



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

April 29, 2022

## **Fly-In Connects Grange members to Capitol Hill**

From Sunday, April 24 through Tuesday, April 26, about 25 Grange members from across the country (plus virtual attendees) came together at the National Grange Headquarters in Washington, DC for the annual Legislative Fly-In.

On Monday, participants received briefings and listened to presentations with discussions from issues partners, National Grange staff, and government officials. Each of these connected the work of the National Grange to rural America, including agriculture, healthcare, and broadband.

Presenters included Will McIntee, White House Associate Director of Public Engagement for Rural Communities, who updated on the administration's rural infrastructure plan; officials from the USDA, who gave extensive briefings on projects directly affecting rural America; Debbie Witchey, Executive Vice President and CEO, Healthcare Leadership Council; Mike Saperstein, General Counsel and Head of Government Affairs, Lumos Fiber; Brittany Jablonsky, Vice President of Public Policy and Stakeholder Relations, Farm Credit Council; and Jeff Winton, Founder and Chairman, Rural Minds.

View the presentations from speakers here: <https://www.nationalgrange.org/national-grange-legislative-fly-in-2022/>

On Tuesday, many participants were able to connect directly with their congressional representatives on Capitol Hill. This direct engagement with politicians is one of the strongest assets that Grange members should be taking advantage of.

Tuesday evening, the National Grange presented the 2022 Champions of Rural America Awards. At a reception hosted by Grange Advocacy, National Grange President Betsy Huber

presented U.S. Representative Dan Newhouse (WA-4), Sarah Wyant (founder, Agri-Pulse Communications), and Nona Bear (patient rights and healthcare reform advocate) with their awards. Senator Joe Manchin (WV) was unable to attend the reception, but will receive his award at a later date.

"Our recipients are expected to show a clear understanding of the importance of



**2022 National Grange Champions of Rural America**  
*U.S. Representative Dan Newhouse (WA-4), Sara Wyant (Agri-Pulse Communications), and Nona Bear (patient rights advocate) pose with National Grange President Betsy Huber*

agriculture in our economy and as part of our national security; they fight to ensure equitable access for rural Americans in relation to business, healthcare, educational and other opportunities; they place a value on doing the right thing and serve the public above any political party, and they consistently work across the aisle, placing an emphasis on bipartisanship in their legislative work or advocacy,” National Grange President Betsy Huber said. “But also, we expect that each recipient shows perseverance in the fight for rural Americans and embody our core values of faith, hope, charity and fidelity and live by our motto: in essentials, unity; in nonessentials liberty; in all things, charity.”

Sara Wyant and Nona Bear also received National Grange Community Service Director Pins for their exceptional work in reaching into communities for the betterment of all who live there.

## **Keep “Grange Month” Going**

Throughout Grange Month, it has been incredible to see Open Houses, Grange Month events, special presentations and more in Granges nationwide. Thank you to everyone who has tuned in to our special Grange Month Zoom events (view them all here), and who have used the energy and excitement of the month to try new things and invite people into their Halls.

Now, let’s keep the “Grange Month energy” going! As Granges continue to reopen and restart programming as the pandemic wanes, it is imperative to see the excitement for Grange and our connection to rural America growing.

YOU are the connectors and the energizers of the Grange throughout the country. YOU are the spirit of the Grange, and the movers and shakers – the ones who get things done! Let’s keep encouraging our members (and future members!) to become stakeholders in your community, to grow the Grange – not just in membership but in influence and recognition.



## **Applications open for 2022 Communication Fellows**

We invite you to apply to be part of the 2022 class of Communication Fellows at the 156th Annual National Grange Convention in Sparks, Nevada. This opportunity is made possible thanks to generous funders, but there are VERY limited spots available. Those who become Fellows are expected to make time for at least three hour-long



orientation/training teleconferences that will be held at least once a month starting in August and running through October, as well as a few brief assignments or projects prior to the start of the National Convention.

Throughout the program, participants receive an 8-night stay at the convention hotel, free registration, and most meals for the duration of the program. Participants are only responsible for the cost of travel and a few meals. Fellows are encouraged to bring a small amount of money for snacks, personal items or souvenirs they wish to purchase during their time at the convention. If Fellows arrive prior to the start of the

program housing date or stay after the end of the program housing date, they are also responsible for any lodging cost with the hotel. **FELLOWS MUST ARRIVE AT THE HOTEL IN SPARKS BY NO LATER THAN 10am on Saturday, November 12**, and can leave any time after the close of the Celebration Banquet on Saturday, November 19 (10 p.m.) [it is recommended you plan to depart on Sunday, Nov. 20].

Fellows will hear and learn from the National President, National Grange Staff and Officers, former Communications Fellows, other communications professionals, and more. Fellows will produce content for the daily convention newsletter Patrons Chain, interviews and content for our social media channels, stories/elements for Good Day! magazine, live stream events - and much more. This is hands-on training with support from many of the previous Fellows who have participated in the program since 2012. Former Fellows now hold many significant offices and jobs in their State and National Grange and often credit the program with providing them insight into the differences across State Granges and the opportunities and challenges to the organization, as well as great motivation for being part of our next 155+ years of service.

[The application is available here.](#) Completed applications including nomination letters must be received by the start of business on July 8, 2022.



A graphic with a blue background featuring a mountain range. At the top, the text "Save the Date" is written in a large, bold, white font. Below this, the text "Regional Leaders Conferences will be here soon!" is written in a smaller, white font. The graphic is divided into four sections, each representing a different region: "Great Plains" (June 10-12, Manhattan, Kansas), "Midwest" (June 24-26, Muscatine, Iowa), "Eastern" (June 17-19, Washington, DC), and "Western" (August 5-7, Eugene, Oregon). At the bottom, the text "For Grange members of all ages" is written in a white font. Below this, the text "Registration information for all conferences will be available on the National Grange website" is written in a smaller, white font. In the bottom right corner, there is a small logo for the National Grange, which features a circular design with a grange emblem in the center.

Registration information for conferences is [available on the National Grange website.](#)



**The next issue of A Quarter's Worth should be available in the next few weeks!**

Are you looking to stay connected, receive ideas for Grange programming, and learn what's happening with the National Grange Lecturer's department?

Sign up here to receive the next issue: <https://form.jotform.com/220314368209047>

Previous issues of A Quarter's Worth can be found here:

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/a-quarters-worth-newsletter/>

**The Submission Deadline for**

*Good* **Day!**<sup>TM</sup>

and

 *a quarter's worth*

**is May 1st**

Please email submissions for *Good Day!* to Phil: [pvonada@nationalgrange.org](mailto:pvonada@nationalgrange.org),  
and for *A Quarter's Worth* to Ann: [lecturer@nationalgrange.org](mailto:lecturer@nationalgrange.org).





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### SPRING EDITION OF GOOD DAY!™

Dive into the agritourism industry, encouraging rural and urban Americans to reconnect with "the country."

From wineries to pumpkin patches, agritourism is booming! Plenty of articles on the state of rural America, plus the incredible egg is on display as a versatile star ingredient - more than just breakfast!

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

**\$5.00 PER ISSUE**  
(plus shipping)  
or subscribe at [nationalgrange.org/goodday](http://nationalgrange.org/goodday)

**Grange Supply Store Note:** Effective May 1, any Grange Supply Store "rush" orders that require expedited arrival (7 days or fewer from time of order) will have a \$25.00 expedition fee added to the order, in addition to the shipping fee. This includes any seals, certificates, and membership recognition applications.

### National Grange Member Benefit – Start Hearing

### **American Hearing Benefits is now Start Hearing!**

Helping you find the best solution for your hearing needs and lifestyle – at the best value.

# START HEARING

Grange Members and their families receive:

- Discounts up to 48% on today's latest technology, including hearing aids and tinnitus options
- FREE annual hearing consultations
- Access to a nationwide network of 3,000+ hearing professionals
- Three-year supply of FREE batteries (40 cells per hearing aid purchased per year)
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With **Start Hearing**, their Hearing Care Advisors are with you each step of the way. To find out more and to schedule your hearing consultation, please call 888-461-3209 or visit [www.starhearing.com/partners/grange](http://www.starhearing.com/partners/grange).



## GRANGE JEWELRY



Grange Jewelry is now in stock at the Grange Store. Pins include years of service and member recognition pins from 5-80 years, past officer pins, degree recognition pins, and much more!

*Some jewelry is now on clearance!*

**Prices vary**

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

[www.grangestore.com](http://www.grangestore.com)

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