



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

December 9, 2022

In this Issue:

[Grange participation needed for grant application](#)

by Betsy E. Huber

[Grange growth isn't a "fluke" – it's because of service](#) by Pete Pompper

[Reminder: Grange Bonding Due](#)

[4 Recognized as Grange Cultivators at Annual Convention](#)

[Raised Right Here T-Shirt Fundraiser](#)

[Advocacy Playbook: Congress Returns to Work](#)
[Membership Growth Continues & Membership Matters](#)

[National Grange Celebrates 155th Birthday](#)

[Grange Supply Store: Mission Statement Poster](#)
[Grange Member Benefit: Choice Hotels](#)

Grange participation needed for grant application

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

The time after Convention leading into the holidays is usually a little slower than when we are preparing for Convention, but not this year! Burton and I are working hard and rushing to gather information for our latest grant application which is due the first week of January.

This grant will allow us to disseminate a **pre-surgery and post-surgery guide** and support website to provide rural older patients with information needed to understand their condition, help them make informed decisions, prepare for surgery, and allow their families to provide best practices aftercare.

Rural areas have fewer doctors and nurses per capita than other areas of the US; rural hospitals are closing; and the rural population tends to be older, sicker, and have more unhealthy habits. Distances to specialists are greater, and the lack of internet access makes telehealth visits impractical or impossible. We believe that the creation and distribution of these guides will improve the older rural patients' surgery outcomes. This program will be similar to the "[What to Do with a Cancer Diagnosis](#)" program we created a few years ago. Like the cancer program, this will be a flash drive with the complete video program and additional hand-out materials contained on it. You will just need to "plug in and play."

Right now, we need a few Granges across the country, some in each region, to commit to presenting this program in their communities next year when it is completed. We will need a letter from each of these Granges stating that you are looking forward and excited to offer this wonderful program to your members and community. There will be a small monetary reward to each Grange who presents the program under the grant.

We need these letters by this Sunday night, **December 11th** to complete our grant application. We have received approval for our Letter of Interest and must file the complete application in late December. We will hear next spring if we receive the grant.

If you are interested in having your Grange participate in this program which will improve the reputation of the Grange as a community partner and possibly even gain you new members, please email me right away, betsy@nationalgrange.org. If you have any questions please contact me or [Burton](#). Thank you so much!

Grange growth isn't a "fluke" – it's because of service

By [Pete Pompper](#), National Grange Community Service Director



What? Did I hear that correctly? Did National President Betsy and Membership/Leadership Development Director Amanda both just report at this year's National Grange session that our organization had an increase in fraternal membership?

Well, **they did** and we **did** have an increase in fraternal membership of over 700 members. This is the first time in several years (okay... *decades!*) that we can make that statement. This got me thinking - what is the reason, especially with all we have gone through in the past three years? You could argue that we should have either stayed the same or had a decrease in membership.

I firmly believe that it is in a large part because of what you as Grangers have done in your communities. You exemplified our core values of **faith, hope, charity, and fidelity** by not giving up and just going through the motions. You did the opposite and did what Grangers do best.

Granges opened their doors when allowed, and welcomed the community in. Granges adapted programming or thought of new programs to help the community get back to some type of "normal." I cannot begin to count the number of Granges who changed the way they did dinners and went to drive-thru style. Communities responded, and the dinners were mostly selling out because you offered something that they were missing. Granges offered outdoor events of a wide variety which gave people a chance to socialize and be around others. Grangers put together seed and plant swaps because of the renewed interest in growing their own and farm-to-table.

Our hometowns and local areas responded in so many ways to the community service you provided, not only by supporting Granges in your endeavors financially. Instead, people wanted to be part of an organization that gives back and helps in so many ways. I truly believe our increase in fraternal membership is because of everything Granges did no matter how large or even the smallest gesture.

Our Founders would be extremely proud of all the work you have done. Your community service shows why the Grange is still relevant today as it was 150 years ago. Do I think this increase is a "fluke?" No, I do not.

In the words of Cade Howerton, a Junior Granger from North Carolina, "Have a Grange Day".

Keep up the good Grange work!

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+](#)

4 recognized as Grange Cultivators at Annual Convention



Four individuals were recognized at the 156th Annual National Grange Convention in Reno, Nevada, as Cultivators of the Year by the National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Department.

Each was surprised by the recognition, which sets out to honor individuals or groups that “put in the work” to grow the Grange through innovative and positive messaging and programming or that found ways to improve not just their local Grange, but to provide “a guiding light for Granges around the nation.”

Walter Boomsma of Maine, Todd Gelineau of Connecticut, Jennie Gentry of North Carolina, and Scott Nicholson of Montana all received an engraved metal sign as a token of appreciation for their work on behalf of the organization.

“Each of these individuals helped the Grange in their respective communities and states, but they went far beyond that. Every one of them was responsive to inquiries and provided insight into what individuals coming to Grange are looking for as well as the tools they need to truly engage as Grange members. They give selflessly and promote fearlessly and for that, they are truly deserving of this recognition,” National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios said. “Our departments at National Grange are small but mighty because of dedicated members and volunteers who assist with projects and provide necessary feedback.

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)

*plus applicable taxes and shipping

bit.ly/raisedrightthereshirt

A new round of “**Raised Right Here**” shirts are available in this fundraiser, which closes TODAY! 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.](#)

Advocacy Playbook: Congress Returns to Work

By [Sean O’Neil](#), National Grange Legislative Assistant



The Issue:

With the midterm elections having been completed, Congress returns to Washington for a final month of legislative action before the conclusion of this term. Must-pass legislation including government funding and the National Defense Authorization Act are dominating the congressional agenda and headlines, but many other important pieces of legislation must be acted on before the end of the year or else fizzle without passing this term. Some pieces of legislation of interest to the National Grange which still require Congressional

action include the Growing Climate Solutions Act, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, the Freight Rail Shipping Fair Market Act, multiple bills dealing with issues in cattle markets, bills to do with Medicare coverage of vaccines and cancer screening, and bills supporting the expansion of telehealth.

Why it Matters:

If these important bills are unable to pass Congress by the end of the year, then they will need to restart the legislative process in the next term. This means that the bill would have to be written, introduced, solicit cosponsors, move through the committee system, and again be put on the floor for a vote in the next Congress before they could become law. This process takes a great deal of time and increases the chance that these important pieces of legislation will not ultimately become law or will face serious delays before being enacted. However, in the case of many of these bills they have currently already passed one chamber of Congress and only need to make it through the other in order to become law, but only if this occurs before the end of the year. This is of great importance because these bills deal with pressing issues such as supply chain challenges, access to healthcare, and urgent economic issues in agriculture.

How to Get Involved:

If you want to get involved and fight to pass these important bills before they expire, one useful action you can take is to reach out to your member of Congress (if you are not sure who that is, use this website: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>). Whether you plan to call, send an email, or write a letter to your member of Congress, it is useful to include a story about how these bills will affect you, your family, and your community. Each call, email, and letter an office receives is tallied up and considered when your Representative is deciding whether to support a bill, and extra weight is given to those contacts which include personal stories. By lending the voice of Grangers across the country together we can push Congress to address these important issues before the end of the year.



**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.

Membership Growth Continues & Membership Matters

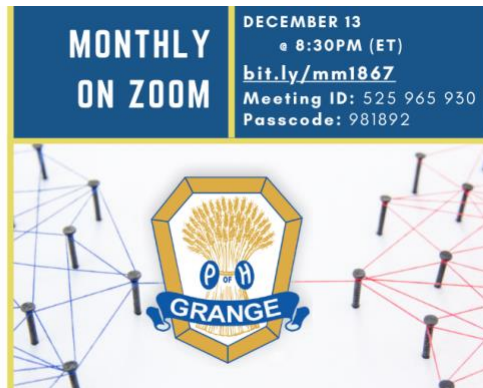
By [Amanda Brozana Rios](#), National Grange Membership & Leadership Development Director

Membership reports from State Granges are due within 60 days following the close of a quarter to the National Grange. Quarter 3 (July-September) reports are now in, and we want to wish congratulations to the followings states for a **fraternal net gain** from Q2 to Q3 - a great kick-off to the new National Membership Year!

- Delaware
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Kansas
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- North Carolina
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Vermont
- Washington
- West Virginia

Successful Revitalization Starts with ... You?

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS *with Amanda Brozana Rios*



National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios will be joined by Montana State Grange Membership Director (and Lecturer) Scott Nicholson on this month's Membership Matters Zoom meeting slated for a special night - the **second** Tuesday of the month, Dec. 13, starting at 8:30 p.m. Eastern.

For the first 15-20 minutes, we will talk a little about what happened at the 156th Annual National Grange Convention and introduce new policies as passed by the delegates.

We'll then listen as Nicholson talks about his year-long journey to help revitalize a Grange that was near closure into a vibrant, 70-plus member Grange that is embracing our heritage and traditions. Questions will be welcomed at the end.

Remember, **Membership Matters** is open to anyone to attend!

Join by clicking here!

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

LECTURER

NATIONAL
GRANGE

National Grange Celebrates 155th Birthday



From coast-to-coast, celebrations for the National Grange's 155th birthday took place over the weekend. From Junior Grangers singing happy birthday in Rhode Island to birthday cake in Montana and cheers in Iowa, there was a great amount of excitement and enthusiasm flowing for the Grange!

On Friday evening, National Grange Communications Director Philip J Vonada, Membership and Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios, Vice President Chris Hamp, Lecturer Ann Bercher, Executive Committee Chair Lynette Schaeffer, and Grange "cheerleader" Karie Blasingame held an hour-long "Cheers to 155 Years" event live on Facebook.

Discussions ranged from building strong communities and citizens to the rearview mirror vs. the windshield. Did you miss it?

Watch it here!

Ann Bercher presented the National Grange with a birthday cake, adapted from a 155+ year-old recipe from Mary Todd Lincoln. Read on for the recipe and Ann's notes:

Mary Todd Lincoln's White Cake (aka Lincoln's Cake)

The story goes, that this cake was one that Mary Todd made for Abraham Lincoln while they were courting. It also appeared in the White House at many celebratory functions and was said to be one of Abraham Lincoln's favorite desserts.

Mary was raised in Kentucky, one of 16 children. Her father Robert Smith Todd was a politician and successful businessman which allowed Mary quite a bit of privilege and social standing. Mary loved entertaining, and baking sweets and was fortunate enough to be able to afford cherished ingredients such as castor sugar and almonds. While I have been unable to verify the authenticity of this story, the following recipe is from [Lincoln's Table by Donna D. McCreary](#). The recipe I followed suggested using a Bundt pan, but while Mary would not have had a Bundt pan in 1867 (although she may have used a pudding form), I used two 9-in circular cake pans.



Ingredients

- 1 cup blanched almonds, chopped fine into a meal (*I used a food processor. Mary may have used her hand-cranked coffee or pepper grinder*)
- 1 cup butter, softened to room temperature
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 cups flour (*I used all-purpose, Mary may have used "new processed" which would have been lighter than whole wheat, but not the pure white flour that we have today*)
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 cup milk
- 6 egg whites
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Sliced almonds (*optional, my addition*)
- Confectioner's sugar

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two (2) 9-inch round cake pans.
2. Cream the butter and sugar until creamy and well combined. (I used a hand-held mixer. Mary would have used a wooden spoon and elbow grease.)

3. In a separate bowl, sift together the flour and baking powder three times. (This was to remove lumps, insects, and miscellaneous debris that appeared in stored flour during the 19th century.) You probably can skip this step. Just combine the flour and baking powder in a bowl and stir briefly.
4. Add the flour mixture to the butter/sugar mixture, alternating with milk. (I added each in thirds.) Mix until well combined.
5. Stir in the almond meal (the first ingredient on the list)
6. Stir in the vanilla extract.
7. In a clean (and cool) bowl, beat the egg whites until they form stiff peaks.
8. Fold the egg whites into the batter mixture. Take your time. You want a mixture that is homogenous, but you can see the egg whites interspersed into the batter.
9. Pour the mixture evenly between the two prepared pans.
10. Bake for 45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
11. Turn the cakes out onto cooling racks.
12. When cool, scatter sliced almonds over the surface (my addition) and sprinkle with confectioner's sugar.

Historians note that Mary often served this cake plain with no frosting, but a basic white frosting sprinkled with almonds was also popular.

Alternatively, you could make a frosting and frost the two layers together for a larger cake.



SUPPLY STORE

www.grangestore.org

GRANGE MISSION STATEMENT POSTER



This 11" x 17" poster makes a great addition to Grange Halls or public displays!

PRICE: **\$5** plus shipping
OR take advantage of a special deal:
2 for \$6 plus shipping

Get your copy by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.org or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 x109

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: Choice Hotels



Choice Hotels – Members save 20% at over 4,000 Comfort Inns, Comfort Suites, Quality Inns, Sleep Inns, Clarion, MainStay Suites, EconoLodges, and Rodeway Inn hotels worldwide.

To receive **Choice Privileges** membership, please call 1-800-258-2847 or visit www.choicehotels.com and provide the National Grange ID code number **00211660**.



GRANGE

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.



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