



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

December 16, 2022

In this Issue:

[Making connections for progress](#) by Betsy E. Huber
[Preparing for the New Year](#) by Samantha Wilkins
[12 ways to embrace the culture of agriculture and rural America](#)

[Reminder: Grange Bonding Due](#)
[2023 Digest of Laws Available](#)
[Grange Supply Store: Belt Buckle](#)
[Grange Member Benefit: Farmers Auto & Home](#)

Making connections for progress

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

I had the opportunity last week to travel to Omaha, Nebraska for a couple of good meetings. The National Grange is partnering with [AREC, America's Rural Energy Coalition](#), on a project to educate and inform the public about the importance of oil, gas, and agriculture to their daily lives.

In addition to heat and fuel, all plastics are made from oil. Just think what your daily life would look like without any plastic! Cell phones, cars, shoes, contact lenses.... the list could go on and on. Then there are cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, clothing, and medical devices - I suppose we could live without plastics, but life would surely be different! And of course, we all know we can't live without agriculture to feed and clothe us.

This was the initial meeting to plan the project, and many associations were included from numerous oil-producing states - OK, TX, ND, NM, NY, PA, UT, CO, etc. We would like to include other ag groups in this effort. The decision was made to work with Congressional leaders first and provide information to educate them on this issue. There will be another meeting on May 3rd & 4th near Pittsburgh, PA.

The second event was the open house for [No More Empty Pots](#), a nonprofit in Omaha with connections to the Carver Grange. NMEP is a grassroots non-profit organization connecting individuals and groups to improve self-sufficiency, regional food security, and economic resilience of urban and rural communities through advocacy and action. NMEP strives to support communities in becoming self-sufficient and food secure through collaboration and adherence to core values of education, stewardship, and sustainability. NMEP has a beautiful building with an amazing number of programs and activities, from an incubator commercial kitchen for entrepreneurs, distribution of meals, a rooftop garden, leadership training, and kids cooking programs. They work with local farmers to source their foods and will soon open a large greenhouse in the city to grow their own fresh produce.

Those of you who attended National Grange convention last year in Wichita or watched online may remember Nancy Williams who spoke at the Community Service workshop. She is the founder and CEO of No More Empty Pots. They have funded all these amazing programs over \$4 million - through grants and community donations. I'm so glad I got to visit the facility and see Nancy in person.

Of course, while I was in Nebraska I also met with Grangers - State President Kevin Cooksley, Carver Grange's Edgar Hicks, and dear friends Joe and Tammy Fryman who hosted me for the week/weekend. Thank you so much!

Preparing for the New Year

By [Samantha Wilkins](#), National Youth Development and Junior Grange Director



Every year after the close of State Grange Sessions or after we have all made it home from National Convention, we are left with such a feeling of excitement for all the things we want to do with our Granges. We are excited about the things we can plan and the ideas we have walked away with. We are reenergized for the upcoming Grange year.

Then, we become busy and consumed by the rush of the holiday season or other activities happening in life. If you're like me, you may have forgotten to write down some of those great ideas, but never fear, the Youth and Junior Departments have you covered in all your planning and programming needs!

Both the Youth and Junior departments have put together aspects of their programming that can help you plan out events for your calendar year.

Juniors

The [National Junior Grange program](#) is now broken into quarterly focus points. Each quarter will focus on a new area for Juniors. The programs are designed to help leaders/directors make event and activity plans or for the Juniors to take reign on a focus point and create a program around it. While each of these focus points can be done at any time of the year, the National programming will be focused this way:

Quarter 1 - Legislative Experiences; **Quarter 2** - Agriculture Awareness; **Quarter 3** - Deaf Awareness; and **Quarter 4** - Community Service.

Please tune into our bi-monthly program, **Junior Jibber Jabbers** which will be held the 3rd Sunday of odd-numbered months (January, March, etc) at 9pm Eastern. This program is open to anyone interested in Junior Grange programming but is specifically geared toward State and local Junior leaders to help guide them in program planning and leadership development.

Youth

A few years ago, we initiated [the Pillar Project](#), focused on the acronym **G.R.A.N.G.E.** (**G**.rowth, **R**.itual, **A**.ction, **N**.etworking, **G**.rassroots Advocacy, and **E**.ducation). Each pillar area is designed to get youth actively engaged in planning programs and activities for their local Granges and communities. On page 40 of the 2023 Youth Program Book, there are suggestions for what you - as a Youth - could be planning for each month of the year.

The goal is to let Youth members take charge of an event or project within their Subordinate Grange. The Pillar Project aims to hone the passions, creativity, and leadership abilities of Grange Youth and Young Adults. The pillars are meant to be vague because, like many Granges, everything we do is uniquely fit for our State, Pomona, or Subordinate Grange needs. The pillars serve as the six main things that we should be striving to live by as G.R.A.N.G.E. youth.

Please tune into our bi-monthly program, **Youth Yammerings**, which will be held the 3rd Sunday of even-numbered months (February, April, etc.) at 9pm Eastern. This program is open to anyone interested in Youth/Young Adult programming but is specifically geared toward State and local Grange Youth leaders to help guide them in program planning and leadership development.

The goals set forth in the [new programming for 2023](#) are specifically aimed toward training and encouraging our next generation of Grange leaders to take charge. Teaching each of these age groups the importance of creating a project, planning it out, and seeing it come to fruition is vitally important in developing the leadership skills needed throughout life.

If you are reading this and are not currently a Youth or Junior Grange member, but you want to see the life of this organization continue for the years to come, then you too are encouraged to

take a look at the programming available in both of these departments and work with your members to help encourage participation from the younger generations.

On a personal note - I will say if it were not for the opportunities provided to me through the Grange at such a young age, I never would be where I am today. Through the support of our membership at such a young age, I was given the push and the guidance to accomplish goals, talk through ideas, and bring to life new projects within the local and state Grange and in other organizations I was part of.

The support of members outside of these departments' age groups is vitally important to the continuation of our organization for future years. If these members had not supported or encouraged me to be actively involved, I may not still be an active member today.

Youth Yammerings

WHEN:
Third Sunday of even-numbered months
(February, April, etc)
at 9 p.m. Eastern

On Zoom!
Login: 833 7712 0738
Passcode: 969128

WHEN:
Third Sunday of odd-numbered months
(January, March, etc)
at 9 p.m. Eastern

JUNIOR JIBBER-JABBER

12 ways to embrace the culture of agriculture and rural America

By Katie Pinke

Reprinted with permission of [AgWeek](#)

The holiday and winter season in rural America reminds me of the importance of culture in agriculture. Many of you, like me, see it in action. We plan and participate in the activities of the long-seeming winter soon upon us. But for those not raised in the culture of agriculture, who have let the "old ways" go to the wayside or who simply stayed away the past few years, this is a refresher. I may be writing for myself here more than anyone.

Here's a list of a top of mind activities I cherish about rural life and the culture of agriculture this time of year:

1. **Buy gifts in our communities, not only online.** Shopping small and supporting local means we support the people, jobs, and tax base of where we work and live.
2. **Visit our neighbors.** That might mean Sunday visits for coffee or just a call ahead to the nearby widow, the new family or someone you haven't seen in a while to ask to come by for a visit with some cookies or a fruit basket in hand.
3. **Show up for the local tree lighting,** community Santa Day, church caroling, or box packing for Operation Christmas Child.

4. **Attend the school and church Christmas programs** and cantatas, whether you have kids or family members participating or not.
5. **Donate to a local charity**, take names off the local angel tree or simply support those you know need extra cheer this season that others may not know or recognize.
6. **Ring the bell** for the local Salvation Army or Lions Club fundraiser.
7. **Dig out family recipes** to make with your loved ones. Some are more loved than others and some delicacies we continue for tradition.
8. **Deliver Meals on Wheels** or support a local food pantry or soup kitchen.
9. **Attend agriculture meetings, conferences and farm shows**, connecting with fellow agriculturists, farmers and ranchers while learning new information. These are mostly winter meetings, and the connections I've learned span across decades.
10. **Watch local basketball in a small-town gymnasium.** An agribusiness professional once told me his business goal was for his niche crop to be the topic in bleachers at basketball games. Our daughters' seasons start this week and I know exactly what he means now.
11. **Bring your tractor/ snowblower** over to clear the elderly neighbor or young mother's driveway.
12. **Say hello** and stop to talk to the person in the grocery store aisle near you, or across the aisle in an airplane when you see someone from agriculture you recognize. That happened to me last night.

People and connections drive the culture of agriculture and differentiate rural America for me. If we lose our intentional connection with the few people around us, the culture fades in agriculture, I believe.

This past week, I spent a night in Columbus, Ohio, the 14th largest city in America with about 2 million people in the metro area. That's about three times the population of my home state, North Dakota. I attended a conference with agribusiness professionals and spoke to the group.

Even in a big city 1,000 miles from where I call home, the passions shared among those who live and work in agriculture connect us.

The comforts though of the idyllic culture I love are more difficult for me to find and see in a large city setting. Of course, community and connection still exist but not like we share in rural America, I feel.

Rural American culture is not perfect. We know and see flaws and work to improve them. Not all get along, but shared values and mutual respect differentiate our communities and connections.

The culture of agriculture in the holiday season and throughout the year needs preserving and to continue into our kids and future generations. Your example is noticed and sets the stage for others to follow.

Visit your neighbor this week. And I hope to see you at the Christmas program or in a school gymnasium soon.

And to the farmer who recognized me across the aisle on an airplane last night, thanks for chatting and sharing about farming and family life. You reminded me of the importance of culture in agriculture, no matter where we find ourselves.

Pinke is the publisher and general manager of Agweek. She can be reached at kpinke@agweek.com, or connect with her on Twitter [@katpinke](https://twitter.com/katpinke).

Reminder: Grange Bonding is due

Just a reminder that if you are planning to enroll in National Grange bonding, it must be in to the National Office by December 30th for 2023 coverage.

This is a HARD deadline – any that come in late will not have bonding for the coming year.

More information here:

[Questions & Answers](#)

[2023 Fidelity Bond Rates](#)

[Bonding Questionnaire \\$50k+](#)

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

COVID-19 VACCINE
EDUCATION and
EQUITY PROJECT



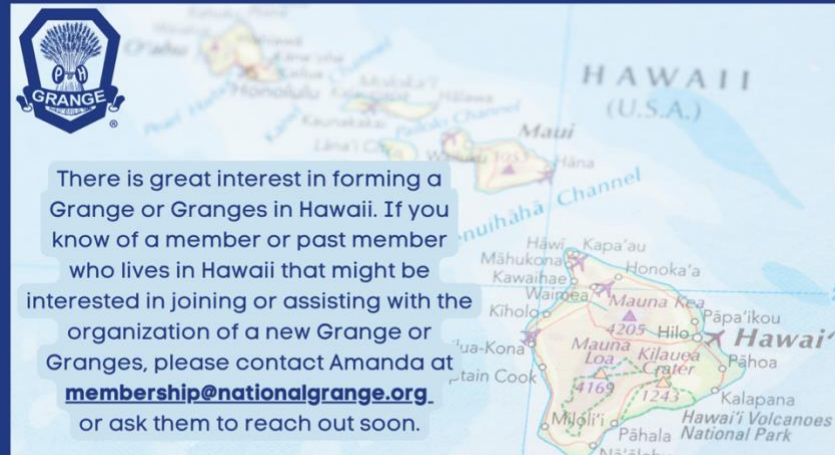
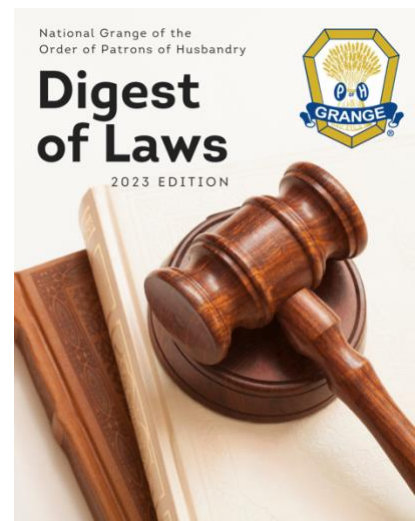
American
Lung
Association.



2023 Digest of Laws now available

The latest edition of the Digest of Laws is now available, including changes made by resolutions passed at the 156th Annual Session of the National Grange in November. The Digest includes the rules and procedures for Granges at all levels and is a good resource for Grange leaders and members.

[Read and download the Digest here](#)




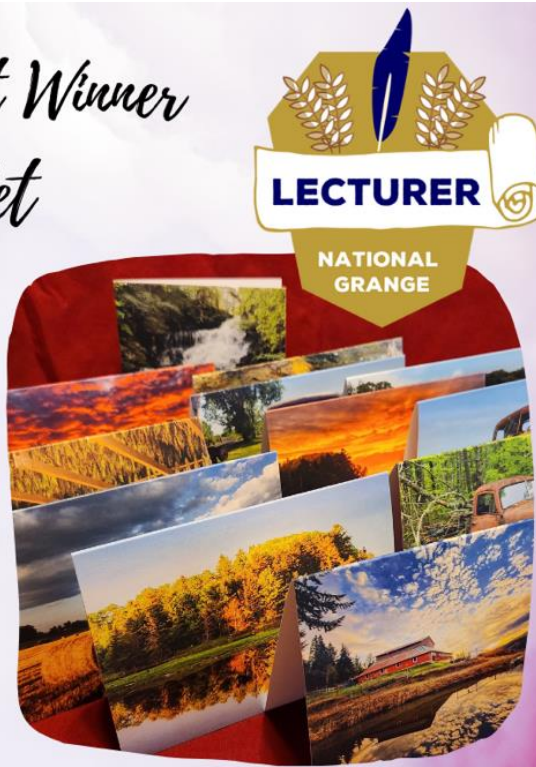
 There is great interest in forming a Grange or Granges in Hawaii. If you know of a member or past member who lives in Hawaii that might be interested in joining or assisting with the organization of a new Grange or Granges, please contact Amanda at membership@nationalgrange.org or ask them to reach out soon.

Photo Contest Winner Card Set

\$20 per pack of 12 cards
plus shipping

Contact Ann Bercher at
lecturer@nationalgrange.org

Benefits the Lecturer's Fund
at the Grange Foundation



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.com

BELT BUCKLE



\$9.00
PLUS SHIPPING

***A great gift idea for
the holidays!***

Solid pewter belt buckle
with an antique finish – fits
most belts. A fantastic
addition to your wardrobe,
for showing off your
Grange pride!

Buy 3 or more for \$6 each!

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

Grange Store Holiday Schedule

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

Grange Member Benefit: Farmers Auto & Home



Farmers Auto & Home – Farmers GroupSelect provides insurance coverage tailored to your needs. Save **hundreds** today. By combining auto, home, and other policies, you could save even more!

[Visit us online](#) or call 877-491-5089.



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. Contact to submit a story idea for Patrons Chain or *Good Day!* magazine, request assistance with publicity, business cards, and more. Email pvonada@nationalgrange.org or call/text (814) 404-7985

Leadership Training and Membership Development Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Membership, and Leadership Development Director. Contact to learn more about membership recruitment or how to start or reorganize a Grange, leadership training and more. Email at abrozana@nationalgrange.org or call/text (301) 943-1090

Legislative and Policy Issues Director Burton Eller, *National HQ*, ext. 114 or email beller@nationalgrange.org; Assistant Sean O'Neil, *National HQ*, email soneil@nationalgrange.org

Membership Recognition, Grange Supply Sales, Grange Programs and Member Benefits Loretta Washington, *National HQ*, ext. 109 or email sales@nationalgrange.org

Free Grange Websites, Emails, *Good Day!* subscription questions and Membership Database Stephanie Wilkins, *National HQ*, ext. 101 or email swilkins@nationalgrange.org

Junior and Youth Departments, Operations/Building Management Samantha Wilkins, samantha@nationalgrange.org or (210) 838-7892

Lecturer Ann Bercher, lecturer@nationalgrange.org or (612) 501-1231

Community Service Pete Pompper communityservice@nationalgrange.org or (609) 820-6239

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