



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

January 21, 2022

Growing the Grange through Seed Distribution

By Betsy Huber, National Grange President

To follow up on my last week's article on youth in farming, this week I noticed an [article about a third-grader who won first prize](#) in his state for growing the largest cabbage in the [Bonnie Plants](#) 3rd Grade Cabbage Program—a ten-pounder!

Nearly 200,000 third graders this year nationwide have competed growing colossal cabbages with seeds provided by Bonnie Plants to inspire children to grow a love of gardening. Bonnie provided lessons along with the seeds to instruct the students how to grow and care for their plants every step of the way. Students submitted a photo taken with their cabbage and judging was based on the student's enthusiasm to participate and learn, in addition to the size and appearance of their cabbage.

The winning student in each state received a \$1000 scholarship from Bonnie Plants and bragging rights, of course. Teachers and parents (in hardiness Zones 8-11) can [register online now](#) for this year's competition on the Bonnie Plants website.

My own Pomona Grange last year distributed pumpkin seeds to local youth groups to compete in growing the largest pumpkin. We put a few seeds in small envelopes printed with Grange information. If you can't host a community garden or school garden as I suggested last week, maybe this type of seed project will work for your Grange. It's an easy way to spread the name of your Grange among families in your community.

GRANGE FOUNDATION
1 in 1,000 CLUB

Join Us!

1-in-1000 Club Zoom

with Virtual Refreshments of your Choice

Wednesday, February 9
8:30 p.m. EST

Topics

- Historical Documents Scanning & Digitization Project Update
- American Arts & Culture Fund
- Quilts of Valor & Grange Program
- Junior & Youth Funds Update with Directors & Telethon

bit.ly/1in1000Club
Call In: (301) 715 8592
or use:
Meeting ID: 853 2615 8138
Passcode: 864678

Time to Pack Your Bags and Book Your Flights!

By Samantha Wilkins, Junior Grange Director

WASHINGTON DC EXPERIENCE

MARCH 12-15

We hope you are as excited as we are and that you are busy preparing your Youth and Junior Grangers to join us in Washington DC for the 2nd ever Washington DC Experience.

Time is running out to register so if you have not done so yet please register as soon as possible. The deadline to register is **February 12.**

Registration costs are \$150.00 and include most meals, tours, and events.

Here are a few things to know before you come to DC

Hotel Information: We have a block of rooms saved at the Quality Inn in Tysons Corner- Please book your hotel room by February 12 - call (703) 448-8020 and mention 'National Grange'

- Room nights will be \$79 a night plus tax- they have double and king rooms available.
- Free parking is available at the hotel

Flying: DCA (Reagan International Airport) is the best option when flying- there is a metro station that will take you directly to the metro stop by the hotel.

Metro: We will be taking the metro from the hotel to the National Grange Headquarters building each day, but there are a lot of places that the metro rails can take you (see picture). Try to plan on coming in a day early or staying a day or two late to see more of what DC has to offer!

Covid Mandates:

Washington DC just updated its COVID-19 protocols and vaccines will now be required to enter most facilities. Visit the following link for more information:

[DCHHealthVaxDCGuidanceFAQ1.10.22.pdf](https://www.dchealth.vaxdcguidancefaq1.10.22.pdf)

What to Expect:

The Schedule is *jam-packed* and full of fun activities for all who attend!

We will begin at **7 pm Saturday, March 12**, at the hotel with a meet and greet. We will be talking about everything we will be doing for the coming days and getting all our attendees pumped and ready to become young advocates.



March 13 will begin with the first half of the day offering a variety of workshops and the second half of the day engaging the attendees in the culture and history of DC. We are planning to one of the Smithsonian's and then take an evening trolley tour around the city to see some of the amazing sites and wonders.

March 14 We will hear from some prestigious speakers and hopefully get the chance to visit some of our federal agencies.

March 15 We will be taking everything we learned over the past few days and putting it into action by speaking to our representatives. This will take place with either in-person visits or virtually.

Register TODAY at bit.ly/DCE22

Raised Right Here

Using the National Grange theme in your Community Grange



RAISED RIGHT HERE™

As announced in November, the National Grange theme for 2022 and 2023 is “**Raised Right Here.**” This theme is designed to focus on local resources, sustainability and resilience for rural areas and the hometowns where Granges are located.

Some ways the theme can be used are as follows:

Programming

- Encourage local Granges to do what they already often do: have local individuals with farms and businesses be part of their meetings and events.
- Encourage discussions about local sustainability and resilience
- Provide talking points for local Granges about the impact of farms and small businesses on local economies as well as challenges they face
- Provide (for fee) lawn signs and window stickers with the RRH tag/logo that can be personalized to a county or region to identify local producers and mom-and-pop businesses
- Sell shirts and other items with the RRH branding and Grange logo encouraging people to see Grange as a place where local talent is “raised” (products aren’t just physical things - they are also Human Resources)

Legislative

- Look for legislation to endorse or groups to partner with to advocate for funding and opportunities for small businesses and local farms/Ag businesses (again, just another thing we do that can now fall under the umbrella)
- Lead or be significant part of coalitions to encourage options to keep people on farms or small businesses open (especially related to health insurance, grants and educational opportunities)

GREATNESS GROWS FROM SCHUYLKILL COUNTY ROOTS

OUR TREE COMES FROM EVERGREEN ACRES FARM IN AUBURN, HOME OF THE 2022 WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS TREE

The Shealer family purchased the farm in 1936, and first planted spruce trees as part of a state conservation program. The first Christmas trees were sold for 25 cents in 1945 and five generations later, the farm has seen great success not only in its operations but also in promoting the greatness of things RAISED RIGHT HERE in Schuylkill County.

RAISED RIGHT HERE

JEFFERSON GRANGE #1384

THE MISSION OF JEFFERSON GRANGE #1384 IS TO BUILD LOCAL RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN SOUTHERN SCHUYLKILL COUNTY.

We do this by encouraging lifelong education and offering opportunities for skill development; promoting local businesses and agriculture; manufacturing a movement of "planned doing" to raise the quality of life of our neighbors and continue or begin traditions that create community identity; and cultivating a culture of engaged citizenship while offering a voice for our hometowns through grassroots action and advocacy.

LEARN MORE ABOUT US AT JEFFERSONGRANGE1384PA.ORG

Jefferson Grange #1384 in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania recently used the theme as a part of their Christmas tree display at a local arts center. They highlighted the farm where their tree was grown (which happened to be the same farm as the 2022 White House tree!)

How will you use “Raised Right Here” in your 2022/2023 Grange programming? [Let us know!](#)



National Grange Partners with Rural Minds

As the National Grange continues to highlight issues affecting rural America, we have forged a partnership with **Rural Minds, LLC** to help make the National Grange’s voice on the Hill even stronger.



[Rural Minds](#) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization with the mission to serve as the informed voice for mental health in rural America, and to provide mental health information and resources. Rural Minds collaborates with other organizations on initiatives to help end the silence, stigma, and suffering that surround mental illness.

Rural Minds was founded by dairy farmer Jeff Winton. In 2012, the suicide of his beloved 28-year-old nephew was a wake-up call for Jeff. In the eulogy he delivered, Jeff shared his family’s continuing struggle with mental illness. After the service, many local families shared their own experiences and thanked Jeff for finally giving them the permission to talk openly and freely. He realized that so much more needed to be done.

Since then, Jeff has focused a majority of his professional career aligning his expertise in the biopharmaceutical industry with his passion for helping rural families. That’s why he founded Rural Minds, a nonprofit organization to serve as the informed voice for mental health in rural America, and to provide mental health information and resources.

Rural Minds serves the mental health needs of rural Americans by:

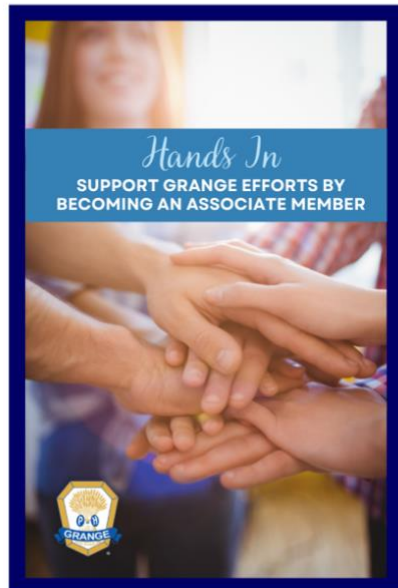
- **Listening** to and providing forums for courageous people to share their experiences with mental illness;
- **Connecting** rural Americans across the country with existing mental health resources, including crisis and suicide hotlines, via www.RuralMinds.org;
- **Identifying** gaps in mental health information and services;
- **Partnering** with community leaders and organizations on mental health initiatives;
- **Collaborating** with individuals and organizations to improve rural mental health including rural residents, donors and volunteers, large and small nonprofits, and socially responsible corporations with a strong interest in the health of rural Americans; and,
- **Developing** new educational resources and support services to address the unmet needs for mental health in rural communities throughout the United States.

Information on Rural Minds can be shared directly with your members.



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.com



ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES

Encourage Grange growth through the Associate Membership program! Associate members receive the same benefits of being a Grange member. This provides local businesses and individuals the chance to support the good work YOUR Grange is doing!

\$2.50 + shipping
for a set of 25

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

Secretary Vilsack Announces New 10 Year Strategy to Confront the Wildfire Crisis

From the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Forest Service Chief Randy Moore will today launch a comprehensive response to the nation's growing wildfire crisis – "Confronting the Wildfire Crisis: A Strategy for Protecting Communities and Improving Resilience in America's Forests." The strategy outlines the need to significantly increase fuels and forest health treatments to address the escalating crisis of wildfire danger that threatens millions of acres and numerous communities across the United States.

The Forest Service will work with other federal agencies, including the Department of the Interior, and with Tribes, states, local communities, private landowners, and other partners to focus fuels and forest health treatments more strategically and at the scale of the problem, based on the best available science.

The strategy highlights new research on what Forest Service scientists identified as high risk "firesheds" – large, forested landscapes with a high likelihood that an ignition could expose homes, communities, infrastructure and natural resources to wildfire. Firesheds, typically about 250,000 acres in size, are mapped to match the scale of community exposure to wildfire.

"The negative impacts of today's largest wildfires far outpace the scale of efforts to protect homes, communities and natural resources," said Vilsack. "Our experts expect the trend will only worsen with the effects of a changing climate, so working together toward common goals across boundaries and jurisdictions is essential to the future of these landscapes and the people who live there."

Read more about this announcement and view the full plan here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wildfire-crisis>

National Grange Member Benefit

Unwrap Winter Savings with Avis and Budget

In need of a winter escape? Make the experience safe and comfortable with deals from your Grange Avis and Budget Car Rental Savings Program. With the Pay Now feature, members can save up to 35% off base rates on every rental, plus receive additional offers like a free upgrade or dollars off. Join Avis Preferred® or Budget Fastbreak rewards programs and enjoy additional perks like expedited service that will bypass the counter and save time during pickup at most locations.

To make a reservation with Avis, visit: <https://www.avis.com/en/association/B291044> and use your Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number B291044.

To book with Budget, visit: <https://www.budget.com/en/association/R198144> and use your Budget Customer Discount (BCD) number R198144.

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Members enjoy up to 30% off base rates with PAY NOW.*

AVIS
RESERVE NOW

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WINTER SAVINGS EVENT

Members enjoy up to 35% off base rates with PAY NOW.*


BOOK NOW

National Grange HQ | 1616 H St. NW, 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 Philip J. Vonada, National Grange Communications Director. To submit a story idea for Patrons Chain or Good Day! magazine, request assistance with publicity, email pvonada@nationalgrange.org or call/text (814) 404-7985

Leadership Training and Membership Development Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director. To learn more about membership recruitment or how to start or reorganize a Grange, leadership training, and more, email abrozana@nationalgrange.org or call/text (301) 943-1090

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

Free Grange Websites, Emails, Good Day! subscription questions and Membership Database Stephanie Wilkins, National HQ, ext. 101 or email swilkins@nationalgrange.org

Lecturer Ann Bercher, lecturer@nationalgrange.org or (612) 501-1231

Community Service Pete Pompper, communityservice@nationalgrange.org or (609) 820-6239

Legislative and Policy Issues Director Burton Eller, National HQ, ext. 114 or email beller@nationalgrange.org; Assistant Sean O'Neil, National HQ, email soneil@nationalgrange.org

Convention Registrations, Leasing Inquiries, Junior Department Samantha Wilkins, junior@nationalgrange.org or (210) 838-7892

Grange Youth Mandy Bostwick, youth@nationalgrange.org or (785) 250-7606

Grange Foundation Joan C. Smith, Chairperson, ngfb@grange.org or (571) 662-7220