



PATRONS CHAIN

The Official Newsletter of the National Grange

Grange Voices

Thursday's

Schedule:

2:00 p.m. - "Fighting Fire with Fire" with Brendan Armstrong & Johnny Pomeroy
3:00 p.m. - "Raising Pheasants" with Talon Johnson
3:30 p.m. - "The First Four Degrees" with Suzanne Davis
4:00 p.m. - "The Benefits of Networking" with Suzanne Davis

Livestream

Thursday's

Schedule:

9:30 a.m. - Legislative Workshop with Sean O'Neil
10:20 a.m. - Membership Workshop with Amanda Brozana-Rios
11:10 a.m. - Communications Workshop, "Becoming a Social Media Animal" with Dr. Todd Felts, University of Nevada, Reno
2:00 p.m. - Presentation by Rural Minds with Jeff Winton, Founder & CEO
2:45 p.m. - Rural Minds workshop

Follow the Fellows on social media, and stay up to date with the happenings at Session.

Instagram:

n.grange_communication_fellows OR nationalgrangeofficial

Facebook:

National Grange

Twitter:

NationalGrange



11 Quilts of Valor presented to veterans

BY BETH SOUTHWORTH
Communication Fellow

Eleven veterans were awarded Quilts of Valor on Wednesday at the 156th National Convention in Sparks, Nevada. These members included Grange members and veterans from the local area.

A medley of Armed Forces anthems preceded the awards, where servicemembers were encouraged to stand when their anthem was played.

Veterans were escorted by Junior and Youth Grange members: Jacob Roquet, Ryleigh Hartsell, Cade Howerton, Asheton Medlin, Jessie Jo Guttridge, Baylor Howerton, Kate Howerton, Samantha Hunnings, Lukas Freeman, Elijah "Eli" Wright, and Travis Knight.

Chris Hamp, National Grange Vice

President introduced the Quilts of Valor program to the Grange. A friend had told her about the program and suggested she nominate her father, a Vietnam veteran, to receive a quilt. "I was impressed by the love and care that they showed in presenting my dad with his quilt of valor," said Hamp.

Hamp's father received his quilt a week before she was elected National Grange Lecturer. Thinking about projects to initiate with Grange, she selected Quilts of Valor. Since that time, the National Grange has awarded 56 quilts at conventions in Washington, Vermont, Minnesota, and Kansas. Until 2021, the quilts were solely awarded to Grange members, but in 2021 the ceremony included mem-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

University Dean speaks at agriculture luncheon

BY CAROLYNN CHAMLEE
Communication Fellow

As a traveler on Nevada Highways 95-A, 80, and 50, you will see lush fields overflowing in the summertime; fields of grass hay, green bushy fields of alfalfa with delicate purple flowers, stalks of corn reaching the sky, and row after row of onions. Nestled in the surrounding areas are fields of livestock. From large-scale farms to family or youth-grown animals, there is a fair share of agriculture in the deserts of Nevada.

However, water plays a critical role in our agriculture. When there is a heavy snow year in the Sierra Mountains, farmers are able to grow more with their allocated water rights. When we get a lean year, like in 2021, water rights can shrink drastically and drain reservoirs. This past summer, Lovelock Valley received 0% of its water allocation through

rain or snow. This is only the third time in the history of the Humboldt River that this has occurred, according to High Desert Grange #22 (NV) President Carl Clinger. Clinger stated that the river did not get within 150 miles of the valley. Food grows where water flows.

During Wednesday's Salute to Agriculture Luncheon, Dr. William Payne, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources at the University of Nevada, Reno extended a warm welcome to the Grangers attending the 156th National Grange Convention.

Dr. Payne recently moved from Ethiopia where he collaborated with International Centers for Agriculture Research. The \$150 million research was aimed at improving food security and livelihoods in the dry ar-

eas of the world.

Dr. Payne, originally from Indiana, has been able to work in many dry environments. He shared that Nevada is the driest state in the United States, and because of these factors farming and ranching in Nevada are a challenge, with major commodities including beef cattle, dairy, eggs, hay, onions, turkeys, sheep, garlic, and goats, as he stated later.

In the driest states, it takes a lot more land to raise these animals. Dr. Payne's ranch near Austin, Nevada has 400 cattle on about 100, 000 acres required to support them on a grazing permit from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Nevada is home to roughly 3,500 farmers and ranchers, many of whom work on smaller pieces of land. While some would be considered hobby farms, many are larger operations, with the average production ranch having 15,000 or more acres.

University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) is a land-grant University, where agri-



Dr. William Payne, University of Nevada, Reno, spoke at Wednesday's Salute to Agriculture Luncheon.

Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

culture is one of the most important aspects. UNR houses extension agriculture research stations, and now extended studies which is a way to give credits and accreditation to non-traditional students. UNR has four departments of academic agriculture, including agriculture, veterinary, and rangeland sciences, biochemistry and

molecular biology, nutrition, and natural resources and environmental sciences.

Many of these programs have goals to be self-sustaining, or at least help to financially support their program. The sheep raised on UNR ranches are raised for their wool, which is used to make clothing. Wolf in Sheep's clothing, as the program is known, harvests the wool from their sheep, which is then sold to support the programming.

Because the Grange works with legislators in Washington, DC and around the country, Dr. Payne hopes they can help lobby for reinvestment in the United States in agricultural research. The United States was at one time the leader in the field of agricultural research, but other countries are currently investing more. Dr. Payne hopes that the United States can once again become a leader in agriculture and pilot the future of how we manage our lands, fires, and the raising of livestock. The Grange can take that leading voice for the United States.

VALOR cont. from page 1

bers of the community and the Veterans of Foreign Wars color guard.

Hamp stated that it is hard not to fall in love with the program and to not have tears in your eyes when you hear the stories, especially from the Vietnam veterans who had never been properly recognized. Currently, Hamp serves on the Quilts of Valor National Board.

This year, Ann Bercher, National Grange Lecturer sent a request to the State Lecturers and State Presidents to send her nominations of eligible individuals (active service members or living veterans who have been touched by war).

Terry Janke, Nevada's Quilts of Valor coordinator, assisted Becher in coordinating and obtaining the quilts. Marsha Strand, Bonnie Mitson and Naomi Fletcher also were involved in securing quilts.

The quilts presented to Nevada veterans were made by Nevada Quilters of Comstock Quilts of Valor. Strand, of the Comstock organization, stated that Quilts of Valor are comforting and healing for veterans touched by war. As quilters join bits of fabric, they talk of family and friends and create a symbol of home and comfort.

Quilts are given as a "gesture of gratitude from a grateful nation." The veterans were wrapped in their quilts by

members of Comstock Quilts of Valor, Lupeta Mahoney and Jannis Hubbard; and Grangers Bonnie Mitson and Donna Champion.

Bercher stated, "Being able to say thank you in a tangible way and wrap the veterans in the quilts is the best part of my job."

It is a very emotional experience for her. Bercher said that, over the past year, more than Grange Quilts of Valor labels have been sent to participating Granges. She will also have labels available at convention for Granges that want to participate in the Under Our Wings Program.

Bonnie Mitson states it is an honor to be a part of this program. If any individual or group desires assistance in starting a program in their Grange or community they should contact her at mitsonb6@gmail.com.

Paul Schlegel, the oldest recipient in Wednesday's ceremony, was dressed in his Naval uniform when he accepted. He stated that it was an honor to accept this quilt, with the understanding it is symbolic of all the veterans who have served our nation, and we need our veterans to keep our country free.

Quilts of Valor will celebrate their 20th Anniversary in September at the American Quilt Museum in Paducah, Kentucky. Three hundred thousand Quilts of Valor have been awarded nationwide as of April 20, 2022.

2022 Quilts of Valor Recipients

Mark Gibbons served as Captain in the Army from 1981 to 1991. He has earned numerous military commendations. Mark is currently President of Potomac Grange #1 (DC).

Dave McBride served the Air Force from 1972 and 1976. Dave has held numerous offices on the local, Pomona and State level. Since 2022 he has been the Treasurer of Oregon State Grange Foundation.

JoAnn McBride served the Air Force from 1977 to 1981 in Alaska . JoAnn is Vetran's Co-Director since 2022.

George "Bud" Boyd served three tours in Vietnam.

Sharon Orce served the Army from 1976 to 1980. She has been a Grange member since 2000.

Vance "Papa Smurf" Bonds served in both the Army and Air Force in the Gulf War and Afghanistan.

Paul Schlegel served in the Navy from 1958 to 1978 as a Chief warrant officer and Electronic Specialist.

Colleen Bennett served in the Oklahoma National Guard from 2015-2021. She was part of the Emergency Medical Service Agency during the Covid pandemic.

Bobbi Tucker "needed to serve" the Air Force from 1986 to 1990. He received two commendation medals.

Tianna Gomez served the Navy from 1994 through 2015. Tianna was one of the first female companies of Chicago Boot Camp and one of the first females stationed on the US Tarawa.

Greg Gomez served in the Navy from 1994-2015. He flew helicopters and jets.

Editorial: Have a Grange day

BY CADE HOWERTON
National Junior Grange Ambassador

Some of you may have heard the saying “Have a *Grange Day*.” You may have laughed, mentioned it to someone else, and moved on. But what does it mean? Where did it come from? And why should we use it more?

Well, to first understand something, we have to know its history. This saying came from the 2021 North Carolina State Fair. The Grange had a booth where my family and I volunteered to work. After a while of talking to people about the Grange and wishing them “A great day”, we wanted to be cute, funny,

and memorable. So, we made a play on words in order to achieve these goals. Having a *Grange Day* means to fill your life with the Grange. This instantly worked because people looked back, smiled, and took the Grange with them.

So how would this apply to daily Grange? The Grange has similar goals, the Grange needs to be memorable. A simple slogan can help us achieve this goal.

For example, think of business or an organization. Nike - Just do it. Arbys - We have the meats. These businesses are memorable because of their slogans.

If the Grange just said those four words - “*Have a Grange Day!*” - we



Photo by Lindsay Schroeder

could brand our image, and make the Grange memorable and relatable.

Opinion: Grange can fill need for family time

BY CAROLYNN CHAMLEE
Communication Fellow

The role of the Family in America has seen a lot of changes since the birth of our Nation. If we are more connected now why does “Study Finds” (Renner) indicate the average American Family spends less than forty minutes a day together? Families often have two working parents or a single parent working more than one job in addition, children’s full schedule of extracurricular activities.

Families also report much of their time is ‘alone together,’ meaning that they are in the same room or house together, but each are often on their screens. In rural areas where small towns often have limited resources, and distances between neighbors grow, the problem is compounded.

There is no question that strong family bonds are important for children, but it is also important for communities as well. Jennifer Brozak in “Hello Motherhood” states that the simple art of listening to your child prevents risky behaviors like drug use.

Emotional distress is on the rise in Lyon County where I reside. Recently Brad Pope, one of the Candidates running for the office of Sheriff in Lyon County, shared a graph of depression, anxiety, and behavioral disorders of youth in our county. The graph shows that depression and anxiety was highest in youth ages 12-17, while behavioral disorders were highest in ages 6-11 with the 12-17 age group just 2% behind that. When youth lack strong family bonds, have an ever growing rate of depression, anxiety, and behavioral disorders, is it any wonder that their academics suffer?

Battle Born Stockton Well Grange tackles this by heavily promoting our Family Membership. Our community has been overjoyed with the idea of having one group with many activities that the whole family can be involved in. We have several multi-generational families who are part of our Grange Membership. We offer shows and contests for both our youth and adults to compete in.

These were very specific niches that our community was looking to fill. Our County had no horse show programming and dairy goat youth often felt left out as many of the livestock shows focus on market. We solved this issue by offering two horse shows, one horse educational contest, and a dairy goat show each year.

Grange lives in the heart of rural America. It often provides the support and services rural towns can’t get. Many Granges have

Family Nights, where a community can come together for an evening to connect outside the digital world. Bringing together ideas, resources, and items to send home and share with families is a simple way to encourage families to slow down, if just for a hour, and start repairing family bonds.

Each Grange should look around their community, and seek out answers to questions like:

- What is the community lacking, and can we facilitate a bridge for that gap?
- How can we encourage family togetherness?

The key is finding that need, then filling it. Grange is in a unique position as it welcomes Members of all ages.

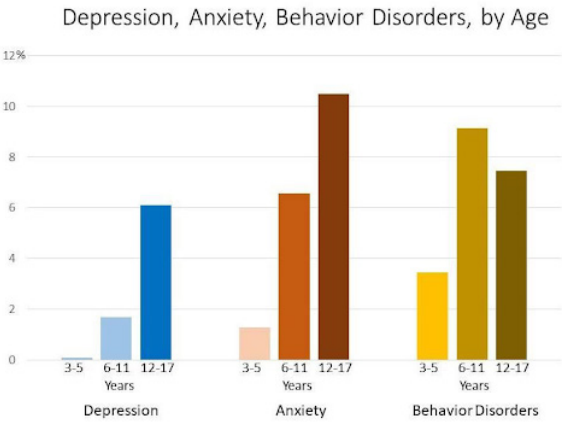
Television shows and movies dealing with time travel often warn us that changing things in the past, even a small seemingly insignificant change, can greatly alter the future.

However, many think that doing something small and insignificant today will not have any impact on the future.

Let us Grangers start making these small changes in our communities, even if they seem insignificant in this moment. By doing so, we have the opportunity to change the future.

References:

Jennifer Brozak. Hello Motherhood. December 5, 2018. <https://www.hellomotherhood.com/how-not-spending-time-with-your-child-affects-them-9577399.html> Accessed 6/15/2022.
Ben Renner. Study Finds. March 21, 2018. <https://www.studyfinds.org/american-families-spend-37-minutes-quality-time/> Accessed 6/15/2022.
Brad Pope, Brad Pope for Lyon County Sheriff. 6/10/2022. MOST, mental health. Facebook.



Communication is key: Fellows present workshop

BY LINDSAY SCHROEDER
Senior Communication Fellow

Ever since the world was created, communication has existed. Whether it was grunting, pictograms, or riding a horse to the next town, it was there. Fast forward to now, where our 21st century brings us mail, email, text, and social media as our main sources of the news. In our time this week as Communication Fellows, we are bringing you a newsletter that our members have an option to access that by hard copy (at Convention) or online around the country. Have you been getting yours? This is how we are passing around the news and information that's happened from day-to-day on details you might have missed, and even upcoming news!

A good portion of Grangers are over the age of 50. What is your main source of communication? How do you communicate to others, or with your older members of Grange? Newsletters? Facebook? Email?

Within our Granges, we need to establish which mode of communication is best to let everyone know the updated information in an equitable manner.

During our workshop on Wednesday afternoon, we presented several generations of communication. Fellows from age 27-64 contributed what we feel are some of the key points on how to communicate properly, especially for our Granges. We covered both 21st century and traditional forms of media.

Carolynn Chamlee (Battle Born Stockton Well Grange #29, NV) taught on the app and website BAND. BAND allows members to have access to a shared calendar, media folder, file uploads, and is a forum to hold internal conversations.

Beth Southworth (Jefferson Grange #1384, PA) discussed more traditional sources of communication like billboards and flyers. Some older members - or members without reliable internet access - definitely prefer access to a hard copy of news. This includes sending or handing out newsletters and calendars.

Jim Dumolt (Beavercreek Grange #261, OR) highlighted some 21st century communication in email, Zoom, and social media.

Caryn Herman (Nampa Valley Grange #131, ID) drafted up information on QR codes and how easy it can be to simply scan on your phone, which will bring up whatever links you need to access.

Lindsay Schroeder (Virginville Grange #1832, PA) introduced Canva. Canva.com is a free online tool where people can make media flyers, cards, social media, presentations, and more. We want members and non-members to see flyers and advertisements appealing. Make sure it's not too crowded, takes less than 20 seconds to read, and has most key points of the event.

Communication also needs to be within our bodies. Healthy minds require to let others know how we feel. Positive attitudes about the conversations to deal with, are always a good feedback. What also comes with talking is listening. We need to listen to others to evaluate what our next action will be. "We can't control our first thought, but we can control our second thought." - Amy Demos



The 2022 class of Communication Fellows: L-R Caryn Herman, Beth Southworth, Lindsay Schroeder, Carolynn Chamlee, Jim Dumolt.

National Grange inducts Hall of Fame members

BY JIM DUMOLT
Communication Fellow

You have a Grange member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty during their lifetime, and you don't know how to recognize them since they passed away. Luckily there is the Grange Hall of Fame.

The Grange Hall of Fame was created to recognize Grange members who had a significant role in the Grange. The National Grange Hall of Fame was created in 2015 and has inducted seventeen Grange members into its ranks. This year, the National Grange Hall of Fame has two inductees.

Dudley W. Adams was the second Master/President of the National Grange, as well as the first Master of the Iowa State Grange. While Adams served as Iowa's Master, he increased the number of Granges in the state by over a hundredfold. While in Iowa, he showed 100 apple varieties and ended up winning the 1871 society's sweepstake. He won again in 1879, this time showing 172 apple varieties. In 1893,

Adams went to the Chicago World's Fair, overseeing one of the first Florida Citrus exhibits.

Dudley W. Adams was nominated to be in the Grange Hall of Fame by Gene Edelen. When asked why he wanted to nominate Adams to the Hall of Fame, Edelen said that he had been thinking about doing so for a few years but just hadn't gotten around to it, and because Adams held a couple of "firsts" in the Grange.

Mortimer Whitehead is the second inductee, having served as National Grange Lecturer from 1877-1879 and 1886-1893. Whitehead was an extremely proficient writer, using that skill to write many articles and pamphlets on behalf of the Grange. Whitehead was a large part of the Grange's push for Rural Free Delivery. He was very diligent to get the service to farmers and because of it, the United States Senate passed it in a 27-25 vote.

Mortimer Whitehead was nominated to the Grange Hall of Fame by Pete Pompper.

When asked why he wanted to nominate Whitehead, Pompper answered that he had been researching some history of the Grange and he came across some writing and was fascinated by it.

When asked whether Whitehead had an impact his life as a Granger, Pompper said, "He has impacted us in a way that not a lot of us Grangers have realized, because of his ability to speak so well."



Dudley W. Adams (left) and Mortimer Whitehead are the 2022 inductees into the Grange Hall of Fame.

Heirloom Program prepares to enter its second year

BY CAROLYNN CHAMLEE
Communication Fellow



With more than 150 years of legacy, the Grange's various cornerstone documents have profound lessons to share with members about work, family, home, recreation, and more. To make these more accessible and keep them front of mind for members, new and old, the Heirloom Program was developed in 2021 by National Grange Mem-

bership and Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios, who debuted it at the 155th Annual Convention in Kansas.

The first lessons began in the spring of 2022. Like an appetizer sampler one would get at a restaurant, this program features smaller, monthly lessons, set to the seasons of the year, and covers five years before starting again. The program was developed to be picked up and started at any time without waiting for year one to begin, making it simple and accessible to roll out at any point.

"We tend to leave conventions and conferences and leave things on the shelf. It takes time for new programs to gain traction," Brozana Rios said. "Developing a program that is outlined for ongoing years helps get things started."

Existing activity materials are included in the yearly brochure, along with monthly passages. The activities can be used right out of the gate, adapted, or used as inspiration to create activities of your own. The Heirloom Program allows Granges to incorporate a quote or passage from a foundational text and reflect on the lesson and how it may apply to everyday life in their monthly meetings.

Brozana Rios said that if we are doing our job, we will always have new members joining. She wants to connect with new members, make them feel welcome, and close the divide between new members and members with a deep connection to the Grange.

Philip Vonada, Communications Director for the National Grange, spoke with me about the program. "There are many Granges across the country - new and old - where, for various reasons, Grange ritual, symbolism, and lessons either aren't taught or are secondary to the work of the Grange in the community," he said. "These bite-sized

pieces of knowledge unite the message and meaning of the Grange across the nation, and help remind us what we have in common."

On several occasions, while preparing for the 156th National Convention, some of the Nevada Grangers have had to ask for clarification on the Grange lingo. Many members are new to the Grange scene, especially outside their local chapter. They are trying to navigate these new waters, to gain a better understanding of the process.

Battle Born Stockton Well Grange #29 chartered not quite a year ago. While they are very active, there is a lot their leaders don't quite grasp beyond their world here in Nevada. Several passages in the Heirloom Program would benefit their Grange membership as an easy introduction in their meetings. Granges connecting with this program would be living these traditions and values out loud, and allow members to take passages that resonate with them to heart and add value to their personal lives, too.

Pete Pompper, National Grange Community Service Director, observed the growth of the Heirloom Program over the past year. "As Granges utilize the statements from the program in public forums, as we saw this year at county and local fairs, it opens that door to discuss the Grange."

With the implementation of the Heirloom Program, the hope is that, in the future, Grange could be more approachable. There would be continued community interest in their local Grange where newer members will be able to talk and be knowledgeable about the values of the Grange.

Pompper would like to see growth in membership in our Granges coming from community members seeing what the Grange holds as part of our values. People want to be part of an organization that follows along with their values and beliefs. In addition to this, long-standing members would see a wave of renewed knowledge and enthusiasm with the newer members, showing that the traditions and values are safe in the hands of the new members, and the torch is ready to be passed on to the new generation of Grangers.

When we invest time in making the new generation of Grangers knowledgeable about what the Grange holds most dear, what is most important, we let the established membership know they can confidently hand the reins over to the up-and-coming generation of new leaders.

Heirloom Program materials are available for free, and can be found at bit.ly/grangeheirloom.

Donations for Eddy House collected at registration

BY LIZ DEHNE
Host Committee, Oregon State Grange

Mission of Eddy House: The Eddy House works with homeless and at-risk youth to develop the life and job skills necessary for sustainable independence.

Report from the Eddy House donations:

Brothers and Sisters, because of your generous hearts we have 13 States participating is the National Grange Community Service project for Eddy House: California, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Montana, Ohio,

Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Washington.

You have donated around 200 pillows with strings, plus personal hygiene items, socks, and more.

You have also provided VISA Debit cards worth \$180.00 (12 \$15.00 card) and Amazon.com Gift Cards worth \$120.00 (12 \$10.00 card)

You have contributed more than \$1300 in cash and checks, all of which will go directly to Eddy House.

Thank you very much to all that participated so far, and as you can tell, none of this is possible without **YOU**.

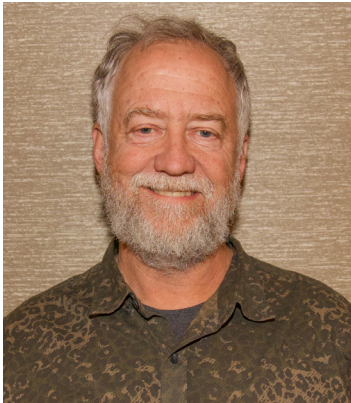
We will be collecting donations through Friday morning. A represen-



tative of Eddy House will be here between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. on Friday to accept your donations.

New faces, new perspectives

This year, more than 16 new Delegates have joined the National Grange Delegate body. In the next few issues, we will be highlighting the new members in the Patrons Chain, so everyone can get to know the people who will be helping to shape the National Grange agenda as voting members.



Jay Sexton

What state are you from? Oregon
What Grange do you belong to? Wilamette #52
How many years have you been a Grange member? 12 years.
What is your favorite Grange memory/activity/event/project/show? Raising \$140 to replace the roof on Wilamette Grange and allow other repairs to the Grange Hall.

What are some personal goals you wish to accomplish? Become competent in presidential duties, and reach out and encourage small-member Granges.
What is a piece of advice you have for new/upcoming members? Help out your own Grange, stay active, present new ideas, and express gratitude.
Who is a mentor that has influenced you? Jay does not have a mentor as he has stepped into vacuums of leadership.
What herd animal would you like to be? A hippo, because there should always be hippos and they are facing extinction.



Barbara Foster

What state are you from? West Virginia
What Grange do you belong to? Oxford #526
How many years have you been a Grange member? 37 years.
What is your favorite Grange memory/activity/event/project/show? Attending the National Grange Session with her parents.
What are some personal goals you wish to accomplish? She would like to see membership increase in WV, and wants to charter some new Granges in WV.
What is a piece of advice you have for new/upcoming members? Her advice is to be an active Granger, not to be a member who just pays their dues, and doesn't go to any meetings or events.
Who is a mentor that has influenced you? Her father, who was the past president of 22 years at WV.
What herd animal would you like to be? A squirrel.



Robert Buck

What state are you from? Connecticut
What Grange do you belong to? Bethlehem #121
Affiliate at Oxford #194
How many years have you been a Grange member? 34 years.
What is your favorite Grange memory/activity/event/project/show? Helping other Granges around. Advocating for what the Grange is. Loves to set up an antique table at a local fair and distributes information on what the Grange is.

What are some personal goals you wish to accomplish? To push the Grange more. He wants to tell people "we WANT you to join" vs. "here's a pamphlet, think about it."
What is a piece of advice you have for new/upcoming members? Don't be afraid to help out.
Who is a mentor that has influenced you? Thankful for the couple that brought his parents to join the Grange way back when. But Phil Prelli was the one who appointed him as Deputy, encouraging him more to progress in Grange leadership.
What herd animal would you chose to be? Hank the Burro, his own state's herd animal.



David Allen

What state are you from? North Carolina
What Grange do you belong to? Corriher #627
How many years have you been a Grange member? 22 years.
What is your favorite Grange memory/activity/event/project/show? Helping with the 2010 National Convention in Charlotte.
What are some personal goals you wish to accomplish? To learn more about and become familiar with the National Delegate process.
What is a piece of advice you have for new/upcoming members? Be honest and have fun.
Who is a mentor that has influenced you? Jimmy Gentry, the current NC State Grange President.
What herd animal would you chose to be? Undecided.

National Grange Diversity Task Force Report

BY THE DIVERSITY TASK FORCE

Hello my relatives, it is a good day to be a Granger. We take this opportunity to reach out to our fellow patrons who are attending our 156th National Convention. We are the National Grange Diversity Task Force. We provide a forum for Grangers at all levels to address and discuss ideas and opportunities to create change that welcomes new growth in our organization at every level. We offer a safe space to have difficult conversations.

The most commonplace discussions have been the use of “Master” and “Overseer” within our meetings and organization. Our Grange terminology is based on the old English manor system. However, we live and speak in the American lexicon where Master and Overseer are intrinsically connected to the brutal enslavement of people based on the color of their skin.

In 1867 Grange was created on the premise of building community, uplifting the populace, creating space for all voices to be heard, and a commitment to work together in a bi-partisan environment. Our organization played a significant role in stitching our communities back together after the Civil War. What was their purpose? What did they identify as Grange ideals? To be welcoming to all members of our community that are of good character. What are the ideals that still matter in our society today?

When we open our doors to welcome visitors, how do they perceive our organization? What do they understand when they hear the words “Master” and “Overseer”? These words are used countless times during a meeting. What do those words invoke in a country that allowed violent slavery for centuries? What do they mean to people that have been threatened their entire lives because of the color of their skin? What do those terms mean in Ameri-

can History?
Diversity. Equity. Inclusion. It is the year 2022 and these words are essential to building and maintaining successful organizations.

Change is part of nature – Forbes has been publishing articles on the value and need for DEI. The more diverse an organization is, the more successful they are at evolving and continuing to prosper. The more voices at the table, the more ideas are shared as to how to progress forward. Organizations need room to develop and change or they become obsolete. Think of Blockbuster. Think of a rose bush that is not pruned versus one that is pruned mindfully so that new growth can provide new strength to the well-developed roots.

Change is challenging – there is always a struggle to explore what remains relevant and useful to an ever-changing society. What can become part of our past so that we create space for new ideas, and new ways to be a community and organization? The past informs so that the present can act toward the future.

The past does not go anywhere. We are descendants of the past and stewards of the future. We have rituals that provide beautiful life lessons. We also have terminology that is problematic in our society.

Ritual is used to uphold people. It reaches through time and ties us to our ancestors. A ritual is a place where we can create significant change for the present and future. What rituals do we perform that connect us? Which ones disconnect? Create uneasiness. Which rituals can change so that our neighbors and friends feel comfortable, feel welcomed, feel safe, heard, and seen? Which rituals continue to be meaningful? Which rituals do we proudly stand by in a country that was built on slavery, genocide, and domination?

Change can allow room for new people to join us in our common goals. We

encourage this important discussion at every level of Grange.

Grange can be a force to uplift our communities. We have high ideals that are important to uphold and within which to act. Our current culture so desperately needs places where we are all welcome. Where we are all heard, where we can join and know we are a strong family that cares for one another. Where different points of view are valued and where we learn to have dissent in discourse without malice.

Welcoming new people with new ideas, different experiences, and backgrounds opens our own lives to new learning opportunities. What would our grange meetings look like if our members directly reflected our community’s population? Would there be different faces? Different ages? Different levels of economic reality?

We Grangers are built for this time and place. Inscribed and invested in our commitment to Faith, Hope, and Charity, we are the force for positive change. We live in a society where racism hurts all of us, as it still very much exists. We have community members that do not feel safe because of how they are treated for the color of their skin, their sex, their gender, and because of whom they love.

We ask that you consider the impact that would be made if we as a body evolved to the use of the terms President and Vice President and updated our Digest of Laws to reflect this change.

This one step brings us into the 21st century as willing participants in upholding the tenants of our society.

In Faith, In Hope, and in Charity –
National Grange Diversity Task Force

If you would like to connect with the Grange Diversity Task Force, please email Robert Beamon at chemrob21@gmail.com. All comments will be shared with the Task Force.

Foundation Board announces election results

Following the meeting of the Grange Foundation on Monday afternoon, election results were announced by Board member Lynnette Schaeffer on Wednesday night.

The terms of Board members Joan C. Smith (Potomac Grange #1, DC) and

.Michael Martin (Valley Grange #1360, PA) were both expiring this year. Martin opted to not run for another term.

Following a change of By-Laws in 2021, any voting member of the Delegate body was eligible to vote.

Schaeffer announced that the winners of the election to serve on the Grange Foundation Board of Directors were Smith and Marty Billquist (Avon Grange #125 MT).

They will join current Board members in shaping the vision and mission of the Grange Foundation.



Joan C. Smith (DC) was re-elected for a new term, and Marty Billquist (MT) was elected to serve on the Grange Foundation Board



California Grange member Eugene Fletcher has designed these 3D-printed keychains, emblazoned with the Grange Youth and Junior Grange logos. You can receive these keychains for a donation of \$3 each or 2 for \$5. They can be found in the Region Host Office (Redwood 8). All proceeds go directly to the Junior and Youth funds at the Grange Foundation.

Youth Officers arrive at Convention



National Grange Youth Officer Team members and Horizon Youth Leadership participants arrived in Sparks today. In a meet-and-greet tonight, Grange leaders of the present and future mingled with one another, sharing ideas, laughs, and hopes for the future of the Grange.



Tianna and Greg Gomez were held up by bad traffic on their way to the Quilts of Valor presentation. Their quilts were presented by National Grange Lecturer Ann Bercher, assisted by Bonnie Mitson and Donna Champion.

DAILY PUZZLE

Word scramble, Grange Degrees edition

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. _____ | UMATUN |
| 2. _____ | BLARSORE |
| 3. _____ | TRCSEE OKRW |
| 4. _____ | LENGARE |
| 5. _____ | ANARAPERPLIHA |
| 6. _____ | EAAGT |
| 7. _____ | UGNRPIN EKFIN |
| 8. _____ | AVHETRS |
| 9. _____ | TSEING |
| 10. _____ | LETYIFDI |



The first two people who complete this and find Lindsay in Redwood 2 win a prize!

Congratulations to Chris Hamp and Lonnie Scott for running Lindsay down bright and early on Wednesday morning!

THANK YOU!

The Fellows extend our thanks to everyone who kept our sick Fellows in your thoughts today. Also, special thanks to Ann Bercher and Gene Fletcher for the delivery of treats!

YOU'RE INVITED!

Exemplification of the first Five Degrees. On Friday, just after the close of session, the National Grange will be exemplifying the first Five Degrees. Any member who has yet to see or receive the Degrees is invited to view or obtain.

IS IT YOUR FIRST TIME AT SESSION?

Scan this QR code to access a document with some key words, phrases, and ideas that you might see at this convention!



DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THE PATRONS CHAIN AT YOUR DOOR?

If you are at convention and did not receive a copy of the Patrons Chain at your hotel room, please see Lindsay in Redwood 2.