granted to public power utilities in the licensing and re-licensing of Federal hydroelectric facilities. We further support granting co-preference in the licensing and re-licensing of federal hydroelectric facilities to rural electric cooperatives.
2. In order to assure adequate electric, telephone and broadband service to rural areas, the National Grange supports continuation and expansion of the existing USDA Rural Utility Service low interest revolving loan fund to assure the financial stability of rural electric and telephone cooperatives.
3. The National Grange supports continuing electric service to urban areas that are within a rural electric cooperative's service area. However, rural electric cooperatives that provide electric service to predominantly rural areas should continue to have first priority for low interest federal financing. In addition, we urge the electricity industry to charge rates for farmers and small businessmen that are competitive with their large wholesale customers.
4. We support maintaining the current structure of rural electric systems without forced deregulation of publicly owned plants or any other action that would be detrimental to rural electric consumers. The National Grange supports reform to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act, so that non-utility generating stations operate to sell their output at competitive market rates. The National Grange supports requirements for increased accountability and responsibility on the part of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and power companies in the operation of any nuclear power plant. The National Grange supports the careful selection by the Department of Energy of sites for the disposal of low-level nuclear wastes, excluding prime agricultural, forest, and parkland. The National Grange supports efforts to open the Yucca Mountain site in 2020 for the storage of nuclear waste and opposes actions to delay the project. We urge that the public be involved in the decision to conduct additional research on the long-term consequences to the environment of the disposal of nuclear wastes. The National Grange further urges the Department of Energy to conduct an extensive educational program to inform citizens of the safeguards and hazards that are involved in the disposal of these wastes.
5. The National Grange opposes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's imposition of a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) and Standard Market Design (SMD) on the Northwest Region of the U.S. We support the present cost-based rate system, as determined in the 1937 Congressional Bonneville Power Administration repayment agreement; requiring Bonneville Power Administration to adopt for pricing electricity, instead of a market-based repayment pricing system. We support the present Federal Power Marketing Administrations. We further recommend the establishment of Power Marketing Administrations in areas of the United States where desired and feasible. We vigorously oppose selling the Western Area Power Administration and Bonneville Power Administration to private power companies. The National Grange also supports the allowance of the Northwest Region to develop an alternate approach to strengthening the transmission system.
6. The National Grange urges the U.S. Government to engage in diplomatic negotiations on the environmental impacts that contribute to air and water pollution before permitting the transfer of electricity across the borders into the United States.

Soil Conservation and Non-Point Source Pollution

1. The National Grange supports voluntary programs to control specific known point sources of pollution, as well as non-point sources of agricultural pollution. We support the concept of conservation tillage practices and other types of sediment control. We believe that irrigation and agricultural drainage practices should be recognized as soil and water conservation practices. We encourage broad participation in the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act studies in order to assure that quality, locally designed and controlled conservation programs are developed in order to meet the needs of family farmers. We support programs offering at least 50% cost share assistance for establishing grass strip boundaries and other soil conservation best practices, as well as technical assistance, as the primary means of correcting agricultural non-point source pollution problems. We also support programs offering at least 50% cost-share assistance to correct agricultural pollution and free technical assistance prior to non-income producing practices that require major expenditures. The National

- Grange will raise awareness about regenerative agriculture and encourage practices to minimize on-farm inputs while building capacity for future production.
2. The National Grange opposes the sole use of uniform federal government farm pollution policies and supports that each state, or region, continue to maintain their own farm pollution policies that are unique to their industry and geography.
 3. The National Grange supports the privately financed National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation, the American Conservation Corps, as well as vocational programs to educate and train youths to help in the conservation of our woodlands with sustainable forests and arboreal practices and other natural resources, using presently established facilities. We believe that all citizens should share in soil conservation costs through tax dollars that support State and Federal programs focusing on technical assistance, research, education, loans and cost sharing programs.
 4. The National Grange supports locally developed storm water management programs administered through local conservation districts.

Toxic and Hazardous Wastes

1. The National Grange supports a program to educate consumers on the proper handling and disposal of hazardous household waste, such as energy saver light bulbs and any other items containing mercury.
2. The National Grange supports realistic insurance coverage plans being made available by the Federal Government at a reasonable cost for existing and future storage tanks and other potential sources of toxic and hazardous waste pollution.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would require urban sewer sludge disposal to be strictly regulated, i.e. knifing or ground injection as used in agriculture. We only support burning if such burning meets EPA air quality standards.
4. National Grange supports federal legislation prohibiting the dumping of waste material or raw sewage from foreign countries in landfills located in the United States.
5. The National Grange supports continued research on non-toxic materials in preparing pressure-treated wood for building materials.
6. The National Grange supports public education of the dangers of sodium azide and legislation to set guidelines for the proper storage or disposal of all unused airbags.
7. The National Grange supports the current exemptions for family farmers from the EPA's Toxic Spill Prevention Containment and Control regulations.

Water Projects, Irrigation and Reclamation Reform Act, State Authority for Water Rights

1. The National Grange recommends that federal, state, and local governments work closely with each other and local landowners in the development and construction of watershed projects, dams, and reservoirs for multiple uses, such as flood control, storing and releasing surplus flood water, replenishing underground water, hydroelectric power generation, irrigation, industrial and municipal use, and recreation. We urge both Congress and the President to make the necessary funds available in order to complete all planned and feasible federal water development projects and provide cost-share assistance for the rehabilitation of dams and other flood control structures that were previously constructed with Federal Assistance. The National Grange supports efforts to provide State and Federal funds to pay the recreational share of impoundment facilities on small water development projects.
2. The National Grange believes that the Federal Government should compensate any loss or diminution of water rights resulting from the exercise of a federally reserved right.
3. The National Grange supports legislation to consolidate the activities of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior to eliminate duplication.
4. The National Grange supports local control over State Water Projects.
5. The National Grange supports a national water policy requiring all alternate sources of water, including full development of desalination plants for urban uses, must be considered before approval of any water diversion project.
6. The National Grange supports the use of existing multi-purpose dams, creating possible draw-downs or transfers of water from productive agricultural lands to waters that could possibly assist in flushing young salmon to the ocean, and urge the development of alternative methods of enhancing fish populations including salmon.
7. The National Grange requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and all environmental agencies to facilitate restorative dredging of rivers prone to flooding.
8. The National Grange supports maintaining minimum water levels along the Great Lakes in order to support commerce, hydroelectric production and tourism in the region. We support accurate monitoring of water drawn from the Great Lakes Water Basin for agricultural, industrial and residential uses. We support only allowing those states and provinces that belong to the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes to be authorized to allow

permitting to remove and use waters of the Great Lakes. However, we also believe that agriculture entities should be exempt from any permits or fees for removing water from the Great Lakes.

9. The National Grange supports irrigation rules and regulations that prohibit abuse of the Reclamation Reform Act and assure the fullest measure of benefits from Federal Irrigation Projects for family farmers. The National Grange supports the continued development and widespread utilization of more efficient irrigation systems in addition to legislation outlawing the practice of using trusts, partnerships, corporations, and estates to circumvent the 960-acre irrigation subsidy qualification that favors small farmers.
10. The National Grange will actively work to preserve the way of life of the Klamath Basin farming community of Oregon and California. We support reversing the decisions of the Ninth Federal Circuit and permanently restoring the flow of irrigation water from Klamath Lake to the farmers and farm communities served by the irrigation system. We further oppose any efforts to remove water storage and electrical generation capacity from the Klamath River Basin system. We call on Congress to convene a local working group to draft a viable Klamath Basin Restoration Plan and then fund that plan for the benefit of the entire Klamath Basin community.
11. The National Grange vigorously supports state control of water rights. We oppose any federal plan that infringes on states' water rights. In particular, any water resource planning that is conducted by State or Federal Agencies must respect both the states' sovereignties and the agricultural sector in establishing priorities for water allocations. The National Grange firmly opposes the inter-basin transfer of water that would alter the flow of water into downstream states unless such transfer is dictated in an approved river basin compact.

Wildlife Management

1. The National Grange encourages Congress to amend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to restore proper perspective by requiring public hearings and economic impact statements on the impacts to the affected areas before a species may be listed. We support changes to the ESA to require that only a pure biological and numerical definition of an endangered species be used without being based on subspecies, distinct populations, or hybridization. We believe that only those species actually threatened with extinction should be listed in the ESA, taking into consideration total populations, available habitats, and recovery areas on the North American continent. We further support a review of the ESA with the following guidelines: focus on keystone species (organisms critical to the stable functions of entire habitats and ecosystems), not minor or reduced species; rely on public lands for preservation; encourage voluntary protection by individuals and corporations; curtail taking of private lands for ESA; balance human costs with ecological benefits; compensation for private property owners for loss of usage of their property due to the ESA.
2. The National Grange supports legislation legally allowing people to defend themselves or their property from an attack by any animal listed as an endangered species without concern of retribution from government authorities.
3. The National Grange supports legislative and regulatory measures to prohibit further implementation of any Wolf Recovery Plan. We further support the passage of legislation to outlaw the propagation of wolves or wolf hybrids.
4. The National Grange supports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the chief administrator of the National Bison Range.
5. The National Grange believes it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to control the expanding populations of legally protected plants and animals where those plants or animals pose a threat to human life or health, or where those plants or animals pose a threat to established economic activity. We encourage State and Federal Wildlife Conservation Agencies to assist farmers in all cases of crop and property damage by wild game.
6. The National Grange is opposed to any Grizzly Bear recovery plan. We support legislation requiring government agencies to notify property owners when they relocate park bears or other potentially dangerous animals.
7. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation of licensed hunting and trapping of game animals, waterfowl, and game birds. However, we favor the levying of stiff penalties for poaching of wildlife. We further support the continued usage of steel jaw traps.
8. The National Grange believes that wildlife management areas should not be used for recreation or any other development that diminishes the value of the lands for wildlife management purposes.
9. The National Grange supports legislation to expand the hunting season of Canada and Snow geese from November 1st - April 1st. We also support increasing the daily bag limit for Canada and Snow geese.
10. The National Grange supports any prairie dog management plan that allows people to control the prairie dog population through shooting and toxicants, without the need for a special license.
11. The National Grange opposes the listing of the Eastern Oyster on the endangered species list.
12. The National Grange opposes forcing dams to spill spring waters in an unproven effort to help salmon.

Miscellaneous

1. The National Grange will raise awareness about regenerative agriculture encourage practices to minimize on-farm inputs while building capacity for future production.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Conservation Committee for their hard work and many long hours before and during the Convention. Having an outstanding committee made the difficult task of this committee go very smoothly and efficiently.

Thanks to National Grange, Betsy and Burton for allowing us to ZOOM prior to this meeting. We were able to use that time to agree on the points of the National Grange Conservation Policy that needed to be updated or researched prior to arrival at the session.

Thank You.

Tom Gwin, WA, Chr.
Jim Foster, WV
Harry Greer, CO
Billy Shufeldt, OK
Marilyn Johnson, MT

Kay Stiles, MD, Sec.
Richard Javaux, ID
Richard Harriman, ME
Don Schaeffer, IL
*Phil Jones, IL – Youth team

EDUCATION & HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

POLICY STATEMENT

EDUCATION

Balanced Approach

The purpose of education is to open the minds of young people to the world around them, to the lessons of the past, and the possibilities of the future. An understanding of the past and how it has shaped our present and future is a part of education that is too often neglected.

We encourage school systems and all students to put the same emphasis on the possibility of exploring vocational training as well as college preparation.

Current events have highlighted the need for local school systems to have standard tools for virtual learning, especially with regard to economically challenged students. We urge Granges to explore the possibilities of working with their school systems to make Grange Halls available as WiFi hotspots, and we urge other groups to provide financial assistance to this initiative. (507-MD)

We support 'K-12 Bridge to Broadband', a collaboration including the non-profit group 'Education Superhighway' and NTCA, The Rural Broadband Association. This is a national effort to connect more students for remote and hybrid learning. (President's External Address)

Loans and Aid

Many teachers and mental health counselors undertook their career education under the auspices of federal programs that offered student loan forgiveness if specific conditions were met. However, these programs have sometimes been administered in a capricious and uneven manner, leaving many who followed the rules in good faith with unexpected, significant debt. We believe this is a situation that calls for reason and compassion on the part of the program administrators.

Since the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 and the 1946 George-Barden Act, focused federal aid for agricultural, industrial, and home economics training for high school students, our federal government has to some degree had a hand in funding public education. Thus, the funding of public education has become a partnership between federal and state/local, but we reaffirm the importance of state and local control.

Private providers of higher education are major recipients of federal financial aid and should be held accountable for their academic standards and advertised employment outcomes. We are opposed to any weakening of regulation of private education providers.

Mental Health and Safety

Many social problems in schools arise from bullying, feelings of disenfranchisement and isolation among at-risk students. We urge schools to find ways to increase the availability of counseling for all students, and proactively engage with marginalized and at-risk young people. We strongly encourage Grange members nationwide to play an active role in their local school systems and communities. It is essential for our members to invest in our children's education through volunteering.

Special Needs

Great technological strides have been made in the creation of assistive devices for the hearing impaired, but not all are widely known. We encourage state and subordinate Granges to educate their members and their surrounding communities about the availability of such devices under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

HEALTH

Pandemic Response

The National Grange promotes prompt and comprehensive testing and contact tracing to minimize the spread of disease during any pandemic. During the current COVID-19 pandemic we support the Center for Disease Control recommendations regarding wearing masks, social distancing, and discouraging large gatherings.

The National Grange will closely follow the development of COVID-19 therapies and vaccines, proposals for their delivery to the public, and pricing and insurance coverage. These issues will be a major focus for Grange policy in 2021. (President's External Address)

Controlled Substances

We understand that opioids serve a needed place in pain management when properly prescribed by a physician. However, the opioid abuse crisis continues to plague our country. A multi-pronged approach is needed and must include continued study of the benefits of opioid painkillers as compared to alternative pain management strategies; improved prescription strategies such as limiting the number of pills issued per renewal; proper security of our prescription drugs in our homes; and proper disposal of unused or outdated prescription medications through recognized drug take-back programs or disposal programs. These are all efforts that local Granges can and should promote in their communities. The Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI) has formed partnerships with ten state Granges to address these issues and we strongly urge additional Granges to develop RALI partnerships in their states. Our youth have taken a great leadership role in this effort, and we encourage them to continue with various programs, including training initiatives such as those provided by the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA).

Notwithstanding our present policy and resolutions about the integrity and safety of prescription drugs, we support efforts like the Creating and Restoring Equal Access to Equivalent Samples Act (C.R.E.A.T.E.S.) that promote affordable access to medications through the development of lower cost generics.

Family Friendly Workplaces

We support paid parental leave and working with businesses to build a comprehensive policy that benefits both the employee and employer.

Affordable and Effective Care.

We encourage bipartisan efforts by Congress to continue health care reform, identifying solutions that provide high quality and affordable healthcare for all Americans.

Transparency and simplicity in the system should be made a priority. For example, in- and out-of-network access and cost differentials continue to be a problem. Disconnects between doctor and hospital networks are aggravating and unhelpful—especially when they result in surprise medical bills that appear due to hidden gaps in coverage.

Consumer education should also be a priority. For example, some supplemental insurance policies limit or do not cover skilled nursing care coverage, and people should be able to advocate for that when necessary.

In the past decade the cost of Insulin has increased without justification. We support legislation that would establish controls on the price of Insulin in the United States. (515-OR)

We encourage efforts towards lowering prescription drug prices but doing so by purchasing such drugs from Canada or certain European countries may not be the answer. We cannot assume that drugs manufactured outside the United States are safe. (President's External Address)

Promoting Health of Minors

Nutrition is an essential building block for health. We support the concept of sending unserved food from school cafeterias home with needy students, assuming proper food safety concerns can be addressed. Also related to school lunches, different age groups have different appetite levels. In the interest of promoting healthy portions and minimizing food waste, we encourage the National School Lunch Program to change recommended portion sizes according to grade levels. E-cigarettes have emerged as a serious public health question, with illness and deaths from their use being reported across the country. While the debate continues about new regulations surrounding these products, we urge legislation or public service campaigns to educate youth about the dangers of using e-cigarettes and associated products.

Childhood immunizations such as the Measles, Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccine continue to bring passionate feelings, especially when proposals arise to make them mandatory for all children. We recognize that such proposals may not be practical under the civil liberties established in the U.S. Constitution. However, we suggest that even more effort should then be made to educate the public on this issue using valid science-based information. (520-WA)

Cancer Research

It has been long-standing Grange policy to support research into the causes and treatments of all types of cancer. Since many are impatient with the pace of this work, we encourage Congress to increase funding for cancer research rather than merely maintaining current levels.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

509-ME	Essential Supplies	Education & Health	Adopted (covers 504)
511-NC	Senior Care During Pandemics	Education & Health	Adopted (Covers 518-PA)
517-PA	Chronic Pain Management	Education & Health	Adopted (Covers 506-MD)
514-NY	Seeding Rural Resilience Act	Education & Health	Adopted
513-NY	Outpatient Observation Stays	Education & Health	Adopted
522-E&H	Vaccinations	Education & Health	Adopted
510-NC	Pandemic Preparedness	Education & Health	Adopted
521-WA	Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act (SRSCA)	Education & Health	Adopted

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

EH-509-ME-ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

WHEREAS: it was reported in the media that China produces 90% of the ingredients used to make pharmaceuticals in the United States and threatened to withhold some of them during the coronavirus crisis; and

WHEREAS: situations such as this could cause disastrous consequences for Americans if this were to occur with these or other essential supplies. Nations considered enemies of the United States should not be our primary source of essential supplies; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that Congress devise legislate incentives and policies to encourage the production of food, pharmaceuticals, energy, and defense supplies in the United States or other countries considered allies of the United States.

EH-510-NC-PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

WHEREAS: pandemics have occurred worldwide since the beginning of recorded history; and

WHEREAS: COVID-19 has not only taken many thousands of lives, but has devastated our global economy and threatened food supplies worldwide; and

WHEREAS: there was pandemic protocol in place, but not to the degree needed; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the National Grange support legislation by the US Congress on a plan of action to coordinate and improve efforts to prevent, control and respond to future pandemics and the potential effect they may have on our public health as well as the health of our economy.

EH-511-NC-SENIOR CARE DURING PANDEMICS

WHEREAS: the efforts of the older population of the United States are responsible for the great achievements of science, education, technology and production which have resulted in the current level and quality of the American way of life; and

WHEREAS: we commend the efforts of the health care system in providing care to older Americans during the current pandemic. Unfortunately, due to the enormity of the problem, the human needs for safe interaction with others, personal reassurance and activities to keep their minds functional have been limited. Our health care system and political leadership were simply not adequately prepared, nor understanding of the unique needs of older citizens, often seeming to not take into consideration the negative impacts of isolating elderly patients and not allowing adequate family visitation options; and

WHEREAS: these citizens deserve to be treated properly and respectfully in accordance with their senior years and unique needs, including the provision of health care (life), access to the normal means of interacting with family friends and associates (liberty) as well as entertainment (pursuit of happiness); therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the National Grange recommends that the National Institutes of Health and Center for Disease Control utilize the information learned during the COVID-19 pandemic to develop and implement a more comprehensive plan for assisting the older population during times of health emergencies, and be it further.

RESOLVED: this plan should ensure that long term care facilities have sufficient access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and infectious disease testing for all staff and patients; and that daily, clear reports for long term care facilities on any infectious disease cases be made available to the public.

EH-513-NY-OUTPATIENT OBSERVATION STAYS

WHEREAS: many patients on Medicare are in a hospital under “observation” status rather than under “inpatient” status for billing purposes; and

WHEREAS: if said Medicare recipient is transferred to a skilled nursing facility without having been in an “inpatient” status for at least 3 days in the hospital, the patient incurs all costs for care in the skilled nursing facility; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the National Grange urges Congress to amend the Social Security Act “to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the three-day inpatient hospital stay requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.”

EH-514-NY -SEEDING RURAL RESILIENCE ACT

WHEREAS: according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, between 1999 and 2016, suicide rates grew in nearly all 50 states, and the suicide rate in rural communities is 45 percent higher than the rate in urban areas; and

WHEREAS: a career in agriculture is a rewarding life; unfortunately it comes with many obstacles, and whether it's low prices, trade wars, or Mother Nature, much of a farmer's bottom line is out of their control and uncertainty adds to their daily stresses; and

WHEREAS: facing isolation and the stigma associated with seeking mental healthcare, farmers often fail to seek out help; and

WHEREAS: bills have been introduced in the United States Senate and House of Representatives that would provide funding for public service announcements to increase awareness of farm and ranch stress and destigmatize mental health care in rural communities; provide voluntary stress management training to Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency and National Resources Conservation Service employees as these agencies are constantly in direct contact with members of the ag community and will be able to direct producers in need to appropriate mental health services; and convene a task force of agricultural and rural stakeholders at the federal, state and local levels to assess the causes of mental stress in farmers and ranchers and identify best practices for responding to such stress; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the National Grange encourages legislation that would provide funding for public service announcements to increase awareness of farm and ranch stress and destigmatize mental health care in rural communities; provide voluntary stress management training to Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency and National Resources Conservation Service employees as these agencies are constantly in direct contact with members of the ag community and will be able to direct producers in need to appropriate mental health services; and convene a task force of agricultural and rural stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels to assess the causes of mental stress in farmers and ranchers and identify best practices for responding to such stress.

EH-517-PA-CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS: The health and wellness of rural citizens is important in terms of human suffering and economic loss; and

WHEREAS: The Centers for Disease Control found that 24 percent of rural adults suffer from chronic pain; and

WHEREAS: There are less than 40 primary care physicians per 100,000 rural dwellers according to the National Rural Health Association; and

WHEREAS: Many rural medical facilities have closed in recent years making proper care for pain even more difficult; and

WHEREAS: Chronic pain has contributed to the tragic opioid crisis in rural America; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: The National Grange will support

- **Research into identifying the causes of chronic pain especially in rural life**
- **National and state initiatives that encourage research and development of new pain relief therapies that avoid opioids and other addictive drugs**
- **Research into possible chronic pain mitigation strategies through education, technology and other mechanisms**
- **Robust policy discussions and education about pain management among Grange members and their rural communities.**

EH-521-WA-SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES SELF DETERMINATION ACT (SRSCA)

WHEREAS: the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act (SRSCA) was adopted by Congress in 2000; and

WHEREAS: the act must periodically be reauthorized by Congress; and

WHEREAS: without this act and the accompanied funding, over 700 rural counties across the nation could have dramatic budgetary shortfalls; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the Grange support the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act; and be it further

RESOLVED: we urge Congress to provide adequate funding to support this legislation.

EH-522 Committee Resolution-Vaccinations

WHEREAS: The viruses and bacteria that cause illness and death still exist and can be passed on to those who are not protected by vaccines and

WHEREAS: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccinations throughout your life to protect against many infections and

WHEREAS: Vaccines are one of the most convenient and safest preventive care measures available; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: The National Grange encourages people to follow the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding immunizations.

PRESENT POLICY: EDUCATION

Education for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Special Needs Children

1. The National Grange believes that parents of deaf and hard of hearing children, deaf and hard of hearing people, teachers, and professionals who are trained in the area of educating the deaf should assist in determining the extent, content, and purpose of the educational program, and particularly consider those program options that provide the pupil with an appropriate and equal opportunity for communication access, including the state's school for the deaf, which may be the least restrictive environment for a deaf or hard of hearing child.
2. The National Grange strongly supports continuation of the Education of the Deaf Act to provide maximum benefit for deaf and hard of hearing persons, both in programs and services, including funding for Gallaudet University and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID).
3. The National Grange opposes any repeal of the provisions in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 which provides necessary accommodations for children with special needs.

Educational Funding

1. The National Grange supports the continuation of the federal guaranteed student loan, grant, and work-study programs. The National Grange recommends that Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Expected Family Contribution (EFC) regulations be adjusted to reflect family expenses, such as real estate taxes, medical expenses and other financial obligations in the determination of financial aid. We urge strict enforcement of the requirements for repayment of federally financed student loans with severe penalties for default. The National Grange suggests that the guidelines for student financial aid laws be revised so students financially independent of their parents are eligible to receive financial aid for their higher education.
2. The National Grange supports the retention of Federal Government Impact Aid for public school districts that lose traditional revenue sources due to a federal presence or activity.
3. The National Grange supports federal categorical aid to school library centers.
4. The National Grange believes that public funding should be used only in public schools. We support redirecting public funding to nonpublic or charter schools, only when the money is for special needs students where the law mandates special training not available in public schools. We oppose any legislation that establishes a voucher program which distributes block grant funds to be distributed as vouchers to children attending nonpublic schools.
5. The National Grange supports federal funding for state allocation of dollars for rural education to promote better salaries and benefits for teachers in rural education and to improve rural school conditions.
6. The National Grange urges adequate funding by the federal government for all federally mandated education programs. In particular, we support equal educational opportunities for exceptional and differently abled persons including federal funding at the 40% level for federally mandated individualized education programs for special needs children.
7. The National Grange supports federal legislation protecting the Upward Bound Talent Search, designed to benefit low-income students seeking college educations.
8. The National Grange supports legislation that awards grants to institutions for history teacher preparation initiatives stressing content mastery in traditional American history and the principles on which the American political system is based.
9. The National Grange support the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act, and we urge Congress to provide adequate funding to support this legislation.

Food Safety and Labeling

1. The National Grange believes the agricultural industry should be free to advertise their products as long as the advertisement is accurate and is based on facts.
2. The National Grange favors strict enforcement of all food labeling laws by the Food & Drug Administration and supports a uniform system for labeling food and drink products, including an expiration date in a color that is readable on the background. We encourage the National Safety Working Group and Congress to enact far-reaching legislation increasing the inspection rate and level of safety of imported foreign foods, drugs, and manufactured goods. We also support legislation requiring food companies and restaurants to clearly mark food labels and items on menus that may contain ingredients such as Monosodium Glutamate (MSG). We recommend that all manufacturers of food and drink who use sulfites in their products be required to specify on the product label that a sulfite was used. However,

we support each individual restaurant's right to decide whether to include calorie counts on their menu boards of calorie, fat, carbohydrates and sodium on their menus for all food and beverage items.

3. The National Grange urges the Department of Health and Human Services to review and strengthen the regulations pertaining to manufactured products used in the home canning process, including requiring a manufacturer's name and expiration date on these products.
4. The National Grange favors continued testing of cider processing but strongly urges Congress and the USDA not to require pasteurization of all commercial cider.
5. The National Grange supports easy and inexpensive access to vitamins and supplements. We urge that all herbal medicines sold in the United States be labeled with a warning to consult with a physician or pharmacist before using. We further support legislation that would require manufacturers and processors of vitamins, herbal supplements and other dietary supplements to report certain information to the Secretary of Health and Human Services annually, including a list of supplements manufactured, the labeling to include the country of origin and the major ingredients for such supplements, and be verified to contain only and all ingredients listed on the product label.
6. The National Grange supports national legislation to require clear labeling of food and medicines as well as other products that may be ingested when they contain gluten in any form, or as gluten-free when they do not contain gluten.
7. The National Grange encourages the continued efforts of the FDA and the USDA to establish a viable definition for the term "Natural" on food labeling.
8. The National Grange urges the Food and Drug Administration to modify regulations for the Food Safety Modernization Act in order to balance the need to ensure the safety of the food supply while seeing that the farmers selling direct to the consumer are not harmed economically.

General Education Policies

1. The National Grange supports public education and supports the idea of strengthening and improving the system of public education. Parents should have a choice of schools based on the schools' performance numbers provided that those parents furnish transportation for the children. We believe that every child should be able to receive a public education, and that the state is responsible for providing said education, which shall include the following: a broad curriculum with emphasis on basic language, physical education, math, and science skills; an opportunity for students to choose either vocational or "college preparatory" training; functional buildings; frequent public reports and accountability of funds; and basic training in agriculture, including the "Ag in the Classroom" program, covering both production and consumption.
2. The National Grange supports the adoption of a comprehensive health education curriculum.
3. The Grange supports the teaching of foreign languages, including sign language. We recommend that all other subjects be taught in the English language and that all non-English speaking students and residents in the United States be given the opportunity to receive immediate instruction in the English language through programs such as English As A Second Language. The National Grange seeks to establish a program for state granges to advocate for American Sign Language to be offered in primary and secondary schools.
4. The National Grange supports affordable telecommunications services for rural schools and libraries.
5. The National Grange supports the retention of the Head Start program and encourages its transfer to the US Department of Education. The National Grange also suggests that the Head Start program be completely integrated into federal and state education programs and that federal level funding be supported as needed to efficiently support the program.
6. The National Grange supports the teaching of both the theory of evolution and the story of creation, allowing individual school boards and students to make their own choice.
7. The National Grange encourages civics classes to be included in high school graduation requirements as suggested by the U.S. Department of Education and supports the teaching of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, including the Preamble and the Bill of Rights, in schools.
8. The National Grange opposes any legislation allowing illegal aliens to receive tuition discounts at American institutions of higher learning.
9. The National Grange endorses "Read Across America;" we recommit our organization to engage in programs and activities to make Americans the best readers in the world.
10. The National Grange is opposed to any changes in the language of classic literature, except those necessary for translation from another language.
11. The National Grange urges the Federal Department of Education to encourage all local school systems to retain recess for elementary school children.
12. The National Grange supports legislation to establish standardized requirements for school nurses in all 50 states, as well as legislation to adequately fund school nurse programs to be able to handle the increased workload.
13. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of Education to mandate that penmanship be a required course of study in early primary education.

14. The National Grange urges the US Congress and Administration to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (currently known as the “Every Child Succeeds Act”), reduce the testing mandates, promote multiple forms of evidence of student learning and school quality in accountability, and not mandate any fixed role for the use of student test scores in evaluating educators.

Nutrition

1. The National Grange urges adequate funding for school breakfast and lunch programs. We support the American Dietetic Association’s current guidelines recommending two to three servings of dairy products daily in the school nutrition program. We urge the USDA to keep dairy products in their Dietary Guidelines and encourage all consumers to include adequate amounts of calcium in their diets. School breakfast and lunch programs should provide balanced diets to meet a child’s daily nutritional requirements. The National Grange urges school systems to promote milk in school lunches and urges USDA to promote the greater use of milk in other child nutrition programs.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that would require adjustments to child nutrition programs as necessary to promote better consumption of milk by the nation’s students and to permit schools to offer all varieties of milk consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including low-fat flavored milk containing no more than 150 calories per 8-ounce serving, as well as provisions for meeting the needs of lactose-intolerant children.
3. The National Grange urges legislation to repeal the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act and allow local communities to make their own guidelines on school lunches to reduce child obesity. The National Grange also encourages local communities making their own guidelines to look at alternative ways to reduce child obesity, such as how school lunches are prepared (baked vs. fried), requiring physical education classes, and eliminating unhealthy snacks and soda pop from vending machines.
4. The National Grange urges the agricultural community to provide nutrition education programs for consumers and school-aged children and support continued funding for the Farmers’ Market Nutrition program.
5. The National Grange opposes any additional tax on “fat” foods for the purpose of preventing obesity. Instead, educational programs should be provided to encourage eating a variety of nutritious foods in moderation, and to teach the basic interaction of calorie intake and energy expenditure.
6. The National Grange urges the 2020-2025 USDA Dietary Guidelines to promote a more balanced diet that more accurately reflects studies that show there is no correlation between dietary consumption of saturated fatty acids and SFA levels in blood serum while consuming carbohydrates at levels exceeding an individual’s ability to oxidize them contributes to high levels of unhealthy SFA.

PRESENT POLICY: HEALTH

Alcohol, Tobacco, Controlled and Toxic Substances

1. The National Grange encourages the bold, accurate labeling of household products (including carpeting and furniture that have been treated with toxic chemicals), farm chemicals, and other products containing toxic ingredients.
2. The National Grange supports the continuation of the many programs presently fighting substance addiction. The National Grange urges that funding for addiction treatment be governed by medical personnel and not by non-medical administrators of reimbursement programs. The National Grange supports legislation to end insurance discrimination against Americans living with mental illness and addiction in order to provide necessary assistance and treatment programs that will allow many of these afflicted individuals to return to a productive life in mainstream society.
3. The use of steroid and other stimulants, unless prescribed for medical reasons, should be made illegal in all competitive sports and the National Grange supports having heavy penalties imposed upon the violators. We also support legislation banning the sale of synthetic marijuana and synthetic cannabinoids regardless of their chemical composition or the name they are sold under.
4. The National Grange supports aggressive enforcement of the laws to stop the import of all jewelry and any other products from foreign countries that contain highly dangerous levels of cadmium, other metals or chemicals.
5. The National Grange support legislation to prohibit the use of BPA and other similar industrial chemicals in all children’s products, human food and food packaging.

Deaf, Hard of Hearing and the Disabled

1. We strongly support legislation to protect the rights of deaf and hard of hearing persons.
2. The National Grange encourages manufacturers of machinery and stereo equipment to place warning labels, where feasible, informing consumers that permanent hearing loss could occur as a result of prolonged noise exposure above 85 decibels.
3. The National Grange supports legislation requiring emergency warning messages to be both close captioned

and delivered verbally, and all television stations provide closed captioning for news, weather, sports, and other live events.

4. The National Grange supports the installation and use of “induction hearing loop systems” compatible with telecoil (“T” switch) hearing aids.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require all health insurance companies to cover hearing screening, testing, surgery, and hearing aids, including mandatory regular hearing screenings and hearing aids for children.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would establish detection and intervention programs for newborns and infants with hearing loss. We further urge Congress to pass legislation to require hearing testing of newborns prior to their release from the hospital.
7. The National Grange supports legislation so that any retired military service personnel with 50% or more service-related disability rating be allowed to obtain and receive needed dental treatments at the Veteran’s Administration Dental Clinics at no cost.
8. The National Grange urges the U.S. Department of *Health and Human Services* and Congress to extend the *Support Service Provider* program to all 50 states.

Family Planning

1. We oppose any amendment to the United States Constitution that denies an individual the freedom of choice for abortion. We recognize the need for readily available family planning information for those who need or desire it. However, we do oppose partial-birth abortions. Government financing should not be available for abortions, except in cases of rape, incest, endangered health of the mother, or serious defects of the fetus. We support educational efforts, which would emphasize the necessity for licensed hospitals and medical doctors when abortions are necessary. We further support requiring all abortion agencies to provide counseling by qualified professional personnel to explore all possible options before an abortion, and we favor state legislation requiring abortion and family planning clinics to notify parents or guardians of minors who are seeking drugs or abortions.
2. The National Grange supports the release of adoption records that will provide family health history.
3. The National Granges opposes the distribution of any contraceptives to middle school age students.
4. The National Grange supports legislation that requires coverage of infertility treatments.

Health Care Consumer Protection, Patients’ Rights and Accessibility

1. The National Grange supports access to affordable health care and health insurance for every American regardless of age, race, income, health condition, or location with freedom of choice of medical provider and facility. We call upon federal regulators to ensure insurance companies abide with mental health parity laws already on the books to correct what remains an unequal health care system for patients with behavioral health conditions. In addition, health care cost containment strategies should maintain the highest quality of care without compromising effectiveness and efficiency. The National Grange calls upon the President to take immediate steps to reduce regulatory burdens and duplication to enhance care coordination by allowing health care providers to focus on patients rather than paperwork. The National Grange supports restrictions being placed on insurance companies, so that they can only cancel policies for nonpayment or fraud, and not because of new health issues. We favor legislation to guarantee that the attending physician’s decision is the governing factor regarding appropriate medical treatment or length of hospital stay. The physician’s decision should be the deciding factor for coverage whether or not treatment or hospitalization takes place in or out of the patient’s home state. We believe HMOs should be required to accept the determination of the attending health care provider as evidence of the need for an emergency visitation or ambulance service. The National Grange encourages all families to carry catastrophic health insurance.
2. The National Grange will work with other organizations to develop and present a “Healthcare Bill of Rights” for Americans to Congress. We support proposals for health care reform that include the following safeguards:
 - a. allow patients to sue HMOs for medical malpractice;
 - b. place a cap on how much an individual may sue for per medical malpractice suit, including a \$250,000 cap on malpractice awards arising from non-economic claims (i.e., pain and suffering);
 - c. place a cap on malpractice awards regarding product liability.
 - d. require insurance companies to provide hospital coverage for birth as deemed necessary by the doctor.
 - e. establish an efficient grievance and appeal process for patients when medical procedures or payments are denied by insurance companies/HMO’s.
 - f. require that insurance companies cover all legally mandated medical services deemed necessary by a doctor at federal, state, or hospital levels, including preventative procedures such as Well-baby check-ups and childhood immunizations;
 - g. require insurance companies to pay claims within 30 to 45 days of receiving properly completed forms and bills.
 - h. We also support a health care plan that includes the following provisions:
 - Access to affordable, portable health care, health insurance and prescription drugs for every American regardless of age, race, income, health condition or location with freedom of choice of medical provider and

facility.

- Each person should be treated with dignity, equality and respect and health information should be provided in a manner that is easily understood and comprehended.
 - Protection of Medicare or current health insurance coverage as they are presently provided with no reduction in coverage.
 - No ban on writing new policies for insurance companies.
 - Preventive care, screenings and services that include educational programs, immunizations and holistic or alternative medicines that assist the patient in taking responsibility for their own care but do not mandate participation.
 - A national registry of health information that is accessible in all health care settings by health care professionals.
 - Encourage utilization of technology, such as telemedicine, to support the delivery of care and management of patient conditions.
 - Address the alarming rate of medical errors in health care settings by establishing guidelines, training and standards.
 - Oversight of any federal healthcare program should be provided by a qualified health agency and not the Internal Revenue Service.
 - Medical decisions should be made by licensed medical professionals based on the needs of the patient.
 - Efforts to reduce overall health care costs while providing the right care by the right provider at the right time in the right place and for the right cost.
 - Guidelines for revamping the reimbursement structure to support the delivery of primary care that seeks to address the needs of the costliest patients.
 - Programs to ensure that there is an ample health care workforce that is qualified to deliver all levels of care.
 - Any health care program established by Congress should be acceptable to the members of Congress as required coverage for them and their families.
3. The National Grange believes that teeth should be declared a legitimate part of the body requiring the same comprehensive level of care and coverage as any other part of the body by health insurers and that all prosthetics, including dentures, implants, crowns, and bridge work be covered at the same rate as all other medical procedures. The National Grange also believes that dentists should be treated as any other medical specialists by both the government and insurance carriers and reimbursed at comparable rates.
 4. The National Grange urges federal agencies to be more aggressive in their investigations and prosecutions of fraud, waste, and abuse in the health care system. We support efforts to maintain the National Practitioners Data Base allowing consumers to have access to malpractice reports so they can properly choose the best medical professional for themselves.
 5. The National Grange encourages all continued legal and legislative actions necessary to eliminate the sources of counterfeit medications and to pursue the prosecution of those found responsible for the making and marketing of them, in support increased efforts to educate the public on the dangers of obtaining medications from unreliable sources.
 6. The National Grange supports tax deductible Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs) in the form of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) type account to be used strictly for medical expenses. The National Grange supports legislation that reinstates the list of Over The Counter items eligible for reimbursement under Health Saving Accounts (HSAs), Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), and Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRAs), removes limits on contributions and allows year-end balances to roll over to the New Year or return to the employee.
 7. We support extending health care coverage under COBRA for all terminated employees who qualify for a period of up to 36 months or until eligible for Medicare/Medicaid and include portability of health insurance coverage even if there is a pre-existing condition for those who change jobs or become unemployed. The National Grange supports tax incentives for businesses to provide health insurance coverage for their employees and 100% tax deductibility of health insurance premiums for the self-employed and individuals acquiring private health insurance.
 8. The National Grange favors the passage of laws, which allow parents/guardians in conjunction with their doctors to decide whether or not to keep severely physically and mentally handicapped children alive by life support systems without interference by the government.
 9. The National Grange urges that the new federal and state laws on privacy of medical information be examined, and amended if necessary, so that medical practitioners may release or disclose limited information when necessary to contact relatives or others who are needed to authorize medical treatment. We further support legislation that would require patients, when physically or mentally able, to submit their medical background to health care professionals.

10. The National Grange supports federal legislation requiring all restaurants and all public buildings to be smoke free and to require builders and landlords to include carbon monoxide detectors as well as smoke detectors in buildings they build or manage. Carbon monoxide detectors should be monitored quarterly and replaced as needed.
11. The National Grange strongly opposes any effort to require the Internal Revenue Service to turn over tax return documents to other government agencies that review health care decisions.
12. The National Grange opposes the imposition of a tax on medicine or medical supplies.
13. The National Grange supports legislation to override the 1950 Supreme Court ruling that prevents medical malpractice suits against military doctors with the exception of threat of war.
14. The National Grange opposes any legislation that would disenroll any veteran who is currently receiving health care coverage through the Veterans Administration (VA) Health Care System.
15. The National Grange supports that complete medical records be made available to the service member at the time of separation for future Service-Connected Issues that may manifest after separation from service.
16. The National Grange supports World Mental Health Day observed annually on October 10.
17. The National Grange will work with other organizations to urge the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission to reject proposals to increase patient out-of-pocket costs and co-pays for beneficiaries under the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D).
18. The National Grange urges Congress to reform the Affordable Care Act in an open bipartisan manner. Special care needs to be taken so that rural hospitals that traditionally have high numbers of uninsured patients are not harmed by the reform.
19. The National Grange supports legislation that would bring about protection of parental and/or guardian rights in the guidance, control and administration of their dependent minors' health care. This legislation should be written to include any and all federal, state and local government agencies.
20. The National Grange urges Congress to legislate incentives and policies to encourage the production of food, pharmaceuticals, energy, and defense supplies in the United States or other countries considered allies of the United States.

Long Term Care and Assisted Living

1. The National Grange supports coverage for long-term nursing/in-home care, including an allowable tax credit for long term care insurance premiums, and an allowable tax credit for adult day care expenses incurred by primary care givers of adults who cannot care for themselves. A tax credit should also be available for programs to provide assisted living to the elderly in their own homes. We urge changing the Medicare entitlement and managed health care insurance programs so that they provide payment for assisted living programs.
2. The National Grange supports legislation that will provide uniform care and services to nursing home patients and will protect their rights.
3. The National Grange encourages Congress to require Medicare to make timely payments to both acute care and extended care facilities to ensure that the correct level of care is maintained for all patients.
4. The National Grange urges the U.S. Health Care Financing Authority to allow elderly couples to be in the same nursing home when long term care for both becomes necessary.
5. The National Grange supports action that develops a comprehensive and economical method to treat patients requiring Palliative Care.
6. The National Grange recommends that the National Institutes of Health and Center for Disease Control utilize the information learned during the COVID-19 pandemic to develop and implement a more comprehensive plan for assisting the older population during times of health emergencies, and this plan should ensure that long term care facilities have sufficient access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and infectious disease testing for all staff and patients; and that daily, clear reports for long term care facilities on any infectious disease cases be made available to the public.

Medical Research/Awareness

1. The National Grange supports and recognizes the value of medical research in increasing the quality of life. We support improvement in the quality of health care services and access to new and existing technologies. We encourage continued funding of medical research, including the responsible use of animals in research.
2. The National Grange encourages research to continue on alternative treatments, such as acupuncture, hypnosis, massage therapy, prayer, and meditation, which may be used in conjunction with the standard treatments that are showing results against diseases.
3. The National Grange supports the National Cancer Institute and encourages Congress to continue providing funds for research.
4. The National Grange supports the establishment of a "radiation database" on radiation releases to the public resulting from both intentional and unintentional releases due to nuclear weapons testing and accidental releases from nuclear power plants.
5. The National Grange supports legislation to explore the risks involved in the use of water fluoridation in the

United States.

6. The National Grange urges that information about Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) should be given to all parents and caregivers of children under five years.
7. The National Grange urges adequate funding for agencies at all levels dealing with the HIV and AIDS problem and supports increased emphasis on testing.
8. The National Grange urges the use of government funds for stem cell research only on postnatal or adult stem cells. We further support the research and possible use of cord blood stem cells and, promote the registry and donation of cord blood stem cells. However, we support legislation banning full human cloning.
9. The National Grange supports legislation that would ban the patenting of natural occurring genes. We only support the patenting of treatment and/or alterations of those natural occurring genes.
10. The National Grange supports governmental efforts on the state and national level to fund research on the prevention and treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses, to disseminate information and to educate the public about its prevention, detection, and treatment.
11. As an incentive for the pharmaceutical industry to develop drugs for "orphan" diseases, the National Grange encourages "market exclusivity" for orally administered Alzheimer's and Dementia medicines and treatments.
12. The National Grange supports continued research on man-made nanoparticles used in medical devices and sunscreen.
13. The National Grange and all state and local Granges support the various national, state and local agencies and commissions striving to eliminate the unintended and intended abuse of heroin and opioid addiction. The National Grange will be proactive in support of a variety of treatment solutions and programs. The National Grange supports systems to limit the over prescribing of opioids and the education of the application of Naloxone (Narcan) pursuant to state regulations.
14. The National Grange encourages legitimate scientific studies on the risks and benefits of the use of medical marijuana in the treatment of disease.
15. The National Grange encourages legislation that would provide funding for public service announcements to increase awareness of farm and ranch stress and destigmatize mental health care in rural communities; provide voluntary stress management training to Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency and National Resources Conservation Service employees as these agencies are constantly in direct contact with members of the ag community and will be able to direct producers in need to appropriate mental health services; and convene a task force of agricultural and rural stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels to assess the causes of mental stress in farmers and ranchers and identify best practices for responding to such stress.
16. The National Grange supports legislation by the US Congress on a plan of action to coordinate and improve efforts to prevent, control and respond to future pandemics and the potential effect they may have on our public health as well as the health of our economy.
17. The National Grange will support:
 - Research into identifying the causes of chronic pain especially in rural life.
 - National and state initiatives that encourage research and development of new pain relief therapies that avoid opioids and other addictive drugs
 - Research into possible chronic pain mitigation strategies through education, technology and other mechanisms
 - Robust policy discussions and education about pain management among Grange members and their rural communities

Medicare/Medicaid

1. The National Grange supports the following reforms and changes in the Medicare and Medicaid programs: a) equity of payment between inpatient and outpatient procedures according to Medicare's Diagnostic Related Groups; b) equity in reimbursements between rural and urban hospitals; c) prohibit hospitals or doctors from setting fees or discontinuing Medicare assignments for specific diagnosis during treatment on the basis of the method of payment or from charging amounts above the Medicare limits for Medicare services; d) faster processing of claims to permit faster reimbursement; e) extended coverage to ensure sufficient time for full recovery; f) health care professionals; and (g) all reimbursements under the Medicare program to all Medicare patients, medical personnel, suppliers, be made within a three month timeframe and (h) adequately compensate primary care physicians for non-procedural services.
2. The National Grange supports a full investigation of the causes of the rapid increase in Medicare/Medicaid costs. We urge our legislators to investigate pricing, availability and coverage options provided by health insurance companies as supplemental coverage for Medicare recipients. The National Grange supports the

ability of Medicare and Medicare to negotiate with drug companies for the best reimbursement price of prescription drugs for consumers. We further support a cap on the annual increase in Medicare deductions of no more than the general inflation rate. The National Grange strongly urges Congress to refrain from reducing payment to physicians and providers under Medicare since it would add an additional burden to patients needing to use the program. The National Grange urges all U.S. Senators and Representatives to continue to support funding to all aspects of the current Medicare programs.

3. The National Grange will lobby for a change in current Medicare insurance to include coverage for hearing exams and hearing aids. The National Grange urges Medicare and Medicaid to review their payment schedules and make changes which recognize recommended and accepted medical procedures and screening tests, such as: coverage for the prostate-specific antigen test (PSA); increased coverage for home health care costs; reimbursement for services of midwives and physicians' assistants; coverage for outpatient office laser surgery.
4. The National Grange favors legislation permitting retired people to deduct the cost of their supplemental health insurance from their taxable income and legislation to improve access to Medicare to ease the financial burdens on seniors. We support changing current regulations to permit seniors who are "grandfathered" by residence address into a Medicare supplemental insurance program to be allowed to move anywhere within the original service area without being dropped from their insurance plan. We further support a division of assets procedure for Medicaid and Medicare that would preserve the financial stability of a healthy spouse.
5. The National Grange supports the right to have a second doctor in the operating room, where medically required, for patients on Medicare.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would give eye and dental insurance to seniors age 65 plus for those procedures that Medicare does not cover, with a co-pay/deductible for amounts over 100 dollars.
7. The Grange at all levels works to convince our government that Medicare money should also be spent on health screening for early intervention of diseases which is far more economical than the huge cost of treating advanced stages of the diseases.
8. The National Grange urges Congress to pass an act allowing Medicare information to be given to an assigned representative and that the representative be allowed to act on behalf of said patient without consignment of Medicare and/or Social Security benefits.
9. The National Grange supports the continued process to eliminate the "donut hole" for Medicare prescription coverage.
10. The National Grange urges the United States Congress to amend the Federal Health Care Overhaul Bill to read that all states be fiscally responsible for their portion of Medicaid expenses.
11. The National Grange urges Congress to amend the Social Security Act "to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the three-day inpatient hospital stay requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

Prescription Drugs and Medicines

1. The National Grange supports making prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs more affordable. The National Grange strongly encourages drug companies to produce lifesaving and life enhancing medicines for a wide variety of diseases and medical conditions. We further support requiring all government and private prescription drug coverage programs to offer the widest possible selection of lifesaving and life enhancing medicines at an affordable price for those who need them.
2. The National Grange supports allowing U.S. citizens, who are visiting foreign countries, to bring back with them up to three months supplies of regulated pharmaceutical products for their own use, provided they have valid prescriptions for those specific pharmaceutical products from their U.S. physician. The National Grange supports the current Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act provisions that generally do not allow regulated pharmaceutical products to be imported into the U.S. for sale or distribution unless those importers are also pharmacists and/or pharmaceutical wholesalers currently subject to federal and state regulation. We strongly support current law and regulations that require anyone who imports regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to keep accurate records tracking the origin, history and chain of custody of these products before they entered the U.S. We support legislation requiring anyone authorized to import regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to be financially responsible for any testing necessary to verify the authenticity and/or degradation of the pharmaceutical products they import. We support strictly limiting the importation of pharmaceutical products to drugs from licensed pharmacies and wholesalers who sell to the public in Canada. We support providing the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) with sufficient resources and authority to ensure the safety of imported drugs from Canada employing technological and other safeguards. We further support legislation requiring anyone authorized to import regulated pharmaceutical products for sale or distribution in the U.S. to be allowed to import such products only if they are shipped into the U.S. in counterfeit proof and tamper resistant packaging.
3. The National Grange supports a voluntary program, which would offer pregnant women who test HIV positive voluntary access to the drug AZT that could prevent the transfer of the HIV antibodies to the unborn child or newborn child.

4. The National Grange will work to secure legislation requiring physicians to obtain specific written approval of the patient or those legally authorized to give approval prior to prescribing experimental drugs. When the physician prescribes experimental drugs, the warning and permission form must be in clear, common layman language on a separate medical form.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require the pharmaceutical companies to significantly reduce the minimum dose purchase requirement for pneumococcal vaccine. We recommend that local county Health Departments include this vaccine in required childhood immunizations.
6. The National Grange urges the Food and Drug Administration to mandate that pharmaceutical producers label all products and commodities containing gluten.
7. The National Grange encourages people to follow the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding immunizations.

Rural and Home Health Care

1. We urge that the federal government maintain block grant/matching funds to states for community health clinics.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to ensure that fairness in price and benefits offered becomes a part of any and all medical insurance programs. The National Grange believes that payment to health care providers should adhere to a schedule of fees for services provided that is fair and equitable across the United States.
3. The National Grange supports incentive programs for doctors who will agree to practice in rural areas where basic medical care is not available and supports the creation and/or expansion of programs that encourage students to become general practitioners and that address incentives and reimbursements for primary care.
4. The National Grange supports the establishment or use of the necessary infrastructure for the expansion of telemedicine into rural areas. The National Grange also supports the elimination of regulatory and statutory impediments to broaden the use of telemedicine and telehealth and institute a more uniform approach for reimbursement.
5. We encourage local Granges to present programs that educate the community about pharmaceutical assistance programs.
6. The National Grange supports preserving quality, rural home health care services provided under traditional fee-for-service Medicare by opposing the imposition of new, patient co-payment fees and the imposition of further cuts to reimbursement rates for home health care service providers.
7. The National Grange supports efforts by Congress, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the home health care industry to reduce unnecessary Medicare spending on home health care services by aggressively weeding out instances of fraud, abuse and poor management practices in the home health care sector.
8. The National Grange supports passage of the "Caregiver, Advise, Record and Enable (CARE) Act" to prepare caregivers for home healthcare medical and nursing tasks.
9. The National Grange, through Grange Advocacy, engages the American Association of Community Cancer Centers in discussions regarding potential joint efforts to address the lack of access to proper health care and cancer care in rural America. Further, National Grange will support legislation to improve funding and change regulations to help keep rural hospitals and health care facilities open.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Education & Health Committee for their hard work and many long hours before and during the Convention. Having an outstanding committee made the difficult task of this committee go very smoothly and efficiently.

Thanks to National Grange, Betsy and Burton for allowing us to ZOOM prior to this meeting. We were able to use that time to agree on the points of the National Grange Education & Health Policy that needed to be updated or researched prior to arrival at the session. Thanks to the Oregon State Grange for the use of their Zoom account for one of our meetings, and thanks also to Phil and interns Sean and Kennedy for your research and input into our committee work.

Thank You.

Debbie Vine, WI, Chr.
Eileen Javaux, ID
Lisa Goodrich, VT
Barbara Borderieux, FL
Bruce Roy, OH

Mark Noah, OR, Sec.
Sharon Croucher, NY
Ann Bercher, MN
Sharon Russell, CT

POLICY STATEMENT

This year has proven at least two things to not only us as Grangers but also to our communities. First, Grangers can adapt to the situations handed to them and second, during these trying times the Grange is needed as much today as it was 150 years ago.

Our core values of Faith, Hope, Charity and Fidelity are traits that we have shown these past few months and our communities have responded by showing their support. Recent studies have shown that Americans have a wide array of concerns for the country including “putting America first”, “racial injustice”, “the economy” and “health care” and these are but a few. The Grange can be a forum, as we have been for other issues that concern the residents around our halls. Granges can and should be a place where people can meet and discuss their ideas and concerns in a useful and constructive manner within our meeting structure. We are a grassroots organization, and the healing of our country can and should begin in our Grange halls. Now is a great time for the Grange to once again lead the way.

If we look at where most Grange Halls are located, they were built at important junctions in the community, either at an intersection of main roads or in the center of towns, and they were built at those locations for a reason. They were and still are beacons in their communities and towns. Some Granges have been in the same location for over 100 years. Everyone in town knows where the Grange hall is and probably where the key is “hidden” to get in. Even for Granges who do not own their own halls anymore, people know where you meet and the good you are doing in your locations. You do not need a hall to be of great benefit to your community.

As we said earlier, 2020 has shown that Grangers can adapt to the times and, believe it or not, do so rather quickly. The proof is by the number of Granges who figured out other ways to meet other than in a building. One way was by using a social media platform like Zoom or Google Meets. Yes, these were a learning experience for most of us but with a lot of hope and perseverance we all got through it. These virtual meetings started at the local level and, as we will be experiencing this week, have progressed all the way through to the National Grange Convention. Several State Granges held their annual meetings on Zoom or with some type of on site and Zoom combination. We can now say “we haven’t always done it that way.” These virtual type meetings have had an unexpected benefit of allowing members who have not been to a Grange meeting in years to attend the virtual meeting from their home. It has also allowed Grangers from around the country to attend or be part of a Grange event even if it is not being held near them. Grangers have also reached out to their members by phone to check on them to either just talk or see if they need anything.

Both residents and elected officials have noticed the work Granges have done for and in their communities. There have been many newspaper articles, television coverage and recognition from elected officials praising the work that Granges have done to make life a little easier during these trying times. The response back has been amazing with the support shown to the Granges from drive through dinners being sold out to donations for fundraising yard sales. People are really looking for ways to get out and do something with others in a safe way. Granges have met this demand by hosting outdoor socially distanced movie nights to name but one example. In serving as food distribution centers Granges are a vital part of their community Food Security plan and put them in the advantageous position of being able to partner with the agencies that distribute food in a fair and equitable manner. Granges have hosted a wide variety of community related programs on Zoom that are relevant to the times. These programs vary from gardening and canning tips to Granges hosting musical shows put on by members and friends of the Grange.

It is now incumbent upon our Granges and Grangers to use all or part of these ideas and wonderful projects to strengthen our communities and to build and grow our much-needed organization. The Grange, without a doubt, is still relevant and offers a time-tested way to help bring our communities and nation back together.

This committee was given the Report of the Diversity Task Force to review. This committee discussed the report and adopted the report as a whole and recommended it be attached to this policy statement. We thank the Task Force for their hard work and diligence in researching and completing this report.

This Committee has read the Report of the Feasibility Committee on the videoing of the first four degrees. We would like to see the National President extend the current committee appointment to determine cost and a time frame for this project. The Committee should have a report prepared for the 2021 National Grange session.

This has been a year that has seen Granges go through and continue to go through tough financial times. It is important that we as members support our Granges and their programs/projects. If we can, we need to give a little more when we have our dues paying nights or hold a fundraiser. Members should try to support our neighboring Granges when that Grange is raising funds to either help themselves or their communities. Each committee or department can use some help this year. We all know our budgets or treasuries are not what they were even 12 months ago. It is time for us to also help our wonderful family organization.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES # STATE	TITLE	ACTION
601-CA	Update Community Grange Manual	Adopted as amended
605-PA	National Grange Virtual Hall of Fame	Adopted
606-TX	Electronic Submission of Community Service Reports	Adopted as amended

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

GGD-601-CA-UPDATE COMMUNITY GRANGE MANUAL

WHEREAS: In the Community Granges, the Degree work is not used as often today as it has been in previous years; and

WHEREAS: For Community Granges, there is a need for clearer procedures of how to conduct meetings rather than degree work and lesser used ceremonies; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: The National Grange Executive Committee study the feasibility of having Junior, Community/Subordinate and Pomona Grange manuals put into electronic form and report back the 2021 national session.

GGD-605-PA-NATIONAL GRANGE VIRTUAL HALL OF FAME

WHEREAS: The National Grange established in 2015 a "Virtual Hall of Fame" to recognize deceased individuals who had a significant role in the history of the National Grange; and

WHEREAS: the announcement of the recipients is made during the National Grange Annual Meeting and then posted on the National Grange website; and

WHEREAS: very little promotion and publication of the Hall of Fame program takes place; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the National Grange remove the term "virtual" from the "National Grange Hall of Fame"; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the National Grange more actively promote and publicize the Hall of Fame program by posting of recipient's brief biography and picture on the National Grange website.

GGD-606-TX-ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS

WHEREAS: the year 2020 has proven to be difficult for many reasons but it has also pushed some reluctant organizations into the digital age; and

WHEREAS: the technologies currently exist for all Granges to keep records of all activities electronically; and

WHEREAS: the coronavirus has forced requirements of virtual meetings and the sharing of documents; and

WHEREAS: the National Grange contingency plan for 2020 is to have Community Service Reports electronically submitted; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the National Grange continue to accept the electronic submission of Community service reports/notebooks but Granges can retain the option to submit a hard copy if desired.

I thank the members of the Grange Growth Committee for their hard work and many long hours before and during the Convention. Having a committee that discussed each resolution made the difficult task of this committee go very smoothly and efficiently.

Thanks to National Grange, Betsy and Burton for joining us on our ZOOM meeting. We were able to use that time to agree on the points of the National Grange Growth Policy that needed to be updated or researched prior to arrival at the session.

Thank You.

Debbie Campbell, PA, Chr.
Kathy Gibson, MA
Maureen Prelli, CT
Karen Overstreet, TX
Jane Trombi, NH

Pete Pompper, NJ, Sec.
Lena Shufeldt, OK
Christine Hamp, WA
Kathy Baldwin, IA
*Jaycee Jette, MT, Youth team

Report of the Diversity Task Force

The Diversity Task Force was established by the National Grange President, Betsy Huber, to study our ritual, rules, and customs to make sure we are not unintentionally showing any signs of prejudice or discrimination in the Grange. The Diversity Task Force was comprised of the following members, F. Philip Prelli, National Grange Vice President as the Chairperson, and the following active members, Sharon Croucher NY, Edgar Hicks NE, Raymond Hayes NC, Jini Reynolds CA, Robert Beamon PA, Rick Grotton ME, Edna Mae Guerra TX, and Yeseña Rangel TX.

The history of the Grange has always shown our strong support for major social issues with an open policy of membership. This is a very appropriate time for the National Grange to undertake this action; not only because of the social unrest and tension in our country but as it is the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to our Country's Constitution, granting women the right to vote. From the beginning of our organization, women were equal members with the right to vote at our meetings and we worked tirelessly to help in the passage of the amendment. We should now be just as vigilant in ensuring that we investigate and eliminate any barriers that could imply or show any signs of prejudice or discrimination in our organization.

The task force held several virtual meetings. The members reviewed the manuals of our order from the Junior thru the Seventh Degree as well as the promotional and instructional materials provided by the National Grange for membership both in the Subordinate/ Community and Junior levels. Lengthy and lively discussions were held on many points. The task force members understand that the authority to make changes to our manuals and bylaws of our order belong with the delegate body of the National Grange and in some instances also with the Assembly of Demeter but offer the following findings and recommendations.

Findings

The major and most discussed barrier over several meetings were the titles of Master and Overseer. The group felt that even though these titles can be explained as their relationship to the English Farm on which they are based, the first impression is to their use on plantations during the slave era. It was also pointed out that these generate negative connotations in both the Hispanic and Native American cultures. This not only had an effect on the Subordinate/ Community membership level but also at the Junior level. With the changing generations this could continue to grow as a barrier. The use of the title Master also has a negative effect on certain Christian sects as they feel *"they only serve one Master"*. First impressions are important, especially when promoting our organization and asking people to join. We must remember as we have been told many times in membership seminars, *"You only have one chance to make a first impression"*. To a lesser degree, the titles of the Stewards and Gatekeeper were also discussed.

Barriers can be characterized several ways and we must consider how others will perceive the concepts and ideas being presented. One area discussed was the lack of diversity in the stock photos used in many of our promotional materials. It was also pointed out in some of the promotional material, that the sentence *"Traditional family values are promoted and woven into Grange activities and events"*, though understood by our members, could act as a barrier to some individuals. The intent is to instill family values in our programs, but many will not get past the concept of only accepting "traditional" families. In the review of the manuals and aspects of our meeting, the task force felt strongly that our ritual was the basis of our organization and did not create any major barriers. That being said, some concerns were raised about the use of Brother and Sister and the effect that may have on some people in the LGBTQ community, the Draping of the Charter Ceremony being Christian only, the idea of only a Bible on the altar, and the use of some Christian Hymns in the Seventh Degree.

Recommendations

Resolutions were adopted during the 2002, 2003, and 2004 National Grange sessions for the use of alternate titles for several Officers including President for Master, Vice President for Overseer, Board of Directors for Executive Committee, Program Director for Lecturer, and Greeter for Gatekeeper. Also included in those resolutions was the use of Community Grange for Subordinate Grange. We see the need for taking this to a higher level and making these the primary titles in all of our communications, social media sites, press releases, as well as use in our meetings. Many of us remember the title change from Juvenile Grange to Junior Grange and how many people thought that would destroy that part of our Order. It did not happen, and they are still alive so many years later. Now is the time to take the next step in our Order and address the titles. Does this need to be addressed in our ritual as well? As mentioned above, we strongly support our ritual and leave this suggestion up to the Delegate Body.

When producing promotional and instructional material about our Order we should use more diverse photos, whether actual or stock prints. This is especially true in those materials focused on membership of Youth and Juniors. Society has changed with more single parent families, children being raised by grandparents and other family members, adoptive parents, and same sex families. These are all a part of and welcomed in our Granges now. When referring to our values emphasize that they are "Family Values" that include all our families.

When a problem or question arises about referring to a member as Brother or Sister, rather than causing hard feelings, common sense should be used. The presiding officer should speak with the member prior to a meeting and perhaps use the title Patron or their name to avoid an embarrassing moment.

Not all of our current members are Christians. The Draping of the Charter Ceremony should be modified to allow for a poem or some appropriate verse for the past member's religion to be used in lieu of The Lord's Prayer if that past member was not of the Christian Faith.

Closing

Many of our recommendations may be construed as radical, unnecessary, or going too far by some of our members. We understand that, but as stated above, it has been done before and we must look to the future of our organization. The task force understands that some of these changes would need approval at National Grange by delegate action. Because we are a grassroots organization, this would require resolutions adopted at a Community Grange and State Grange and being presented at National Grange. We ask that this report be distributed to the National Grange Officers as well as the State Presidents.

Our thanks to National President Huber for showing her trust in us and giving us the opportunity and honor to serve on the task force.

Respectfully Submitted,
F. Philip Prelli
Sharon Croucher
Edgar Hicks
Raymond Hayes
Jini Reynolds
Robert Beamon
Rick Grotton
Edna Mae Guerra
Yeseña Rangel

POLICY STATEMENT

Just as our Ritual provides the vehicle to present and understand our teachings and principles, our Constitution and By-laws provide the unified structure for our order to function with unity of action. Understanding why we have our code is as important as understanding the code itself. Over the past 150 years, many hours have been spent by many minds crafting a document that will serve and protect the interests of the Grange at all levels, as well as its individual members. It is with a great deal of respect and caution that we approach the task of amending these laws, and sincerely hope that the changes made are in the best interests of the Grange as a whole.

With today's political climate we need to remind our membership that partisanship ends at our door. We want to stress how important it is to remain non-partisan, that we as the Grange do not support any nominee, appointee, candidate, or agency appointees, etc.

Social media has afforded the members the opportunity for instant communication of Grange activities and successes. We understand that not everyone will ever agree with all policies and undertakings of our Order, and that makes our organization unique. We strongly oppose the posting of personal grievances, the purpose of which is to divide and destroy. The First Amendment of the United States Constitution makes us powerless to stop the negativity. We challenge our Grangers to apply the high standards demanded by our Fraternal bonds to conduct our personal participation on social media sites accordingly.

As members we all enjoy the protection of our Digest of Laws, which have proven to be legally enforceable and binding by the Federal and State court and our fraternal responsibility to abide by them and hold our brothers and sisters accountable. Failure to do so results in strife and discontent. Let us practice our motto - "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity."

We recognize that Grange closures can result in significant membership loss. In these cases, Granges should be encouraged to consider first, consolidation with another Grange, second, a demit with recommendations to other Granges or other ways to retain membership. Transfer to e-membership should be considered only as a last resort, as it deprives members of most of their previous Grange privileges.

We want to make sure that we are maintaining fairness in electing the officers of the National Grange. Delegates should be mindful of maintaining equity among the regions of the country, including other factors when electing the Executive Committee.

The National Grange should communicate with the State Granges regarding all the entities that have entered into contractual trademark agreements in their state, so that they may act as agents for the National Grange. This will ensure that the State Grange is aware of all the entities that use our trademark in that State and that licensees are complying.

The Grange law committee would like to acknowledge the vigorous discussions occurring in many Community and Pomona Granges across the country regarding the relevance of the traditional ceremonies being used in our local Grange chapters. This is especially true for the physical performance aspects of the ceremonies involving hall setup/takedown, marching, standing/sitting as well as tasks like presenting the flag, taking up the password, and opening the Bible on the altar. These discussions manifested themselves this year in resolutions presented to this committee from three different states asking the National Grange to formally sanction informal "round table" meeting formats that would curtail or eliminate the physical performance parts of our ceremonies for opening, conducting and closing our regular meetings. After vigorous discussion, the committee decided not to endorse these requests this year. However, the Grange Law Committee also strongly felt that some degree of guidance from the National Grange was appropriate.

Therefore, the Grange Law Committee urges that the traditional opening and closing ceremonies or the approved alternative opening and closing ceremonies always be used, whenever possible. The Grange Law Committee further urges that recitation of the verbal portions of either the traditional opening and closing or the approved alternative opening and closing ceremonies must be used, regardless of the whether or not that Grange can regularly follow the physical performance portions of these ceremonies, because at a bare minimum, these verbal recitations are necessary in order to legally conduct business as a Grange. We further urge that State and National Grange leaders exercise wide discretion, common sense and positive encouragement as well as tolerance, respect and a little humility among local Grange members when grappling with these issues. Shaming or lecturing our fellow Grange members in a condescending manner about either their preference not to follow all of our traditions or their demands that we follow those traditions without exception, will never lead to the growth and development of the Order. For as Brother William Saunders, the first Master of the National Grange and the author of the Preamble to the National Grange Constitution, wrote to us in 1873, "...hence we have a ceremony...which binds us in mutual fraternity as with a band of iron; but although its influence is so powerful, its application is as gentle as that of the silken thread that binds a wreath of flowers."

The Grange Law Committee commends the efforts of the Study Committee Looking at Feasibility for a Video of the First Four Degrees (Video Study Committee). This committee was appointed following adoption of resolution 715 (2019). The resolution called for preserving the lessons, principles and integrity of the first four degrees by creating an audio-visual recording of those degrees for archival and instructive purposes. The committee labored diligently and worked to address many of the concerns related to a lack of consistent quality in the exemplification of these degrees among our various state and local Granges as well as the technical issues related to maintaining the quality and instruction of the impressive aspects of the messages of these degrees in a video format vs traditional, live performances. The Video Study Committee has reported back that it appears that this project is feasible if certain production guidelines and directional instructions for these videos are strictly followed. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee was unable to work with a sufficient number of video production companies and/or academic video production facilities to be certain that the standards of production for these videos will also meet commercial video production standards. Therefore, the committee has asked for an additional year to

complete their final report. The Grange Law Committee recommends that the time allowed for this important study committee to complete their tasks be extended by one year with presentation of a final report at the 2021 Annual Session. The Grange Law Committee also recommends that the Video Study Committee complete its work under the direction of resolution 715 (2019) with the intention that these videos will primarily serve archival and instructive purposes. Once the videos are produced and can be reviewed by the full Assembly of Demeter, the Delegate body and the larger Grange community, then the decision can be made as to whether it is appropriate to extend the application of these videos to State and local Granges in order to use to bring new members into the Grange. But without the chance to review the final videos, any proposal to use these videos for actual exemplification of the degrees is simply speculation.

The Grange Law committee accepted the Report of the Diversity Task Force and suggests that the report be printed in the National Journal of Proceedings and sent out to the State Masters. Where it could be easily disseminated via e-mail to Granges through their state offices. We feel that the task force should continue on and further define the issues facing the Grange.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES. # STATE	TITLE	ACTION
702-CA	Amend Section 4.10.6 (A) of the National Grange Digest of Laws (2ND READING)	Adopted
712-CT	Sale of Grange Property	Adopted as amended
722	Procedure for Suspension and Removal of officers	Adopted

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

GL-702-CA-AMEND SECTION 4.10.6 (A) OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE DIGEST OF LAWS

WHEREAS: The Executive Committee of a Subordinate/Community or Pomona Grange is only charged to act in time of emergency or need: and

WHEREAS: Because of the alternative name "Board of Directors" confusion has been created that the Executive Committee functions in the same manner as other Boards of Directors: and

WHEREAS: The Grange structure is built on the concept of member driven action; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That section 4.10.6 (A) of the National Grange Digest of Laws be amended as follows:

4.10.6 Duties of Executive Committees -

(A) All Granges – The duties of the members of the Executive Committee of the National Grange shall be as provided in these By-Laws and Laws of the National Grange. The duties of the members of the Executive Committees of the other Granges of the divisions of the Order shall be as provided for in these By-Laws and Laws of the National Grange, and the By-Laws and Laws of the various Granges of the divisions of the Order in which they are members. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committees to act for each Grange between meetings of said Granges in time of emergency or need. Actions by an Executive Committee must have the approval of the Master of each Grange, provided, however, disapproval by a Master may be overridden by a vote of two-thirds of the members of an Executive Committee. State and National Grange Executive Committees shall be permitted to meet when the Master is unable to attend a pre-scheduled meeting, with the express consent of the Master. The Overseer will represent the Master.

This was a two-year resolution.

First reading 2019

Adopted on Second reading 2020

GL-712-CT-SALE OF GRANGE PROPERTY

WHEREAS: the By-Laws of the National Grange, Sec. 4.11.1 (G) limits the amount a Grange may retain after the sale of property to \$1,000 with the remainder to be kept in custodial accounts by the State Grange; and

WHEREAS: this section has not been updated in several years and value of property has risen dramatically over those years; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the first sentence of Sec. 4.11.1(G) be changed to read:

"When a sale of real property is concluded, the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange shall account for the net proceeds of the sale received at the time of settlement and shall remit all but the sum of \$3,000 of such net proceeds or the net proceeds, whichever is less, to the State Grange having jurisdiction to be held in custodial accounts for the said Subordinate or Pomona Grange."

This is a TWO-YEAR Resolution

First reading 2020

722 – Procedure for Suspension and Removal of Officers

WHEREAS: the judicial process regarding suspension of officers and removal from office appear to have ambiguous statements and possible conflicts of interest, and

WHEREAS: a request for a manual to facilitate the correct procedures for making charges has been requested, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the Master of the National Grange appoint a task force to study the judicial process for suspensions and removal of from office and the process for initiating these proceedings; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the task force report back at the next annual session.

Covers Resolutions: GL- 706-CA, 705-CA, 714- MN

PRESENT POLICY IS REPRESENTED IN THE CURRENT DIGEST OF LAWS.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Grange Law Committee for their hard work and many long hours before and during the Convention. Having an outstanding committee made the difficult task of this committee go very smoothly and efficiently.

Thanks to National Grange, Betsy and Burton for allowing us to ZOOM prior to this meeting. We were able to use that time to agree on the points of the National Grange Law Policy that needed to be updated or researched prior to arrival at the session.

Thank You.

Joe Goodrich, VT, Chr.
Susan Noah, OR
Roger Bostwick, KS
Leroy Watson, NH

Cindy Greer, CO, Sec.
Eileen Hebert, RI
Bruce Croucher, NY
Kent Westwood CA

**Report of the Feasibility Study Committee
For a video of the first four degrees**

The committee consisted of the following: Bruce Croucher (High Priest), Roger Bostwick, (Priest Archon), Martha Stefenoni (Priestess Annalist,) Stephen Coye (NY), Gene Edelen (IA), Janet Segur (MA), Joe Fryman (NE), Phillip Vonada (PA), Annie Waters (CA), Sue Roy (OH), Troy Behnke (MN), Vinnie Duncan (NC).

Several meetings were held using the "Zoom" format. There were no in person meetings.
The following resolution described the task of our committee.

715 Committee resolution Degree work

RESOLVED to preserve the lessons, principles and integrity of the first four degrees; the National Grange encourage State Granges to have the first four degrees conferred at least annually and suggest that this be a priority and be it further
RESOLVED: that the Assembly of Demeter, in coordination with the National Master form a committee to research the feasibility of creating an audio-visual recording or other archival processes of the first four degrees as conferred in full form and be it further

RESOLVED that this committee include the Assembly of Demeter and two representatives from each region and be it further
RESOLVED that this committee report to the delegates at the 2020 National Session.

Before we solicited any estimates of the cost of making a video, we determined that the following criteria would be included.

We feel that the degrees should be each as complete as possible. For archival and for possibly instructive purposes. Some felt that the video might be used so that people would be able to observe a good production rather than just to be welcomed into the Grange. Some States have not done degrees in a long time and do not anticipate that it will necessarily happen in the near future.

Harvest March and Altar Circles should be filmed from overhead if people can be visible other than from the top of their heads. Possibly using 2 or 3 ground level cameras in conjunction including soloist or chorus with the Altar Circles.

Tableaux could be existing color photographs solicited from Granges or a newly arranged set of tableaux. Probably still photographs so they can be added to the video, but produced elsewhere.

Lessons of the implements would use the implements in the traditional case as this would show what most Granges would have available and not indicate that only special implements be used. Some photos of more elaborate or real implements could be shown additionally.

The exemplification of the signs, salutations, degree words, signals, grip would be videoed separately to be included in the video or as a separate presentation. The archaic exemplifications of the sign of recognition, patron's general sign and the Patron's Test would be filmed as a separate entity.

Marching would be videoed with a person in the position of a candidate or from position watching the marching so that both perspectives could be used. Possibility that complete marching be shown only in one degree and explained that similar process would be in all of the degrees. Having candidates march around and pass the next speaker once and stop on second approach. Might include that early intention was to hold degree where candidates traveled to different locations of a "Grange" farmstead.

Video should begin with assumption that the Grange is open in full form and then lowered to the level of the degree with the Master using the traditional form for changing to different degrees.

The alarm at the gate process could be filmed separately for each degree, but possibly included only once to cut down on time in the video with explanation that it is similar in all degrees.

Narrator to be used to set the scene for each degree and to interject explanations at appropriate times during the degree.

Complete memorization of the parts would not be required, but officer should be very familiar with the parts so that a teleprompter or cue cards would be used to reduce the need for retakes.

With the aforementioned in mind several of the members knew of some possible contacts to get an estimate of the cost of the video. Most of the possibilities were educational institutions that might take on the video as a project for their students. Unfortunately because of the pandemic schools were not in session and contacts were not able to be made. We did hear back after some schools were beginning in the fall, but because of processes of developing safety measure, we could not get a commitment at this time.

Troy Behnke was able to put us in contact with Dominic Howes of Rickshaw Films. I spoke to him on October 20, 2020. He believes that it would cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000 for the production. His company does films for places like Target and General Mills. He expects we might get a better price from a less experienced film maker.

We felt that the degrees would be performed by selecting qualified volunteers that would be willing to pay their own expenses to participate. It was also felt that there would be a fundraising process to help pay for the production if the National Grange was not in a position to provide the funds.

Our conclusion is that it appears to be a feasible project, but a final decision would need to be made after additional proposals were received. The choice of a proposal would also include the availability of people to be cast members and their willingness to travel at their own expense.

Bruce Croucher, Chair

NATIONAL MASTER'S RULING

Question: Can a Grange member terminate their fraternal Grange membership and become an e-member and continue to count years of service toward Grange membership awards such as Golden Sheaf?

Answer: The E-membership program is defined in the National Grange Digest of Laws, Chapter 4, Section 4.6.15. It states under 4.6.15 (A) "E-members shall not be entitled to vote on matters of Grange policy or compete in National Grange sponsored contests that are designed for the benefit of Subordinate Grange members only."

Since e-members cannot attend meetings (except as a guest) and cannot vote or participate in member-only contests etc., Grange membership would terminate at the local Grange when the member's dues run out and she becomes an e-member. Members wishing to continue to earn membership awards can maintain their Community Grange membership even though they find it necessary to move to an area where there are no Granges or otherwise are unable to attend meetings. Attendance is not a requirement for Grange membership and lack of attendance at meetings does not affect membership longevity awards.

POLICY STATEMENT**Labor**

The Grange has long fought for the rights of both employers and employees to live and thrive, understanding that worker protection and prosperity are not in conflict with company success and solvency. We believe that the hardworking men and women of America's workforce deserve the opportunity to earn a fair wage in a safe work environment and the guarantee that their pensions and subsequent benefits will be protected and preserved. We encourage businesses, municipalities, school districts, and state governments across the country to be proactive in ensuring the future growth and stability of employee pension benefits and to guard against their loss in the unfortunate event of a company merger or bankruptcy.

We support legislative efforts to streamline the H2A process to ensure that all agricultural operations can have access to guest workers. The National Grange supports an Agriculture Guest Worker Program for the establishment of the H-2C visa program for skilled agricultural workers to be administered by the USDA. This provides an option to both seasonal and year-round labor needs, recognizing that not all agriculture jobs are the same or require the same level of skill or experience. The H-2C visa program better understands the unique needs of the American farm and ranch operations and the challenges of processing raw, perishable commodities. This will offer workers and employers more choices in their employment arrangements, with more flexibility and less bureaucratic red tape than the H2A visa program.

The global economy has allowed American businesses to reach markets once inaccessible and has increased the demand for many of our goods, including our agricultural products, in far regions of the world. The National Grange continues to be an advocate for the implementation of fair free trade agreements that encourage international commerce while also incentivizing domestic job growth and economic output for American companies. We do not however, support the bailout of any country, state, or territory that has engaged in wasteful spending and behaved in a financially irresponsible manner.

COVID-19

An impacted category of essential workers was those in the food chain who continued in overdrive to make sure we have access to the food we need. There was plenty of food available, but the challenge was to keep processing plants staffed and running with large numbers of workers (while simultaneously preventing COVID-19 infections) to ensure a steady supply moving to the grocery stores. Closing one plant, even for a few weeks, backs up production across the country, crashes prices paid to farmers and leads to huge surpluses at the farm and severe food shortages for the consumer. Hours-of-service rules were suspended to enable truckers to make their essential deliveries. The National Grange supports the suspension of some labor laws during a crisis and wants to sincerely thank the producers, harvesters, processors, deliverers and the community handlers of food during this pandemic.

Judiciary

Since its founding in 1867, The Grange has been a staunch defender of our Constitution and the rights and privileges it protects for every citizen. As a nation of law and order we must work to draft, pass, and maintain legislation aimed at ensuring a peaceful society and a fair judicial system. Our first responders work hard and serve bravely on a daily basis. The National Grange will forever strive to grant them the support and respect they deserve.

The Grange understands that citizens and the officials they elect are the best candidates to write the laws by which we will be governed, and that administrative agencies, commissions and other unelected governing bodies should be prohibited from drafting and implementing such regulations that dramatically impact our daily lives. We urge elected officials at all levels to periodically review and purge outdated laws and reduce burdensome and unnecessary regulations that stifle economic growth and fundamentally impede the free market system.

We vehemently oppose the use of eminent domain to confiscate private property for commercial use or any project that does not directly benefit the general citizenry.

Identity theft continues to be a significant problem in the United States. We support legislation that would increase security of personal and credit card data to prevent fraudulent enterprises from acquiring and utilizing that data.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Mail volume has dropped from 213 billion to 140 billion items over the last fourteen (14) years, but it is still an essential service, especially for rural America. Rural America needs the Post Office to deliver mail and bring supplies, medicines, groceries, ballots and more to citizens in remote areas and to isolated populations throughout the country. The Post Office will have to operate effectively and efficiently going forward without regular cash infusions from the federal government to continue operations. The National Grange encourages Congress to rescind their 2006 mandate requiring the USPS to prefund retiree health insurance benefits for 75 years in the future.

Trade

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) finally became law with the President signing it January 29. We issued a statement saying, "This agreement helps solidify trade relationships with our neighbors who buy more made-in-America goods than any other market. Every segment of American agriculture benefits from this agreement."

Transportation

From its inception in 1867, the National Grange has been an advocate for a strong transportation infrastructure. In many ways, agriculture is the "original" business and as such has driven the establishment of a multitude of subsequent industries down the economic food chain, including infrastructure development. The need for farmers to get their products to consumers drove the establishment of our nation's railroads, highways, and waterways and today continues to drive the development of

our national infrastructure. Our nation's overall infrastructure (broadband, transportation services, water and waste management, ports, aviation, parks, schools) is in critical need of repair and upgrade. We urge that funding be appropriated to improve critical infrastructure.

We continue to support laws requiring drivers to slow down and move over while passing an emergency vehicle that is stopped with lights flashing and believe all drivers should be held responsible for their driving and guard against distractions from cell phones and other such devices. We also support increased visibility devices for school buses. We strongly support technology that enhances the visibility of vehicles, rail cars, bicycles, motorcycles, trucks, etc.

We support the designation of English as our national language and thus believe that all road and highway signage should be printed only in English.

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

RES # STATE	TITLE	ACTION
804-MD	Repeat Violent Offenders	Adopted as Amended
806-NY	Dairy and Sheep H-2A Visa Enhancement Act	Adopted
808-NY	USPS Emergency Funding	Adopted
810-TX	United States and Mexico Water Treaty	Adopted
812-WA	Aid to Developing Countries	Adopted
813-WA	Membership of the United States Supreme Court	Adopted

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

LJT-804-MD-REPEAT VIOLENT OFFENDERS

WHEREAS: most of the violence being committed in the state of Maryland, and especially Baltimore city is by repeat violent offenders; and

WHEREAS: 7-year-old Taylor Hayes was killed by a man with a long criminal record who was on parole after serving only 6 months of a 15 year sentence; and

WHEREAS: judges and prosecutors keep releasing people back onto the streets despite their criminal activity; and

WHEREAS: a teenage girl has been murdered by members of the brutal gang MS-13 after Prince Georges County authorities refused to turn one of them over to federal officials because of Sanctuary City rules and released him into the community instead; and

WHEREAS: Maryland Governor Larry Hogan has proposed a package of bills to address this issue, but the Maryland General Assembly refused to enact them for partisan reasons; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: The National Grange urges all jurisdictions including sanctuary jurisdictions to cooperate with federal immigration and law enforcement authorities to detain and incarcerate violent offenders who are in this country illegally.

LJT-806-NY-DAIRY AND SHEEP H-2A VISA ENHANCEMENT ACT

WHEREAS: The Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes the lawful admission into the United States of temporary, non-immigrant workers (H-2A workers) to perform agricultural labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature when an employer cannot find U.S. workers to fill these jobs; and

WHEREAS: under current law, dairy workers cannot receive H-2A visas because the industry is not considered seasonal; and

WHEREAS: according to a Texas A&M study, over half of the dairy industry's workforce is made up of foreign-born workers and without the help of foreign labor, many American dairy operations would face the threat of closure; and

WHEREAS: legislation has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives that would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to include dairy and sheepherders, with the initial period of admission being three years that may be extended for additional three-year periods, without a period of absence from the United States being necessary for an extension; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the National Grange supports legislation that would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to expand the H-2A nonimmigrant visa category (temporary agricultural workers) to include dairy workers and sheepherders with the initial period of admission for such temporary workers being three years and allowing for extensions of additional three-year periods without requiring a period of absence from the United States be necessary for an extension.

LJT-808-NY -USPS EMERGENCY FUNDING

WHEREAS: the USPS is very important to rural America for many reasons. The Post Office is the only communication system that is available to every American and gives them a connection to one another and to businesses and people around the world; and

WHEREAS: the USPS is the 5th largest employer in the United States and has lost substantial revenues due to the decrease in use of first-class letters, as a result of the public's use of email for interpersonal and business communication; and WHEREAS: over recent years, the USPS has made every effort to reduce services, hours, and close rural post offices in order to reduce expenses and has increased the price of first-class stamps and shipping packages in order to increase revenue; despite these efforts, the USPS has been unable to compensate for its increased expenses and decreased revenues; and

WHEREAS: the pandemic continues to cripple the economy resulting in sharp declines in letter mail volume for the USPS. It currently projects that it will exhaust its cash on hand by the end of September if Congress and the White House fail to intervene; and

WHEREAS: direction from Postmaster Louis DeJoy has been to reduce mail deliveries and overtime hours which has resulted in massive mail backlogs that have delayed critical communications and packages, including prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS: mail-in voting would allow for safe and easy access to voting during a global pandemic. USPS is critical to the timely and accurate conclusion of the November election, and necessary improvements should be made to tailor to the 2020 Presidential election process; and

WHEREAS: most financial institutions and businesses are pushing for electronic bill paying as a cost savings policy; however, many Americans do not have the capabilities or the trust in electronic banking and wish to maintain the option of mailing a check; and

WHEREAS: the COVID-19 pandemic has only increased our reliance on these critical services. Unfortunately, without additional resources, the long-term sustainability of USPS is in jeopardy; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the National Grange urges Congress to provide emergency funding for the U. S. Postal Service so that it can continue to provide essential services to the American public, in particular, to the needs of rural America, until the COVID-19 pandemic has ended.

LJT-810-TX-UNITED STATES AND MEXICO WATER TREATY

WHEREAS: The US and Mexico Treaty dates back to 1944, Mexico delivers Rio Grande water to the United States while the United States delivers Colorado River water to Mexico; and

WHEREAS: Mexico is not meeting its obligation under the treaty. Mexico must deliver 432,000-acre feet to the United States before October 24, 2020 to comply with Treaty. The amount exceeds the annual minimum acreage volume that the treaty requires for an entire year. Farmers and cities in South Texas rely on this water to get through the summer; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the National Grange and in turn United States Government request the International Boundary and Water Commission take immediate action to have Mexico meet its treaty obligations.

LJT-812-WA-AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

WHEREAS: the term "Third World countries and nations" is archaic; and

WHEREAS: it could be beneficial to the Grange to use current terminology; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: the term "Third World countries and nations" be replaced by the term "developing countries and/or nations" in the National Grange Legislative Policy Book;

LJT-813-WA-MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

WHEREAS: the U.S. Supreme Court is authorized through Article III of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS: the number of members of the U.S. Supreme Court is determined through Congress; and

WHEREAS: the Judiciary Act of 1869 set the membership of the United States Supreme Court to one Chief Justice of the United States plus eight associate justices; and

WHEREAS: each justice has lifetime tenure, meaning they remain on the Court until they resign, retire, die, or are removed from office; and

WHEREAS: the current system has served our nation well for over 150 years; and

WHEREAS: leaders of Congress and the United States Senate have openly discussed the possibility of increasing the numbers of members and/or limiting the tenure of supreme court members; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: The National Grange urge Congress to keep the number of members of the United States Supreme Court at one Chief Justice of the United States plus eight associate justices; and be it further

RESOLVED: The National Grange oppose any legislation that will remove the lifetime tenure of the justices of the United States Supreme Court.

PRESENT POLICY: LABOR & TRADE

Commercial Trade Policies

1. The National Grange believes that opening trade between nations increases international understanding. We will actively support programs to increase the competitive position of U.S. companies in world markets.

2. The National Grange encourages purchasing American-made products and recommends that all levels of government be required to buy American made products whenever feasible.
3. The National Grange supports a fair and equitable textile import policy that provides assistance to the domestic industry, is beneficial to the producers of fibers and is not price inflationary to the U.S.' consumers.
4. The National Grange supports removal of trade, financial, and travel restrictions to Cuba.
5. The National Grange supports prohibiting the sale or lease of properties and/or businesses within the limits of the United States to any foreign purchaser or leaser whose country prohibits the sale or lease of properties and/or businesses to U.S. businesses or citizens.
6. The National Grange supports national, coordinated policies to combat trade-distorting practices instituted by foreign governments, such as currency manipulation and unilateral repudiation of sovereign debt, especially in those cases where it becomes more difficult for U.S. farmers and manufacturers to sell their products in overseas markets.

Immigration, Non-Citizens, and Migrant Workers

1. The National Grange supports the strict enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States and regular review of these laws to be sure they meet the needs of our country. We support increased efforts to patrol our borders, preventing the illegal entry of foreigners into our nation, including the assignment of military forces to assist civilian agencies in enforcing our border control policies. We support a prohibition on general amnesty for all persons in the country illegally of any nationality. We support requiring proof of citizenship and/or legal registered immigration to receive government benefits. We also recommend that federal authorities be allowed to detain any foreigners with expired visas for the duration of their investigation and processing and be deported if immigration status is determined to be illegal.
2. The National Grange supports legal programs to bring guest workers into the United States on a temporary basis for the production of seasonal crops. We support reform of current foreign guest worker programs to allow for expedited processing of foreign guest workers employed in the agricultural sector as well as reform of the H2A program so that the wage costs to farmers when hiring under the H2A program more closely reflects the prevailing local wage. We further support an amendment to the Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act recognizing that a crew chief is an independent contractor who is responsible for the general care of his crew when it does not conflict with the requirements that are assigned to the landowners.
3. Agricultural employers are responsible for checking the identification, but not for the authenticity, of migrant and seasonal worker documentation at the time of employment. Employers who unknowingly hire persons in the country illegally should not be penalized. National Grange supports legislation or a Constitutional amendment to require that children born in the United States must have one parent who is already a United States citizen in order to automatically receive citizenship and government benefits.
4. The National Grange supports enactment of a practical and enforceable guest worker visa program. The National Grange supports the expansion of the H-1B visa program for professionals/advanced agricultural skills/technical skills to enter the United States to provide services in sectors where there is a documented need.
5. The National Grange supports existing federal law that includes sheepherders in the H-2A visa (temporary work visa) program.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to expand the H-2A nonimmigrant visa category (temporary agricultural workers) to include dairy workers and sheepherders with the initial period of admission for such temporary workers being three years and allowing for extensions of additional three-year periods without requiring a period of absence from the United States be necessary for an extension.
7. The National Grange urges all jurisdictions, including sanctuary jurisdictions, to cooperate with federal immigration and law enforcement authorities to detain and incarcerate violent offenders who are in this country illegally.

Wages, Employment, and Unions

1. The National Grange supports the repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931. Until that time, the threshold exemption level of the Act should be indexed to the rate of inflation.
2. The Grange opposes the legislative enactment of a Farm Worker Bill of Rights. We oppose legislation that would impose a 40-hour workweek that places a limitation on hours that can be worked in a single day, or that requires time and a half pay for overtime on a farming operation.
3. The National Grange opposes the child labor laws of the U.S. Department of Labor restricting family members under the age of 18 from working with animals, handling pesticides, working in timber operations, manure pits, grain elevators, feed lots, livestock auctions, and cultivating, harvesting, and curing tobacco, as well as restricting family members under the age of 16 from operating power-driven farm equipment; examples: tractors, combines, farm trucks, ATV's, and shredders.
4. The National Grange supports realistic OSHA workplace safety regulations. It should be both the employer and employee's responsibility to follow safe work practices. Any employer who is cited by OSHA for violating workplace safety regulations should be allowed a reasonable period of time to correct that violation before being penalized. The National Grange believes that OSHA reform legislation as well as any other new workplace health and safety standards should exempt farms having fewer than 10 full-time employees. The National Grange favors lifting the bans in the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1943, which outlaws work that is done in the home in embroidery, gloves and mittens, handkerchiefs, buttons and buckles, jewelry and clothing.
5. The National Grange supports allowing individuals enrolled in an accredited job training or vocational education program, who are collecting unemployment compensation, to decline offers of employment without losing their unemployment benefits.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that would require products bearing an "American Made", or equivalent claim, to have U.S. manufacturing costs constituting at least 75% of the total manufacturing costs for the product, and to be substantially assembled in the United States.

7. The National Grange supports legislation that requires all employers to pay at least the minimum wage, regardless of whether the employees are tipped. We also support legislation to allow younger teens (ages 13-15) to be given the privilege of working a maximum of ten hours a week for less than the minimum wage. After a probationary period, established by the employer, the younger teen should be paid the minimum wage.
8. The National Grange urges the necessary changes to the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that would exempt volunteer worker member co-operatives from minimum wage requirements, allowing members access to quality foods at affordable prices.
9. National Grange strongly urges that the process to form a new union continue to be by secret ballot. We favor binding arbitration clauses in labor contracts covering public sector employees.
10. We support the right of individuals to join a union and collectively bargain in good faith, as long as employees are not required to join or contribute money to any organization that claims to represent their interests in the workplace. We further support mandatory restrictions on the use of compulsory union dues for political, charitable or social causes without dues-paying members' consent.
11. The National Grange supports legislation that allows employers to hire replacement workers during a strike.

PRESENT POLICY: JUDICIARY

Banking and Consumer Credit Law

1. The National Grange supports strong independent banks in lieu of further concentration of banking and financial powers in interstate and nationwide firms. Banks should be prohibited from entering the field of general commerce.
2. The National Grange believes that any banks allowed to write and sell insurance must be subject to all applicable state insurance resolutions and laws as administered by State Insurance Commissions. We believe that any banks that are allowed to offer or underwrite securities must be subject to regulation by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.
3. The National Grange supports the continued independence of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and opposes the merger of the NCUA with any other government financial institution insurance fund.
4. The National Grange urges state and federal banking regulators to better monitor fees charged by banks, reduce and eliminate those that are unfair, and provide customers with protection against aggressive banking business practices.
5. The National Grange supports regulations requiring that all dormancy and/or inactivity fees for store gift cards and prepaid gift cards be permanently eliminated, just as these fees have been eliminated for credit cards.
6. We oppose unreasonable delays in the availability of the funds from a deposited check. We support requiring all banks to honor government checks that are presented to them for payment.

Bankruptcy

1. The National Grange favors additional penalties for bankruptcy fraud to combat planned bankruptcies and other abuses.
2. The National Grange supports companies or businesses that file for bankruptcy to ensure that the employees who are owed compensation are the first secured creditors.
3. The National Grange supports legislation, which would classify producers having an ownership interest in agricultural products as secured creditors in bankruptcy cases.

Children and Family Law

1. The National Grange supports efforts to increase public awareness of child abuse and the existence of child predators in our society. All child abuse laws and child predator laws should be reviewed, revised, and enforced so as to secure the safety and wellbeing of all children while remaining protective of the rights of innocent families and individuals. The National Grange supports equalizing sentencing of perpetrators of sexual abuse without regard of the familial relationship of perpetrator to the child. We further support greater notification requirements on convicted child predators, including immediate notification to authorities of address changes, community notification of the presence of a convicted child predator, a national child predator registry on the internet listing the current address of all convicted child predators and substantially increased penalties for failure of convicted sex offenders to comply.
2. The National Grange favors reforms that would consider the best interests of the child in all proceedings, investigations, or rulings by the courts.
3. The National Grange supports requiring that the biological father's name, if known and proven, be recorded on the child's birth certificate for purposes of determining the child's right to Social Security, and other support that should be provided by the father.
4. The National Grange supports policies that grant legal surrogate decision-making authority to grandparent caregivers in the absence of responsible parents or stepparents. We support financial, social and legal services as needed to grandparent caregivers raising grandchildren. We further support protecting the visitation rights of grandparents. In the case of a child who is legally removed from the parents, the grandparents should be the first to be considered as the custodian of that child.

Civil Law

1. The National Grange supports fairness in the civil judicial system at the state and federal levels through reform of tort, liability, and malpractice law. We favor a civil law system in which the plaintiff, if they lose, will be responsible to pay the defendant's legal and court costs when the court rules the lawsuit was frivolous. We further support limiting the amount of contingency fees that are paid to lawyers as well as putting caps on excessive jury awards for economic and noneconomic damages, such as pain, suffering, and bad faith. We support placing limits on findings of joint and

several liability and clearly established standards of bad faith action. We support incentives for alternative dispute resolutions, such as arbitration. The National Grange supports that businesses and medical professionals are not required to use Social Security numbers as identification and be allowed to use a different means of identification for customers and patients. We also favor legislation to regulate support animals to reduce the opportunity to fraudulently claim pets as support animals.

2. The National Grange believes that Legal Services Corporations and local legal aid bureaus should not receive any federal funding for suits against farmers. The National Grange also believes individuals should be prohibited from initiating so called "citizen suits," civil litigation against farmers and others for environmental violations without demonstrating any direct loss or damage to initiate such a suit.

Consumer Protection Law

1. The National Grange supports legislation to allow the consumer more control over who has access to credit reports.
2. The National Grange supports identification of all products that are foreign-made or assembled.
3. The National Grange supports requiring all companies to comply to the full extent of the law in setting strict limits for lead, lead paint and chemicals known as phthalates, and the mandatory third-party testing of products geared for children 12 and under.
4. The National Grange urges Congress to enact laws protecting an individual's right to privacy and to protect the confidentiality of all personal records from fraudulent use. The National Grange supports a program to educate individual consumers regarding how to report suspected identity theft activities. We also support stronger penalties for those convicted of identity theft including full restitution to all victims. National Grange supports allowing children's Social Security numbers and other private information to be frozen by the child's legal custodian in order to protect them from identity theft.
5. The National Grange supports allowing nonprofit organizations to make continued "incidental use" of copyrighted music.
6. Regulations should be enacted that require companies to give consumers the option of mailed billings or statements without surcharges.
7. The National Grange encourages companies to print product expiration or use by dates in the mm/dd/yy format.
8. The National Grange encourages changes in federal legislation, such that "compounding pharmacies" participating in interstate commerce would be classified as pharmaceutical manufacturers, under the Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act. The National Grange also supports that, as pharmaceutical manufacturers, "compounding pharmacies" be subject to Pharmaceutical Good Manufacturing Practices, FDA inspection and enforcement, and federal drug industry user fees.

Crime and Punishment

1. The National Grange supports imposing stiff mandatory sentences in criminal cases. We believe plea-bargaining should be restrained. We further believe that convicted criminals should be responsible for restitution to their victims and society. The National Grange believes that persons who are convicted of rape, murder, or any three-felony offenses should serve their full sentence without benefit of parole or furlough. We support the death penalty for premeditated crimes ending in death. We further support the death penalty for all citizens who are convicted of military espionage in either peacetime or war.
2. The National Grange favors classifying the importing, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution of all illegal drugs as felonies under state and federal statutes. An appropriate prison sentence should be imposed upon conviction for any felony drug offense.
3. The National Grange recommends that the U.S. Congress reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to help prevent enslavement of persons and protect those who have been victims of enslavement. The National Grange also encourages its members to educate themselves and others about the dangers of human trafficking.

Firearms and the Second Amendment

1. The National Grange opposes any additional gun control laws until the present laws are strictly enforced. We oppose legislation restricting the rights of citizens to bear arms for protection of their families, property and common defense, except for assault weapons manufactured and designed specifically for military use and stun guns. We favor severe and mandatory sentences, including incarceration, for anyone using firearms while committing a crime.
2. The National Grange supports prohibiting the manufacture and sale of toy guns that are replicas of real guns.
3. The National Grange urges at the federal level, a law of national reciprocity between states be created so that a legal permit to carry weapons from one state be recognized by all states.

General Law

1. The National Grange opposes federal regulations that force the closings of jails or that require excessive expenditures of State funds to support correctional facilities.
2. The National Grange supports tort reform to exempt manufacturers of goods and machinery from all lawsuits, fines, liabilities and other civil penalties if they meet all the state and federal regulations that were in effect at the time the product was built or produced.
3. The National Grange supports federal legislation to prohibit gambling on the Internet. We further support legislation to make the unsolicited e-mailing or posting of advertisements for pornographic websites and materials both a criminal and civil offense in order to control the availability of pornographic material to children.
4. The National Grange recommends that there be no changes in the federal laws that currently ban the production and sale of marijuana in the United States.
5. The National Grange supports legislation to place salvia divinorum under the control of the Controlled Substance Act.
6. The National Grange supports legislation, which will create a new 12th Circuit Court of Appeals to meet the needs to the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, Hawaii and the Pacific Territories.

7. The National Grange believes that state law, not federal law, should have jurisdiction over "hate crimes" and state law should be responsible for assigning specific punishment for these crimes.
8. The National Grange believes that cell phone use by inmates should be banned at all state and federal correctional facilities. Prison visitors should be required to surrender all cell phones at the facility entrance until their departure.
9. The National Grange supports legislation requiring that Members of Congress shall deposit all personal investments into blind trusts for the duration of their term of office.
10. The National Grange supports the use of drone aircraft and associated technologies for agricultural purposes.
11. The National Grange supports that no federal official may halt harvesting and transporting of any farmer's perishable crop by declaring the crop as "hot goods."
12. The National Grange supports the principle that all federal judges be reconfirmed every 10 years to remain on the bench.
13. The National Grange supports revisions to the Hatch Act to permit federal employees to run for local municipal and county offices so long as no conflict of interest exists.
14. The National Grange urges Congress to keep the number of members of the United States Supreme Court at one Chief Justice of the United States plus eight associate justices and The National Grange opposes any legislation that will remove the lifetime tenure of the justices of the United States Supreme Court.

Insurance Law

1. The National Grange supports the efforts of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies to strengthen and improve insurance guarantee funds.
2. The National Grange believes that the National Flood Insurance Program should operate on an actuarially sound basis. National Flood Insurance Programs (buildings, structures) should not be available for properties that have suffered multiple losses where steps were not taken to protect the property from further damage.
3. The National Grange urges that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conduct a public awareness campaign to help property owners understand their rights when there is a flood map reclassification.
4. The National Grange urges the National Flood Insurance Program to change policy provisions to allow blanket coverage over multiple structures on a property. Additionally, we support the continuation of the 'Write Your Own' (local insurance agent) model of securing Flood Insurance.
5. The National Grange urges state and federal regulators to establish the necessary safeguards that will make it possible for the viatical industry to serve viators and investors in a responsible way.
6. The National Grange opposes any legislation that would require insurance companies to comply with "The Community Reinvestment Act," 12 U.S.C. 2901.
7. The National Grange supports legislation on a federal level that will require insurance companies to cover testing for breast cancer for all patients regardless of age.

Protection for Victims and Jurors

1. We support increased protection for those who serve on juries. All jury deliberations should remain confidential. The National Grange supports legislation to forbid public disclosure of information about criminal investigations that could be detrimental to the case of either the prosecution or the defense, until after the case's final deposition.
2. The National Grange supports legislation to assure that victims and witnesses of violent crimes must be notified in writing at least 60 days before any hearings in which the person who has been convicted of that crime seeks release or a change in release status from either a prison or a mental institution.
3. The National Grange supports legislation to protect the language interpreter with an interpreter/client privilege just as lawyers have attorney/client privileges.
4. The National Grange supports federal legislation to create a reliable, national database of DNA evidence acquired during previous investigations of sexual assault investigations to be used in the investigation of other sexual assault cases across the nation that will balance the rights of the accused to due process and the presumption of innocence with the rights to privacy of the victims of sexual assault and the assurance of swift and certain justice. The National Grange further supports federal grants to the states to audit the quality of the inventory of prior evidence acquired from sexual assault investigations by local law enforcement agencies in order to increase the value of this evidence in the investigation of sexual assault cases across the nation.
5. The National Grange supports the establishment of a consumer-oriented national conviction registry of medical professionals who have been previously convicted of ethical or criminal activity and barred from the practice of medicine.

PRESENT POLICY: TRANSPORTATION

Air Travel

1. The National Grange supports the continuation of assignment of Air Marshals on random flights.
2. The National Grange opposes legislation authorizing the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to establish fees for air traffic control and related activities, services, facilities, and equipment that increases user fees and taxes for general aviation such as crop dusting, pipeline patrol, power line patrol, forest fire patrol, and commuting to rural communities. We also oppose legislation creating a board dominated by airline representatives that would recommend FAA user fee pricing schedules.

General Transportation Policy

1. The Grange believes that a balanced transportation system, at the lowest cost consistent with adequate and efficient service, is in the best interest of farmers and consumers. We oppose efforts by state governments to toll expanses of the Interstate Highway System built and operating as toll free.
2. The National Grange urges federal and state weed control agencies to control noxious weeds on their highway rights-of-way and to work with the railroads to control noxious weeds along railroad rights-of-way but always respecting the landowners' property rights and preferences.
3. The National Grange supports inter-modal ownership of transportation carriers only when that intermodal ownership is consistent with the public interest, will not unreasonably restrain competition and will not result in segments of agriculture and rural areas being held by captive shippers.
4. The National Grange supports creating a national uniform vehicle Identification Placard system to be used by disabled drivers. Legislation should be enacted to include blindness as a provision for issuance of a disabled parking permit.
5. The National Grange strongly supports a simple public announcement procedure for special-needs citizens in intercity bus transportation systems.
6. The National Grange supports legislation that allows independent vehicle maintenance facilities or car dealership garages to have access to the technology/programming needed to repair all makes of vehicles so that consumers have a choice of where to take their vehicle for maintenance and repair.
7. The National Grange supports safety and educational programs for individuals 17 years and younger for the use of all non-roadway vehicles such as ATV's, snowmobiles, dirt bikes, sleds, etc. and also endorses the use of helmets and other protective gear.
8. The National Grange supports a standardized toll road transponder that works on all toll roads across the USA.

Highway Policy, Interstate System and Federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF)

1. The National Grange strongly supports the continuation and reauthorization of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). We support removing the HTF from the federal budget. We oppose any proposal that would change the concept of dedicating all federal motor fuel taxes to the HTF to be used for highway and highway related purposes. The National Grange supports the creation of a Federal Mass Transportation Trust Fund from user tax revenues separate from the HTF and highway user taxes. The National Grange opposes increasing the federal gasoline tax for purposes other than the HTF and reaffirms its position that all funds received from highway fuel taxes be used only for construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. The federal and state governments should not use these funds to balance their budgets or fund other programs. We oppose impounding HTF monies as a means of enforcement of federal laws.
2. We support federal legislation to remove federal fuel tax from fuel used to operate farm trucks, including legislation that would use a federal motor fuel tax increase to reduce federal budget deficits.
3. The National Grange favors full compensation for homes, farming operations and businesses when displaced by eminent domain for highway rights-of-way.
4. The National Grange calls for increased border surveillance to ensure that commercial vehicles and drivers based in Canada and Mexico are in full compliance with the United States' motor vehicle equipment standards and requirements.
5. The National Grange supports the following provisions as part of any future reauthorization of the federal highway programs and/or the Federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF) additional funding for core safety programs that are properly directed to lifesaving roadway safety projects.
 - a. provisions to reduce administrative delays at federal and state agencies responsible for approving highway planning.
 - b. financial incentives for states to obligate new congestion relief funding for projects that reduce highway bottlenecks.
 - c. full funding by the Congress for all "guaranteed" highway funds in future Transportation Appropriations bills.
 - d. Full enforcement of additional new fuel tax fraud provisions and additional credit for the HTF for revenue enhancements related to the new tax collection on ethanol.
6. The National Grange supports streamlining environmental requirements to expedite the completion of transportation congestion-relief projects in order to reduce pollution while promoting efficient land use and road capacity.

Highway Policy – Non-Interstate

1. The National Grange urges government agencies to conserve land for agricultural purposes when considering the location and design of highways including planting trees and shrubs along highways in places where such growth could stop soil erosion and aid in snow control.
2. The federal-aid system of highways should be continued as a federal-state partnership with more flexibility in the states' use of money for safety, construction, and maintenance of state and local highways, including rural roads and bridges that are built to the community's needs as determined by county and local road commissions. The National Grange recommends that the Highway Safety Administration require surface highway reflectors on the center lane divider of all two-way highways on the federal-aid highway system and adopt standards to ensure a better and more durable road surface.
3. The National Grange supports expansion of rural intra-city bus, air and rail services.
4. The National Grange supports funding to construct adequate parking or rest areas to allow commercial and other drivers to stop and rest. We encourage the use of "Weigh Stations" as rest locations.
5. The National Grange continues to uphold the States' rights to regulate the farmer's transporting of equipment and crops and opposes any federal legislation or regulations that would require farmers to obtain commercial drivers' licenses to operate farm equipment.
6. The National Grange supports legislation to increase federal funding to maintain and repair local bridges throughout the nation.

Impaired Driving

1. The National Grange believes the dangers of drinking and driving should be included in all federal anti-drug information and education programs.
2. The National Grange supports maintaining the minimum age for the consumption of alcoholic beverages at 21.
3. The National Grange recommends that transportation authorities, both government and privately owned, be vested with the authority to randomly test employees for illegal drug and alcohol use.

Railroad Transportation

1. The National Grange supports scheduling more commuter trains to offer better service to the public.
2. The National Grange urges all appropriate state and federal agencies to consider economic impact and public interests when undertaking transportation planning with regard to the impact of rail line abandonment. We support integration of rail and highway system planning in advance of possible abandonment to maximize economies to the public and private sectors as well as federal assistance to states for this purpose and to assist in rail takeovers by states where maintenance of service is cost effective to local or state governments and to local shippers. We support economic and social impact statements from railroads as well as meaningful local public hearings in the areas affected as a part of the abandonment process.
3. The National Grange supports the development and maintenance of a strong and effective rail network to enhance competition among and between rail carriers to ensure efficient rail service and reasonable rates.
4. The National Grange supports legislation requiring warning reflectors to be placed on both sides of all railroad cars in the United States.
5. The National Grange supports legislation that would require railroads to reveal to each landowner, before abandonment, the full and complete legal basis on which the railroad has claimed its right to occupy the corridor. If the railroad's right is less than fee simple ownership, the railroad should disclose to each landowner that its occupancy right would be extinguished upon abandonment.
6. The National Grange supports efforts to create a Commuter Bill of Rights that would guarantee that rail passengers, stranded on railway trains, would have access to food, and water, as well as assure their timely removal from the disabled train.

Roadway Safety

1. The National Grange supports the enforcement of weight limits on vehicles operating on our highways.
2. The National Grange supports truck regulations requiring the use of brushes and/or flaps that will channel the water down reducing the spray.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would require rear and side impact/under ride guards on all newly manufactured semi-trailers.
4. The National Grange requests that the Federal Highway Administration establish and promulgate standards for the minimum walk light time, type of visual images, and audible sound level for controlled crosswalks throughout the United States.
5. The National Grange supports requiring railroad crossings in rural areas should have ripple strips installed in road surfaces on approaches to crossings, be clear of brush and other vision-inhibiting material and be equipped with flashing warning lights.
6. The National Grange supports requiring that all motorcycle, bicycle, and moped riders wear protective helmets, and wear high visibility clothing or have an apparatus to make them more visible to other motorists.
7. The National Grange supports requiring all motor vehicles to have a rear bumper or undercarriage guard coming within 16 inches above the ground.
8. The National Grange urges automobile manufacturers to include the following modifications on their new models: uniformly located door latches; louder and more visible interior direction signal indicators; spare tires of equal quality and size as regular tires; uniform tow points; light sensitive sensors that would automatically turn on automobile headlights at a certain degree of darkness; at least one mirror on the right side of a vehicle to reflect an undistorted view of images and a curvature type mirror to pick up blind spots; and headlights that turn on automatically with the windshield wipers.
9. The National Grange supports standardizing the cellular emergency numbers for the interstate highway systems throughout the country to *91.
10. The National Grange supports legislation that would penalize a driver for using a cell phone when it is the cause of an accident.
11. The National Grange supports regulations that would strengthen the safety standards for smaller cars and opposes any weakening of the safety standards of sport utility vehicles.
12. The National Grange strongly supports state and national laws that require reflective tape on all existing and new trucks to help reduce under-ride accidents.
13. The National Grange supports legislation banning high intensity discharge (HID) headlights and/or driving lights and/or Xenon lights.
14. The National Grange encourages all states to use the same laws pertaining to school bus operations and traffic control around school buses. We support legislation requiring all newly manufactured school buses to be equipped with strobe lights that are highly visible in all types of weather. We further support, all school buses being required to have a sign on the back stating "Stay Back 50 Feet," and that all school buses manufactured have blind spot sensors or devices.

15. The National Grange supports present U.S. Department of Transportation requirements for random drug and alcohol testing for school bus drivers.
16. The National Grange supports legislation restricting the placement of any visual entertainment device within the driver's area of vision within a motor vehicle.
17. The National Grange supports requirements that newer vehicles be equipped with blind spot indicators visible by the driver and that after-market suppliers have blind spot indicators available for earlier models.

Truck Transportation Policy

1. The National Grange supports legislation and regulatory policies that enhance stability and competition in truck operations for cost-effective and dependable service.
2. The National Grange supports regulations requiring brake lights to be activated on commercial motor vehicles when a Jake Brake is used.
3. The National Grange supports legislation that would require reporting of positive drug tests for drivers with any commercial license to the Department of Motor Vehicles of the issuing state so long as there is a mandatory right of appeal and a second test to eliminate false positive results. The report of a positive drug test should remain in the driver's file for a period of two years.
4. The National Grange supports Department of Transportation (DOT) reclassifying light-, medium-, and heavy-duty utility vehicles separate from on-highway (cross-country) trucks. However, we recommend that logbooks not be required on light-, medium-, and heavy-duty utility vehicles.

Water Transportation

1. The National Grange supports a moratorium on user fee increases for agricultural products transported on coastal and inland waterways. All user fees on waterways should be based on the percentage of federal expenditures attributable to opening waterways to barge traffic and should be placed in an Inland Waterways Trust Fund and used only for construction and maintenance of inland waterways.
2. The National Grange supports maintaining the current United States Corps of Engineers' season for transporting grain on the Missouri River.
3. The National Grange supports the immediate upgrades to the locks on the facilitating greater barge traffic and providing an economic engine to fuel growth and prosperity.
4. The National Grange recommends the repeal of the Jones Act, which requires all freight moved between American ports being carried in American ships.
5. The National Grange supports legislation to prevent any company controlled by a foreign government from taking over management of U.S. port facilities.

PRESENT POLICY: FOREIGN & DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

Foreign Aid

1. The National Grange urges the U.S. government to unconditionally extend foreign aid only in cases of natural disasters. We further support basing a greater use of agricultural products in lieu of cash transfers for humanitarian assistance; closer monitoring of International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans to encourage developing countries to provide self-help; considering the recipient countries' present foreign debt, repayment schedule, and record before providing them with new financial assistance; and keeping in mind the needs of domestic programs when Congress considers the appropriate amount of foreign aid.
2. National Grange recommends that all countries share in the economic assistance to developing countries through the United Nations. The National Grange supports requiring any country receiving U.S. foreign aid to purchase products made or grown in the United States.
3. The National Grange favors canceling all U.S. aid and supplies to foreign countries that take, hold, or kill American citizens, refuse to recognize international law, willingly permit the production and shipment of illegal drugs into our country, or allow the takeover of U.S. embassies or any property belonging to the U.S. government.
4. The National Grange encourages agricultural research and development in and for developing nations.

International Relations and the United Nations

1. The National Grange supports a friendly relationship with the Republic of China (Taiwan).
2. The National Grange supports a positive non-military program promoting the democratic form of government to roll back or contain dictatorial forms of government.
3. The National Grange supports actions by our government in condemning terrorist acts and supports efforts to secure the release of all hostages.
4. The National Grange supports a U.S. foreign policy that only allows American troops to be committed to foreign countries in turmoil when it is in the strategic interest of the United States and adequate safeguards are provided. We support the United States' involvement in United Nations' military operations including funding such military operations only with the approval of Congress.
5. The National Grange strongly supports extending and maintaining the protections of U.S. Constitutional law, guaranteeing individual rights, under all international law. We urge the United States government not to ratify or sign agreements or treaties that limit individual rights guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution or Bill of Rights, or that impose taxation on the citizens of the United States.
6. The National Grange continues to support the US non-participation in the International Criminal Court and prohibit the use of appropriated funds for the establishment or operation of the Court. We further urge the U.S. government to use all of its diplomatic and political influence to protect U.S. Service persons or U.S. citizens from being subject to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

7. The National Grange and in turn United States Government request the International Boundary and Water Commission take immediate action to have Mexico meet its treaty obligations.

National Defense

1. The National Grange supports international agreements leading toward a balanced reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons and chemical weapons. To complement this objective, we further support the development of strategic and civil defense systems.
2. The National Grange recommends that the federal government negotiate with foreign countries for compensation for the military defenses that we provide to their countries.
3. The National Grange supports a strong effective military. We urge Congress to appropriate sufficient funding, including adequate pay for all branches of the military. We support policies which will re-establish effective security and intelligence capabilities.
4. The National Grange supports the continued presence of United States Armed Forces in South Korea.
5. The National Grange supports expanding our military capabilities using unmanned aerial vehicles.
6. The National Grange favors all citizens between the ages of 18 and 26 be required to register with the Selective Service.

U.S. Postal Service

1. The National Grange supports efforts by the Postal Service to eliminate waste, hold down operating costs and increase services and reliability. We support the following postal reforms:
 - a. We urge that any future postal rate increases be no greater than the rate of inflation.
 - b. We will support stable rates or eligibility requirements for nonprofit organizations' postal rates. We support the retention of the third-class bulk mail rate for not-for-profit-organizations at a reasonable rate.
 - c. We support the reorganization of the Postal Rate Commission to include representation of the interests of mail users.
2. The National Grange supports Rural Free Mail Delivery Service as an essential part of universal mail service. We support the continuation of rural Saturday mail delivery and all other mail services to rural areas. Patrons of rural post offices must be given six months' notice before their post office is closed and must be provided with an opportunity to express their viewpoint at a public hearing.
3. The National Grange opposes any change in the current postal employee retirement programs that would adversely affect the retirement of any postal employees, limit the retirement options of current postal employees or result in a reduction of retirement benefits for current or future postal employees. The National Grange encourages Congress to eliminate the United States Postal Service requirement to pre-fund retirement health insurance benefits.
4. The National Grange encourages the Postal Service to make their patrons aware that handicapped persons may apply for mail delivery to their door.
5. The National Grange encourages Congress to allow the U.S. Postal Service to be innovative and flexible in the modern business world and develop a competitive culture within its employees so it may return itself to financial and operational soundness and continue to fulfill its mission.
6. The National Grange urges the United States Postal Service to utilize guidelines such as the 10-mile proximity rule, in relation to the proposed post office closures, taking into consideration the special needs of the community as well as the statistical analysis developed for closure criteria.
7. The National Grange urges Congress to provide emergency funding for the U. S. Postal Service so that it can continue to provide essential services to the American public, in particular, to the needs of rural America until the COVID-19 pandemic has ended.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Labor, Judiciary & Transportation Committee for their hard work and many long hours before and during the Convention. Having an outstanding committee made the difficult task of this committee go very smoothly and efficiently.

Thanks to National Grange, Betsy and Burton for allowing us to ZOOM prior to this meeting. We were able to use that time to agree on the points of the National Grange Labor, Judiciary & Transportation Policy that needed to be updated or researched prior to arrival at the session.

Thank You.

Glenn Gibson, MA, Chr.
Connie Johnston, MI
James Taylor, VA
Anita Gentry, NC
Joe Stefenoni, CA

Guests

Sean O'Neil, NG Staff
Leroy Watson, BOD
Phil Prelli, VP
Burton Eller
Betsy Huber

Joan C. Smith, DC, Sec.
Susan Plank, IN
Walter Hartley, RI
Cheri Watson, NH

GRANGE & CONVENTION HISTORY

FOUNDING OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE:
December 4, 1867 Washington, D.C

HISTORY OF THE CONVENTIONS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

Session #	Year, Month	Place	President
1	1868, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
2	1869, April	Washington, DC	William Saunders
3	1870, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
4	1871, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
5	1872, Jan.	Washington, DC	William Saunders
6	1873, Jan.	Georgetown, DC	William Saunders
7	1874, Feb.	St. Louis, MO	D.W. Adams
8	1875, Feb.	Charleston, SC	D.W. Adams
9	1875, Nov.	Louisville, KY	D.W. Adam
10	1876, Nov.	Chicago, IL	John T. Jones
11	1877, Nov.	Cincinnati, OH	John T. Jones
12	1878, Nov.	Richmond, VA	S.E. Adams
13	1879, Nov.	Canandaigua, NY	S.E. Adams
14	1880, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
15	1881, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
16	1882, Nov.	Indianapolis, IN	J.J. Woodman
17	1883, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.J. Woodman
18	1884, Nov.	Nashville, TN	J.J. Woodman
19	1885, Nov.	Boston, MA	J.J. Woodman
20	1886, Nov.	Philadelphia, PA	I.P. Darden
21	1887, Nov.	Lansing, MI	I.P. Darden
22	1888, Nov.	Topeka, KS	James Draper
23	1889, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	J.H. Brigham
24	1890, Nov.	Atlanta, GA	J.H. Brigham
25	1891, Nov.	Springfield, OH	J.H. Brigham
26	1892, Nov.	Concord, NH	J.H. Brigham
27	1893, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	J.H. Brigham
28	1894, Nov.	Springfield, IL	J.H. Brigham
29	1895, Nov.	Worcester, MA	J.H. Brigham
30	1896, Nov.	Washington, DC	J.H. Brigham
31	1897, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	J.H. Brigham
32	1898, Nov.	Concord, NH	Aaron Jones
33	1899, Nov.	Springfield, OH	Aaron Jones
34	1900, Nov.	Washington, DC	Aaron Jones
35	1901, Nov.	Lewiston, ME	Aaron Jones
36	1902, Nov.	Lansing, MI	Aaron Jones
37	1903, Nov.	Rochester, NY	Aaron Jones
38	1904, Nov.	Portland, OR	Aaron Jones
39	1905, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Aaron Jones
40	1906, Nov.	Denver, CO	N.J. Bachelder
41	1907, Nov.	Hartford, CT	N.J. Bachelder
42	1908, Nov.	Washington, DC	N.J. Bachelder
43	1909, Nov.	Des Moines, IA	N.J. Bachelder
44	1910, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	N.J. Bachelder
45	1911, Nov.	Columbus, OH	N.J. Bachelder
46	1912, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Oliver Wilson
47	1913, Nov.	Manchester, NH	Oliver Wilson
48	1914, Nov.	Wilmington, DE	Oliver Wilson
49	1915, Nov.	Oakland, CA	Oliver Wilson
50	1916, Nov.	Washington, DC	Oliver Wilson
51	1917, Nov.	St. Louis, MO	Oliver Wilson
52	1918, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Oliver Wilson
53	1919, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Oliver Wilson
54	1920, Nov.	Boston, MA	S.J. Lowell
55	1921, Nov.	Portland, OR	S.J. Lowell
56	1922, Nov.	Wichita, KS	S.J. Lowell
57	1923, Nov.	Pittsburgh, PA	S.J. Lowell

58	1924, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	L.J. Taber
59	1925, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	L.J. Taber
60	1926, Nov.	Portland, ME	L.J. Taber
61	1927, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	L.J. Taber
62	1928, Nov.	Washington, DC	L.J. Taber
63	1929, Nov.	Seattle, WA	L.J. Taber
64	1930, Nov.	Rochester, NY	L.J. Taber
65	1931, Nov.	Madison, WI	L.J. Taber
66	1932, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	L.J. Taber
67	1933, Nov.	Boise, ID	L.J. Taber
68	1934, Nov.	Hartford, CT	L.J. Taber
69	1935, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	L.J. Taber
70	1936, Nov.	Columbus, OH	L.J. Taber
71	1937, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	L.J. Taber
72	1938, Nov.	Portland, OR	L.J. Taber
73	1939, Nov.	Peoria, IL	L.J. Taber
74	1940, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	L.J. Taber
75	1941, Nov.	Worcester, MA	L.J. Taber
76	1942, Nov.	Wenatchee, WA	A.S. Goss
77	1943, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	A.S. Goss
78	1944, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	A.S. Goss
79	1945, Nov.	Kansas City, MO	A.S. Goss
80	1946, Nov.	Portland, OR	A.S. Goss
81	1947, Nov.	Columbus, OH	A.S. Goss
82	1948, Nov.	Portland, ME	A.S. Goss
83	1949, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	A.S. Goss
84	1950, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Henry D. Sherwood
85	1951, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Herschel D. Newsom
86	1952, Nov.	Rockford, IL	Herschel D. Newsom
87	1953, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Herschel D. Newsom
88	1954, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Herschel D. Newsom
89	1955, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	Herschel D. Newsom
90	1956, Nov.	Rochester, NY	Herschel D. Newsom
91	1957, Nov.	Colorado Springs, CO	Herschel D. Newsom
92	1958, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Herschel D. Newsom
93	1959, Nov.	Long Beach, CA	Herschel D. Newsom
94	1960, Nov.	Winston-Salem, NC	Herschel D. Newsom
95	1961, Nov.	Worcester, MA	Herschel D. Newsom
96	1962, Nov.	Fort Wayne, IN	Herschel D. Newsom
97	1963, Nov.	Portland, OR	Herschel D. Newsom
98	1964, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	Herschel D. Newsom
99	1965, Nov.	Topeka, KS	Herschel D. Newsom
100	1966, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Herschel D. Newsom
101	1967, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Herschel D. Newsom
102	1968, Nov.	Peoria, IL	Herschel D. Newsom
103	1969, Nov.	Daytona Beach, FL	John W. Scott
104	1970, Nov.	Boise, ID	John W. Scott
105	1971, Nov.	Charleston, WV	John W. Scott
106	1972, Nov.	Hartford, CT	John W. Scott
107	1973, Nov.	Lincoln, NE	John W. Scott
108	1974, Nov.	Sacramento, CA	John W. Scott
109	1975, Nov.	Columbus, OH	John W. Scott
110	1976, Nov.	Atlantic City, NJ	John W. Scott
111	1977, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	John W. Scott
112	1978, Nov.	Denver, CO	John W. Scott
113	1979, Nov.	Lancaster, PA	John W. Scott
114	1980, Nov.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Edward Andersen
115	1981, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Edward Andersen
116	1982, Nov.	Providence, RI	Edward Andersen
117	1983, Nov.	San Antonio, TX	Edward Andersen
118	1984, Nov.	Portland, ME	Edward Andersen
119	1985, Nov.	Eugene, OR	Edward Andersen
120	1986, Nov.	Madison, WI	Edward Andersen
121	1987, Nov.	Syracuse, NY	Edward Andersen
122	1988, Nov.	Redding, CA	Robert E. Barrow
123	1989, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	Robert E. Barrow

124	1990, Nov.	Wichita, KS	Robert E. Barrow
125	1991, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Robert E. Barrow
126	1992, Nov.	Denver, CO	Robert E. Barrow
127	1993, Nov.	Cleveland, OH	Robert E. Barrow
128	1994, Nov.	Peoria, IL	Robert E. Barrow
129	1995, Nov.	Harrisburg, PA	Robert E. Barrow
130	1996, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Kermit W. Richardson
131	1997, Nov.	Springfield, MA	Kermit W. Richardson
132	1998, Nov.	Greensboro, NC	Kermit W. Richardson
133	1999, Nov.	Portland, ME	Kermit W. Richardson
134	2000, Nov.	Fresno, CA	Kermit W. Richardson
135	2001, Nov.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Kermit W. Richardson
136	2002, Nov.	Portland, OR	Kermit W. Richardson
137	2003, Nov.	Burlington, VT	Kermit W. Richardson
138	2004, Nov.	Rochester, NY	William A. Steel
139	2005, Nov.	Columbus, OH	William A. Steel
140	2006, Nov.	Springfield, IL	William A. Steel
141	2007, Nov.	Reno, NV	William A. Steel
142	2008, Nov.	Cromwell, CT	Edward L. Luttrell
143	2009, Nov.	Grand Rapids, MI	Edward L. Luttrell
144	2010, Nov.	Charlotte, NC	Edward L. Luttrell
145	2011, Nov.	Tulsa, OK	Edward L. Luttrell
146	2012, Nov.	Boise, ID	Edward L. Luttrell
147	2013, Nov.	Manchester, NH	Edward L. Luttrell
148	2014, Nov.	Sandusky, OH	Edward L. Luttrell
149	2015, Nov.	Lincoln, NE	Edward L. Luttrell
150	2016 Nov.	Herndon, Virginia	Betsy E. Huber
151	2017, Nov.	Spokane, WA	Betsy E. Huber
152	2018, Nov.	Stowe, VT	Betsy E. Huber
153	2019, Nov.	Minneapolis, MN	Betsy E. Huber
154	2020, Nov.	D.C./Virtual	Betsy E. Huber
Upcoming			
155	2021, Nov.	Wichita, KS	
156	2022, Nov.	Sparks, NV	
157	2023, Nov.	Niagara Falls, NY	
158	2024, Nov	TBD	
159	2025, Nov	TBD	

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Financial Statements

December 31, 2019

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

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ERIC BOLIN CPA P.C.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors
National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry
Washington, D.C.

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Eric Bolin CPA, P.C.

October 9, 2020
Rockville, Maryland

6110 Executive Boulevard • Suite 232 • Rockville, Maryland 20852
Telephone: 301.816.9446 • Facsimile: 301.816.9447 • email: erbolin@hotmail.com

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Financial Position

	<i>December 31,</i>	
	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Cash on hand and on deposit (Sch. I)	\$ 140,912	\$ 213,906
Building Fund	412,418	17,378
Investment	461,751	406,765
Accounts receivable (Sch. II)	244,583	218,320
Rents Receivable (Sch. II)	165,290	123,237
Prepaid expenses and Deposits	78,260	42,583
Inventory – at Cost	32,093	69,200
Property and Equipment - Net	1,165,662	1,159,785
Land (at Cost)	255,238	255,238
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,956,207	\$ 2,506,412
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable-Trade	\$ 114,977	\$ 879,073
Accrued Expenses	22,550	12,396
Accrued Membership Assessment	0	158,625
Tenant Security Deposits	77,634	45,398
Trail Funding	0	10,208
Bonding Liability	5,061	0
Loan Payable – Eagle Bank	1,675,947	1,772,629
Loans Payable – State Granges	163,891	426,052
Note Payable - LMA	0	3,006
Escrow	0	3,000
Prepaid Rent	6,403	0
E-memberships	1,200	0
Loan Payable Red Lion Grange	100,000	100,000
Loan Payable –Grange Foundation	86,719	102,400
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,254,382	3,512,787
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	169,553	(1,294,020)
Delegate Designated Fund	532,272	287,645
TOTAL NET ASSETS	701,825	(1,006,375)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 2,956,207	\$ 2,506,412

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Financial Position

December 31,

Schedule I - Cash on Hand and on Deposit		
	2019	2018
Operating Account	\$ 54,842	\$ 157,864
Petty cash	14	14
Reserved – Assessment Holding	64,195	39,505
Escrow	1,537	16,523
Building Fund	412,418	0
Loan Account	20,324	0
Total	\$ 553,330	\$ 213,906
Schedule II – Accounts Receivable		
State Granges	\$ 226,353	\$ 177,863
Rents (Net of Allowance for Bad Debt 20,000)	185,290	153,245
Employee Advances	18,230	7,745
Other	(20,000)	2,704
Total	\$ 409,873	\$ 341,557

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31,

REVENUE	With Donor Restrictions	
	2019	2018
Dues and Fees		
Subordinate Grange Dues	\$ 710,248	\$ 732,442
E-Memberships, Other Fees	1,783	65,882
GIA	81,403	70,910
Rents (less rebates)	1,105,449	1,064,031
Building Fund	56,214	38,482
National Convention Assessments	71,779	0
Sales Income	34,443	29,588
Bonding Commissions	6,080	12,603
Licensing	24,776	19,420
Communications, Good Day Magazine	19,996	24,034
Legislative Revenue	49,725	44,450
Dividends, Interest, Capital Gains	20,125	20,697
Gain (Loss) on Investments	39,630	(31,021)
Other	12,035	3,724
TOTAL REVENUE	2,233,686	2,095,242
EXPENSES		
Building	664,893	810,054
General and Administrative	595,066	719,078
Gen & Admin - Professional Services	343,403	1,009,469
National Master	68,333	76,268
National Secretary, Lecturer, High Priest	1,500	1,500
Board of Directors	916	4,678
Communications	59,160	46,724
Youth Activities	20,360	18,845
Junior Grange	22,498	21,986
Membership, Leadership	22,711	2,526
Legislative	4,344	7,074
IT/ Systems	31,893	45,641
National Convention	186,025	153,523
Marketing/Sales	50,416	29,342
Program Resources	7,599	5,968
Simple IRA	10,146	9,703
Interest	103,951	104,851
Depreciation	85,447	30,932
Bad Debt	289	73,614
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,278,950	3,171,776
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE OTHER INCOME	(45,264)	(1,076,534)
Other Income – CA Settlement	1,535,208	0
INCREASE IN ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	1,489,944	(1,076,534)
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS – January 1	(1,294,020)	(238,449)
Prior Year Correction	2,869	0
Reclassification to Board Designated Fund	0	1,220
Reclassification to Board Designated Fund	(29,240)	19,743
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS – December 31,	\$ 169,553	\$ (1,294,020)

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

	2019	2018
CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 1,489,944	\$ (1,076,534)
Adjustments to Reconcile (Decrease) in Net Assets to Cash		
From Operations		
Depreciation	85,447	30,932
Unrealized Gain in Value - Investments	39,630	(31,021)
Decrease (Increase) in Assets		
Accounts Receivable	(26,263)	56,479
Rents Receivable	(42,053)	42,723
Prepaid Expenses, Deposits	(35,677)	45,367
Inventory	37,107	40,549
(Decrease) Increase in Liabilities		
Accounts Payable - Trade	(764,096)	(69,185)
Accrued Expenses	10,154	(4,516)
Tenant Security Deposits	32,236	13,855
Accrued Membership Assessments	20,043	39,466
Prepaid Rents	6,403	0
Escrow	(3,000)	0
Due to Grange Foundation	0	(6,275)
Due to State Granges	0	2,581
E-Membership	1,200	0
Trial Funding	(10,208)	0
Bonding Liability	5,061	0
Other Adjustment	(42)	0
CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	845,886	(915,579)
CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of Equipment, Improvements	(91,324)	(189,078)
Increase in Investment Account	(54,986)	46,962
Increase in Building Fund	(395,040)	(17,378)
CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(541,350)	(159,494)
CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payment of Loan Payable – Eagle Bank	(96,682)	(72,093)
Increase in Loan Payable – Eagle Bank	0	1,000,000
Payment of Loans from State Granges	(262,161)	(38,752)
Payment of Note Payable –LMA	(3,006)	(270,311)
Increase in Loan Payable – State Granges	0	236,845
Payment of Loan Payable – Grange Foundation	(15,681)	0
CASH (USED) BY FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	(377,530)	855,689
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	(72,994)	(219,384)
CASH – January 1	213,906	433,290
CASH - December 31	\$ 140,912	\$ 213,906

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information

Cash paid during year for interest

\$ 103,951 \$ 104,851

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Statements of Functional Expenses

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

	Total	Programs	Administrative	Building
Personnel Costs	\$ 677,556	\$ 54,577	\$ 540,279	\$ 82,700
Professional Fees	365,258	0	343,403	21,855
Interest	103,951	0	103,951	0
Pension	10,146	0	10,146	0
Depreciation	85,447	0	0	85,447
Commissions	63,768	4,769	0	58,999
Good Day Magazine	27,744	27,744	0	0
Travel Meals Lodging	228,298	228,116	182	0
Marketing, Sales	50,415	0	50,415	0
Supplies	112,142	4,541	10,281	97,320
Office Expenses	48,194	29,393	18,801	0
Insurance	22,601	0	22,601	0
Awards, Honorariums	17,630	17,630	0	0
Bad Debts	51,673	0	289	51,384
Repairs, Maintenance	182,631	18,013	0	164,618
Utilities	33,114	0	0	33,114
Real Estate Taxes	147,457	0	0	147,457
Other Expenses	50,925	32,958	10,521	7,446
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,278,950	\$ 417,741	\$ 1,110,869	\$ 750,340

For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

	Total	Programs	Administrative	Building
Personnel Costs	\$ 697,491	\$ 55,211	\$ 545,726	\$ 96,554
Professional Fees	1,009,469	0	1,009,469	0
Interest Pension	104,851	0	104,851	0
Pension	9,703	0	9,703	0
Depreciation	30,932	0	0	30,932
Repairs, Maintenance	412,625	26,832	0	385,793
Travel, Meals, Lodging	152,888	149,314	3,574	0
Bad Debts	92,810	0	66,269	26,541
Office, Supplies	171,125	88,659	24,558	57,907
Real Estate Taxes	151,783	0	0	151,783
Utilities	87,454	0	0	87,454
Other	250,646	64,479	155,604	30,563
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,171,777	\$ 384,495	\$ 1,919,754	\$ 867,527

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2019 and 2018

NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION

The National Grange is a non-profit organization comprised of four distinct divisions. The mission of the National Grange is to improve the quality of life in America's families and communities. The National Grange provides representation for its members on agriculture and rural/urban issues, encourages and supports grassroots community and organizational leadership.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

Basis of Presentation - The financial statements of National Grange have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("US GAAP"), which require National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to the following net asset classifications:

Net assets without donor restrictions: Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of National Grange's management and the Board of Directors.

Net assets with donor restrictions: Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors, some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of National Grange or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statements of activities.

Measure of operations - The statements of activities reports all changes in net assets, including changes in net assets from operating and nonoperating activities. Operating activities consist of those items attributable to National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry ongoing annual services and interest and dividends earned on investments. Nonoperating activities are limited to resources that generate return from investments and other activities considered to be of a more unusual or nonrecurring nature.

Cash and Cash Equivalents - National Grange's cash consists of cash on deposit with banks. Cash equivalents represent money market funds or short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of purchase, except for those amounts that are held in the investment portfolio which are investment for long-term purposes.

Accounts Receivable - Accounts receivables are uncollateralized obligations from customers and generally require payment within thirty days from the invoice date. Management believes all receivables to be collectible.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2019 and 2018

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (Continued)

Functional Allocation of Expenses – The cost of providing various programs and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of functional expenses. Expenses are allocated based on time and effort spent on each project.

Inventories - Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market, with cost determined on a first-in, first-out basis and market based on the lower of replacement cost or realizable value.

Investments – Investments are reported at cost, if purchased, or at fair value, if donated. Thereafter, investments are reported at their fair values in the statements of financial position, and changes in fair value are reported as investment return in the statements of activities.

Purchases and sales of securities are reflected on a trade-date basis. Gains and losses on sales of securities are based on average cost and are recorded in the statements of activities in the period in which the securities are sold. Interest is recorded when earned. Dividends are accrued as of the ex-dividend date.

Property and Equipment -Property assets are those assets used in the operations of the Organization. They are recorded at cost or, if donated, at the estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

National Grange records property and equipment additions over \$5,000 at cost, or if donated, at fair value on the date of donation. Depreciation and amortization are computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets ranging from three to thirty years, or in the case of capitalized leased assets or leasehold improvements, the lesser of the useful life of the asset or the lease term. When assets are sold or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related depreciation or amortization are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is included in the statements of activities. Cost of maintenance and repairs that do not improve or extend the useful lives of the respective assets are expensed currently.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions. This will affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2019 and 2018

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (Continued)

Financial Instruments and Credit Risk – National Grange manage deposit concentration risk by placing cash, money market accounts, and certificates of deposit with financial institutions believed by us to be creditworthy. At times, amounts on deposit may exceed insured limits or include uninsured investments in money market mutual funds. To date, we have not experienced losses in any of these accounts. Credit risk associated with accounts receivable and promises to give in considered to be limited due to high historical collection rates and because substantial portions of the outstanding amounts are due from members. Investments are made by diversified investment managers whose performance is monitored by the executive committee. Although the fair values of investments are subject to fluctuation on a year-to-year basis, we believe that the investment policies and guidelines are prudent for the long-term welfare of the organization.

Reclassifications – Certain reclassifications to prior year balances have been made in the accompanying financial statements to make disclosures consistent with those of the current year. Total net assets and change in net assets are unchanged due to these reclassifications.

New Accounting Pronouncement – On August 18, 2016, FASB issued ASU 2016-14, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958) – *Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*. The update addresses the complexity and understandability of net asset classification, deficiencies in information about liquidity and availability of resources, and the lack of consistency in the type of information provided about expenses and investment return. The National Grange has adjusted the presentation of these statements accordingly. The ASU has been applied retrospectively to all periods presented.

Concentration of Credit Risk – National Grange maintains its cash accounts at institutions with balances that may exceed \$250,000, which is the amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. National Grange has not experienced any losses in such accounts and monitors the creditworthiness of the financial institutions with which it conducts business. Management believes that National Grange is not exposed to any significant credit risk with respect to its cash balances.

Contributions – Effective January 1, 2019 the National Grange adopted Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2018-08, *Not for Profit Entities (Topic 958): Clarifying the Scope and the Accounting Guidance for Contributions Received and Contributions Made*. Accordingly, the National Grange evaluates whether a transfer of assets is either an exchange transaction, in which a resource provider is receiving commensurate value for the resources provided, or a contribution and whether a contribution is conditional. The National Grange adopted ASU 2018-08 using a modified prospective approach. The implementation of ASU 2018-08 did not have a material impact on the statement of financial position, statement of activities, or cash flows. There was no cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle recorded related to adoption of ASU 2018-08 on January 1, 2019. The presentation and disclosures of revenue have been enhanced in accordance with the standard.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2019 and 2018

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (Continued)

Revenue Recognition – Effective January 1, 2019 the National Grange elected to adopt Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606) as amended*. The core principle of ASU 2014-09 requires the recognition of revenue for exchange and partial exchange transactions when, or as goods or services are delivered, in the amount that reflects the consideration to which the organization is entitled in exchange for what has been delivered. The ASU requires that the organization use the following five step process: 1. Identify exchange agreements or partial exchange agreements that create a contract; 2. Identify their performance obligations; 3. Determine the transaction price; 4. Allocated the transaction price among the performance obligations; 5. Recognize revenue at the point intime when, or over the time period during which, a performance obligation is recognized. The adoption of the ASU did not impact the change in net assets.

Revenue from dues is recorded in the applicable membership period and is based on the information provided by the various Granges.

Revenue from publications and conferences is recognized when the services are rendered or the event occurs.

Revenue related to affinity contracts is recognized when earned in accordance with the respective agreements.

Revenue from rental space is recorded based on the respective lease agreements.

Revenue is recognized net of any related sales or value-added taxes.

Contributions and other assets are recorded with or without donor restrictions when received, depending on the existence of any restrictions. Conditional promises to give are not included as support until the conditions are substantially met.

Revenue from subscriptions to *Good Day Magazine* is recorded as income over the period of the related subscription. Costs related to subscriptions to *Good Day Magazine* are charged to expense when costs are incurred.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2019 and 2018

NOTE 3: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

We report certain assets and liabilities (or on or the other) at fair value in the consolidated financial statements. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction in the principal, or most advantageous, market at the measurement date under current market conditions regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique. Inputs used to determine fair value refer broadly to the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk. Inputs may be observable or unobservable. Observable inputs are inputs that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity. Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability based on the best information available. A three-tier hierarchy categorizes the inputs as follows:

Level 1 – Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that we can access at the measurement date.

Level 2 – Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, and market-corroborated inputs.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. That are significant to the fair value measurement.

The following indicates the assets carried at the three levels in these financial statements.

The National Grange did not have any Level 2 or Level 3 asset valuations.

Level 1 Investments include:

	2019	2018
Cash, Cash Equivalents	\$ 55,410	\$ 34,270
Equities	240,110	175,737
Alternatives	0	45,457
Fixed Income	166,231	151,301
Total	<u>\$ 461,751</u>	<u>\$ 406,765</u>

NOTE 4 - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property, equipment and accumulated depreciation are as follows at December 31,

Depreciable Assets	2019	2018
Equipment	\$ 56,112	\$ 56,112
Building	1,174,014	1,174,014
Building Improvements	<u>2,001,113</u>	<u>1,909,789</u>
	3,231,239	3,139,915
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(2,065,577)</u>	<u>(1,980,130)</u>
	<u>\$ 1,165,662</u>	<u>\$ 1,159,785</u>

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NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2019 and 2018

NOTE 5 – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY

The following reflects National Grange's assets as of the statement of financial position date, reduced by amounts not available for general use because of contractual or Board imposed restrictions

Financial Assets at December 31,

	2019	2018
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 553,293	\$ 231,284
Accounts Receivable	404,524	406,765
Investments	<u>461,751</u>	<u>341,557</u>
Total Financial Assets	1,419,568	979,606
Less:		
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions		
Board Designated	<u>532,272</u>	<u>287,645</u>
Financial assets available to meet		
Cash needs for general expenditures		
Within one year	\$ <u>887,296</u>	\$ <u>691,961</u>

NOTE 6 - PENSION PLAN - SIMPLE IRA

In March 2002, The National Grange established a SIMPLE IRA employee benefit plan covering substantially all employees after the 90 day probation period at open enrollment and met minimum age requirements. Employees are allowed to defer up to 15% of annual salary with a 3% match by The National Grange. As of December 31, 2019 and 2018, the matching portion was \$10,146 and \$9,703.

NOTE 7 – INCOME TAXES

The National Grange is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501 (c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code. However, entities that are classified under this section of the code are subject to tax on "unrelated business income" as defined by IRS regulations. The National Grange had no unrelated business income for the year ended December 31, 2019 and 2018.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require the National Grange to evaluate tax position taken and recognize a tax liability if it is more likely than not that uncertain tax positions taken would not be sustained upon examination by taxing authorities. The National Grange has analyzed tax positions taken and has determined that, as of December 31, 2019, there are no uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability or disclosure in the financial statements. The National Grange's tax returns are subject to examination by taxing authorities, generally for a period of three years after the returns are filed.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2019 and 2018

NOTE 8 – LEASE COMMITMENT

The National Grange has entered into an operating lease for a copier. The lease for the copier was signed on April 13, 2015 for 60 months starting in May 2015. The monthly payment for the copier is \$486.

NOTE 9 – LEASES

As part of its ongoing operations the National Grange leases to tenants those parts of the building it does not use. The leases are one to five years, renewable, leases at current market rents. Some leases have expense pass-through clauses based on the previous year's operating costs. Expected rental income for the year ended December 31, 2020 is estimated at depending on renewals and if additional space becomes available.

NOTE 10 – NOTES PAYABLE

The National Grange has a Loan Management Account (LMA) with Merrill Lynch under which it obtains advances as needed. The account is a demand loan and is secured by the Grange investment account. The loan bears finance charges at a variable rate of interest equal to the Libor Rate plus the Spread and is payable monthly. The balance at December 31, 2019 is \$0.

The National Grange has a promissory note with Red Lion Grange No. 1781 in the amount of \$100,000 dated September 25, 2017 and due in full September 15, 2022, bearing interest a 3.2% per annum calculated half-yearly. The note is for semi-annual interest payment beginning September 15, 2017. The balance at December 31, 2019 is \$100,000.

The National Grange has a promissory with the Indiana State Grange in the amount of \$60,000, interest only at 3% payable annually. Due in full April 15, 2023.

The National Grange has a promissory note with the New Jersey State Grange in the amount of \$50,000 with interest of 3% payable semi-annually. Due in full November 15, 2022. The balance at December 31, 2019 is \$39,978.

The National Grange has a promissory note with the Grange Foundation in the amount of \$100,000 payable principal and interest monthly. Interest a 2.4% due in full September 15, 2022. The balance at December 31, 2019 is \$86,719.

The National Grange has entered into a business loan agreement of \$1,000,000 with a bank, dated 1/1/2016 and due 01/21/2026. Payments are variable with the first 60 payments a \$10,554.55 principal and interest of 4.80% with one final payment of \$10,554.41. This loan is secured by a deed of trust on the National Grange building. In October 2018 the National Grange modified the original loan in order to obtain an additional \$1,000,000 loan secured by the building under the same terms as the original loan. The balance of the Bank loan at December 31, 2019 is \$1,675,947.

NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2019 and 2018

NOTE 11 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In preparing these financial statements, the Organization has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through October 9, 2020, the date the financial statements were available for use.

NOTE 12 – DUE TO STATE GRANGES

During the current year the National Grange continued the suspensions of two State Granges. These suspensions required the National Grange to take over the administrative task usually performed by the State Grange and has collected certain funds that would normally belong to the State Granges. These amounts are reflected in the category “Due to State Granges”.

NOTE 13 – LEGAL MATTERS

In 2014 the National Grange was engaged in two major litigations. First, a case in California Superior Court to determine if a former part of the organization could disregard the rules and retain the assets of the Grange. Second, a case in Federal Court with the same group that was sued for trademark infringement and counterfeiting.

The California case was settled in 2019, as a full and final settlement, under which the Grange is to receive \$1,525,000 by certified check. This amount was received in October 2019.

In August 2017 the air conditioning system failed in the National Grange headquarter building. Keepin’ It Cool (KIC) was contracted to replace the chiller, one boiler, and perform several other repair jobs. After 10 months KIC failed to complete the job and was fired. Subsequent contractors found incorrect installations, shoddy workmanship, and incomplete work. In January 2019 a suit was filed against KIC for Breach of Contract and Breach of Implied Warranty of Good Workmanship and is currently ongoing.

NOTE 15 – PROPERTY HELD IN TRUST

The National Grange is holding in trust funds collected on behalf of the former Wyoming Grange. This amount is \$63,912 and is reflected as part of the reserved cash balance.

NOTE 16 – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION

During the year ended December 31, 2019 the National Grange borrowed \$100,000 from the Grange Foundation (a related party). See Note 10 for details.

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Financial Statements

December 31, 2019 and 2018

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

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ERIC BOLIN CPA P.C.

Independent Accountants' Review Report

Board of Directors
The Grange Foundation
Washington, DC 20006

We have reviewed the accompanying Statements of Financial Position of The Grange Foundation (a nonprofit corporation), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2019 and 2018 the related statements of activities and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of company management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

Accountants' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee for the AICPA. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principle generally accepted in the United States of America. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

Accountants' Conclusion

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Eric Bolin CPA, P.C.

Rockville, Maryland
April 26, 2020

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THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Financial Position

	December 31,	
	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash – Operating	\$ 180,048	\$ 160,578
Cash - Savings	0	49,033
Account Receivable – National Grange	2,108	0
Interest Receivable – National Grange	3,400	0
Pledges Receivable	2,596	2,871
Total Current Assets	188,152	212,482
Other Assets		
Loan Receivable – National Grange	86,719	100,000
Board Designated Endowment Fund	94,001	90,375
Total Other Assets	180,720	190,375
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 368,872	\$ 402,857
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	0	639
Gift Annuity	170	
Due to National Grange	0	304
Total Liabilities	117	943
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated	159,573	142,345
Board Designated	91,062	91,062
With Donor Restrictions	118,120	168,507
TOTAL NET ASSETS	368,755	401,914
TOTAL LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS	\$ 368,872	\$ 402,857

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Years Ended December 31, 2019

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues and Other Support			
Contributions, Grants	\$ 19,658	\$ 50,722	\$ 70,380
Interest and Dividend Income (Net of Fees)	5,100	0	5,100
Change in Investment Value	898	0	898
Other Income	0	0	0
Total	25,656	50,722	76,378
Expenses:			
Accounting	5,900	0	5,900
Office Expense	890	0	890
Website	268	0	260
Donations	0	0	0
Prizes, Gifts	0	0	0
Technology Expense	0	0	0
Registrations	455	0	455
Repairs & Maintenance	0	0	0
Travel	825	0	825
Programs	0	101,199	101,199
Total	8,203	101,199	109,402
Change in Net Assets	17,318	(50,477)	(33,159)
Net Assets -- Beginning	233,317	168,597	401,914
Net Assets -- Ending	\$ 250,635	\$ 118,120	\$ 368,755

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Years Ended December 31, 2018

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues and Other Support			
Contributions, Grants	\$ 1,827	\$ 94,280	\$ 96,107
Interest and Dividend Income (Net of Fees)	4,583	1,393	5,976
Gift (Loss) in Investment Value	(1,248)	0	(1,248)
Gift Annuity, Other	0	0	0
Other Income	545	0	545
Total	5,707	95,673	101,380
Expenses:			
Financial Review	2,450	0	2,450
Office Expense	205	0	205
Marketing	714	0	714
Donations	3,691	0	3,691
Programs	0	35,954	35,954
Total	7,060	35,954	43,014
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(1,353)	59,719	58,366
Transfer	4,378	(4,378)	0
Net Assets -- Beginning	230,382	113,166	343,548
Net Assets -- Ending	\$ 233,407	\$ 168,507	\$ 401,914

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Schedule I – Net Assets with Donor Restrictions

	OH Kelley Historical Prog. Fund	Junior Leadership Program	Youth Leadership Fund	Program For the Deaf	G.R.O.W. Club	American Arts	Youth Exchange Program	Community And Leadership	Trademark Protection	Norwell Grange	National Lecture Program	Communi- cation Fellows Program
Balance- January 1	(453)	13,319	8,160	17,414	9,187	7,855	5,195	10	4,790	0	14,061	480
Contributions	2,491	2,262	3,952	25	3,911	2,503	0	580	0	15,300	2,249	224
Interest, Other Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenses	(3,500)	(2,330)	(5,362)	0	(920)	(4,665)	0	0	(4,790)	(6,200)	(2,507)	(568)
Balance- December 31	(1,462)	13,251	6,750	17,439	12,178	5,693	5,195	590	0	9,100	13,803	136

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Schedule I – Net Assets with Donor Restrictions

	Building Fund	I in 1000	H Watson MF School	Memorial Dorothy S. Zug	Little Lake Grange	Sterling Grange#	Total
Balance- January 1	50,000	31,494	5,000	2,085	0	0	168,597
Contributions	825	10,000	0	0	4,500	1,900	50,722
Interest, Other Income	0	0	0	0	0		
Expenses	(50,000)	(7,272)	(5,000)	(2,085)	(4,500)	(1,500)	(101,199)
Balance- December 31	825	34,222	0	0	0	0	118,120

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Schedule I – Net Assets with Donor Restrictions

	Oll Kelley Historical Prog. Fund	Junior Leadership Program	Youth Leadership Fund	Program For the Deaf	G.R.O.W. Club	American Arts	Youth Exchange Program	Community And Leadership	Trademark Protection	Elmer Grange	National Lecture Program	Communi- cation Fellows Program
Balance- January 1	\$ 2,767	\$ 10,639	\$ 13,427	\$ 17,389	\$ 7,869	\$ 5,259	\$ 5,195	\$ 10	\$ 4,600	\$ 275	\$ 5,756	\$ 250
Contributions	280	5,554	6,002	25	2,843	3,235	0	0	100	1,035	10,966	230
Transfer	0	0	9,589	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest, Other Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,393	0
Expenses	(3,500)	(2,874)	(20,858)	0	(1,525)	(639)	0	0	0	(1,310)	(4,054)	0
Balance- December 31	\$ (453)	\$ 13,319	\$ 8,160	\$ 17,414	\$ 9,187	\$ 7,855	\$ 5,195	\$ 10	\$ 4,700	\$ 0	\$ 14,061	\$ 480

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Schedule I – Net Assets with Donor Restrictions

	Building Fund	I in 1000	H Watson MF School	Memorial Dorothy S. Zug	Youth-Pie In the Face	GALA	TOTAL
Balance- January 1	\$ 0	\$ 19,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,085	\$ 9,589	\$ 5,056	\$ 113,166
Contributions	50,000	13,000	0	1,000	0	10	94,280
Transfer	0	0	0	0	(9,589)	(4,378)	(4,378)
Interest, Other Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,393
Expenses	0	(506)	(0)	0	0	(688)	(35,954)
Balance- December 31	\$ 50,000	\$ 31,494	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,085	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 168,507

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statement of Functional Expenses

For the Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

	Program Expenses	2019 Management And General	Fundraising	Total
Professional Fees	\$ 0	\$ 5,900	\$ 0	\$ 5,900
Other	0	723	0	723
Office Expense	0	890	0	890
Direct Program Expenses	101,199	0	0	101,199
Travel	0	825	0	825
	<u>\$ 101,199</u>	<u>\$ 8,338</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 109,537</u>

	Program Expenses	2018 Management And General	Fundraising	Total
Professional Fees	\$ 0	\$ 2,450	\$ 0	\$ 2,450
Marketing	0	714	0	714
Office Expense	0	205	0	205
Direct Program Expenses	35,954	0	0	35,354
Donations	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 3,691</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 3,691</u>

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Statements of Cash Flows

For the Years Ended December 31,

	2019	2018
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
(Decrease) Increase on Net Assets	\$ (33,159)	\$ 58,366
(Increase) in Due From National Grange	(5,508)	12,803
Decrease (Increase) in Pledges Receivable	275	4,379
(Decrease) in Accounts Payable	(638)	(,9436)
Increase in Gift Annuity Payable	117	0)
(Decrease) in Due to National Grange	(304)	0
NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(39,218)	68,605
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Decrease in Cash - Savings	49,033	0
Decrease (Increase) in CD Investment	90,375	(2,046)
(Increase) in Investment Account	(94,899)	0
Change in FMV	898	687
NET CASH PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	45,407	(1,359)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	0	0
Decrease (Increase) in Loan Receivable – National Grange	13,281	(100,000)
NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	13,281	(100,000)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	19,470	(32,754)
CASH – January 1,	160,578	193,332
CASH - December 31,	\$ 180,048	\$ 160,578

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2019

NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION

The Grange Foundation is a non-profit organization affiliated with The National Grange through common officers and management. The National Grange acts as trustee for funds received on behalf of The Grange Foundation.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation - The financial statements of The Grange Foundation have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ('US GAAP'). Which require to The Grange Foundation to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to the following net asset classifications:

Net assets without donor restrictions: Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of The Grange Foundation's management and the board of directors.

Net assets with donor restrictions: Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of The Grange Foundation or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statements of activities.

Cash and cash equivalents – The Grange Foundation's cash consists of cash on deposit with banks. Cash equivalents represent money market funds or short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of purchases, except for those amounts that are held in the investment portfolio which are invested for long-term purposes.

Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables, payables and other liabilities.

The accounts of the Organization are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Under fund accounting, resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund; however, in the accompanying financial statements, funds have been combined and presented for the Organization as a whole in accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations".

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2019

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Concentrations of credit risk – Financial instruments that potentially subject The Grange Foundation to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash and cash equivalents and investments. The Grange Foundation maintains its cash and cash equivalents in various bank accounts that, at times, may exceed federally insured limits. The Grange Foundation cash and cash equivalent accounts have been placed with high credit quality financial institutions. The Grange Foundation has not experienced, or does it anticipate, any losses with respect to such accounts.

Pledges receivable—Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected within one year are recorded at net realizable value. Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected in future years are recorded at the present value of their estimated future cash flows. The discounts on those amounts are computed using risk-adjusted interest rates applicable to the years in which to promises are received. Discount amortization is included in contribution revenue. Conditional promises to give are not included as support until the conditions are met.

As of December 31, 2019 and 2018, The Grange Foundation's contributions receivable consisted of unconditional promises to give in the amount of \$2,596 and \$2,871.

Due to/from related parties – Amounts reported as due to/from related parties, included in the accompanying statements of financial position, arise principally from the collaborative activities between The Grange Foundation to further the mission of the organization.

Property and equipment, Property and equipment are stated at cost at the date of purchase or, for donated assets, at fair value at the date of donation, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the lesser of the estimated useful lives of the assets or the lease term. The useful lives range from three to seven years. The Grange Foundation's policy is to capitalize renewals and betterments acquired for greater than \$5,000 and expense normal repairs and maintenance as incurred. The Grange Foundation's management periodically evaluates whether events or circumstances have occurred indicating that the carrying amount of long-lived assets may not be recovered.

Investments – Investments are reported at cost, if purchased, or at fair value, if donated. Thereafter, investments are reported at their fair values in the statements of financial position, and changes in fair value are reported as investment return in the statements of activities.

Purchases and sales of securities are reflected on a trade-date basis. Gains and losses on sales of securities are based on average cost and are recorded in the statements of activities in the period in which the securities are sold. Interest is recorded when earned. Dividends are accrued as of the ex-dividend date.

Fair value measurements – Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. Fair value should be based on the assumptions market participants would use when pricing an asset. US GAAP establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes investments based on those assumptions. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets (observable inputs) and the lowest priority to an entity's assumptions (unobservable inputs). The Grange Foundation groups assets at fair value in three levels, based on the markets in which the assets and liabilities are traded and the reliability of the assumptions used to determine fair value. These levels are:

THE GRANGE FOUNDATION

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2019

NOTE 6 -- NET ASSETS

Net assets with donor restrictions were as follows for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

	2019	2018
Specific Purpose Program service	\$ 118,120	\$ 168,507

Net assets without donor restrictions for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 are as follows:

	2019	2018
Undesignated	\$ 159,373	\$ 142,345
Board Designated	91,062	91,062
	\$ 250,465	\$ 233,407

Net assets released from net assets with donor restrictions are as follows:

	2019	2018
Satisfaction of Purpose Restrictions Program service	\$ 0	\$ 35,354

NOTE 7 -- SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Grange Foundation has evaluated subsequent events through April 26, 2020, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. The Grange Foundation is not aware of any material subsequent events.

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