



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

January 13, 2023

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Use our roots to grow and flourish

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

This week was the annual [Pennsylvania Farm Show](#), the 107th year for this celebration of all things agriculture in PA. It's the state fair for PA, though it always takes place the first week in January when everything is cold, dead, and frozen. The Farm Show complex is more than 1 million square feet of space under one roof, and displays livestock, crafts, Christmas trees, produce, machinery and equipment, many vendors, and all kinds of delicious foods. The PA State Grange has an informational booth there every year and it's the place to go to see all your friends from across the state.

The theme for this year's Show is "Rooted in Progress." It reminds me of our National Grange tagline, "American Values, Hometown Roots." As PA Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding stated, "Roots are the start of a legacy, allowing us to grow, keeping us grounded, and eventually allowing us to bear fruit that feeds and enriches the lives of others." We can apply this to the Grange as well as to agriculture.

Redding continued, "It is holding onto your core values and traditions while being open to change and growth. It is why you plant a seed - not for it to stay a seed, but for it to grow and flourish."

This is what the Grange is about - holding onto our values and traditions, while also being open to change to allow us to continue to grow and flourish in our communities. This would be a good topic for discussion at your next Grange meeting. How should we change to allow continued growth, yet still hold onto our American values and hometown roots?



American Values.

Hometown Roots.

Gratitude – Choose your guiding word

By [Ann Bercher](#), National Grange Lecturer/Program Director



The New Year brings all kinds of opportunities as we wave goodbye to 2022 and welcome in 2023. The business and trappings of holiday celebrations are behind us, and the return to the everyday ebb and flow of work, school, volunteer commitments and social activities returns. Many people begin the new year with a commitment to a personal change or improvement. Resolutions. I am not a fan of resolutions. Rather, I choose a guiding word. This word serves to remind me, on a very basic level, to pay

attention to a particular element of my life which in turn may result in a personal change or improvement. Past words have included *intentional*, *courage* and *change*. This year's word is Gratitude.

Gratitude is defined generally as the state of being grateful or thankful. I certainly have much to be thankful for. I have three beautiful children that have produced six delightful grandchildren, and they all love me! I have a beautiful little home that a friend of mine helped me find. I have close friends that share their life events, hopes, dreams and secrets with me because they know, love and trust me. I have a faith community that prays for me and is actively engaged in the larger community of my city and state. I have a job that appreciates the skills I have and allows me to grow in my career. I have a super volunteer opportunity that spans the entire country and connects me to wonderful people of all ages and abilities that continue to amaze, challenge and support me!

But gratitude is so much more. According to Robert Emmons, a professor of psychology at the University of California, Davis, and the founding editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Positive Psychology*, gratitude is an affirmation of the goodness that we have received from other people, things or circumstances.

There are many benefits for people that express gratitude including better physical and psychological health, stronger immune systems, better sleep, a positive outlook on life, are more compassionate and more forgiving. People that express gratitude are also more likely to "pay it forward." Grateful people also tell others that they are grateful for them. We certainly are grateful for our Grange members and partners that participate in our various projects. By expressing gratitude to others, the recipients feel better about themselves, and are more likely to do more or participate more and may express their gratitude for the opportunity, and for others. Gratitude makes us work and play together better.

One way to practice gratitude is to keep a Gratitude Journal. This, in itself, may increase a person's happiness and overall positive mood. Set a time each day to recall moments of gratitude. These can involve everyday, ordinary events, valued people in your life - anything that you have received from some other person or that you experienced. Sometimes gratitude comes from a bad situation such as an illness that reveals a committed medical team, scientific research that leads to recovery, or a deeper spiritual connection. Keep this journal going and active for at least three weeks and see what the outcome is for you.

Meanwhile, continue to tell others that you are grateful for them in your life. Gratitude is a two-way street and seems to benefit those that express it and those that receive it. With gratitude, I appreciate and am thankful for this Grange community, and I encourage you all to "pay it forward."

JUNIOR JIBBER-JABBER

WHEN:

Sunday, January 15 at 9 p.m. Eastern

WHO:

Junior Directors or anyone else interested in Junior Grange programming!

WHERE:

On Zoom!

Login: 833 7712 0738

Passcode: 969128



Members needed for committee on hemp policy issues

Do any Grange members grow hemp? National Grange is forming a committee, by a vote of the National Delegates, to study our current policy on hemp and cannabis and to discuss any changes that need to be brought to the 2023 annual session. Please contact Betsy at betsy@nationalgrange.org if you are interested.

Did your Grange have a successful holiday program?

by Philip Vonada, National Grange Communications Director

Each year, Granges across the country create Christmas and holiday-season programs and events for their members and the wider community. This summer, we are going to spotlight many of these in a special “Christmas in July” issue of *Good Day!* magazine!

If you would like your Grange’s program to be featured, here’s all you need to do:

1. Write up a brief (2-3 paragraph) summary on what you did, and how it went
2. Include as many details as possible, and especially what made *your* program unique.
3. Be sure to include your Grange name & number *and your state*.
4. Email it to Philip Vonada (pvonada@nationalgrange.org) by April 1, 2023.

We are looking to feature programs, events, recipes, community drives – whatever your Grange did to create the “holiday spirit” in your hometown!

Granges sought for assistance with awareness campaign; financial incentives may be available

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

The Grange has championed the expansion of broadband and affordable and equitable access to it for more than two decades in a variety of ways. In 2023, we hope to secure a grant from the Federal Communications Commission that will allow us to provide materials to Granges who wish to be part of a program that informs individuals in your communities about the Affordable Connectivity Program, which allows eligible households to receive a monthly discount on broadband service through providers and one-time discount on connected devices such as laptops.

As part of our application process, we are seeking a number of local Granges including local Lecturers, Community Service Chairs, individuals responsible for tabling or membership booths and more to agree to take part in this outreach, awareness-building campaign. Activating our grassroots system is an essential part of successfully competing for this grant and completing the work for which we hope to receive funding.

Granges would assist in raising awareness about this benefit by hanging posters in their hall or other community spaces; by using placemats at public dinners that promote the Grange and inform individuals about the program; by hosting FCC speakers at a Grange meeting or public event to inform the community about ACP; by placing banners or lawn signs at their hall with a link to learn more about ACP; by sending letters to the editor to their local newspaper; by placing brochures about ACP out on their tables at community events; by working with their local school to ensure information is going home in childrens’ backpacks; and in other ways.

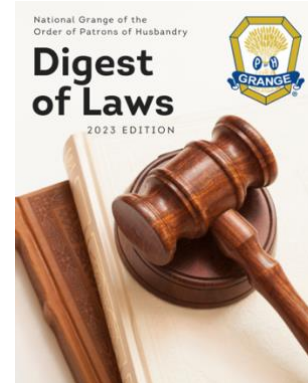
Should we be selected as a recipient of this grant, Granges that participate will receive free materials such as brochures and signs, as well as financial incentives or compensation as part of the partnership.

If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Membership/Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios at membership@nationalgrange.org or by calling 301-943-1090 as soon as possible.

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](#)



Consumer input sought on portable generators

By [Cleo Stamatos](#)

Consumer & Legislative Outreach Manager, ANSI

Do you have a portable generator? Would you like to share your consumer knowledge with the [Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association](#) (PGMA)? The PGMA is looking for consumers to participate in revising the voluntary safety standard PGMA G300-201x, Safety and Performance of Portable Generators (revision of ANSI/PGMA G300-2018). The proposed revisions include additional requirements related to carbon monoxide safety concerns.

According to the [PGMA press release](#): “The proposed revision of the standard will focus on revising the carbon monoxide shutoff system requirements to not only continue to eliminate nearly all fatalities, but also to reduce the risk of injury due to carbon monoxide poisoning associated with the misuse of a portable generator by operating it in an enclosed space.”

Please contact PGMA at pgma@pgmaonline.com or 216-241-7333 for more information and to participate in the comment period, by no later than January 31, 2023.

To learn more about consumer participation on standards committees, contact Cleo Stamatos, ANSI’s Consumer & Legislative Outreach Manager, cstamat@ansi.org.

Advocacy Playbook: The 118th Congress

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



The Issue:

The new year has also brought with it a new 118th Congress which will rule Washington for the next two years. Unlike the 117th Congress of the past two years, the new Congress will have divided party control of its two chambers, with Republicans now controlling the House of Representatives and Democrats continuing to control the Senate. As a result, in order to pass Congress, any legislation will have to be bipartisan in nature and will require a great deal of compromise from both parties.

While the National Grange has many legislative priorities for the coming term, must-pass bills such as an increase in the debt limit, the annual government funding bill, and a new Farm Bill will be the main focus of legislators. Finding compromises on these major issues will be most difficult in the House where the Republican majority has major internal divisions which have already delayed essential procedures such as the election of a Speaker of the House and passage of a new House rules package.

Notably, the House rules package differs significantly from previous Congresses in a way that will increase the power of individual members to participate in and slow down the legislative process. First, the new House rules will require that any increases in mandatory spending be offset with equal or greater decreases in spending in other areas. Additionally, under new House rules, a supermajority will be required for any proposed increase in taxes. Rules have also been changed to make raising the debt ceiling, which allows the US

Government to fulfill its debt obligations, a more difficult and slow process. Furthermore, the so-called 'Holman rule' which allows Congress to reduce or terminate the salary of any individual federal employee, has been reinstated. Lastly, the new rules package has created two new select committees: one to focus on competition with China (which was also supported by Democrats) and one intended to investigate federal government investigations.

Beyond a new set of rules, the House has also received a new slate of committee leadership. Of interest to the National Grange, the Agriculture Committee will be chaired by Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA), who has had a longtime connection with the Grange, and the Energy and Commerce Committee will be chaired by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) who is a member of the Fort Colville Grange #533 in Washington. Other major committee chairs include Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) who will chair the Appropriations Committee, Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX) who will chair the Budget Committee, and Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO) who will chair the Ways and Means Committee. These new committee chairs will play an essential role in negotiating any piece of legislation that passes the 118th Congress and will be the focus of National Grange advocacy for the coming two years.

Seeking potential members in new locations

We have leads on new Granges in several areas. Specifically, if you know of a current or former member or someone who may be interested in joining a new Grange in **Hilo, Hawaii**; **Haiku, Hawaii**; **Silver City, New Mexico**; or **Safford, Arizona**, please reach out or connect them to National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios at membership@nationalgrange.org or by phone at 301-943-1090.

Also, if you know of a Grange member or relative of a member stationed at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska who may wish to receive a friendly invitation to visit the local Grange in nearby North Pole, please let us know.

National Grange social media calendar available

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

Are you looking to add some spice to your Grange's Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter pages? Check out our 2023 [downloadable Social Media Calendar](#), which lists various "holidays" about which you can make posts or celebrations. This free resource can help you engage your Grange members and the wider community. You certainly don't need to post about all of these things, but they can be a great way to keep your social media from going stale.

Also included on the calendar are recurring National Grange meetings, holidays, events, and more. Feel free to pass this on to your Grange's Lecturer, Secretary, social director, or anyone who helps plan events or activities for your Grange.

Right-to-Repair takes a step forward

For several years, the National Grange has advocated for the right-to-repair, or allowing farmers (and others with machinery) the right to make repairs to their machinery, without having to return to dealer or risk voiding warranties.

This past Sunday, a big step forward was made, as John Deere signed a memorandum of understanding with the American Farm Bureau, giving farmers and mechanics the rights to access the proper materials to make repairs on their own machinery.

Read more about it here: <https://www.agweb.com/news/machinery/tractors/can-you-now-repair-your-own-john-deere-equipment>



a quarter's worth

A quarterly publication for Grange Lecturers

Submission Deadline: February 1st

(but sooner is better!)

Email articles, ideas, etc. to lecturer@nationalgrange.org




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GOOD DAY!™ JANUARY 2023 ISSUE

This issue reflects on the 156th Annual Convention of the National Grange, held in Sparks, Nevada. Showcasing culture and craft, the Western Region was on full display, providing a colorful backdrop for the events of the convention. Also in this issue, articles about protecting yourself from identity theft, winners of convention contests, the start of the second year of the Heirloom Program, and celebrating a year of Grange growth across the nation. Plus, the agritourism feature journeys to the western states, and pasta is the delicious food feature.

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lecturer@nationalgrange.org

Benefits the Lecturer's Fund
at the Grange Foundation





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For assistance with purchases, 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)

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



SUPPLY STORE

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

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