



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

BE THE REASON SOMEONE HAS A GOOD DAY!



GIVE A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION OR
START YOUR OWN TODAY FOR JUST \$16

FOR PRINT EDITION: NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/GOODDAY

FOR DIGITAL EDITION: ISSUU.COM/GRANGEGOODDAY



August 6, 2021

Southeast Regional Leaders Conference in Virginia

By Betsy Huber, National Grange President

Last weekend was the Southeast Regional Leaders Conference, hosted in great Grange fashion (that means lots of food and friendship) by Beach Community Grange, Virginia. About 40 attended, mostly from Virginia and North Carolina along with National staff Mandy, Samantha, Loretta, intern Sasha Secor, National Youth Ambassador Britney Mercado, National Junior Ambassador Bryce Danko, and me.

After workshops Saturday morning by Mandy and Britney, Sam and Bryce, we spent the afternoon at Pocahontas State Park hiking (for miles!) and enjoying the beautiful day and beautiful outdoors. We also toured the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum at the park and learned about the CCC who built many parks and other public facilities across the U.S. during the Depression.

After dinner Loretta and I had the privilege of judging the public speaking contests. What a difficult job! I was very proud of all the youth and Juniors who stepped up to deliver their prepared or impromptu speeches. They were all very poised, confident, and much more comfortable speaking than I was at their age. Our Grange's and our country's future are bright with these young leaders taking over.

I'm looking forward to the Western Regional Conference this weekend in Idaho, to see more of our Grange friends and hear more excellent speakers and workshops there.

You will have the opportunity to hear the winning speakers at the National Grange Convention on Friday evening, November 12th, in Wichita KS. Registration is open now on our website—don't delay! Reduced price early bird registration ends September 6. The Great Plains region has a great session planned and you don't want to miss it this year!

MyPlate Launches USDA's First Alexa Skill

Courtesy of USDA

WASHINGTON, July 27, 2021 – Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the launch of its first ever Alexa skill, a digital tool for parents and caregivers of infants and toddlers between four and 24 months old. Families who use the MyPlate Alexa skill receive nutrition information on what and how to feed their child based on their age.

“The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to building back better by developing a more resilient federal nutrition safety net that not only ensures all Americans have food to eat but also access to nutritious diet that meets their individual needs,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “USDA’s MyPlate Alexa skill leverages technology to meet American families where they are and foster healthy eating habits from an early age.”

The MyPlate Alexa skill is the latest addition to MyPlate’s extensive suite of resources aimed at helping Americans achieve a healthy, attainable diet that fits their individual lifestyle and budget. The new Alexa skill helps parents and caregivers introduce simple, tasty, and nutritious foods while helping to establish healthy eating habits starting at a young age. It is accessible to all Alexa device owners and iOS and Android users who download the free Alexa app.

One-fifth of American children currently suffer from obesity, which research shows is directly linked to adult obesity and adverse health impacts. With nearly three in four adults currently experiencing some form of a diet-related illness, it is crucial that we take steps to promote good nutrition.

“USDA recognizes that nutrition is vital to combating the onset of diet-related illness,” said Stacy Dean, USDA’s deputy undersecretary for food, nutrition, and consumer services. “Through this new resource, families receive science-based food and nutrition advice to set their child up for life-long healthy eating habits.”

USDA plans to expand the MyPlate Alexa skill to include additional life stages, starting with children two years and older and eventually covering older adults. More information on the MyPlate Alexa skill can be found at www.myplate.gov/myplateassistant.

MyPlate – originally launched in 2011 – is the consumer-friendly translation of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and provides a general guide on what and how much to eat from the five food groups – fruits, vegetables, grains, proteins, and dairy or soy alternatives. MyPlate.gov offers a wide variety of resources to make healthy eating guidance easily accessible to all Americans. Additionally, USDA’s Start Simple with MyPlate app helps users set and complete easy-to-obtain goals, based on the MyPlate food groups, that encourage healthy eating habits in a fun and motivating way.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

Regional Round-Up

By Samantha Wilkins, National Grange Junior Director

Good Day Grangers. Greetings from Baltimore-Washington International Airport. Currently many of your National Grange Staff and Directors are on the road or in the air on their way to the Western Region Leadership conference in Boise, Idaho for the last regional conference of the year. We have had a great summer full of many Grange adventures so far and as we close out the 2021 Regional season, I can’t help but reflect on the last year and a half.

Granges across the country found unique and inspiring ways to bring each other together to celebrate their love for the Grange and do great Grange work. While many of the regional conferences this year saw a dip in attendance, it was still very evident that our Grange members are itching to get back together and do some amazing things.

Each conference this year brought many new and exciting conversations to the table. While your National Directors/Staff presented similar workshops across the nation it was still great fun to see what each region had in store for its members. Kicking off the regional season this last March, Potomac Grange #1 held the Mid-Atlantic Regional conference completely virtual. National Directors presented a variety of workshops, while the host Grange brought many fun activities, such as educational BINGO and National Ag in the Classroom activities to the table. Members from not only the Mid-Atlantic Region joined but so did others from around the country, as well as some additional Grange directors that do not typically get the opportunity to travel or present workshops, like National Lecturer, Chris Hamp, and Community Service Director Pete Pompper.

The second regional conference held in early June was the Great Plains Regional Leadership conference, held in Claremore, Oklahoma. This was the first big event that many Grangers had been able to attend in quite some time and it truly was like a big family reunion. Workshops by the National teams were presented, and Oklahoma invited a special visitor from the Cherokee Nation to come and teach us all how to weave our own baskets. Following that exciting hands-on activity Grangers teamed up for a very fierce Corn-Hole tournament. Many Youth and Juniors participated in the contests and enjoyed some AMAZING bar-b-que!

Next up on the regional rotation was the Mid-West Leaders Conference, held in Belvidere, Illinois at the famous Boone County Fair Grounds. Workshops were given by National Directors, two of the 2020 youth team members, one of the 2021 National Junior Grange Ambassadors and then unique to the Midwest region, a representative from almost every state in the region gave captivating workshops on a variety of subjects. Fun thing about the variety of workshops presented is that they all fell into one theme, and it wasn't even planned that way! While enjoying the company of Grangers in the Mid-West bonds were formed as we attended 'Paint on State' and attempted to paint the main street through town with Grange emblems and agricultural awareness information. Although we were rained out and drenched by the end of our endeavor, we all had such a fun time! In our down time there were members bonding over puzzles and others participating in making their own entries for the Junior Grange Seed Art contest.

This last weekend the youth and Junior teams traveled to Beach Community Grange in Virginia for the Southeast Regional Conference. Many youth and Juniors were in attendance for this weekend. We all greatly enjoyed the hospitality of Beach Community Grange. Junior and Youth team workshops were presented, and we had plenty of time to discuss plans for building a better future of the Grange. On Saturday afternoon of the conference, we took a break to visit Pocahontas State Park and learn about the history of that region from its discovery until now. Juniors, Youth, a few adults, and National Grange President, Betsy Huber braved the warm conditions and took off hiking down some of the many beautiful trails this park has to offer. They may or may not have wound up on the wrong trail and hiked a few extra miles than they had originally intended. The evening was closed out with a great representation in the public speaking and sign-a-song contests, amazing food, and a treat of making s'mores around the fire. We even had a special visitor from the National Office, Loretta Washington dropped in to pay us all a visit. She brought her Mama with her and was able to introduce her to all of us 'crazy'

Grangers that Loretta, I am sure, has so often told her about. Before we all said our good-byes in true Grange fashion, we had to have one more treat of ice-cream from the local Dairy in Richland, VA. This dairy, like many, has been hit hard during the COVID-19 shutdown and is on the verge of having to close their doors. Beach Community Grange has started collecting funds for the dairy to help them out in any way they can-- information on how to support/give is on the Beach Facebook page. We truly appreciate all the fun and activities planned by Virginia State Grange.

This weekend we are on our way to the last regional conference of the season, and while we do not know exactly what is in store, we do know that Idaho has planned a lot of fun for everyone in attendance. Friday night will consist of a Line Dance Competition and Saturday will have a variety of presentations that are sure to ignite new Grange enthusiasm in the members who attend.

This year we were unable to have the Northeast Youth conference due to the continued COVID shutdowns and regulations that were in place. However, since both the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast conferences were unable to meet in person, we will still be holding all of the contests virtually on August 14. There is still time for Youth and Juniors to sign up for Public Speaking, Sign-A-Song, and Grange Baseball contests. The deadline to sign up is August 11 at 11:59 pm (Eastern) Use the following link to sign up today! <https://forms.gle/VRFxTebhQdunPYP96> As a reminder for both youth and Junior contests the participant DOES NOT have to compete in their state to compete in the regional contests. ALL Juniors and Youth from the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast region are welcome to sign-up to compete. Best of Show winners for each region will have the opportunity to go on to compete in the National Contests at the 2021 National Grange Convention in Wichita, Kansas this November.

For more information or questions on regional contests please contact National Grange Youth Director, Mandy Bostwick at youth@nationalgrange.org or National Junior Grange Director, Samantha Wilkins at junior@nationalgrange.org

As we conclude the 2021 regional season, we must say this was one for the books! After a year and a half of not seeing one another or getting to be in person for our Grange Activities it was truly great to see the excitement and enthusiasm in Grangers as we were able to be together again and make plans for the future of the Grange. We are looking forward to the 2022 Regional Conferences. Make plans now- while dates are TBD we do know that we will be in Delaware for Mid-Atlantic, Maine for the Northeast Leaders, Kansas for Great Plains, Iowa for Mid-West, South Carolina for Southeast, and Oregon for Western!

Grange Benefit

Lenovo Back to School Sale Through 8/15

Every student learns differently and different is better! Receive up to 75% off technologies that make the grade, now through August 15th, 2021. Offers valid while supplies last.

Plus earn exclusive 3x rewards with MyLenovo! Sign up is easy and free! Get access to sales, first dibs on new products and cash back for future purchases.

Visit: www.lenovo.com/us/en/lsp

Call: 1-800-426-7235, ext. 7231 (M-F: 9am-9pm ET, Sat: 9am-6pm ET)





SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.com

PEOPLE, PRIDE and PROGRESS



David H. Howard

People, Pride and Progress

125 Years of Grange in America by David H. Howard

Cost \$6.00 plus shipping

Grange People, Pride Progress (grangestore.org)

If you would like to order a larger quantity please
contact Loretta Washington at
lwashington@nationalgrange.org

Early bird convention
registration open until

September 6th!

Register online on the National
Grange website!



AWARDS

**CUSTOM PRINTED
APPAREL**

RECOGNITION

SIGNS & BANNERS

NAME BADGES

**MADE IN
AMERICA**

FUND RAISING

LETTERHEAD * ENVELOPES * BUSINESS CARDS

Market Umbrellas & Canopy Tents

DECORATIONS

Union Printed

[Click Here To Visit Our Grange Store](http://www.grangestore.com)

Union Made

Remember to Visit our Grange Store™ - www.promoplace.com/grange

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

APPAREL | PROMOTIONAL ITEMS | JEWELRY | REGALIA | FUND RAISING PROGRAMS

NATIONAL GRANGE & GRANGE FOUNDATION STAFF

Our HQ is located at 1616 H St. NW, 11th Floor, Washington, DC 20006 | (202) 628-3507

Publisher Betsy Huber, National Grange President, available to members at betsy@nationalgrange.org or by phone at (484) 459-1957

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.