



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

July 2, 2021

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Elected to the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research

By Betsy Huber, National Grange President

I was honored Monday to be elected to the board of the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research. National C-FAR is “a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and customer-led coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension and education.” Seventy agricultural businesses, universities, government agencies and ag associations including the National Grange make up the coalition that was formed in 2001.

“Through education and outreach efforts, National C-FAR is seeking to sustain and enhance federal funding for food and agricultural research, extension and education to help bring about research outcomes that provide a range of major public benefits, including:

- Safer, more nutritious, convenient and affordable foods delivered to sustain a well nourished, healthy population
- More efficient and environmentally friendly food, fiber and forest production
- Improved water quality, land conservation, wildlife and other environmental conditions
- Less dependence on non-renewable sources of energy
- Expanded global markets and improved balance of trade
- More jobs and sustainable rural economic development.”

The National Grange has long been a supporter and advocate for agricultural research and extension and these priorities certainly match with our legislative policies.

Federal funding for research and development is vital, as the United States’ funding for agricultural research lags behind that of other developed countries according to a 2021 report commissioned by Farm Journal Foundation and the American Farm Bureau Federation. Stagnant public funding for agricultural research is threatening the future vitality of U.S. food systems, posing risks to farmer productivity and profitability, the steady supply of affordable food for consumers, and ultimately global food security.

The report stresses that new innovations are crucial to enable farmers to increase their productivity and meet rising global demand for food, even as climate change intensifies. While private-sector funding for agricultural R&D has been increasing, U.S. public spending has been flat for the past decade.

NC-FAR also supports expanded public participation in setting priorities for research and funding. Grangers can contribute through our grassroots policy development and member advocacy. I'm pleased and proud to join the board of directors to work toward NC-FAR's mission and I look forward to promoting the Grange's priority research issues as identified through our resolution process.

Grange Revival 2021 – It is what the cool kids are doing!

By Chris Hamp, National Grange Lecture

Grange Revival has it all – fellowship, food, friends and fun! There is still time to join almost 130 of us in Sturgis, South Dakota at the Days End Campground from Tuesday, July 20 through Sunday morning, July 25. Check out our website at <http://grangerevival.com> for registration and camping or hotel information.

Enjoy homemade family-style dinners and yummy desserts including hand-cranked ice cream, S'mores over a campfire and warm berry cobbler or chocolate cake scooped out of a Dutch oven. See amazing natural wonders, visit an incredible selection of historical sites and unique roadside attractions (a six-ton prairie dog and the world's largest Smokey Bear to name a couple), and join us for what is sure to be an unforgettable evening at Mount Rushmore.

The only scheduled item on the agenda each day is dinner so there is plenty of time to sit and visit or play games, to join the double-elimination Cornhole Tourney and to make new friends.

We can't wait to see you in Sturgis!



Enroll in Healthcare Coverage today

Courtesy of CMS

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services is offering from now until August 15th, 2021 a new special enrollment period for healthcare coverage. This offer is available to residents in 36 states. Fill out your application online at [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov), after filling out the application you have 30 days to enroll in a plan, and your healthcare coverage will start on the 1st of the next month.

Many people can qualify to save money, did you know that 9 out of 10 people who enroll are eligible for savings? People can now find plans with much lower premiums due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the COVID relief law. 4 out of 5 can find a plan for \$10 or less after the savings. This period also doesn't require you to have a special life plan such as childbirth or marriage to enroll in a marketplace plan. With this plan, you may qualify for more coverage than your existing plan, before changing make sure you consider how much you paid towards a

deductible. You can learn more at HealthCare.gov and start an application. Remember you only have until August 15th, 2021 to take advantage of this health coverage opportunity.

Fellows Application is Live

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 receiving the bulk of their training during a 9-day experience at the 155th Annual National Grange Convention, held this year Nov. 5-14 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!TM 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

Sign Up for Contests Today!

By Mandy Bostwick, National Grange Youth Director

Despite conferences being cancelled or held virtually, Mid Atlantic and Northeast Juniors, Youth, and Young Adults will still be able to compete in regional Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song contests as well as Grange Baseball. Sign-up for these contests is open now! Time slots for Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song will be from 9 am to 2 pm EDT on August 14th. Grange Baseball will be held the same day starting at 2 pm EDT. Look for more information as the date nears, but don't wait to sign up for your time slot! <https://forms.gle/YDQjc3x2WDDvWaKk7>



If you have been unable to attend a regional conference and would like to attend, the Southeast Region has graciously opened their registration. You can attend this conference in person or virtually. Registrations are due **July 16th**. Late registrations will not be accepted. Visit <https://nationalgrangeyouth.org/regional-conferences/southeast-regional-conference/> to see the Southeast Regions schedule and registration form.

Bristol Myers Squib Project Soon to Be in Mailboxes

By Claire Loker, National Grange Intern

On July 12, 2021 the BMS (Bristol Myers Squib) What To Do With a Cancer Diagnosis project will be available on the National Grange and Retire Safe websites, but it will soon also be available in all local and state Grange mailboxes. This Project includes a six-part presentation giving you next step advice if you or a loved one ever get news that you have cancer. Information includes different treatment options, how to prepare medical documents, self-advocating, and a medical checklist. Hearing that you have cancer can come as a shock and you may not know where to begin in finding the right medical treatment or how to prepare if things take a turn for the worse.

Granges will be receiving a packet containing a paper copy of a press release to announce to the community about this presentation, a letter explaining what the project is and a USB drive containing all documents in the packet as well as the six-part presentation.

This project is not only for Grange members but also for communities. 40% of Americans will receive a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime so the chances of your knowing someone who will be diagnosed are high and this presentation can help you help them.

On the bottom of the letter that is included in the package is a BMS number. In a few weeks, we will be drawing numbers and if the number on your Grange's letter is drawn you will win a prize! Stay on the lookout on Facebook and in the Patrons Chain for the winners announcement and give us a call if your Grange is the lucky winner. Packages will be mailed out by July 16th so be on the lookout for yours in the mail.



*Thanks to Red Lion PA, Stanford NY, La Plata Pomona CO and Ono Junior, CA
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www.grangestore.com



Grange Resource Binder

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

Cost \$30.00 for binder and flash drive

Cost \$10.00 for Flash drive only

Grange Benefits

Choice Hotels – Member save 20% at over 4,000 Comfort Inns, Comfort Suites, Quality, Sleep Inns, Clarion, MainStay Suites, EconoLodge, and Rodeway Inn hotels worldwide. Receive Choice Privileges membership please call 1-800-258-2847 or visit www.choicehotels.com and provide the National Grange ID code number T00211660.



NATIONAL GRANGE & GRANGE FOUNDATION STAFF

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Editor Kennedy Gwin, National Grange Communications Manager, available by email at kgwin@nationalgrange.org or by phone at National HQ, ext. 106. Contact for assistance with publicity, to submit a story idea for the Patrons Chain or social media and more.

Membership, Leadership Development and Communications Amanda Brozana Rios. Contact to submit a story idea for Good Day! magazine at abrozana@nationalgrange.org or call/text (301) 943-1090. You may also contact her as Foundation Associate in regards to tax-deductible gifts for Grange Foundation.

Membership Recognition, Sales and Benefits Loretta Washington, National HQ, ext. 109 or email sales@nationalgrange.org

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.