



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

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Farm Aid 2022

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

[Farm Aid 2022](#) turned out to be a beautiful day, with perfect weather, a beautiful park venue, and great North Carolina Grangers to assist with our Grange booths.

Our exhibit booth concerned the [food waste problem](#). Forty percent of food produced in the U.S. is thrown away, mostly in landfills where it produces methane gas which is a greenhouse gas. We gave visitors several statements (such as “Ten percent of food is wasted”) and asked them to tell us if they thought the statistic was higher or lower than we stated. This was a way to educate them on the extent of the problem. Then we asked what type of food they waste the most in their homes. When they chose a food group, we suggested different ways they could use those foods and not throw them out.

Of course, after these conversations, we talked about the Grange, where they live and if we have local Granges in their area. We gathered over 100 contacts of people who were interested in learning more. It was great to have North Carolina State Grange President Jimmy Gentry, National Youth Ambassador Cole Settle and National Junior Ambassadors Cade Howerton and Ryleigh Hartsell, their parents, and several other North Carolina (and Iowa!) members there to help us.

Our second responsibility at Farm Aid is to staff the Youth Market. Area farmers donate produce that the youth sell during the day to concertgoers. They were quite busy selling apples, cider, pecans, okra, pears, and other products in conjunction with two high school FFA chapters. I know they all worked hard but enjoyed it too.



Although Farm Aid definitely promotes the organic system of farming, it's important for Grange to be there. This is the demographic we should be attracting—small farmers or backyard gardeners who need advice from seasoned farmer-Grange members. Grange supports all types of agriculture, and we need to enlist all to join us because we need all types of farmers to feed us.

Importance of Leadership in Grange Youth

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



Leadership. We tend to hear that word and we just think of it as someone who is in charge of something. But leadership is so much more than just being in charge. The Grange has valued the importance of having young members since its inception, but currently, we tend to ignore the leadership qualities that our youth of today possess, or even give them the opportunity to attend the National Grange Convention and see what it is about.

Youth organizations such as FFA, FCCLA, 4-H, etc. provide opportunities for their members to lead a meeting, speak in public, and generally comport themselves in a public setting. Sure, we have opportunities in our State and community Granges when the youth conduct the meeting, but how often do we truly give those youth a role to start their leadership journey?

In order to give more youth across the country a meaningful leadership role at a National level - this year's National Grange Youth Officer team is the pilot group for what is to come in the future years. In the [2023 Youth Handbook](#), you will notice that the National Grange Youth Officer Team has been renamed the National Grange Youth Officer Council. The term "council" has been chosen because councils are often referred to as a group of people who come together to consult and deliberate. This group of Youth will still uphold the tradition of opening the Grange on Friday morning during National Session, but they will also now serve throughout the year (October through September) to provide valuable input on current and future programming, fundraising, youth events at National Convention, regional conferences, and other youth/young adult focused events.

As members of the Youth Officer Council (which will be led by the National Grange Youth Leadership Team), they will attend virtual meetings throughout the year to give the youth of our Order a voice for what types of things they find relevant and important to help continue to build our programming.

If you have noticed, we are short a few Youth Officers this year. I don't have a definitive answer as to why our numbers are down; I'm sure there are a multitude of factors contributing – cost, school obligations, location, etc., but we - as adults - need to make sure we are giving and encouraging our youth the opportunities to lead this organization into the future and helping them get there.

Looking towards next year, I encourage all Youth and Young Adults to reach out to your State Grange Youth Directors to see how **you** can get involved and be a part of the National Grange Youth Officer Council.

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.

October Grange Heirloom



WHILE IN FAITH
AND IN HOPE THIS
WORLD MAY
DISAGREE, ALL
MANKIND IS
CONCERNED IN
CHARITY.

Third Degree, Flare



[Access this month's Heirloom Program materials here.](#)

#GrangeHeirloom

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 **ONE MONTH 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*

YOU'RE INVITED
156TH NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION
JUNIOR ACTIVITIES DAY
Who: Every Junior Grange Member
When: Friday November 18
Time: 10 AM-4PM
Cost: \$20-Lunch Included
register today at www.nationalgrange.org
Activities throughout the day will focus on the four focal points of the 2023 Junior Grange program



- Advocacy
- Agricultural Awareness
- Deaf Activities
- Community Service

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](#)

Communications Department Zoom-torial & Membership Matters



On September 20, the Communications Department held a Zoom-torial on “How to Create a Facebook Page,” which included Facebook Events and a quick primer on Canva. This was immediately followed by the Membership Matters about using your Facebook and social media to leverage your events.

[View the whole Zoom event on YouTube now.](#)

California State Grange welcomes new President

Joseph Stefenoni was elected the 36th President of the California State Grange at the organization’s recent 147th annual convention. He had previously served as Vice President and member of the Board of Directors from 2020 to 2022. Stefenoni was born and raised in Sonoma County, California, and comes from a multi-generational Grange family. He has been active in the organization since age 5 when he was in the Junior Grange.

Stefenoni grew up in agriculture spending days on his family's farm, leading to his involvement in 4-H & FFA. He began a 4-H project raising purebred Southdown & Shropshire sheep which eventually turned into a family business providing locally raised, fresh lamb, direct to consumers.

Joseph is a graduate of Oklahoma State with a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in agricultural economics. "I am excited about the opportunity to lead the California State Grange, take on our legislative advocacy in Sacramento, and build our membership as we enter into our 150th year. I look forward to working with Granges across California to find ways of creating growth and I intend to bring new approaches to reaching out to those who have not yet become Grange members," Stefenoni said.

Stefenoni has served in numerous leadership positions in the Grange and is currently the President of Bennett Valley Grange #16 in Santa Rosa, California. From 2015 to 2016, and again from 2018 to 2020, Joseph worked as the Director of Membership & Leadership Development for the National Grange where he was responsible for developing programs to promote membership, train Grange leaders and manage the activities of Community Granges without a State Grange.

Joseph lives in Petaluma, CA with his wife Hannah.





SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org



Just a quick note to let you know
we miss you.

may our friendship be as firm as the stone itself.

AGATE NOTECARDS

Tell a member you miss seeing them by using these simple greeting cards with an agate design on the front and "We miss you." inside.

Send cards from you or your Grange to encourage them to reconnect.

NEW PRICE!
50% off sale!

Single pack of 10 cards was \$5 - NOW \$2.50
5 pack of cards (50 total) was \$15 - NOW \$7.50 plus shipping

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

Grange Supply Store Note:

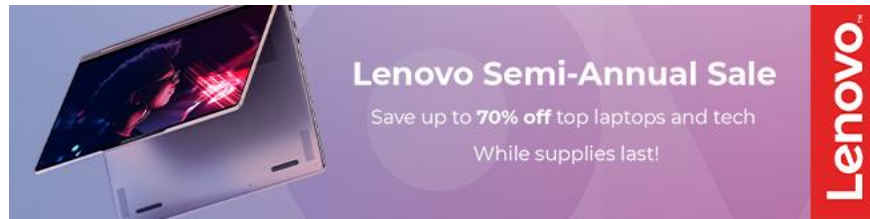
Any Grange Supply Store "rush" orders that require expedited arrival (7 days or fewer from the time of order) will have a \$25.00 expedition fee added to the order, in addition to the shipping fee. This includes any seals, certificates, and membership recognition. Checks must be made out for the correct amount including shipping and expediting fee.

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: Lenovo

Semi Annual Sale is here! Up to 70% off PCs & more



Shop Deals: www.lenovo.com/us/en/lsp

Call: 1-800-426-7235- (M-F: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. ET, Sat: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET)

Shop, save, and earn with MyLenovo Rewards!

Today's technology looks different because it is different. Lenovo provides insights on the latest technology by providing you with more support, more efficiency, and more flexibility. That's where the Lenovo Savings Program comes in. You'll not only receive monthly member-only deals, but gain access to the Lenovo web store, where you can shop versatile and functional tech designed to fit all of your needs.

Members receive personalized product suggestions and solutions, warranty service upgrades, and business financing. Plus, signing up for MyLenovo Rewards, allows you to earn rewards for every purchase you make.

Be sure to check the website often – special offers change frequently.

SUPPLY STORE

The logo for the Grange Supply Store, featuring a stylized sunburst or flower design inside a hexagonal frame with the word 'GRANGE' below it.

GRANGE JEWELRY

Four circular images showcasing different Grange jewelry items: a '5 YEARS' pin, a '15 YEARS' pin, a pin with the letters 'P' and 'H' inside a shield, and a star-shaped pin with a central emblem.

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

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