



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

September 17, 2021

## Time is now to register for exciting 155<sup>th</sup> Convention

*By Betsy Huber National Grange President*

In just 53 days I will bang the gavel for the opening of the 155<sup>th</sup> annual session of the National Grange. I hope you have registered and made your hotel reservations by now—the hotel deadline is in one short month. (Delegates—your hotel reservation is made by the National Grange office when you register.)

The Great Plains region is moving full speed ahead on plans and details for a fantastic convention. Just being all together after two years will be exciting! And the special program and workshops by the Peterson Farm Brothers will make it worth your trip. Other great speakers and workshops are planned throughout the week.

Please notice that the schedule is changed this year. Friday night will be “National Grange Honors...” when winners in our many departments and contests will be recognized, including Distinguished Grange, Grange in Action, Youth and Junior Ambassadors, public speaking, and Grange Legacy Families, to name a few.

The Evening of Excellence talent show moves to Saturday night following the Celebration Banquet at 6 pm. Of course the Seventh Degree will remain on Saturday afternoon at 1 pm in the adjoining Century II Performing Arts Center.

The general tour and youth tours will be on Friday following the youth officers opening, and the Juniors will tour on Saturday. The full schedule is on the website so be sure to review it when making your plans for convention.

We are so excited for a full, “normal” convention this year; I hope you plan to be a part of it. Make your reservations now!

## GRANGE FOUNDATION SEEKING BOARD CANDIDATES

The National Grange Foundation is seeking individuals interested in serving on the board. The board, which is composed of a few Grange members in good standing and the National Grange Executive Committee, helps to steer the efforts and activities of our affiliated 501(c)(3).

Individuals interested should submit a letter of interest with information about your background or qualifications to Joan Smith, Board Chairwoman, and Betsy Huber, President, by October 15. Please email [betsy@nationalgrange.org](mailto:betsy@nationalgrange.org) and [ngfb@grange.org](mailto:ngfb@grange.org).



# Grange Advocacy Playbook



## THE ISSUE

Step-up in basis is a tax provision which readjusts the value of an appreciated asset (such as land, buildings, and other capital investments on a farm) for tax purposes during inheritance. Specifically, the base value of the asset for the purpose of capital gains taxes is set to its value at time of inheritance instead of the time it was purchased. In doing so, step-up in basis protects heirs from paying a significant and difficult to calculate tax following the death of the original owner. Currently, Democrats in the White House and Congress are considering the elimination of step-up in basis as a means of raising revenue to pay for their proposed \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill. Under the White House's original proposal gains over \$1 million (or \$2 million for a couple) would not be eligible for a step-up in basis, however House Democrats recently removed these changes to step-up in basis from their version of the bill. While the decision to not include changes to step-up in basis in the House is encouraging, it remains unclear if the Senate will take a similar position.

## WHY IT MATTERS

One of the industries that would be most impacted by the elimination of step-up in basis is agriculture. Due to the land- and capital-intensive nature of agriculture many operations can be valued at significant amounts, leaving them with potentially high capital gains tax bills. However, most farm operations have slim margins and do not have the cash on hand that would allow them to pay these bills, potentially forcing heirs to sell off land in order to pay their tax bills. This effect is particularly devastating in areas where land prices have increased dramatically over the past few decades such as near fast growing cities and high cost of living states such as California and New York. If step-up in basis were to be eliminated the death of a family member could also mean the death of the family farm.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

If you want to get involved and fight to preserve step-up in basis, one useful action you can take is to reach out to your member of Congress (if you are not sure who that is, use this website: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>). Whether you plan to call, send an email, or write a letter to your member of Congress, it is useful to include a story about how a change to step-up in basis will affect you, your family, and your community. Each call, email, and letter an office receives is tallied up and considered when your Representative is deciding whether or not to support a bill, and extra weight is given to those contacts which include personal stories. By lending the voice of Grangers across the country in support of preserving step-up in basis, together we can push Congress to protect family farms and continue to support a vibrant rural America.

## **Juniors, Juniors at Heart encouraged to take part in contests; deadline Oct. 1**

October 1 is the deadline for many Junior Grange contests. Have you completed your entries yet?

Creative Art, Creative Writing, Mini-Scrapbook, Photography, Handy-Craft, Membership, and the Digital Talent Show entries must all be submitted and/or postmarked by October 1, 2021. Entries can be sent to National Grange, Attn: Samantha Wilkins, 1616 H St NW, FL 11, Washington, DC 20006.

These contests are a fun and easy way for the whole family to get involved and do something together. Through the Junior Granger at Heart Program, Subordinate Grange members can create a submission in the Creative Art, Creative Writing, Handy Craft, and Mini-Scrapbook, for a small \$5 entry fee sent to the Grange Foundation.

We, at the National Grange Headquarters get so excited when we receive these entries. We love to see all the work of these talented Junior Grangers from across the country. Winners and Best of Show winners will not only receive cash prizes but they will also have their projects displayed at the National Grange Convention in Wichita, Kansas.

You still have a few days and two weekends to get those entries completed! So take time to work on your project and get them in the mail by October 1, 2021. If you have any questions about your submissions please feel free to reach out to National Junior Grange Director, Samantha Wilkins, at [junior@nationalgrange.org](mailto:junior@nationalgrange.org).

## **MEMBER BENEFIT: Office Depot/Office Max Supply Program**

The Grange Office Depot Savings Program is offering [\(\\$15, \\$25 and \\$50 off\)](#) coupons **valid through 10/4/2021** all to help ease expenses as we move into the last few months of the year.

**\$15 OFF** | your qualifying order of \$100 or more.

**Use coupon code: 45375205**

**\$25 OFF** | your qualifying order of \$250 or more.

**Use coupon code: 21012097**

**\$50 OFF** | your qualifying order of \$350 or more.

**Use coupon code: 60376907**

These offers are only valid for a limited time\*. To avoid unnecessary shopping trips, visit: [officediscounts.org/grange](https://officediscounts.org/grange) to shop online and receive free next business-day delivery\*\*or call 1-800-MEMBERS (800-636-2377), M-F: 8am - 5pm ET, for more information.

*\*Exclusions Apply. Expires 10/4/2021. See Terms and Conditions on coupon. \*\*Free Delivery: Minimum purchase required after discounts and before taxes. Orders outside our local delivery area and most furniture, oversized, bulk items, cases of bottled water and other beverages and special order items do not qualify. Non-qualifying orders incur a delivery charge (minimum charge of \$9.99). Many orders can be delivered next business day (between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.) if placed online or via phone by 5:00 PM or via fax by 3:00 PM, local time (in most locations).*

# HELP NEW MEMBERS **GROW** FROM INDIVIDUAL INTO GRANGER

## ORDER THE GRANGE ORIENTATION KIT TODAY!

The Grange Orientation Kit includes new brochures to help recruit and introduce new and prospective members to the Grange.

The seven brochures allow Granges to introduce the organization to potential members through the Hometown Resilience and Personal Growth Start Here brochure (qty. 75).

When a person visits the Grange meeting or Hall, the Sneak Peek brochure (at25) helps orient them to the meeting format, the layout of the hall and commonly used words during the meeting. Even if your Grange is not holding traditional meetings, this brochure can still be used to provide orientation to the order of business and various terms a prospective or new member might hear during their early Grange journey.



Interested individuals can fill out the new Grange application, providing the Grange with the necessary information while also recording pertinent facts like the contact information for the local and State Grange, time, date and place of meetings, local dues amount and their mentor's contact information as well as the annual word to access the members' side of the National Grange website.

Upon joining, new members can be given the Oath of Membership brochure, which lays out the oath they are about to or have just taken and what it means to be a Grange member and steward of our legacy and property. Additionally, the new Member Benefits brochure shows them the variety of discounts available to them. The brochure called "Like No Other" introduces new members to the various levels and affiliated pieces of Grange including the Grange Foundation and Grange Advocacy. Finally the Degrees and Symbols brochure allows them to connect to our Grange lessons until they are able to attend a degree day or read through the manual. Non-traditional Granges may find this extremely useful as a way to connect new members with the lessons of faith, hope, charity and fidelity. Coupled with an active mentorship program, these brochures will help to take a new member from individual to Granger.



SUPPLY STORE

Exclusively at the Grange Supply Store.  
Order online at [www.grangestore.com](http://www.grangestore.com)  
Or contact Loretta Washington at  
[sales@nationalgrange.org](mailto:sales@nationalgrange.org) or by phone  
at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109

## **Recent Survey by Tivity Health gives glimpse into current life of US Seniors**

*Reprinted with Permission from Tivity Health*

The SilverSneakers Pulse survey is an ongoing national series of surveys of SilverSneakers members to understand their experiences regarding overall health, physical activity, nutrition, and social connection and will also mine for patterns in behavior both during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. Since April 2020, Tivity Health has surveyed thousands of seniors in more than a dozen separate surveys.

Between August 11 -17, 2021, the SilverSneakers Pulse survey asked seniors about how the pandemic has impacted their mental and physical health. Key findings included:

### **Covid Impact**

- Members not experiencing disruption is at its highest level in six quarters, 17%
- More than a third still disrupted by the inability to visit family and friends, 35%
- Members not experiencing stress in the last two weeks its highest yet, 47%

### **Fitness**

- Most members report unchanged or improved physical activity levels recently, 77%
- More than half participate in SSF digital fitness, 54%, and 82% will continue in parallel to gym use
- Return to the gym sentiment is holding steady at just 20% saying no to returning
- Biggest factor to return to the gym remains return to routine, 65%

### **Nutrition**

- Members report their eating habits are better now than at any time in the previous five quarters
- Food insecurity continues to affect about one in twenty members, increasing to about one in five for low income

### **Social Connection**

- Consistent social isolation now just double pre-covid, 8% vs 4%, with low income reporting higher incidence at 12%
- 48% of members report using video/streaming for medical appointments, and 45% using the tech for exercise

### **Delta Variant**

- Unvaccinated members, 6% of total, remain the least concerned about covid infection
- Among the remaining 94% of members responding who are vaccinated, 65% currently fear infection
- Only 50% of members are currently comfortable socializing, which drops to 38% among minorities
- The members' PCP still the most influential figure regarding vaccine uptake in-community, 62% say a "lot of influence"





# MAKE THIS A *Good Day!*™

**FOR ONLY \$16 BY STARTING YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOCUSED ON RURAL LIFE AND THE IMPACT GRANGES ARE HAVING ON COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT THE NATION**

**FOR THE PRINT EDITION OF THIS NATIONAL GRANGE PUBLICATION, SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT [NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/GOODDAY](http://NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/GOODDAY)**

**OR GO DIGITAL AND GET YOUR ELECTRONIC SUBSCRIPTION OR SINGLE ISSUES AT [ISSUU.COM/GRANGEGOODDAY](http://ISSUU.COM/GRANGEGOODDAY)**

## **YOU MAY ALSO SUBSCRIBE TO THE PRINT EDITION OF GOOD DAY! BY MAIL**

Name

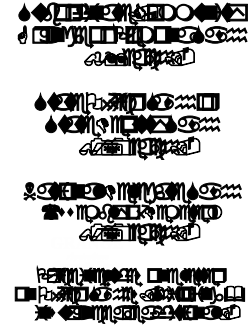
Grange Name & Number

Address

Email

Phone

With this form, include a check made payable to National Grange for \$16, or your phone number so we can take credit card payment by phone. Send to National Grange, 1616 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20006.



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Order on line or call Monroe Classic, Inc. at 1-800-868-2330 or email [sales@monroeclassic.com](mailto:sales@monroeclassic.com)

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

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