



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

HAPPY JUNIOR GRANGE MONTH!



DID YOU KNOW THAT JULY IS JUNIOR
GRANGE MONTH?

HOW ARE YOU CELEBRATING THE JUNIORS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



July 7, 2021

Regional Conferences are in Full Swing!

By Mandy Bostwick, National Grange Youth and Young Adult Director

After a year like 2020, it has been great to be back in person for the summer regional leadership conferences. Oklahoma State Grange hosted the Great Plains Regional Conference in Claremore, OK. The conference kicked off on Friday night with Grangers decorating cards for US Veterans, filling bags with toiletries that were donated by Grangers in the region and Grange Baseball. The Golden Sheaves won the game! On Saturday morning attendees participated in workshops lead by National Directors and their teams. After lunch



everyone enjoyed basket weaving led by Cherokee Nation Tribal Council member Dora-Smith Patzkowski. Each Granger was able to go home with a one of a kind basket created by themselves! Basket weaving was followed by a cornhole tournament. Even our National President, Betsy Huber, competed scoring second overall in the tournament. Winners of the tournament hailed from Oklahoma with team name "The Pros". Saturday night concluded with an amazing barbeque dinner followed by the Regional Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song Contests. Sunday morning Grangers said their goodbyes to the new and old friends they had made. Thank you to Billy Shufeldt, Oklahoma State Grange President, for all of the hard work he put in to organizing this conference.

Great Plains Winners:

Youth Impromptu: 1st- Jacklynn Keeton, OK, 2nd- Travis Knight, OK, 3rd – Carlie Conrady, OK,

Young Adult Impromptu: 1st – Carl Overstreet, TX, 2nd- Ann Allen, OK, 3rd – Coty Allen, OK

Youth Baseball: 1st- Carl Overstreet, TX, 2nd- Travis Knight 3rd – Carlie Conrady

Junior Prepared Speech: 1st- Eric Rodriguez, TX*

Junior Story Telling: 1st Kimber Newman, KS*
Junior Sign-a-Song: 1st Kimber Newman, KS,* 2nd Jazlyn Rodriguez, TX
Junior Baseball : 1st Place – Landon Knight, OK, 2nd- Kimber Newman, KS, 3rd – Eric Rodriguez, TX
Youth Alumni Impromptu: 1st Kathy Omera, TX, 2nd- Lori Wuest, TX
Youth Alumni Prepared: 1st: Lori Wuest, TX

Midwest Regional Leaders
Conference was hosted by Illinois State Grange at the Grange Hall on Boone County Fairgrounds in Belvidere, IL or virtually by Zoom. The conference was kicked off with a light dinner cooked by Illinois Granger Jennifer Tobin-Tinch. Jennifer, along with other Grangers, cooked all the delicious meals served at this regional. She was celebrated on Sunday with the traditional camp song “We Want a Cooks Parade”.



Friday night it was Youth/Juniors vs. Youth Alumni in Grange Baseball. The Golden Sheaves, Youth/Juniors, won the game after a comeback in the fifth inning. After baseball, attendees got together to plan their Paint on State squares. Paint on State is a tradition in Belvidere as part of their Heritage Days where people can purchase squares that they can paint on State Street. Midwest Granges painted agricultural scenes including tractors, barns, animals, honey bees and even left the mark of the Grange by painting Grange emblems in their squares. Despite the rain it was a great time!

Grangers headed back to the fairgrounds and participated in the National Grange directors workshops along with workshops by each state in the region. Workshops ranged from public speaking and storytelling to Growth Mindset. Following dinner that night the public speaking and sign a song contests were held. To conclude the evening the winners of the Secret Silent Auction were announced. Sunday morning a short church service was held and everyone helped clean up the Grange Hall before heading home. Thank you again to Karie Blasingame for all of her organizing and planning of this event and to the Illinois State Grange for hosting.

Midwest Winners

Youth Baseball: 1st Amber Corrl, OH, 2nd- Phoebe Callabrese, IL, 3rd- Delphine Callabrese, IL
Junior Baseball: 1st Brianna Gervais
Youth Alumni Baseball: 1st – Diana Nordquest, OH, 2nd- Don Schaeffer, IL, 3rd- Donna Champion, MN.
Young Adult Prepared Speech- 1st- Emma Edelen
Youth Ambassador Prepared Speech- 1st- Amber Corrl, OH

There are two more in-person regional conferences happening in July/August. Southeast Regional, hosted by Virginia State Grange, will be held at the Beach Community Grange Hall in Chesterfield, VA July 29-August 1. Chairperson, Stephanie Hankins, has put together an

wonderful schedule including a visit to the Pocahontas State Park. Registrations are still open until July 16th. Anyone is welcome and can participate virtually!

Western Leaders Conference will be held in Boise, ID August 6-8. Idaho State Grange has an exciting schedule lined-up, including a line dancing competition! Registrations are open until July 20th.

For more information and registrations for the remaining regional conferences visit:
www.nationalgrangeyouth.org/regional-conferences

Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Juniors, Youth and Young Adults can still participate in regional contests even though no in-person conference was held. Contests will be held Saturday, August 14th. Sign-ups will be open until 11:59 PM on August 11th. Sign-up today!
<https://forms.gle/YDQjc3x2WDDvWaKk7>



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](https://www.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 and Due Soon

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!™ 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

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BMS Project is Live and in your Mailboxes

By Claire Loker, National Grange Intern

This week at the National Grange we are in full packaging mode getting all the BMS packets put together to be mailed out this week to all state and local granges. Be on the lookout for these packets in your mailboxes in the next couple of weeks. On July 12 the BMS (Bristol

Myers Squibb) What To Do With a Cancer Diagnosis project will be available on the National Grange and Retire Safe websites. This Project includes a six-part presentation giving you next step advice if you or a loved one are to ever get new that you have cancer. Information includes different treatment options, how to prepared medical documents, self-advocating, and a medical checklist. A lot of the time 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 sudden toll.

Granges will be receiving a packet containing a paper copy of a press release to announce to the community about this presentation, a letter explains what the project is and a USB drive containing all documents in the packet and the six-part presentation. This project is not only for Grange members but also for communities. In the United States 40% of Americans will receive a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime so the chances of you 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 your Grange's number is drawn you will win a prize! Stay on the lookout on Facebook and in the Patrons Chain for the winner announcement and give us a call if your Grange is the lucky winner. Packages will be mailed out by July 12th so be on the lookout for yours in the mail.



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www.cashbackconnections.com/grange

Cash back rebate amounts vary by store and product purchased.



CHECK OUT OUR GRANGE YOUTH ITEMS!

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[Click Here To See These Items](#)

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Grange Store™ by Monroe Classic - www.promoplace.com/grange or www.monroeclassic.com
Order on line or call Monroe Classic, Inc. at 1-800-868-2330 or email sales@monroeclassic.com

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NATIONAL GRANGE & GRANGE FOUNDATION STAFF

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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.