



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

March 4, 2022

Presidents' Conference leaves Grange leaders educated and inspired

By [Betsy Huber](#), National Grange President

The Presidents' Conference last weekend was very successful, with about 55 in attendance including a few State Grange Vice Presidents and guests, and quite a few joining on Zoom. The schedule was full of useful, educational information that State Presidents and others need to know. If you have questions about IRS regulations for Granges, Insurance requirements, current legislative issues, accountability, passion and persistence, making your social media presence more effective, contest deadlines, or many other topics, your State President has lots of information to share with you. Reach out and ask them!

The trolley tour to Georgetown, SC, a town that Oliver Hudson Kelley visited in 1866, was fascinating. We were able to sit in a church that OHK attended on his visit, the church interior and exterior basically unchanged in over 150 years. Kelley spent four days in Georgetown, visiting with plantation owners and prominent local citizens, and we learned all their stories. It helped too that the weather was gorgeous—sunny and upper 70 degrees! What a wonderful break from cold winter!

It was great to be back in person with everyone again, since the best part of any Grange conference is the sharing that happens between workshops. State Grange President is a challenging job, and it is so helpful to share experiences with your peers who understand and can offer advice or at least listen and empathize with you. (This works on the Community Grange level too.) We will be getting together periodically (on Zoom) for further discussions throughout the rest of the year in an effort to do our best to improve our organization.

Where does the information go? Be the Connector!

By [Philip J. Vonada](#), Communications Director

It was quite a shock to me at the Pennsylvania State Grange convention last October (2021) when I heard somebody say (in front of the whole Delegate body) that they didn't know the National Grange had a theme. I stood there in disbelief, as the "Cultivating Connections" theme was announced in November 2019 and had been widely used throughout 2020 and 2021.

I had to wonder – *where did we go wrong?*

I've heard many people say that they don't hear enough from National Grange – they don't feel connected to National Grange programs or events.

I have to wonder – *why is this?*

Each Friday, a free e-newsletter arrives in inboxes across the country, full of National Grange information from programming to legislative accomplishments and deadlines for registration for events. Junior Grange and Grange Youth handbooks are full of program ideas and contests, as are the Lecturer's web pages and Community Service Facebook

page. Our quarterly magazine [Good Day!](#) (just \$4 an issue!) is – quite literally – a hundred pages of Grange news, ideas, and more, available online or in physical form.

What is happening that people “aren’t getting information?”

I understand that not everyone has access to the internet, but if you’re reading this email – *you do!* What do you do with this email when you’re done with it – delete it, or forward it to other members of your Grange? Do you take the downloadable version (from the link at the top of the email) to your Grange meetings and let them know what’s happening? Do you take it to a Grange member who you know doesn’t have the internet to let them know they are a vital part of the Grange?

When you get your State Grange newsletter, does your Secretary just wave it in the air and say “oh hey, the newsletter is here if anybody wants it?” Are you encouraging members to connect with what’s happening?

It would be my dream that all 140,000+ Grange members nationwide would feel connected to the National Grange and see everything that is happening in Washington, DC and communities across the country. But the National Grange staff and officers can’t do all of the work, either – your dues are hard at work, but without raising them, the cost of consistent individual communication is too great.

Please help us out and be the connector in your Grange.

- Encourage your members to [subscribe to the Patrons Chain](#) (for free!) and to [Good Day! magazine](#). Or buy a gift subscription for them or your Grange Hall – maybe even your local library!
- Share social media posts from the [National Grange](#) to your personal or Grange Facebook pages so more people see them.
- Ask your officers or representatives who attend National Grange, regional, or State Grange events *what they’ve learned!*

And, in case you haven’t heard, the National Grange theme for 2022 & 2023 is “[Raised Right Here](#).”

Heirloom Program Begins in March

by [Amanda Brozana Rios](#), Membership and Leadership Development Director

It’s not just important to share this lesson with individuals who have already joined the Grange - but also with people in your community who may wonder what exactly the Grange is all about.

For that reason, we have designed posters you can print and hang on community bulletin boards that will encourage folks to attend your next meeting at which the Heirloom lesson of the month will be presented.

Remember, this isn’t meant to replace the Lecturer’s Program - though as you kick this off in your Grange, you may want to take a few extra minutes to explain to your membership what it is you’re doing with these readings.



Ideally, during the “Conferring Degrees” period in the Order of Business or during the “Good of the Order” period, you’ll have an individual in your Grange read the quote and personally reflect on what it means to them or how they connect it to daily life or encourage other members to talk about what they think of when they hear the lesson.

I recommend putting the Heirloom Poster up on local bulletin boards two weeks before the meeting where that particular lesson will be read or discussed. This gives individuals time to put the meeting day and time in their planner. A few days leading up to your meeting, put the same lesson on social media by using the post we’ve developed or just typing the words into your post. Then try to start a conversation with your members and community.

Here’s an example of what you’ll see on my personal Facebook page this month - it’s longer than you would expect, but it helps build knowledge and make clear some of our jargon for those who don’t know much or anything about Grange. It makes Grange more approachable for someone who thinks because they do not farm or were not born into Grange, they cannot belong. I encourage you to write your own version because this type of personal testimony is powerful — and constructing such a narrative makes you understand the lesson and yourself better.

"History proves that where agriculture has been fostered, that nation has prospered and reached a high degree of perfection; but where it has been neglected degeneracy began."

Grange members hear the Chaplain provide this lesson when they witness the first degree - a type of play that calls the audience's attention to the lessons we can learn from nature during Spring.

Sometimes I struggle to see how certain passages relate to my life, especially those heavily leaning on our roots as individuals engaged in agriculture.

I didn't grow up in Grange or on a farm - in fact, I'm not sure the last generation on either side of my family who actively participated in farming.

But Wendell Berry said, and I agree, "eating is an agricultural act," and I sure like to do that!

Since not long after its founding, the Grange has been an open fraternity for anyone who cares about the condition of farmers, our food supply, and the communities in which America's farmers and ranchers live. My place is in the Grange, even if I am far removed from the everyday endeavors of farmers and ranchers. I am engaged in agriculture as a consumer. I care that food is safe, plentiful, nutritious and most of all, that it serves as a beacon to bring together families and communities. In this respect, "I eat, therefore I am [a Granger]."

The degrees - the plays that remind us of what we can learn from nature about the cycle of life and how to be the best version of ourselves - help complete that statement. I eat, therefore I am alive. I care for the well-being of others, knowing food and every hand that helps guide it to my table is essential, therefore I am a Granger.

So what does that have to do with the lesson Granges around the country are reflecting on this month? Well, it means to me that everyone who believes food is essential, who is involved in agriculture as a career or as a consumer, should also be an advocate. When the next Farm Bill is written, we should make sure that it truly addresses the most pressing needs of our farmers, our ranchers, our rural residents who help support those working in agriculture and the rest of the people involved in getting food from farm to fork. And we must advocate on behalf of producers as other legislation or regulations are needed or may impede their ability to provide for each of us an abundant, economical and safe food supply.

As a Grange member, I can become an informed advocate and consumer, and a good neighbor to my farm friends. Another reason #whyIGrange #GrangeHeirlooms



Introducing the...

A Zoom series
with
Amanda Brozana Rios
Membership & Leadership Development Director

FINAL SESSION
Monday, March 7
8:30pm Eastern

Meeting ID:
863 7121 0994
Passcode: 566049

or connect
by phone: 301 715 8592

Join us for the final session of Introducing the Heirloom Program
On Monday, March 7 at 8:30pm Eastern
with Amanda Brozana Rios. Join here: bit.ly/grangezoozomhp

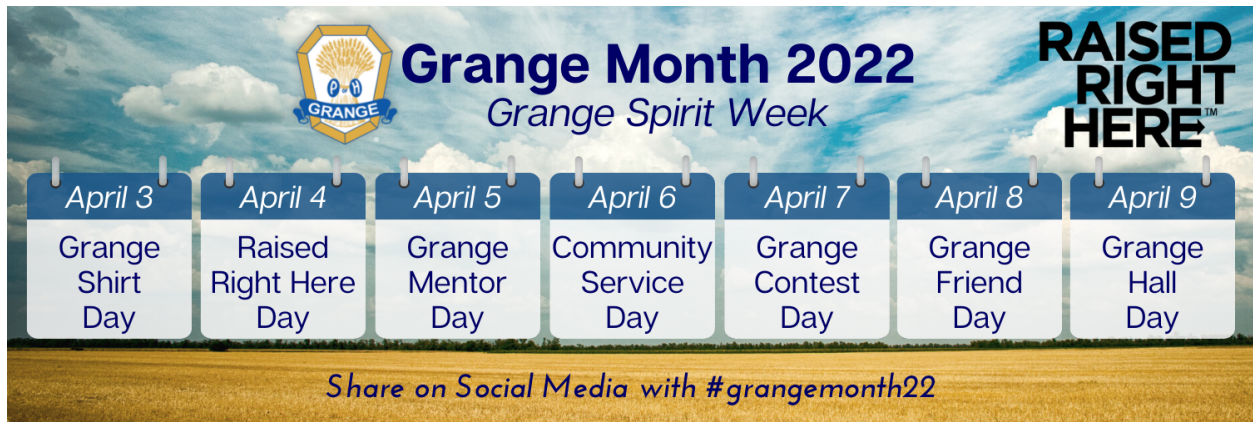
Grange Month Preview

It feels like the year has just begun, but April will be here before you know it. And that means it's time for *Grange Month*. This year, we encourage you to use our National Grange Theme "Raised Right Here" in your Grange Month Open Houses or other programs. Over the next few weeks, we will be releasing social media images, graphics, posters to use in your Grange Hall, and more!

This year, we will be celebrating **Grange Spirit Week** April 3 - 9, with a different "challenge" each day.

Check out everything we have ready for you for Grange Month – these materials can be used on social media, in your newsletters and local newspapers, as posters in your Hall or community, or more!

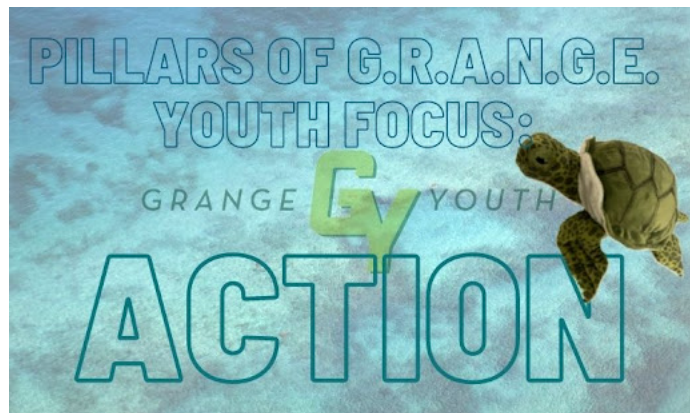
Visit the [Grange Month 2022 page here](#).



National Grange Youth Trash Pick-Up Challenge

By [Mandy Bostwick](#), National Grange Youth and Young Adults Director

The National Grange Youth Department is challenging State and Local Grange Youth to organize a trash pick-up day in their community during Grange Month (April) and in celebration of Earth Day. In the **linked Google Doc** you will find full details, a helpful link to start your organizing as well as a fill-in-the-blank press release to use after your event. Any event organized counts towards the G.R.A.N.G.E. Youth Pillar Projects that can be found in the 2022 Handbook and on the **National Grange Youth Website**. Please pass this information on to the youth in your state and with your local Granges. Be sure to send Mandy photos (and media releases) to be shared on our social media pages! I can't wait to see all of the amazing work put in and our Grange Youth in ACTION! This is meant to be a quick and simple way to get your youth involved in their community and can be planned easily via Zoom, Google Meets, etc.



Save the Date

Regional Leaders Conferences will be here soon!

<p>Great Plains June 10-12 Manhattan, Kansas</p>	<p>Midwest June 24-26 Iowa</p>
<p>Eastern June 17-19 <small>Mid-Atlantic & Southeastern</small> Delaware</p>	<p>Western August 5-7 Eugene, Oregon</p>

For Grange members of all ages

Registration information for all conferences will be available on the National Grange website

Join us for the National Grange Legislative Fly-In



Join Brothers and Sisters from around the country in promoting Grange policy priorities and participating in advocacy training. Then, put your training to use as you present your community's concerns to elected officials and their staff.

The Fly-In is one of the greatest ways members can engage in Grange advocacy and remind legislators and regulators of the unique grassroots way in which our policy is developed. Participants will help to tell the story of an organization that is relevant, vibrant, and speaks from and for the heart of America.

Registration is FREE at <http://bit.ly/flyin2022>

Sunday, April 24

Welcome reception at the hotel

***Monday, April 25**

Overview of Washington, Congress and Federal Agencies
How to best work with elected officials and staff
Issue briefings
Speakers from the Hill, government agencies, private industry and think tanks

Tuesday, April 26

Capitol Hill appointments
Champions of Rural America Awards Reception

Wednesday, April 27

Complete Capitol Hill appointments

*Monday's events will be able to be accessed virtually!

Hotel Information:

Quality Inn Tysons Corner
1587 Spring Hill Rd, Vienna, VA
703-448-8020

"National Grange" rate: \$79/night plus tax by April 1, 2022

More information on the Legislative Fly-In can be found here:

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/national-grange-legislative-fly-in-2022/>

National Grange Vice President named to Quilts of Valor Board



On March 1, Christine E. "Chris" Hamp, Vice President of the National Grange, was named to the Board of Directors of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, with a term lasting through 2025.

Hamp a fourth-generation Grange member from Nine Mile Falls, Washington, was elected Vice President of the nation's oldest agricultural and rural service fraternity in November. Previously, she had served as National Grange Lecturer since 2016.

One of the major pillars of Hamp's tenure as Lecturer was creating a partnership with the Quilts of Valor Foundation. In 2017, Hamp introduced the program at the National Grange Session in Spokane. "I wanted a way for the Grange to honor veterans, and this program seemed like a natural fit with the Grange's background and our popular quilt block contest," Hamp said. Since then, hundreds of Granges across the country have presented Quilts of Valor to Grange and community members.

"I am excited to join this organization and I especially look forward to meeting, learning from, and growing with their dedicated members," Hamp said.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation was founded by Catherine Roberts in 2003, while her son was stationed in Iraq. The mission of the Quilts of Valor is to bring comfort and healing to those who have been touched by war, through physically wrapping members in the warmth of a quilt and a hug. Since 2003, nearly 300,000 quilts have been given to veterans and service members.

The National Grange is a recognized "Under Our Wings" program partner in the mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. This program allows Grange members to create quilts and award them to veterans in their communities or in the organization and teach the art of quilting to novices and young people while completing this meaningful community service.

Hamp earned a bachelor's degree in Public Policy & Administration from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington; a Master of Public Administration degree from The George Washington University in Washington, DC; and an associate degree of technical arts in Fire Command Administration from Edmonds Community College in Edmonds, Washington.

She is currently employed by Spokane County Fire District 9 as the Division Chief of Administrative Services. She also serves the Fire District as a volunteer Lieutenant firefighter/EMT and is a Certified Fire Investigator.

National Grange calls for Federal investments in research, education and extension programs

The National Grange joined a group of 51 agriculture, food, scientific and educational organizations on a letter to the House and Senate appropriations agriculture subcommittees to recommend full funding for research, education and extension programs in the final FY22 appropriations package. These programs

within USDA are necessary to ensure agriculture resilience, nutrition security, and food systems sustainability.

[Read the full letter here.](#)

2021 Journal of Proceedings Now Available



The Journal of Proceedings from the 155th Annual Session of the National Grange in Wichita, Kansas is now available online.

This report includes the full present policy of the National Grange, reports from resolution committees, National Grange Staff, Grange Advocacy and the Grange Foundation, and the minutes and other events from the convention.

[**Access it on the National Grange website here.**](#)

Print copies will soon be available to order.

Join us on Zoom for this informational program

Solving the Puzzle of Long-Term Care and Estate Planning

with John T. Griffin, Esq.

April 6
8:30pm Eastern
Open to ALL Grange Members

presented by



Meeting ID: 853 2615 8138
Passcode: 864678
Or Dial In: (301) 715-8592





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National Grange Member Benefit

Exclusive Grange Worldwide Hotel and Car Rental Discounts Program –access a worldwide inventory of hotels and car rentals at discount rates. Just search your location, dates, and **SAVE!**

Click here to access:

- [Exclusive Grange Worldwide Car Rental Discount Program](#)
- [Exclusive Grange Worldwide Hotel Discounts](#)

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