



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

May 21, 2021

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2021 Convention Registration is Open

By Betsy Huber, National Grange President

The online registration form for the 155th Annual National Grange Convention is live! I hope you have taken the opportunity to check it out and see what will be happening November 9-13 in Wichita, Kansas. You should register right away and reserve your airline ticket as soon as possible, because the prices are going up quickly now that people are feeling more comfortable to travel.

The Good Day! magazine, which should be in your mailbox any day now, has a featured story giving much information about the convention activities and the sights to see while in the Wichita area.

Special added attraction to the convention this year is attendance and performance by the Peterson Farm Brothers, three young men who operate a 2,000-acre fifth-generation family farm near Assaria, Kansas where they primarily raise beef cattle (about 1,000 head at a time) in a backgrounding feeder operation. They also have a small cow/calf herd and grow corn, alfalfa, and forage sorghum as feed for the cattle, along with wheat, milo, soybeans, and sunflowers for cash crops. Their mission is to promote agriculture.

“Ever since we began producing (media) content, we have continued to realize a need to inform people about what we do in farming and in agriculture as a whole,” they



**LIVE CONCERT
7 P.M. THURSDAY, NOV. 11**

PETERSON FARM BROTHERS

Nationally known brothers whose parody songs bring the message of agriculture far beyond their Central Kansas farm

FREE WITH CONVENTION REGISTRATION

(\$25 for public with no convention registration)

Convention attendees can add a meet-and-greet experience with the Peterson Farm Brothers after the show for only \$15

Greg, Nathan and Kendal will speak to National Grange Youth and Junior convention attendees throughout the day Thursday



say on their website. “There are many misconceptions about modern day farmers and we feel it is our calling to help correct some of those misconceptions.”

They have produced 18 music videos that are ag-related parodies of popular songs—you really need to check them out on YouTube!

Tickets to the Peterson Brothers show are free with your convention registration. The show is also open to the public by ticket purchase online through Eventbrite.

The brothers will also be speaking to the youth and Juniors and adult convention attendees Thursday afternoon, November 11. You really do not want to miss this very special event.

Of course, the Convention will

include all the usual programs such as the Seventh Degree on Saturday, Youth Officers opening on Friday, Celebration Banquet Saturday evening, and —special note — the Evening of Excellence will be Saturday evening following the Banquet. Check out the revised schedule on the website nationalgrange.org to be sure you don’t miss what’s of interest to you.

See you in Wichita!

No Such Thing as “Small”

By Pete Pompper, Community Service Director

Spring has finally sprung, at least in most parts of the country. Granges continue to increase their presence and giving back to their communities in many ways that continue to amaze me.

For those of you who were able to view the recent Cultivating Connections program (which aired on the National Grange Facebook Page and YouTube page on April 29th and can be watched at any time), you would have seen how incredible and diverse the service of Granges is. Five Granges were featured for their community service programs, and representatives from each discussed the many and varied programs they have done this past year or have planned.

This program showed what we knew, that Granges were still active and having a big impact on their communities despite COVID-19.

If you don’t want to watch the entire program, don’t worry. The new National Grange Communications Manager Kennedy Gwin is working on smaller 10-minute show increments that will be released to the National Grange Facebook page shortly.

In the line from our ritual, “Mother Nature only looks forward, she never looks back,” there is much wisdom. This statement, in fact, could not be truer for Granges across the country. Many have not looked back or given up in these challenging times, which is a testament to who we as Grangers are.

I urge you all to take pride in your projects and as they say “own” it. Be proud to be a Granger! Brag to your State President, letting them know what you are doing to assist in your communities. Your State Presidents need to hear what Granges are doing with projects that reflect the needs of each individual community.

Recently, I was speaking with some Grangers about this, and they talked about the small things they do. I asked them not to use the term “small” as they may think what they are doing is a small thing but to the person or group they are helping it may be just what was needed to get them through a tough time.

These actions on their own may be “small” but collectively they are impactful and what makes the Grange worth talking about.



PATRIOT'S PROGRAM

*Honor veterans in your
community today by
requesting free certificates*

Contact Loretta Washington at
sales@nationalgrange.org or by phone today.
Program sponsored by Potomac Grange #1, DC

Grange Offers Several Recognition Programs

By Loretta Washington, Sales, Programs, Benefits and Membership Recognition Director

Our Granges should be loud and proud of the work they accomplish each and every year. I have several programs that I oversee in my department, all of which provide the perfect opportunity for you show how you continue to promote your programs throughout the year and receive recognition.

The first program is the Grange in Action program. This program is designed to encourage all Granges to be active in their communities and complete events or projects, no matter how small. Any Grange that does not complete the application for Distinguished Grange can participate in this program. [Grange in Action - The National Grange](#)

The next program is the Grange Legacy Family Recognition. This program is to honor those who have had five or more generations involved as Grange members. [Grange Legacy Family - The National Grange](#)

The final program I lead is the Distinguished Grange award. The Distinguished Grange award recognizes Granges who fulfill their service and advocacy missions and provide support for members and their community. [Distinguished Grange - The National Grange](#)

Deadlines:

Aug 1 – Distinguished Grange Application Deadline
Aug 2 – Grange Legacy Family Recognition Deadline
Sept 25 – Grange in Action Deadline

I strongly encourage all Granges to apply and greatly look forward to reading your applications!

Communication Fellows Application is Live

By Kennedy Gwin, Communications Manager

Any Grange member interested in participating in a rigorous, hands-on training program in communications, with additional resources for membership, programming and engagement, is invited to apply for the 2021 Communication Fellows program.

This program is made possible thanks to generous funders, but there are a limited number of spots available. Fellows receive the bulk of their training during a 8-day experience at the 155th Annual National Grange Convention, held this year Nov. 6-14 in Wichita, Kansas. Those selected also are expected to make time for several teleconferences between July and October, as well as a few brief assignments prior to the start of National Convention.

This year, Fellows will hear from the National Master, National Grange Staff and Officers, other communications professionals and more. Fellows will produce content for the daily convention newsletter, interviews and content for our social media channels and stories/elements for Good Day!™ magazine, livestream events – and much more.

This is a hands-on training with a support from many of the more than 45 previous Fellows who have participated in the program since 2012. Those previous Fellows now hold many significant offices and jobs in their State and National Grange and often credit the program with providing them insight into the differences across State Granges and the opportunities and challenges to the organization, as well as great motivation for being part of our next 150+ years of service.

Any Grange member in good standing may apply, but all applicants must have a nomination letter from a State President/National Delegate; National Officer; National Grange Staff Member or past Communication Fellow.

The deadline for all materials to be submitted by email to the National Grange Communications Department via email (kgwin@nationalgrange.org) is PRIOR to “start of business” (9 a.m. Eastern) Thursday, July 15th.

We strongly encourage those who have not participated in the program previously to apply and will be given the highest priority.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact kgwin@nationalgrange.org

Grange Benefit

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