



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

March 24, 2023

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National Ag Day brings Youth & Junior Team to DC

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

This week was a busy time in National Grange Headquarters, with National Ag Day festivities in town and participation by the Youth and Junior team. Nettie Hartley (and dad Walter,) Autumn Whitaker, and Gail Switzer (and baby Lena), along with Youth & Junior Director Samantha Wilkins, arrived on Sunday and departed Wednesday. I will let them tell about their experiences, but I can tell you they had a very busy schedule with a visit to USDA for the Ag Day proclamation program, meetings with legislators and staff, Ag Day reception at the Library of Congress, and sightseeing around town.

On Monday night, Samantha and the team, along with staff Amanda, Philip, Loretta and I, traveled to Westminster, MD to hear Rural Minds founder Jeff Winton speak at a town hall meeting sponsored by the Maryland State Grange. Jeff gave a wonderful message, as usual, about his reason for founding Rural Minds and its mission, partnership with National Grange in "Growing Hope Together," and progress so far.

Jeff will be speaking again at this year's National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls so I hope you will make plans to attend to meet and hear him as well as participate in the many other special events planned for Convention.

Unfortunately, nearly everyone has been touched by the suicide of a friend, acquaintance, or family member. The suicide rate in rural areas is 64-68% higher than in urban areas—a shocking statistic. We never know when we will encounter someone who may be contemplating harming themselves. The most important thing we can do is listen to them and be aware of where to look for help. This is why National Grange is partnering with Rural Minds to help end the suffering, stigma, and silence around mental illness. We hope every Community Grange will plan a program to discuss and learn about this important topic. For resources, go to ruralminds.org.



What's in it for me?

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



It seems like selflessness and being in it “for the Good of the Order” has become a bit of a lost art. And no, I don’t mean just in the Grange, but... well, this is a Grange newsletter, so here we go.

In the Grange, we pride ourselves on being an organization that works to improve the communities where we serve through volunteerism and service. But have you ever heard somebody ask “why should I care?” or “what do we get out of doing this?” when a project is proposed?

As the Grange, it shouldn’t be about *us*, but about *how we can help*, but that involves getting your members motivated to be a part of something bigger than the organization.

The website *My Selfless Act* suggests that there are benefits to volunteering in general.

They include:

- Gaining a sense of purpose
- Meeting new people and making new friends
- A [serotonin boost](#) from making a difference for others
- Feeling like a valued part of a team
- Learning and developing new skills
- Giving back to the communities where you work or live
- Gaining confidence and self-esteem

There are also benefits directly for your Grange, which include:

- Increased awareness of your Grange
- Potential new members or assistance for projects
- A sense of community pride and belonging
- Grange unity and cohesiveness

So, the question is – how we can encourage members to look beyond “What’s in it for me/us?” and work toward strengthening our communities?

How about looking for mutually beneficial projects – like partnering with other organizations on something for the whole community (a carnival, town-wide yard sale event, etc.) where you can also potentially raise funds?

Or, what about soliciting ideas from your members – what are some organizations or causes they already care about, where the Grange can get involved? Following your Grange members’ passions may be able to create some partnerships with other people and organizations you may not already be connected to.

Take care of your own – Don’t forget to find ways to support your members. Has somebody recently been involved in an accident or are they in need? Have you checked in on your members who may not be able to make it to meetings or events? Be sure to encourage volunteerism within and for your members, too – remembering to take care of those who have been there before you will help create a positive legacy within your Grange.

No matter how you volunteer, make sure you are encouraging your members to step outside of the Grange Hall and to be present in the community. A selfless act will repay itself through positive attitudes and renewed interest in the work of the Grange.

Grange Month Materials



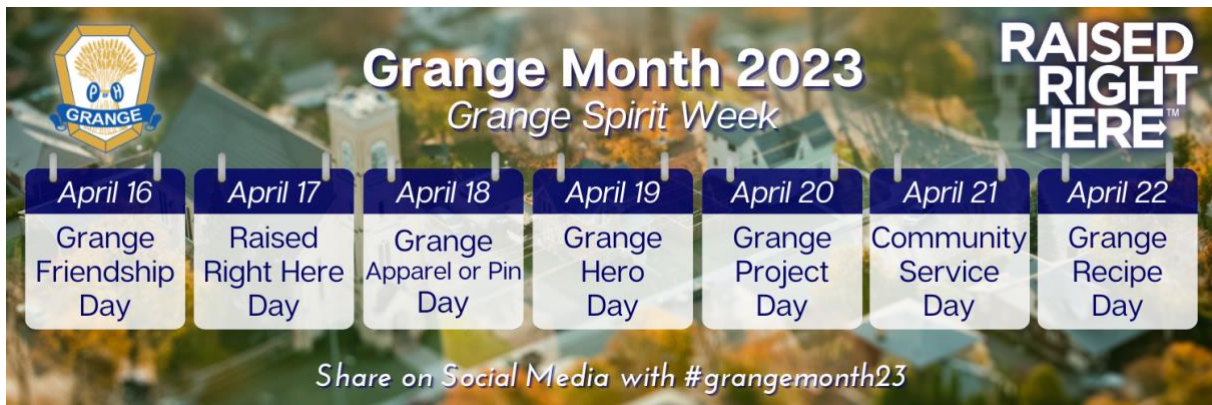
Grange Month is just around the corner – April will be here before we know it!

Over the next few weeks, keep checking the [Grange Month 2023](#) page on the National Grange website as more things will be added!

We are in year two of our “Raised Right Here,” theme. This year, we encourage our Granges to use the theme to celebrate building strong communities – of all sorts! The network of the Grange community is strong, and we work to make the communities where our Granges function strong, too!

During Grange Month, there will be online forums and events with many of the National Grange officers and Directors – please encourage your Grange members to attend!

[Check out the calendar here!](#)



[Share your talent at “Date Night In”](#)



We are planning for [Grange Month 2023](#)! One of our special events is a one-night-only return of "Date Night In," a favorite event from 2020!

Do you have a special talent? Do you sing? Dance? Play an instrument? Are you crafty? Or do you have a hobby you'd love to share?

We are seeking 3-5 minute submissions from Grange members around the country to be a part of our Date Night In virtual talent show on April 14th.

Send your submissions to [Ann Bercher, National Grange Lecturer](#) by March 31 for consideration.

Date Night In will be live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook on April 14th!

[Farmers: Share your thoughts on cover crops in the National Cover Crop Survey!](#)

Farmers are invited to share their thoughts on cover crops in an online survey at bit.ly/CoverCrop23. Why do you plant cover crops... or why don't you? What do you want to know? Your insight will help guide research, communications, seed development, and more.

This National Cover Crop Survey is the seventh since 2012 conducted by the [USDA-NIFA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education](#) (SARE) program, [Conservation Technology](#)

[Information Center](#) (CTIC) and the [American Seed Trade Association](#) (ASTA), with the help of Informa/Farm Progress.

"Since 2012, the National Cover Crop Survey has been extremely valuable in helping guide research priorities, direct communications and education efforts, provide data to researchers, and illustrate the effects of policy on cover crop use and adoption," says Dr. Rob Myers, regional director of extension programs for North Central SARE and director of the University of Missouri Center for Regenerative Agriculture. "Data from previous surveys have been used in scientific papers, business planning, extension efforts, media coverage of cover crops, and even included in testimony to Congress."

Please take a few minutes to contribute your voice at bit.ly/CoverCrop23. After completing the questionnaire, you may enter a drawing for one of three \$100 Visa gift cards.



Click the banner to register for the Fly-In!

[Farm Adolescent Mental Health webinar](#)

When: May 1st, 11am to 12pm via Zoom

Zoom link: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/92886836255>

Speaker: Josie M. Rudolphi, PhD, is an assistant professor and Extension specialist in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Description: There is increasing attention on agricultural stress and mental health, however, most research, resources, and services have focused on adult producers. Josie M. Rudolphi, PhD, will discuss the early results of a 5-year project aimed to describe the relationship between farm adolescent and adult stress and mental health. Preliminary results suggest the farm adult and adolescent population experience symptoms of anxiety and depression that exceed that of the general population. We will discuss what results mean for farm families and what resources and services are available.

No registration is needed for this webinar.

[Farmer-to-Farmer](#)

The Farmer-to-Farmer, USAID / USDA program can be valuable to you! Focus and energize your staffs and members. They'll get back to basics, appreciate industry success

factors, learn to ask customers good questions, and learn from practitioners in villages, towns, and cities in developing countries. Your cost is to allow staff to volunteer for Farmer-To-Farmer program for two to three weeks. The program is in the Trade section of the Farm Bill.

How Volunteers get Farmer-To-Farmer Assignments: Send a Resume to f2freruitment@cnfa.org to volunteer for Virtual and In-Person Assignments in many countries. USAID administers this Farm Bill-funded program. Other implementor names and details appear in this link: <https://farmer-to-farmer.org/about/about-us>.

Volunteers need a keen interest in improving food security and incomes in developing countries. They work for two-to-three-weeks, are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, and if a travel assignment, they travel--expense paid--no work compensation. USAID implementors manage logistics.

The program benefits volunteers and you! It puts U.S. farmers around the world for citizen diplomacy – all for the security and benefit of you.

Volunteer Skill Needs Examples:

- Business development
- Climate-sensitive agriculture
- Communications & Marketing
- Farm management (small-scale & commercial)
- Financial management & record keeping
- Food & crop science
- Food safety
- Integrated Pest Management
- Organic farming
- Post-harvest handling, storage, & packaging
- Veterinary & animal health
- Youth development in agriculture

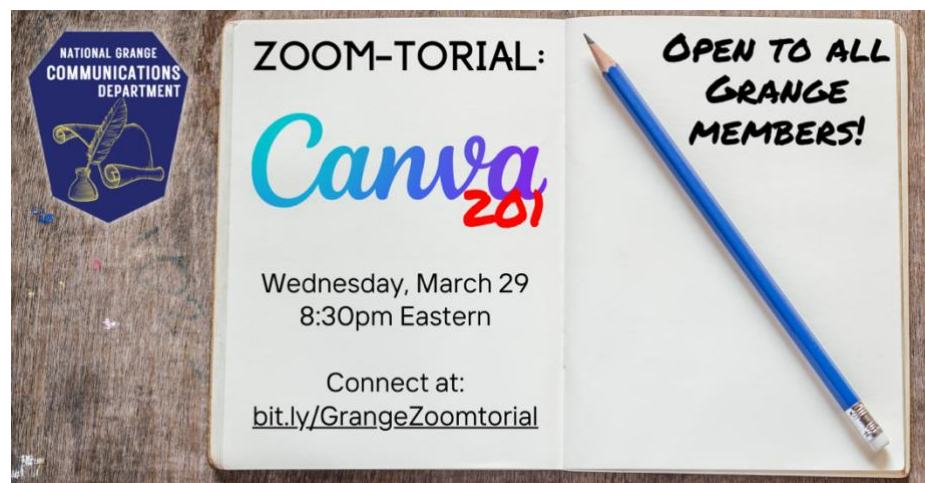
How it works:

Volunteers individually apply and say what they can do and when they are available. They keep in contact with implementors who may offer assignments to match their skills. If chosen, they travel or work virtually.

Upcoming Events

On March 29 at 8:30pm Eastern, the Communications Department will present a **Zoom-torial** on "Canva 201."


This will include some best practices when designing for social media, creating videos/gifs through Canva, starting from scratch, and more. If you have questions you would like answered, please email Communications Director [Philip Vonada](#). **See you there!**



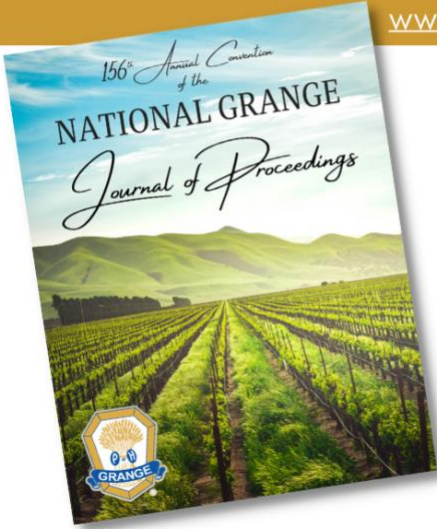
Grange Supply Store Notice

Effective May 1 – the price of all “Years of Service” Seals will increase to \$5 (with \$3 shipping) and Golden Sheaf pins will increase to \$25.

To save money now, place your orders with [Loretta Washington](mailto:Loretta.Washington@grangestore.org) by midnight Eastern on May 1st (postmarked or in email inbox).

**SUPPLY STORE**

www.grangestore.org



156th Annual Convention
of the
NATIONAL GRANGE
Journal of Proceedings

2022 JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

The 8.5 x 11" bound volume of the Journal of Proceedings covering materials from 2022 and the 156th Annual National Grange Convention in Sparks, Nevada is now available. The journal is 234 pages, including reports from State Granges, minutes from Convention, reports of Grange Foundation and Grange Advocacy, and more.

\$9.00 plus shipping

Get yours by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.org or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

**SUPPLY STORE**

www.grangestore.org

"RAISED RIGHT HERE" VINYL STICKERS



Great way to celebrate Grange month and to have at other Grange activities and events.

Die-Cut Vinyl Stickers – in two designs, celebrating the National Grange "Raised Right Here" theme
25 stickers of each design

\$12 for 50 stickers
plus shipping

Get yours by ordering online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.org or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

Grange Member Benefit: Start Hearing

Helping you find the best solution for your hearing needs and lifestyle – at the best value.

START HEARING

Grange Members and their families receive:

- Discounts up to 48% on today's latest technology, including hearing aids and tinnitus options
- FREE annual hearing consultations
- Access to a nationwide network of 3,000+ hearing professionals
- Three-year supply of FREE batteries (40 cells per hearing aid purchased per year)
- One year of free office visits (limit of six) 60-day risk-free trial period
- FREE Deluxe Warranty Plan, including loss and damage
- Financing plans available (subject to credit approval)

With Start Hearing, their Hearing Care Advisors are with you each step of the way. To find out more and to schedule your hearing consultation, please call 888-461-3209 or visit www.starhearing.com/partners/grange.



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.org or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

www.grangestore.org

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