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## **Lancaster County showcases farm-to-table**

*By* [*Betsy E. Huber*](mailto:betsy@nationalgrange.org?subject=Patrons%20Chain%20Response)*, National Grange President*

A group of people in a market

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Yesterday, I had the opportunity to tour some agriculture in Lancaster County, PA, the neighboring county to my home. Lancaster County has some of the most fertile non-irrigated soils in the U.S. and it is the home of many small farms including a large Amish population. This makes it a huge tourist attraction.

A group of white melons in boxes

Description automatically generatedThe tour was presented by the [**Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture**](https://pspaonline.com/), one of the oldest agricultural societies in the country, organized in 1785 to explore and promote best practices in agriculture. The Society is a non-profit, non-partisan organization. Its mission is to promote a productive dialogue among its members, the agriculture and food industries and the general public on issues critical to maintaining a well-fed nation and world. It is the Society’s belief that if America is to remain the world leader in food production and technology, well-informed opinions within the general populace and related industries are as important as those formed within the agricultural community--certainly a belief in line with Grange principles. I am one of over 160 members from all aspects of the ag community.

The purpose of the tour was to demonstrate the full scope of the food chain, from seed to table. The beginning stop is [**Rohrer Seeds**](https://rohrerseeds.com/), a 104-year-old distributor of garden and farm seeds for the Mid-Atlantic region and now worldwide through the web, [rohrerseeds.com](https://rohrerseeds.com/).

After the seeds grow, the next stop is the [**Leola Produce Auction**](https://leolaproduce.com/), where many small farmers offer their products for sale. Leola was the first produce auction of its kind in PA in 1986. Today, 16 other produce auctions in PA (and many across the country) follow Leola’s model. It had an amazing array of beautiful fresh vegetables and flowers for sale in wholesale lots to the highest bidder. This process makes it possible for the Amish to have a larger market for their crops nearby, eliminating the transportation problem.

Next stop was [**Oregon Dairy**](https://www.oregondairy.com/), where their milk is bottled and turned into various dairy products that are sold in the market and restaurant. They have a methane digester for manure and food waste, use no-till and cover crops, stream bank fencing and riparian buffers for environmental benefits. They have recently begun an agri-tainment venture with ag education for urban and suburban visitors and school tours.

The tour ended with lunch at [**Shady Maple Smorgasbord**](https://www.shady-maple.com/smorgasbord/), the largest buffet selection you’ve ever seen! Demonstrating the bounty of agriculture in this rich area of the country. I recommend you visit!

# **Grange fair booths inspire and inform**

*By* [*Pete Pompper*](mailto:communityservice@nationalgrange.org?subject=Grange%20Fair%20Booths)*, National Grange Community Service Director*

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**“Imbue us ever with the spirit of service and teach us the responsibilities of leadership. Remind us always that a great host of earnest Patrons follow our example and rely upon our integrity. Make us worthy of their confidence and fit custodians of the great trust that is laid upon us.”**

I was searching for a theme for this article when I came across a Facebook post from a Granger who had taken a different role at their county fair. He usually works in the kitchen at Grange events but decided this year to see what happens in J Barn at the Washington State Fair.

Vic posted (okay, I edited it because of space) ***“Loved ear hustling (my new favorite term) people’s conversations about their fond memories of Granges especially the dances and the impact left on them. What Granges like Waller Road Grange are doing in their communities. The sparkle in kids’ eyes to watch Collins Grange skeleton pop out of the rafter and the fact that the Junior Grange booth was built by kids like them.”***

This post got me thinking about all the Grange fair booths I have seen pictures of this year and how different each one is. But a common theme I see, even if unintentional, is they show what the Grange is doing in the community. Granges use these booths as an opportunity to brag on themselves to a large number of community members who don’t know what we do.

In some cases, Granges have an opportunity to introduce themselves to people who have never heard of the Grange! What a great way to show what you do, mostly unknown to the community, because that is what we do. Grange booths are great conversation starters and lead to better visibility for the Grange; they can increase community support at fundraising dinners for your community service projects; they can help get greater community involvement for projects or attendance at programs. For Granges revitalizing their Grange Halls, booths are a wonderful way to tell the attendees why it is important to save your Hall to serve the community.

I know when the Granges in Salem County (NJ) each had a fair booth, it was a “fun” competition each year that led to “friendly” rivalries. To me, the important part was the Grange booths were meeting points for some people - and there were usually Grange members at them throughout the fair talking “Grange.” Interacting with non-members is so important to talk about all the community service work Granges do.

I thank all the Granges who included either references about our partnership with [Rural Minds](http://www.ruralminds.org/) or had some type of rural mental health/suicide awareness materials on or at their displays. Fairs are an excellent way to get this or any type of information on partnerships the Grange has with other groups. Even though Grange booths are silent they can speak volumes. Thank you again.

**“Teach us to so order our lives that each day’s experiences shall unfold new glories of living and increase the usefulness of every worthy Patron of Husbandry.”**

The first 10 members who [email me](mailto:communityservice@nationalgrange.org?subject=Patrons%20Chain%20Quote) to identify where this quote is from and what officer speaks it, I will put your name in a hat and one lucky winner will receive a pair of the [new Grange socks](https://www.grangestore.org/grange-socks) available in the [Grange Store](http://www.grangestore.org/).

# **Grange Foundation seeks Board of Directors candidates**

*By* [*Joan C. Smith*](mailto:ngfb@grange.org?subject=Board%20of%20Directors%20nomination)*, Grange Foundation Board of Directors Chairperson*

The Grange Foundation Board of Directors is seeking candidates for National Grange Delegate election on November 13th during the Convention. This two-year term runs from November 2023 through November 2025. The Grange Foundation Mission Statement is as follows: ***The Grange Foundation supports youth development, promotes agriculture education and research, improves communities, and fosters culture, heritage, citizenship, and charitable activities.***

A close-up of a document

Description automatically generatedYour GF accomplishments in 2023 are in the image at the right.

Come join your Grange Foundation Board, be part of the programming of the Grange at the National level. Please provide an email to: [ngfb@grange.org](mailto:ngfb@grange.org) or [betsy@nationalgrange.org](mailto:betsy@nationalgrange.org) listing why you would like to be part of this Board and a short biography. ] Looking forward to hearing from many of you.

A blue and white background with white text

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# **Huber selected as Chair of DC institution**

A round logo with a dome

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[**Betsy Huber**](https://www.nationalgrange.org/betsy-huber/), President of the National Grange, has been selected to serve as the Chairperson of the Washington Agricultural Roundtable, a decades-old institution designed to connect leaders in the food & agricultural sphere in and around Washington, DC.

This thinktank includes embassy and government officials, international and domestic trade leaders, and commodity groups, and meets regularly to increase awareness of what’s happening in the world of agriculture, connecting businesses directly to leaders and policymakers.

The National Grange has been a member of the Roundtable, but this is the first time a National Grange President has served as Chair.

# **September Heirloom**

***A person making a hand gesture with their fingers

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*Cultivate the habit of looking for better and brighter days, instead of mourning over the past.*

* Vice President, Third Degree

Use the Heirloom Program to encourage your Grange members (and friends who aren’t Grange members) to continue learning about the core tenets of the Grange, and what we stand for. These “digestible” bits of Grange ritual help our members grow in the Grange.

[**Access the September Heirloom Program materials here**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dWh0qODyrbInd8Naeu0I3VkEtB_Wio5B?usp=sharing)

# **Register for National Grange Convention**

Logo

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We are just **two** months away from when we “Flow into the Future” in Niagara Falls, New York as we celebrate the 157th Annual Session of the National Grange. ***We want you to be there!***

This year's Convention will be just blocks from the Falls! The [Sheraton Niagara Falls](https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/iagaf-sheraton-niagara-falls/overview/) is an incredible hotel that will also house the hospitality room, while the convention itself including the Showcase and many of the evening activities will be held at the [Niagara Falls Convention Center](https://www.niagarafallsusa.com/convention-center/), just across the street!

Use [**this link**](https://book.passkey.com/go/157thGrange) to book your stay at the main Convention Hotel using our group rate.

For guests who would prefer to call, as opposed to making their reservations online, please call **(716) 285-3361 x2295** to reach Reservation Coordinator Cierra Duck. She is typically in the office Monday through Friday 8am – 4pm Eastern). **NOTE:** October 20th is the cutoff to GUARANTEE your room rate!

*We invite ALL Grange members to participate in the Convention activities, so please make plans to attend from November 14-18, 2023.*

Stay tuned over the coming weeks for more information about speakers, tours, and other opportunities (both fun and educational!) for all Grange members during the Convention.

Learn more about this year’s Convention and register today on the National Grange website!

**Standard Registration** - $37 – September 5th - October 20th

**Late Registration** - $42 – October 20th – November 8th

**Registration on Site** - *will be available at the late registration cost, however, you will not be able to obtain tickets to any meals*

[***Register for Convention***](http://grange.biz/Convention157)

The Host Committee has chosen [**Community Missions of Niagara**](https://www.communitymissions.org/) as the recipient of this year’s community service collection. Granges and attendees are encouraged to send or bring socks, hats, or mittens for men or women to this year’s Convention. If you would rather make a financial contribution, please contact Paula Turner.

A rainbow over a waterfall

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## Convention Feature: NY Assemblyman to speak at Advocacy Luncheon

A person in a suit and tie

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On Tuesday, November 14, New York State Assemblyman Brian Manktelow will be the featured speaker at the Advocacy Luncheon. Tickets are available to purchase for all attendees for the luncheon (bbq chicken) and to hear Mr. Manktelow speak.

[**Brian Manktelow**](https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Brian-Manktelow/) was elected to the New York State Assembly on November 6, 2018. The district includes all of Wayne County and the Town of Webster in Monroe County.

Brian served in the U.S Army, attaining the rank of sergeant after graduating from Williamson High School. He then completed classes at the University of Chicago and Finger Lakes Community College, where he pursued a degree in political science. He has been the Lyons town supervisor since 2009 and has served as vice chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors. He was chairman of the board’s Finance Committee and also served on the Government Operations and Human Services committees. Brian was instrumental in initializing the Wayne County Land Bank in 2017 to rejuvenate derelict properties, get them back on the tax rolls, and reduce blight.

He has owned and operated Manktelow Farms in Lyons for more than 30 years, and has been an active member of the Wayne County Farm Bureau. Brian’s background gives him a unique perspective on the challenges faced by everyday New Yorkers. He plans to work diligently with colleagues to create solutions to the state’s economic struggles by creating opportunities for businesses to thrive.

Brian currently resides in Lyons with his wife, Crystal, with whom he shares five children. He is dedicated to family life and community. As supervisor of the Town of Lyons, he worked to protect the interests of his fellow residents during the dissolution of the village of Lyons in 2015, ensuring a positive impact on the municipality’s future.

# **Participate in a National Grange service project**

For 20 years, the Grange has been the leading voice advocating for the expansion of broadband into rural communities. Most frequently, we focus on the infrastructure of build-out, which is still a major factor keeping millions of Americans from high-speed, reliable internet to their homes. However, for others, broadband is available but unaffordable.

For this reason, the National Grange is actively working to promote the [FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program](https://www.fcc.gov/acp), which provides a discount benefit for broadband to low-income and other eligible individuals. After receiving a grant to assist with the program’s promotion, we have begun registering Granges to take part in the work to inform people in the communities in which Granges are located, and beyond, about ACP.

Please remember that taking part in this outreach program is **community service.**

Certainly, we want all Grange members to know about the benefit and sign up if they are eligible, but this cannot stop within our doors. Just like giving nonperishable items to the food bank is important, so is taking the information about ACP to the director of the food bank and asking for it to be placed in the boxes and bags of recipients.

Please take the time to register your Grange to take part in this outreach service, which will allow you to receive free materials to give to your local food bank, to senior centers, to veterans’ organizations in your hometown, to place on bulletin boards in your halls and in other community spaces, to put on tables at events your Grange takes part in and more. From placemats that can be used at your community breakfasts and dinners to yard signs that can be placed on the lawns of members whose properties are on well-traveled roadways, there are many ways your Grange can increase awareness about the ACP program.

When you register through <https://forms.office.com/r/EQs2KhLMGN> or by texting or calling National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios at 301-943-1090 and leaving a message, you will be assigned a Community Navigator - an individual that works with our partner, Oregon Institute for a Better Way, to help Granges plan for the outreach, order and packaging the materials, perform data collection and more.

Navigators - all of whom are also Grange members - will also work to collect more information about your Grange, its outreach, goals, and needs. This data will help us create future grant proposals and allow us to search for grants and other funds that may directly benefit individual Granges.

Granges that take part in this program may even be eligible for a small financial incentive, but it all starts with the first step of registering your Grange to become an outreach partner.

Registering through this link does not commit your Grange, but will instead allow you to receive further information and connect with a navigator to brainstorm and talk about your Grange.

# **Join Membership Matters!**

A group of people holding hands

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Mark your calendar for next Tuesday, September 12, at 8:30pm Eastern!

Join Amanda Brozana Rios on Zoom to discuss how to design a project that encourages or relies on non-member action and engagement, and how to put individuals to work based on their motivation to volunteer.

[***Connect***](http://grange.biz/Convention157) ***Here!***

# 

# **Participate in Multigenerational Panel Discussion on Rural Mental Health**

Everyone attending the National Grange Convention is invited to attend a session about rural mental health conversations, featuring panelists representing several generations. If you will be attending the convention on Thursday, November 16 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET and are interested in being considered as a panelist, please complete [**this form**](https://form.jotform.com/231786055756062).

This panel is co-presented by the National Grange, [**Rural Minds**](http://www.ruralminds.org/), and [**NY FarmNet**](https://www.nyfarmnet.org/).

***Note*** that due to a limit on the number of panelists, your reply does not confirm your participation as a panelist. We will follow up with an email to provide you with more information.

# **Rural Minds presents suicide awareness webinar**

*The next webinar in Rural Minds’ Rural Mental Health Connections Webinar Series*

## ***Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training***

[Rural Minds](http://www.ruralminds.org/), the National Grange, and the [National Association of Wheat Growers](https://wheatworld.org/) are pleased to present another *Rural Mental Health Connections Webinar* – the third FREE webinar in the 2023 series.

**Tuesday, September 19**

**2:00 pm ET | 1:00 pm CT | 12:00 pm MT | 11:00 am PT**

[**Click here for more webinar information and free registration**](https://www.ruralminds.org/rural-mental-health-connections-webinar)

A person in a purple jacket

Description automatically generatedThis webinar will provide suicide awareness and prevention training from NY FarmNet Family Consultant [Jennifer Schwyzter, LMSW,](https://www.ruralminds.org/jennifer-schwyzter-lmsw-bio)a mental health professional with an approach that’s relevant to people living in rural communities.

Learn about:

* What causes people to consider suicide
* Warning signs that someone may be considering suicide
* Strategies for managing one’s own mental health
* How to get help for someone in a suicidal crisis.

The webinar will be moderated by Rural Minds Vice President of Communications Julie Lux and presented live via Zoom with the option to hear audio as listen-only.

To honor the confidentiality and privacy of those attending this webinar, attendees will only be able to see the webinar presenters and no one watching the webinar will be able to see the name or image of any other person who is watching the webinar.

[**Register Now!**](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oaJEDctLQpWud_xLs6A5xA#/registration)

# **R2S2 - Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors Contract**

*By Joan C. Smith, Program Manager*

**Background:** Rural America is underserved by the nation’s healthcare system. There are fewer doctors, especially specialists, per capita; many rural hospitals are in danger of closing; incomes are lower and employers are less likely to provide health insurance; distances to care are greater; and there is less broadband access to medical information and virtual office visits. The rural population is older, maybe less healthy, engages in more unhealthy behavior (e.g., smoking), and is less informed about healthcare issues. Older rural residents requiring surgery have less access to care and may be less informed on how to participate in their care and about treatment choices.

This National Grange Program is designed to help with the above problem by disseminating pre- and post-surgical information and help with planning your lifespan. Come learn about it in November at the National Convention and help us roll out this program across the country.

[A red and white sign with white text

Description automatically generated](https://www.grangestore.org/junior-grange-enamel-pin)

A close-up of a book

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**[A close-up of a pair of shoes

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***NOTE****: Grange Supply Store orders received by October 30th will be processed before the National Grange Convention in November. Any order received after October 30th through the month of November will be processed during the week of November 27th, 2023.*

# **Grange Member Benefit: RxSavings Plus Card**

**A red text on a white background

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The **RxSavings Plus Card is** provided by CVS Caremark – *it’s also for pet prescriptions*! This card is a **NO-FEE** exclusive benefit to National Grange members that is not offered to the public.

The RxSavings Plus Card allows members to go to almost any pharmacy. Unlike other savings plans, the CVS-Caremark program applies to 99% of prescription drugs, including Lipitor, Plavix, blood pressure medications and thousands more - even pet medications! For the RxSavings Plus Card, please visit <http://nationalgrange.rxsavingsplus.com>.

If your pet has been prescribed a medication, you may get a discount with the RxSavings Plus Prescription Discount Card at participating pharmacies. During your pet’s examination and ask if the treatment plan they are recommending includes medications that are also used to treat human conditions If so, you can request a written prescription from your veterinarian instead of the veterinarian clinic providing the medications.

[](https://www.grangestore.org/jewelry)

