



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

September 23, 2022

In this Issue:

[Use social media to your advantage](#)

by Betsy Huber

[Endings and Beginnings](#) by Ann Bercher

[Register for 156th Annual Convention](#)

by Samantha Wilkins

[Rural Suicide Awareness and Prevention Webinar](#)

[Announcing the National Grange Youth Officer](#)

[Team and Horizon Leadership Class of 2022](#)

[Participants](#) by Mandy Bostwick

[National Grange Community Service Project](#)

[Western Region Poker Chip Fundraiser](#)

[Introducing Sunday Sharing Sessions](#)

[Are You a Grange In Action?](#)

[Grange Supply Store: Subordinate Manual](#)

[Grange Member Benefit: Start Hearing](#)

Use social media to your advantage

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

It has been wonderful to see all the Facebook posts recently of Granges doing all sorts of activities in their communities! Many Granges I have not seen before are now posting their projects and events. This not only advertises your activities but also encourages Grangers from across the country when they see the various things you are doing. They know they're not alone out there and may pick up some new ideas to try at their Granges. I know Facebook is not always a wonderful thing, but it can be so useful to us in these ways.

Musical programs at [Redwood Grange](#) (OR), flower bulb sales for [The Norwell Grange](#) (MA), many fairs involving booths, exhibits, food sales, contests, showing animals, etc.; dryland farming/gardening demonstrations, silent and live auctions, yard sales, craft shows, and of course the usual - Bingo and all types of dinners. I found all these and more just scrolling through my Facebook just now. It's a wealth of new ideas.

An unusual idea that is fantastic - [Rio Linda Grange](#) (CA) distributed pocket Constitutions to all the 5th graders in their community. And another - [Jonesboro Grange #357](#) (ME) has a pancake breakfast, offering selfies with the "Grange Cow" which is made of large round hay bales. There's also [Cider Day](#) coming up at [Willamette Grange](#) (OR). If you're looking for new ideas, you need to look no further than the [National Grange Community Service and Activities](#) Facebook page.

Endings and Beginnings

By [Ann Bercher](#), National Grange Lecturer



September is a strange month for me. It is a month of endings. The garden season is coming to a close, but that means there are a lot of tomatoes, peppers, squash and root veggies that need to be harvested and then processed for storage. Then, there's the garden clean-up that follows. It's the end of summer and the time of year when the parks and beaches begin to really empty out and you can easily find parking places again. It's the end of summer freedom for the kiddos and the mad rush to buy back-to-school clothes and school supplies. It is also the end of a fiscal year for my State Grange, and we madly try to complete our Community Service books and pull everything together for our State Session in October. These endings take a lot of time and effort.

September is also a time of beginnings and getting back together. The kiddos are back in school, and a new routine is created. Same with churches and their schedules. We are back together with our book groups and volunteer organizations and we look forward to getting back into a routine with our weekly and monthly meetings, some of which took a hiatus over the summer.

With all these endings and beginnings, I always try to create some kind of weekly schedule so I can organize my time more effectively. This is about as successful as writing New Year's resolutions and keeping them longer than a week. At the same time, even with my poor time management skills, I find myself excited to explore something new.

In the Grange this year, I am definitely doing something new by creating some new [National Lecturer's contests](#). I've started tracking my weather this month. I am also taking note of what worked in my garden this year and what didn't so that I can create a new garden plan for next year. At the same time, I have a LOT of Wonky Star quilt blocks that will need to be judged and displayed at our National Session. I am also looking for more entries for the Evening of Excellence! Bring on the talent people!

I am also looking for some new community service projects for myself and my local Grange. There are so many opportunities! I am particularly interested in helping with [RALI MN](#) and [Rural Minds](#). The pandemic was hard on so many people. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 91,799 reported deaths by drug overdose in 2020. According to the United Health Foundation, there were nearly [46,000](#) deaths by suicide in 2020, making it the 12th-leading cause of death in the United States. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), that same year, [12.2 million](#) adults seriously thought about suicide, 3.2 million made a plan, and 1.2 million attempted suicide in the past year. Local organizations are in desperate need of volunteers to help in many ways. Our Granges have been distributing RALI drug disposal kits at our events and I am looking forward to the trainings that will be forthcoming through Rural Minds.

I am fortunate to be healthy and in a community of concerned and willing partners. Together we can ensure more healthy beginnings for those that are struggling with potentially negative endings.

Register for the 156th Annual Convention

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 **TWO 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 the 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 the **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.

Make plans to attend today by registering for the National Grange Convention at this link: [156th Annual National Grange Convention - The National Grange](#).

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*

Rural Suicide Awareness and Prevention Webinar



Did you miss the Rural Suicide Awareness and Prevention webinar presented by [Rural Minds](#) and the National Grange on September 13th?

The webinar is now available to view online.

Hear from Nathan Lawson, Kentucky farmer and rural suicide advocate, and Monica Kramer McConkey, Minnesota agricultural/rural mental health counselor, plus Rural Minds Founder and Chairman Jeff Winton, and more.

[Watch on YouTube here.](#)

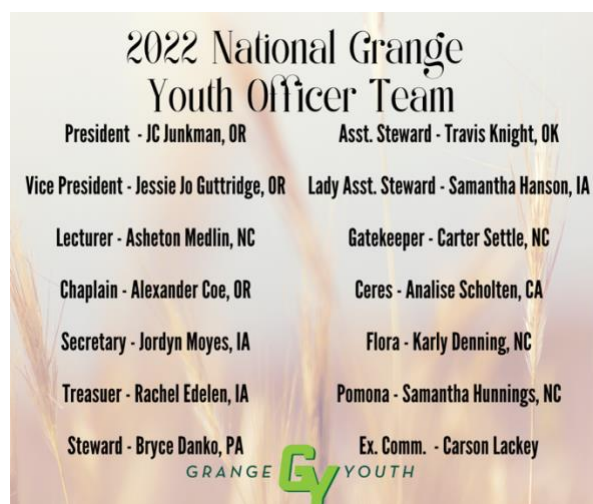
Announcing the National Grange Youth Officer Team and Horizon Leadership Class of 2022 Participants

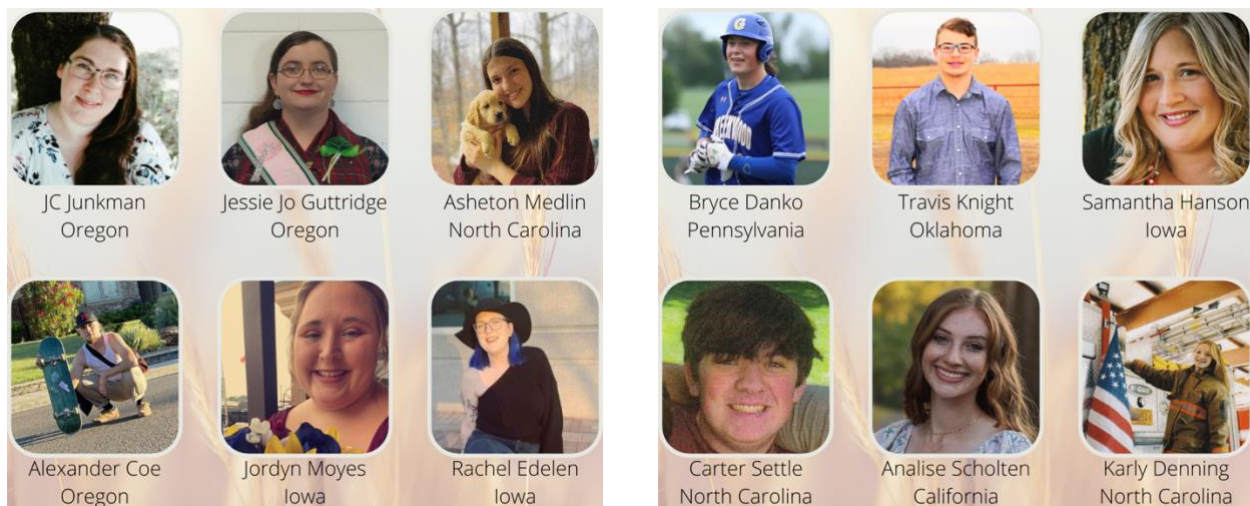
By [Mandy Bostwick](#), National Grange Youth and Young Adults Leadership Development Director

The National Grange Youth Officer team will participate in programming during National Grange Session in November, and open the Friday morning business meeting.

The Horizon Leadership Class of 2022 will be competing for the National Grange Outstanding Young Patron and Ambassador.

Congratulations to these participants from around the country, representing National Grange Youth!





Not pictured: Samantha Hunnings, Carson Lackey

National Grange Community Service Project

This year's National Grange Convention Community Service project is supporting the [Eddy House](#). The mission of the Eddy House is to work with homeless and at-risk youth to develop the life and job skills necessary for sustainable independence. There are several ways that you can help and support this project.

1. **Monetary donations:** Checks can be brought to the convention and given to either Samantha Wilkins (National Grange Operations Coordinator) or to the Host Region office. Checks should be made payable to **Eddy House**.
2. **Item donations:** Donations can include nonperishable food items and items such as laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning products, and toiletry items.
3. **Amazon Wishlist:** You may also choose to provide items through their Amazon Wishlist: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1X7YACS0553A6?ref=wl_share
4. **Handmade items:** They are also looking for pillowcase drawstring bags, these can be handmade and delivered to the National Grange Convention.



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 156th 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](#)

ACCEPTING BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS



The **Grange Foundation** will accept nominations for members of the Board of Directors from September 2nd through October 15th.

Submit names and bios to ngfb@grange.org or betsy@nationalgrange.org, or by mail to the National Grange office.

Election will occur at the National Grange Session on November 14.

Introducing: Sunday Sharing Sessions

Join us next Sunday (October 2nd) for our first Sunday Sharing Session with National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios!

This will be an open forum where members can come on and share ideas or ask questions of the group on a specific topic. This first sharing session will focus on **Food for an Army: Ideas for big fundraising dinners.**

Grangers from across the country are invited to come to share their successes (and maybe their failures) on the topic, or to learn from other Granges for YOUR future success!

Join at bit.ly/grangesharing on October 2nd at 7:30pm Eastern/4:30pm Pacific.

Sunday Sharing Sessions



Join an open forum of Grangers across the country, sharing tips and tricks for what worked for them.

October Topic

Food for an Army:

Ideas for big fundraising dinners

October 2 at 7:30pm Eastern

Connect via Zoom:

bit.ly/grangesharing



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

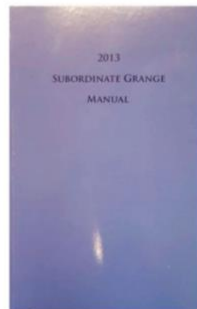


ORDER THE LATEST EDITION OF THE GRANGE SUBORDINATE MANUAL TODAY!

Grange Subordinate Manual (soft covered) includes the
Alternative Opening/Closing, Welcoming Ceremony, and
Installation Ceremony. 2013 Edition with all updates made
by delegate action through 2019 included.

\$10 plus shipping

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



Grange Supply Store Note:

Any Grange Supply Store "rush" orders that require expedited arrival (7 days or fewer from the 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. Checks must be made out for the correct amount including shipping and expediting fees
*Any orders placed by phone (202-628-3507 x109) and any rush orders must pay with a credit card. **No checks/invoicing will be accepted for rush orders/***

Grange Member Benefit: Start Hearing



Helping you find the best solution for your hearing needs and lifestyle – at the best value. 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)
- One year of free office visits (limit of six)
- 60-day risk-free trial period
- FREE Deluxe Warranty Plan, including loss and damage
- Financing plans available (subject to credit approval)

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.



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 or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

www.grangestore.com

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

Convention Registrations, Leasing Inquiries, Junior Department Samantha Wilkins, samantha@nationalgrange.org or (210) 838-7892
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 Store, Grange Programs and Member Benefits Loretta Washington, National HQ, ext. 109 or email LWashington@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 sonell@nationalgrange.org

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

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