



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

May 7, 2021

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Back to Action

By Betsy Huber National Grange President

It seems that we are finally walking in the light at the end of a long dark tunnel. As longer days arrive, we can work outside on lawns and gardens (I love to dig my hands in the dirt,) restaurants and shops in many areas are fully opening, and a majority of people are vaccinated-- it seems like a new life has opened up and the year of pandemic and isolation has ended. Hallelujah!

What does this mean for your Grange? Whether you have not been meeting at all, or meeting via Zoom, more changes are coming now that we can once again come together. Do you have a plan to reach out to your entire membership and let them know what's happening in your Grange? If you haven't been doing much for over a year, you really need to remind your members to come back. People have probably gotten out of the habit of Grange and need encouragement to come back.

It's also a good time to invite those people in your community who have helped with your projects or purchased your take-out meals. As they re-set their own lives, they may be interested in joining a group that constantly helps others. Be sure to offer Grange to them.

If you've been meeting virtually, consider continuing to offer the virtual option. I've heard from many Grangers that are so happy to be included in their home Grange meetings again, since they've moved away or are housebound. We need to continue to involve these dedicated members. They are valuable even if they can't come in person.

Grange has always been resilient. We persevere through all kinds of events and trials. As Terri Fassio, CT State Grange Public Relations Co-Director states, "Granges have redefined themselves over and over to meet the challenges, and even thrive as they prepared for the "new normal" in their paths. Granges need to evaluate the services they offer to their local communities, and integrate what may need to be added or changed as a result of the past year." We have all been through a huge shock, when life as we knew it totally changed overnight. I've heard it said many times, "Never waste a crisis." Let's use the lessons we've learned over the past 14 months to improve our Grange activities and remain relevant in our communities

Rural Vaccine Rollout


By Sean O'Niel Legislative Assistant

In April, the Biden Administration announced the creation of the COVID-19 Community Corps, a group of community organizations who are leading efforts to promote knowledge about the vaccine in their communities. To work on rural rollout, with the invitation of the White House, the National Grange joined the COVID-19 Community Corps as a founding member. So far, the National Grange has engaged with the Biden administration on topics of rural access and outreach as part of the program.

Working with the COVID-19 Community Corps, the Biden administration recently unveiled a series of new policies intended to increase vaccination rates in rural America. Unveiling the new proposals, Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy discussed increased funding for rural health clinics to vaccinate and conduct outreach in their communities, the creation of FEMA pop-up and mobile clinics in rural areas, and the administration's plans to lay the groundwork for potential approval of adolescent eligibility for the vaccine.

As well, Biden administration senior advisers Andy Slavitt and Mina Hsiang laid out new tools the administration has created to help people locate the vaccine. First, people can now text their ZIP code to 438829 (GETVAX) or 822826 (VACUNA) and they will receive information on where in their community they can get the shot, in English and Spanish respectively. Second, both [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) and [vacunas.gov](https://www.vacunas.gov) are new websites which can help people locate and schedule a vaccine appointment. Finally, 1-800-232-0233 is a new vaccine hotline which connects callers to information on how they might schedule a vaccine appointment in their community.

The National Grange encourages state and local Granges to do their part in ensuring that their membership is able to access the vaccine by sharing this information on how to find and schedule an appointment in their community.

FACTS ABOUT THE COVID VACCINES		
Will a COVID-19 vaccination protect me from getting sick with COVID-19?	YES	COVID-19 vaccines work by teaching your immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19.
Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?	NO	None of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines in the United States contains the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.
After getting a COVID-19 vaccine, will I test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?	NO	The vaccines authorized in the United States can't cause you to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if you have a current infection.
If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine?	YES	There are severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and reinfection with COVID-19 is possible, particularly from new forms (or variants) of the virus that causes COVID-19. You should get vaccinated even if you've already had the virus.
For more information, visit cdc.gov/coronavirus		

Fundraising in the Grange

By Mandy Bostwick, National Grange Youth Development Director

“How do I get non-Grangers to donate to the National Grange and why should they?”

In a recent discussion with State Grange leadership, this question was asked. A question that we feel we have asked ourselves many times.

Simply asking people outside of our organization “Do you want to donate?” is a quick way for them to say “No, Thank you,” and keep walking. Instead of asking for that direct donation, how do we individually or as a Grange work together in order to support the efforts of the National Grange programming?

In an effort to find creative ways to support the Junior and Youth programming - you may have heard about the recent plans that the Grange Foundation will be hosting its first-ever Virtual Telethon on June 5, 2021 - we are thinking outside the box and outside the wallets of Grange members.

This is our big effort to meet the \$20,000 fundraising goal of the Grange Foundation for our Junior and Youth programs. The funds raised during this event will go directly back into our Youth and Junior Grange leadership funds, which support national activities such as the National Youth Officer Team, State Ambassadors, leadership training and development, contests, and the Washington DC Experience, etc.

We are relying on you and your Grange to help support these national efforts as we work to secure better programming and opportunities for Junior Grange and Grange Youth/Young Adult Members.

As for our national programs that are not only attractive to young members, but solidify the future of the organization, we encourage Granges to help gather and remit funds throughout the year to support our youngest members. We are not just looking for these funds to come in by the telethon - but throughout the year.

So here is your challenge: Hold a bake sale, sell homemade items, do a penny drive, whatever it takes WE NEED YOU! Take time this month and throughout the year to share your testimony on why the Grange is important to you, tell your friends, your family, your neighbor, shout it from your rooftop because right now the future lies in your hands.

If you're wondering how you can increase your fundraising efforts at home, here are a few simple ideas:

TANGIBLE ITEMS: People are more often likely to give for something tangible that they can walk away with. For instance organizations such as the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, all have something tangible that they are selling. On average Boy Scouts earn 2%-8% off their total profits sold. If they sell \$1,000 worth of product they are making \$20-\$80 for their troop. Girl Scouts average about \$0.60 per box of cookies, that's 12% per box of cookies. School Teams, Organizations, Clubs, etc. also fundraise and make a small percentage of the tangible item that they sell. One thing that each of these has in common is that young people are the faces you see doing the fundraising.

TESTIMONIES: Our friends, family, students, community members, etc ask us to donate to a certain cause often. And most of the time we will donate to that person we know- why? Because we believe that they are passionate about the cause that they are raising funds for. Telling your story is one of the most valuable things you can do in your fundraising efforts. Telling people about your passion and the ‘why’ you are passionate about this will in turn help bring in funding. Recently a friend of mine was raising funds for his community theatre-I am not

invested in this theatre- I have only seen one show there- but I know that it is something he is very passionate about, so I wanted to support his efforts.

MEANINGFUL GOAL: Taking one or both of the above areas and wrapping them into a meaningful goal will ultimately help you reach your goal. The goal may be to help a group go on a trip to Washington DC, or a middle school girl who just made the cheerleading squad get new uniforms, or even helping the family whose house burned down and was left with nothing. The goal could be for a group to obtain a tangible item or it could be a goal to reach a certain dollar amount so that an event or support to others can take place.

Organizations like the American Cancer Society, Girl Scouts of America, and The Grange Foundation need to utilize their local counterparts in order to be successful in funding their national programming and endeavors. This is why and one of the main reasons why we ask for your support so often. But without your work on a local level being done to support the national level, we will truly never be successful in fundraising.

To find out more about the Virtual Telethon and how to give please visit:
www.grangefoundation.org/telethon

Convention Registration Live

By Amanda Brozana Rios, Membership Director

Registration is now open for the 155th Annual National Grange Convention, which will be held in Wichita, Kansas, November 9-13.

"After a year with very few in-person events, we're excited to get back to seeing everyone," National Grange President Betsy Huber said.

Huber said she hopes to see an increase in attendees as Granges get back to work and we reconnect with one another.

"Fellowship is such an important part of the Grange," Huber said. "Convention allows members to see the grassroots policy practice in action, support the next generation of Grange leaders, learn what other Granges are doing, but most importantly, to visit with friends old and new."

One of the most exciting events of this year's convention is the performance of ag advocates and entertainers, the Peterson Farm Brothers. The show, which will be held Thursday evening, is sure to please. It is FREE with convention registration. For those who have not registered to attend, tickets are \$25, so consider inviting a friend to attend with you.

Early bird registration is \$40 before September 6. Registration goes to \$45 after September 7 through October 15 and late registration is \$50 after October 15, including in-person registration..

Register today at <https://www.nationalgrange.org/155th-annual-national-grange-convention/>

Emergency Broadband Benefit

Courtesy of the FCC

The Federal Communications Commission has launched a temporary program to help families and households struggling to afford Internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides a discount of up to \$50 per month toward

broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.

Eligible households can enroll through a [participating broadband provider](#) or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) using an [online](#) or mail in application.

You can learn more about the benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, by visiting www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit, or by calling 833-511-0311

National Grange Benefit

eHealth Medicare – National Grange is proud to have partnered with eHealth to help provide the right Medicare plan for you! Plan types such as Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement Insurance, or Prescription Drug Plans are available all in one convenient location. Enroll in the Medicare Annual Election Period (AEP) each Fall, or as you age into qualification.



eHealth is committed to finding National Grange members the right health insurance plan to fit your specific needs. Visit us today or call (833) 922-0978 to access free quotes or to explore options with a licensed agent!

A Few Great Mentions

The Grange has been hard at work! Here are some links to some of our more popular articles about the Grange in action. Take the time and check out what is happening both on the National and State level. If you have any news highlights you would like to share with the Grange community email them to kgwin@nationalgrange.org

Winona Grange to distribute free seeds, (The Times, Portland, OR):
<https://pamplinmedia.com/ttt/89-news/507193-405890-winona-grange-to-distribute-free-seeds->

Healing encouraged – from 1867 to 2021, (Agri-View, Madison, WI):
https://www.agupdate.com/agriview/news/business/healing-encouraged-from-1867-to-2021/article_687992d4-3c10-50cc-a6f2-78abbc30eb10.html#tracking-source=home-top-story-1



GET READY FOR THE 155TH ANNUAL
NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION

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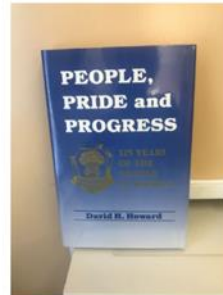
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Free Grange Websites and emails, Good Day! subscriptions and renewals, Membership Database and more Stephanie Wilkins, National HQ, ext. 101 or email swilkins@nationalgrange.org

Lecturer Chris Hamp for program ideas, Quilts of Valor labels, contest details and more, by email at lecturer@nationalgrange.org or call/text (509) 953-3533.

Community Service Pete Pompper for project ideas, information about "Of the Year" awards and more by email at communityservice@nationalgrange.org or phone at (609) 820-6239

Legislative and Policy Issues Burton Eller for advocacy information and Grange priorities, contact him at National HQ, ext. 114 or email beller@nationalgrange.org.

Grange Youth Mandy Bostwick for contest, program and more information for young members at youth@nationalgrange.org or call/text (785) 250-7606.

Junior Grange Samantha Wilkins for Passport and other program and contest information at junior@nationalgrange.org or call/text (210) 838-7892.

Grange Foundation Joan C. Smith, Chairwoman, for more details about grants, programs and Foundation outreach at info@grangefoundation.org or (571) 662-7220.