



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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## **Remember your Youth going back to school**

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

I can't believe it's already back-to-school time in many areas of the country. It seems summer just began a week or two ago, and now it's almost over!

As our youth members go off to college, for the first time or returning, make plans now to remember them throughout the year with cards or gift boxes (cookies or any food is always good!) It doesn't need to be anything big; just a reminder that your Grange is thinking about them as they are away from home. This could make the difference of whether you retain them as members or lose them as they grow to adulthood and begin their careers.

Alternatively, look for Grange members from other areas who may be attending college near your Grange. You can adopt them during the school year and keep them involved in the organization. What college student wouldn't enjoy a good Grange covered-dish dinner when they're far from home? Grangers everywhere are family, so a Grange event can help with those homesick feelings at the beginning of the year or anytime.

Remember, membership is about keeping those members we have as well as attracting new ones. Including those students' friends is a great idea too. They may even join to become part of the family!

## **The challenge of the Perfect Square**

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



The final regional conference for the year wrapped up this past weekend in Oregon where the National Grange Youth Team presented their workshop entitled "The Perfect Square". What many probably thought was *just* a team-building activity (which it was to an extent), it was so much more if you truly took in what was happening. In each stage of the activity, everyone was challenged to find, create, and execute effective communication when faced with obstacles.

In the first stage of the activity, the youth team spilt everyone up into groups around a rope and gave each person a blindfold. Everyone could talk to get themselves into the perfect square around the rope -- while blindfolded. It was truly the blind leading the blind; everyone pitching in to get the job done. This method worked, but it wasn't the most effective. Many sides had slack in the line, weren't perfectly even, and had several flaws, but the job was done.

In the second stage, half of the group could remove their blindfolds. The catch was that if you could see, you couldn't talk, and vice-versa. It again was a struggle like in stage one where

there wasn't a clear path of where to go, but there were more people who could help lead and provide direction.

In the third stage, one clear leader was chosen, and they were able to take a step back from the square while the rest of the group was blindfolded again. The group put their trust in the leader to get them to where they needed to be to build "the perfect square". The leaders gave clear instructions and directed each person to where they needed to be in the square.

Oftentimes, we are faced with situations such as each of the stages of this activity in our Grange meetings. We have stage one, where everyone is just trying to pitch in and help but it can often lead to chaos, and it is the most ineffective way to provide communication when a job needs to get done. Stage two has its benefits: it was faster because some were able to talk, but half couldn't, which still led to communication deficits. It provided opportunities for some to become leaders and help their group. Stage three was the "easiest" because there was a clear leader: someone who was able to see the big picture and guide their group to success.

Good leaders should have the ability to see the bigger picture and help by guiding others with effective communication when sometimes we aren't able to see what's going on for ourselves. While everyone typically wants to be seen as a leader, it is also equally important in terms of leadership to also be a follower. A follower is willing to listen to the advice of a leader, ask questions/for clarification, and is willing to do and try. Whether a leader or a follower, your role is important and necessary to get things done.

## **Register for the 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention – one month until the early bird deadline!**

By [Samantha Wilkins](#), National Grange Operations Coordinator



The Western Host region is excited to invite Grangers and friends from across the country to the Silver State! We are just a few months away from the opening of the 156th Annual National Grange Convention, to be held in Reno-Sparks, Nevada from November 15 through 19, 2022.

This year, you can expect to see some new things happening around the convention. Participants in the Nevada Grange Youth Fair Program will have activities and interactive displays showcasing their projects completed in the youth fair program. Throughout each day of Convention, they will be presenting their projects and talking to attendees about the benefits of the program.

You can also expect to hear from some amazing guest speakers on topics such as mental health awareness and substance abuse. Attendees will also have the opportunity to receive certification in dispensing Narcan, a life-saving medication that can treat a narcotic overdose in an emergency situation.

You also do not want to miss out on the opportunity to get an 'experience pass.' This year instead of going off-site for a tour we are bringing a taste of the region to you. Members who register for an experience pass will have the opportunity to participate in two days full of hands-on activities from painting barn quilts, cultural dancing, mining, and much more.

Don't take too long to decide; catch the **early bird registration** and make plans to attend today by registering for the National Grange Convention at this link: [156th Annual National Grange Convention - The National Grange.](#)

**Early Bird Registration** - \$32 is open until 9/9/2022 (just one month away!)

**General Registration** - \$37 is open until 10/19/22

**Late Registration** - \$42 closes for meal options on 11/1/22

**Registration on Site** - will be available at the late registration cost, *however, you will not be able to obtain tickets to any meals*

## Western Region Poker Chip Fundraiser

With Nevada in mind, the Western Host Region is holding a “poker chip” fundraiser! With a limited number available (only 500!), you can take a chance by purchasing a chip, which will be used to draw for door prizes and other goodies during the convention. Whether or not you’re able to attend the convention, you could still be a winner!

Chips include the Grange emblem and the logo for the 156<sup>th</sup> National Grange Convention. They are \$5.00 for a random draw, or \$10 for your lucky number (if it’s available). Chip #1 will be auctioned off during the celebration banquet.

Support the Western Region today!



[Order your chips here](#)

## Register for Rural Minds / National Grange webinar



On September 13, join [Rural Minds](#) and the National Grange for the “Rural Suicide Awareness and Prevention” Webinar, which will include people from rural America sharing their experiences of being personally impacted by suicide; information to help prevent suicide; and free resources for rural mental health and suicide awareness & prevention.

This webinar will feature Monica Kramer McConkey, a Licensed Professional Counselor focused on increasing access to and removing the stigma attached to mental health services in rural underserved areas, and Nathan Lawson, an advocate for rural suicide prevention.

[Register Here.](#)

## National Grange President publishes op-ed

National Grange President Betsy Huber recently published an op-ed regarding the state of rural healthcare. Tied into the release of the National Grange/Morning Consult survey, President Huber calls for lawmakers to step up and begin acting on behalf of rural Americans.

In the editorial, she writes:

“Mental health care is a specific example of what treatments rural voters struggle to access. In fact, 59 percent of rural voters agree that the cost of treatment is an obstacle to seeking mental health care. Now that Americans are talking more and more about mental health, many are becoming less reluctant to seek help through local and national programs. While promising for our nation, rural America continues to experience major geographic disparities in mental health programs, so affordability and treatment accessibility issues only double down on slowing efforts to break stigmas and increase care delivery.

All these issues are compounded by the pandemic, which has left many rural voters with elevated health care instability. Three-in-four of those surveyed said the pandemic heightened the need for affordable and accessible mental health care and treatment, with half even indicating the pandemic has made them more worried about their family’s access to health care.

Instead of addressing these alarming issues, many lawmakers are either dragging their feet or promoting impractical policies that do nothing to address rural America’s core health care issues. It is no wonder that 87 percent of rural voters say elected officials are out of touch with what the public needs from their health care. Such tone-deafness to the unique health and socioeconomic challenges rural voters face could further exacerbate their trepidation in seeking care and managing health conditions, threatening the health of millions of already vulnerable patients across America.”

[Read the full op-ed here](#)



## What health care policies do rural voters support?



Require health insurance companies to be more transparent about medicine coverage & out-of-pocket costs for prescriptions.



Require health insurers and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to pass rebates and drug discounts to patients at the pharmacy counter.



Cap cost sharing, such as deductibles and coinsurance that patients pay out-of-pocket to get their medicines.



Ensure lower-income families, communities of color, & patients with chronic conditions not only have access to health care, but can afford it.

### Advocacy Playbook – The Inflation Reduction Act

by [Sean O'Neil](#), National Grange Legislative Assistant

#### The Issue:

In last month's edition of the Advocacy Playbook, we dug into the details of the process of budget reconciliation and the history of its use during this Congress. Since our last edition, Senate Democrats have rapidly introduced, amended, and passed another budget reconciliation bill dubbed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). At the time of writing this piece, the House of Representatives is poised to pass the bill and send it to be signed by President Biden soon, marking what is likely to be the last major bill for the current Democrat-controlled Congress before the forthcoming November midterm elections.

#### Overview:

The Inflation Reduction Act contains a few major revenue-raising and spending provisions which will affect all Americans as well as many specific provisions which will have an outsized impact on rural America. In terms of revenue-raising provisions, the bill contains two major components estimated collectively expected to raise around \$800 billion. The first major revenue-raising portion of the bill is a provision that would allow Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices, along with caps for out-of-pocket drug costs at \$2,000/year and a \$35/month cap on insulin for Medicare beneficiaries. Beyond changes to Medicare, the IRA also includes changes to the tax code including setting a 15% minimum tax on corporations earning over \$1 billion/year, a 1% excise tax on stock buybacks, and funding to increase Internal Revenue Service capacity in order to enforce existing tax laws. In terms of spending, the IRA allocates funding to three major areas: \$369 billion for a variety of energy and climate-related programs (primarily in the form of tax credits and incentives), \$64 billion to extend Affordable Care Act insurance premiums for three years, and an estimated remaining revenue of \$300 billion+ allocated to reducing the federal deficit.



### Rural Impact:

Beyond the broad provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act, many more specific provisions will have an outsized impact on rural America. The bill includes significant funding for USDA conservation programs, including an addition of \$8.45 billion to the popular and oversubscribed Environmental Quality Incentives Program, \$4.95 billion for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, \$3.25 billion for the Conservation Stewardship Program, and \$1.4 billion for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Further, the bill provides an additional \$1 billion for the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and restructures programs intended to assist minority farmers, which has been tied up in the court system to now provide \$3.1 billion in assistance to distressed borrowers of guaranteed farm loans and \$2.2 billion for farmers who had experienced discrimination in USDA loan programs.

Outside of agriculture, the IRA also allocates significant funds to rural development programs, including \$9.7 billion for rural electric cooperatives to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency programs, another \$1 billion in loans for rural renewable energy projects, \$2 billion for USDA's Rural Energy for America Program, \$500 million for biofuel infrastructure, \$5 billion for wildfire prevention and climate resiliency, and \$4 billion for drought-related infrastructure. Altogether, the Inflation Reduction Act will have a significant impact on America at large, with many provisions likely to show an outsized effect in rural America.



## Are you a *Grange in Action*?

Apply to be recognized as a Grange in Action  
for being active in your community and  
completing events or projects

Simple application of one letter-sized page with  
pictures and captions of at least 3, but no more than 6  
events or activities for your Grange.

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/grange-in-action/>

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:  
**SEPTEMBER 25**



# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

THIS MONTH ONLY:  
4TH TUESDAY  
ON ZOOM

AUGUST 23  
@ 8:30PM (ET)  
[bit.ly/mm1867](https://bit.ly/mm1867)  
Meeting ID: 525 965 930  
Passcode: 981892



**Note:** This month's Membership Matters will happen on the *4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday* (August 23<sup>rd</sup>) instead of the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday.

We will see you then!



## SUPPLY STORE

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

### PROMOTIONAL BUSINESS CARDS & STICKERS



**LIMITED EDITION!**

Perfect for fair and festival season - promotional materials for the National Grange!

**Business Cards** - with information about the National Grange and a QR code that directs to a "Thanks for Visiting Us" page on the National Grange website.  
**\$30 for 250 cards or \$50 for 500 cards**  
*plus shipping*

**Die-Cut Vinyl Stickers** - in two designs, celebrating the National Grange "Raised Right Here" theme.  
**\$15 for 50 stickers or \$25 for 100 stickers**  
*plus shipping*

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

**Special note:** These items were a one-time-only purchase celebrating the 2022/2023 theme of "Raised Right Here." Order your items today, as they are *limited edition* and will not be reordered once they are out of stock!

**Grange Supply Store Note:** 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.



## Grange Member Benefit – Member Options

### Grange members could save on auto insurance! Savings reported as high as \$810!\*

There are countless options for auto insurance. That's why Grange has chosen Member Options to help you find affordable insurance for your auto, home, pet and more.

No more doing all the research yourself. You can get multiple quotes from up to five top carriers in a matter of minutes. We also help make switching your carrier mid-policy simple and fast.



### Auto & Home Insurance and More

Save Money Now

Member Options

**Call Member Options at 833.378.8224 to get started today!**

Or go online at [www.member-options.com/grange](http://www.member-options.com/grange)

\*Based on 2020 and 2021 countrywide savings data provided by Farmers GroupSelect, Nationwide®, Progressive®, Safeco Insurance™, and Travelers from customers who switched. Potential savings of \$810 validated by a Safeco Insurance 2020 countrywide survey of participating new customers from 5/1/2020 to 7/31/2020 who switched to Safeco Insurance and saved. Savings may vary. Comparison does not apply in MA.

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The carriers referenced in this ad operate independently and are not responsible for each others' financial obligations.



## 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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