



# The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

December 2, 2022

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## Happy Birthday National Grange! Happy Birthday Grangers!

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

155 years is certainly something worth celebrating. What a legacy we have from all our forefathers and mothers who established this wonderful organization and expanded and made it grow. We also have more to celebrate-- a net gain in fraternal membership for the first time in many years.

We have a lot to be proud of too—in spite of the pandemic, our Community Granges continued working to help their communities and continued to meet and conduct their business virtually.

A number of other organizations were unable to survive, but we even thrived and grew! As we celebrate, let us re-commit ourselves to the Grange - to our Community Grange, our Pomona, our State Grange, and the National Grange. We know we have the best organization there is, so we must share it with those who are looking for new meaning in their lives today. Continue your great work in your communities and let them know we are alive and well, we are here to help. Happy birthday!



**TONIGHT!** Join the celebration live on Facebook at 8:00 pm Eastern time (5:00 Pacific). We are celebrating the National Grange's 155<sup>th</sup> Birthday, a net gain in fraternal membership for the first time in over 50 years, and a renewed enthusiasm for the work of the Grange!

## Elevate Your Elevator Pitch

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



in Wichita last year!)

The goals of your elevator pitch should be to (a) to ignite and encourage further conversation about the aims and mission of the Grange and *your* Grange in particular, and (b) to let the other person do some research on their own.

### ***But what does your elevator pitch sound like?***

Does it start with “Well, in 1867, Oliver Hudson Kelley was sent to the south...”? Or maybe “The Grange is a farmer’s organization...”?

***A lot has changed since then!*** While we hold onto our roots as an agricultural organization, we are also known as an advocacy and community service organization for all of rural America.

Let’s start with the [Grange’s mission statement](#): **The Grange strengthens individuals, families and communities through grassroots action, service, education, advocacy and agriculture awareness.**

And then tailor it for your own Grange - be it State, Pomona, or Local.

I like to note that we are the nation’s oldest agricultural fraternal organization. My pitch sounds something like this: “The Grange is America’s oldest and leading agricultural and rural service organization, focused on supporting and advocating for rural America in nearly 1,500 communities nationwide. At Penns Valley Grange, we believe in supporting our community through direct action and service that builds up families.”

Your elevator pitch shouldn’t be a membership pitch. There’s no “... and here’s why you should join” at the end, but rather the pitch is the seed that will hopefully take root and grow - through a partnership or an eventual membership.

I encourage Granges to take time to work with one another to build their elevator pitches - and I look forward to hearing them!

**RAISED  
RIGHT  
HERE™**

A fundraiser for the National Grange

Celebrating our 2022-2023  
National Grange theme

November 17 - December 8 only!

Multiple color and style options

Short Sleeve - \$20\*  
(Gold, Black, Tie-Dye, Heather Blue)

Hoodie - \$40\*  
(Navy)

Womens' V-Neck - \$20\*  
(Royal)



[bit.ly/raisedrightthereshirt](https://bit.ly/raisedrightthereshirt)

\*plus applicable taxes and shipping

A new round of “**Raised Right Here**” shirts are available in this fundraiser, which closes **NEXT THURSDAY!** Short sleeve shirts in gold, black, tie-dye navy, or heather blue. Women’s V-neck shirt in heather blue, or a hoodie in navy. [Support the National Grange through this fundraiser.](#)



## December Heirloom



Use the Heirloom Program to encourage your Grange members (and friends who aren't Grange members) to continue learning about the core tenets of the Grange, and what we stand for. These “digestible” bits of Grange ritual help our members grow in the Grange.

[Check out December's Heirloom Program materials here.](#)

# PEACE OF MIND IS THE BEST GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

## AN UPDATED COVID-19 VACCINE IS NOW AVAILABLE AND FREE TO YOU

Ask your pharmacist or health care provider.

Learn more at [CovidVaccineProject.org/UpdatedVX](https://CovidVaccineProject.org/UpdatedVX)

COVID-19 VACCINE  
EDUCATION and  
EQUITY PROJECT



American  
Lung  
Association.



## Familiar Face Takes on New Role



Since 2016, Samantha Wilkins has been known as the National Junior Grange Director. Now, she's taking on a dual role as the National Junior Grange Director and Youth & Young Adults Director.

Wilkins is originally from San Antonio, Texas, but has called Pennsylvania home for the past three years. However, she's about to head back to Texas again to be closer to family. She is a member of Alamo Grange #1446 (TX) and Valley Grange #1360 (PA).

"Leading the National Junior Grange has been an incredible joy," Wilkins says, "I love working with young Grangers around the country, and seeing them grow. Now, I'll have the chance to continue following their journey into being full-fledged Grange members, too."

Wilkins understands that this isn't a one-woman job, "I plan to work closely with Nettie Hartley, Junior Ambassador, and Gail Switzer and Autumn Whitaker, Outstanding Young Patrons, throughout the year, as well as building a committee of Junior and Youth leaders from around the country."

Mandy Bostwick, who has been the Youth & Young Adults Director since 2018, says "I am happy to see Samantha step into this position. Although we have always worked closely with one another, she has the enthusiasm and the support to bring the departments even closer together." Although Bostwick will no longer be working for the National Grange, she says she won't be a stranger, "I'm going to support Samantha however I can, and I look forward to being back at National events with the youth and young adults of Kansas and from around the country."

"I have to thank Mandy for everything she has done for the Youth & Young Adults Department," Wilkins said. "She has built a tremendously strong department and ignited an excitement and vigor among Grange Youth from coast-to-coast."

Wilkins begins acting in her new role immediately. She can be contacted at [samantha@nationalgrange.org](mailto:samantha@nationalgrange.org).

# Photo Contest Winner Card Set

\$20 per pack of 12 cards  
*plus shipping*

Contact Ann Bercher at  
[lecturer@nationalgrange.org](mailto:lecturer@nationalgrange.org)

Benefits the Lecturer's Fund  
at the Grange Foundation

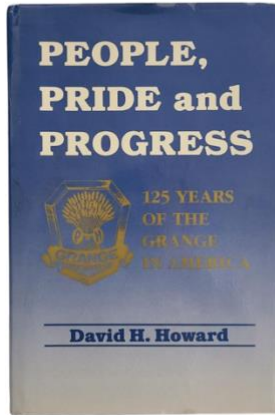
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## SUPPLY STORE

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



### PEOPLE, PRIDE AND PROGRESS

**125 Years of Grange in America**  
by David H. Howard

Celebrate our 155th Birthday by  
taking a look back at our history!  
335 Pages, pub. 1992

**WAS: \$12**

**SALE PRICE: \$6 plus shipping**

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 x109.

### Grange Store Holiday Schedule

*Orders must be submitted  
by December 19<sup>th</sup> to be  
processed before the  
holiday. Any orders  
received on or after Dec  
20<sup>th</sup> will be processed  
after January 3, 2023.*

### Grange Member Benefit: MemberDeals



## MemberDeals

EXCLUSIVE MEMBER ONLY OFFERS

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We are excited to announce our new partnership with **MemberDeals**! Now you'll have access to exclusive savings on theme parks, hotels, attractions, movie tickets, tours, shows, & more. Be sure to visit often, as new products and discounts are constantly being added! Scan to access savings to:

- Disney World
- Universal Orlando Resorts
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- Water parks
- Hotels
- Shows & Events
- Shopping Deals
- *And more!*



Access Savings Here: <https://memberdeals.com/nationalgrange/?login=1>



## 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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