



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

December 17, 2021

Grangers should set the example

By Betsy Huber, National President

As we enter the last week before Christmas, I hope you are all holding onto the warm, happy feelings we shared at the recent National Grange convention. It was so good to be together in person with long-time friends and new friends! With all the bitterness, anxiety, fear, and nastiness in the outside world, we Grangers need to set the example to “in our dealings with our fellow man, be honest, be just, and fear not.”

I hope, at least for the next couple weeks, that we can set aside all the worries and cares that the news media and social media bring into our homes constantly, and focus on the joy of the season. Those of us who have been blessed this year should make extra effort to share those blessings with our neighbors who may be struggling with sickness, natural disasters, economic hardships, or depression and anxiety.

Many Granges have holiday traditions of delivering cookies, flowers, or cards to shut-ins or collecting hats and mittens or nonperishable food items for the community. If you Grange has not done this in the past, why not start this year? And don't forget to take a photo and send it to your local newspaper or post on your Facebook page—not to brag, but to let people know that Grangers care.

Let's make an extra effort this year to change the atmosphere around us by spreading joy instead of complaints and arguments. Grangers need to set the example that people can disagree but remain friends and love each other. Merry Christmas!



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.”

Margaret Mead



IN-PERSON & ONLINE | APRIL 24-27

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

Presents need not always be material

By Amanda Brozana Rios, Grange Foundation Associate



Another thing to find a home for. Another item that will find seldom use.

Sometimes gifting can be difficult. You're balancing between what someone will appreciate and what will actually be of use.

What you're really trying to accomplish is to give something they will appreciate – so why not consider giving to Grange Foundation (or another charity your recipient loves)?

Your financial gift is not just a great way to support an organization you both love, but also offers you the opportunity for your own benefit – a tax deduction.

You can make a donation in the name of your Grange and put a note in the card of each of your members to tell them you've been thinking of them and have given in their honor – even \$1 per member can go a long way!

So, get a beautiful card, write a sentimental little note – maybe recall a fantastic memory you share with your recipient that includes the Grange – and make an end-of-year donation today by going to www.grangefoundation.org.

New Study shows \$22 billion lost yearly to poles-related broadband expansion delays

Courtesy of Connect the Future

Western Carolina University Professor Edward J. Lopez and noted pole attachment expert Patricia D. Kravtin released a new, national study on the economic benefits of bringing high-speed broadband connectivity more quickly to unserved homes and small businesses across the country – but only if provider access to utility poles is reformed.

The study emphasized that broadband deployment today is often inhibited or entirely stopped by problematic behavior of utility pole owners and accounts for nearly \$22 billion in economic gains lost each year. On the other hand, if pole access rules are reformed to accelerate broadband deployment, American households and small businesses could collectively reap up to \$314 billion in new economic gains.

BE THE REASON SOMEONE HAS A GOOD DAY!



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Advocacy Playbook – Build Back Better Act

The Issue:

In November of this year, the House on mostly party lines passed the \$1.75 trillion Build Back Better Act which includes various Democratic social and climate policies to be paid for primarily through changes to tax enforcement and increases in certain rates. The most significant segments of the bill are \$555 billion addressed to climate change programs, \$400 billion for universal pre-k, \$200 billion to extend previously create Child Tax Credits, \$200 billion for 4 weeks of guaranteed paid leave for workers, \$165 billion on various healthcare programs, \$150 billion for home health care, and \$150 billion for affordable housing. To pay for these new spending outlays, the bill includes increased funding to the IRS to decrease tax evasion, tax increases on high earners (a new 5% rate on income above \$10 million and a new 3% surtax on income over \$25 million) and on large corporations (a new 15% tax on corporations with over \$1 billion profits and a 1% surcharge on stock buybacks). The Build Back Better Act is currently being considered in the Senate where Democratic Senators are debating changes to State and Local Tax Deductions, the size and scope of various social spending elements, and potential other options for revenue provisions such as taxes targeting billionaires or corporate tax changes.

Why it matters:

The sweeping scope of the Build Back Better Act means that likely every American, whether they live in rural or urban areas, would be affected by the passage of the bill in some way. Of particular concern to rural Americans, the bill does include some provisions explicitly addressed to agriculture such as new protections for farm workers, money allocated to immigration reform, and debt forgiveness for struggling small farmers. As well, the Biden administration has sought to sell the bill in rural America by emphasizing the number of rural Americans who would benefit from social spending programs such as the Child Tax Credit and new provisions to address rising pharmaceutical prices. As the Senate debates the Build Back Better Act it is also important to be aware that previous versions of the bill included changes to step-up in basis and capital gains taxes which were supported by Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee Ron Wyden (D-OR) which were vigorously opposed by the National Grange and other agriculture groups.

What you can do about it:

While the National Grange has not taken an official stance in support or opposition to the Build Back Better Act in its entirety, the Grange is actively tracking the bill and fighting to ensure provisions which would harm rural America are not included. If you or members of your Grange want to take action on any of the many elements of the bill, one useful action you can take is to reach out to your Senators (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 Senators, it is useful to include a story about how this bill will affect you, your family, and your community. Each call, email, and letter an office receives is tallied up and considered when your Senator is deciding whether or not to support a bill, and extra weight is given to those contacts which include personal stories.

Washington DC Experience 2022

By Samantha Wilkins, National Junior Director

Still looking for that perfect Christmas present for your younger Grange members? How about giving them an experience that will give them a lifetime of memories, experience, and skills that they will be sure to never forget!

Youth, Young Adults, and Juniors are invited to join us in Washington, DC on March 12-15, 2022 for the Washington DC Experience.

The purpose of the Washington DC Experience is for Junior and Youth/Young Adult aged Grangers from across the country to come together and learn about how the Grange functions on the legislative side.

Youth and Juniors will be educated on the many ways in which Grangers and citizens alike can advocate on the issues they feel important to shape public policy and communities in which they live. During the Washington DC Experience, Grangers are invited to get an up-close and behind-the-scenes look at what government is and how it operates in Washington, DC.

Grangers will attend briefings with important information pertaining to the Grange Legislative Department. Plans will also include meeting with governmental departments (such as the Department of Agriculture or Department of Education) meeting with Congressmen and Senators from your state and a tour of DC.

Just as our Grange Declaration of Purposes suggests, we will ensure that our Grange Youth, Young Adults, and Juniors “take a proper interest in the politics of one’s country” so they might become the informed and involved citizens required to move America forward and to guarantee a better society for future generations.

Make plans to join us now. Travel and lodging costs are the responsibility of the attendees with a \$150 registration fee to cover some meal costs and tours. Potomac Grange #1 of Washington DC is offering a scholarship to attend the event- please see the application for the Grange Grassroots Activism Scholarship opportunity in the National Youth and Junior Grange Program books.

Dates for the WASHINGTON DC EXPERIENCE are March 12-15

The tentative schedule will include:

Saturday: Meet and Greet at Hotel

Sunday: Travel to National Grange Headquarters- Learn about the NG Legislative department and how it works in DC-Mock Interviews and Tour the city

Monday: Briefings at National Headquarters-Department visits

Tuesday: Meetings with Representatives and wrap up celebration dinner






SUPPLY STORE

member notice


While the Grange Supply Store website is always open to take your order, during the holiday season any orders placed from December 20 to January 3 will not be shipped out until January 5, 2022. Please allow ample time for delivery of your items.

WWW.GRANGESTORE.ORG



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.com



The Grange
Declaration of Purposes

DECLARATION OF PURPOSES BROCHURE

This trifold brochure features the general objectives and purposes of the Grange as set out in the Declaration of Purposes. This is a great product for all members, especially individuals new to the Grange, to understand our heritage and our objectives.

Set of 25 is \$2.50 plus shipping
Set of 100 is \$7.50 Plus shipping

Get your copy by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.com or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

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